

# WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYINGGUIDE**

## OCTOBER 2022

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Vineyards at sunset in Bordeaux.

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# BORDEAUX

Excellent 2019 vintage is approachable and age-worthy

**T**he 2019 vintage in Bordeaux was in the middle of what we now know was a trio of great vintages. They were all different: 2018 was big and tannic, 2020 was full of fruit. 2019 was a combination of the two: bold ripe fruits, almost opulent in character, reminiscent, say those with a memory of these things, of 2009, which was a big hit in the American market.

I wrote in 2020, as I tasted the wines taken from barrel (*en primeur* in French), that these are wines for enjoyment. And so it has proved. They are accessible while also having the structure necessary for aging. As so often in recent vintages, the wines with a good proportion of

either Cabernet Sauvignon or Cabernet Franc in the blend are the best. Merlot, for all its pleasures, had too much alcohol from the heat.

I enjoyed the wines at *en primeur* and I have enjoyed them again now. It is the uniformity that is most pleasing. Even the lesser estates, those where the wines sell for \$20 or less, are

worth buying. I have already reported on these in 2021 and earlier this year. In this issue, the reviews concentrate on the grandest wines, some of which have prices approaching \$1,000 a bottle.

Although even here there are bargains. Many classed growths from the Médoc with scores

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comfortably in the mid-90s are available for well under \$100. And don't forget the area just south of Bordeaux city, Pessac-Léognan. These wines sing. In 2019, the reds are just right, especially from the higher scoring estates. While the Pessac-Léognan whites from this warm year are less interesting, they are certainly the best whites to

come out of Bordeaux in 2019.

The wines will age, and age well. The top reds should be ready in the late 2020s, others from 2025 or maybe 2026. Alcohol levels are more moderate than they were in 2018. All in all, a vintage for pleasure.

—Roger Voss

## RED WINES

### BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**91** **Château Petit Boyer 2020 Cuvée Paloma (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This ripe, wood aged wine has rich tannins encased by black fruits and generous acidity and structure. It has weight and concentration with a dry core and fine juicy berry flavors at the end. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Château Petit Boyer 2020 Cuvée Armand (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Aged in wood for eight months, this dense wine is dominated by generous Merlot. They give spice, juicy black currant fruits and potential. The wine is set for further aging. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**89** **Château Luc de Beaumont 2019 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** Smooth tannins and juicy black fruits come together in this open, fruity wine. Its structure is well integrated with the fruits, that shine through the wine touched by pepper from the alcohol. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**88** **Château Cambrochets 2020 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** A ripe and structured wine, this has ripe tannins and generous black currant fruits. Its structure and juicy fruits are well balanced with some smoky flavors. Drink from 2024. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Château Luc de Beaumont 2020 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** Dark and densely textured, this wine's black fruit flavors are supplemented by dark chocolate. Still very young, it has a heavy

feeling, the solid Merlot giving weight. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.

**abv:** NA **Price:** \$26

**87** **Château Puy de Lignac 2020 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** This 80% Merlot wine has ripe, spicy flavors along with layers of wood and black fruits. It is a ripe wine, shaped by a firm structure over succulent berry flavors. The wine will be ready from 2025. Vinamericas, Inc.. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

## BORDEAUX

**90** **Château la Freynelle 2019 Emotion (Bordeaux).** Véronique Barthe, the owner and winemaker of La Freynelle, has produced this cuvée. The blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon comes from the best parcels of the estate. It is rich, dense and full of blackberry fruits. It should age a little more, drink from 2023. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Château Bellevue 2020 Bordeaux.** The wine's rich texture is spiced by the wood aging flavors. Blueberries and firm tannins surge from the wine. The 65% Merlot and 25% of the two Cabernets give structure and some aging potential. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**88** **Château Dauzac 2020 D de Dauzac (Bordeaux).** While Château Dauzac is in Margaux, this little sibling comes from vines across the track in Bordeaux appellation. It's a black currant flavored wine with a fresh streak of acidity and a lightly structured aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**88** **Château Grand Jean 2019 Le Veggio (Bordeaux).** A ripe and smooth wine, generous in its black fruits and spice, this immediately attractive and ready to drink. Spice from the touch of wood aging offers complexity. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Lompian Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château Lauduc 2020 L'InVINCible (Bordeaux).** Bottled without added sulfur, the wine comes from a single parcel in the 135 acre Lauduc vineyard. It is still young with black currant freshness and acidity. The wine needs some more time to soften, so drink from 2024. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château Rauzan Despaigne 2019 Bordeaux.** Ripe tannins and soft black fruits come together in this open and friendly wine. Acidity adds its freshness to the wine's balance and spicy

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## The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by Wine Enthusiast magazine's editors and other qualified tasters. Regular contributors to our Buying Guide include Tasting Director Anna-Christina Cabrales (Burgundy, Rhone), Senior Editor, Tasting Jim Gordon (California), Senior Tasting Coordinator Craig Chamberlain (Virginia), Senior Editor, Print Stacy Briscoe (Languedoc-Roussillon), Assistant Editor Jacy Topps (Vin de France) and Writers at Large Michael Alberty (Oregon, Washington, Canada), Virginie Boone (Napa, Sonoma), Mike DeSimone (Spain, Israel, Turkey, Georgia, Lebanon, Armenia, Hungary), John Holl (Beer), Matt Kettmann (Central and South Coast California), Kara Newman (Spirits), Christina Pickard (Australia, New Zealand, England, New York), Emily Saladino (Greece), Layla Shlack (Alsace), Jessica Vargas (South America and South Africa), Roger Voss (Portugal, France: Bordeaux, Beaujolais, Champagne, Loire, Provence, Southwest France) and Aleks Zecevic (Austria, Croatia).

If a wine was evaluated by a single reviewer, that taster's initials appear following the note. When no initials appear following a wine review, the wine was evaluated by two or more reviewers and the score and tasting note reflect the input of all tasters. Unless otherwise stated, all spirit reviews are by Kara Newman and all beer reviews are by John Holl.

Each review contains a score, the full name of the product, its suggested national retail price, its alcohol (abv) as reported to us by the submitter and a tasting note. If price or alcohol content cannot be confirmed, NA (not available) will be printed. Prices are for 750-ml bottles unless otherwise indicated.

### TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

All tastings reported in the Buying Guide are performed blind. Typically, products are tasted in peer-group flights of from 5–8 samples. Reviewers may know general information about a flight to provide context—vintage, variety or appellation—but never the producer or retail price of any given selection. When possible, products considered flawed or uncustomary are retasted.

### ABOUT THE SCORES

Ratings reflect what our editors felt about a particular product. Beyond the rating, we encourage you to read the accompanying tasting note to learn about a product's special characteristics.

- Classic 98–100:** The pinnacle of quality.
- Superb 94–97:** A great achievement.
- Excellent 90–93:** Highly recommended.
- Very Good 87–89:** Often good value; well recommended.
- Good 83–86:** Suitable for everyday consumption; often good value.
- Acceptable 80–82:** Can be employed in casual, less-critical circumstances.

Products deemed Unacceptable (receiving a rating below 80 points) are not reviewed.

### SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

**Editors' Choice** products are those that offer excellent quality at a price above our Best Buy range, or a product at any price with unique qualities that merit special attention.

**Cellar Selections** are products deemed highly collectible and/or requiring time in a temperature-controlled wine cellar to reach their maximum potential. A Cellar Selection designation does not mean that a product must be stored to be enjoyed, but that cellaring will probably result in a more enjoyable bottle. In general, an optimum time for cellaring will be indicated.

**Best Buys** are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. Wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$15 or less, and are designated Best Buys after surpassing a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark.

### SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted to the appropriate reviewing location as detailed in our FAQ, available online via [winemag.com/contact-us](http://winemag.com/contact-us). Inquiries should be addressed to the Tasting & Review Department at 914.345.9463 or email [tastings@wineenthusiast.net](mailto:tastings@wineenthusiast.net). **There is no charge for submitting products.** We make every effort to taste all products submitted for review, but there is no guarantee that all products submitted will be tasted, or that reviews will appear in the magazine. All samples must be accompanied by the appropriate submission forms, which may be downloaded from our website.

### LABELS

Labels are paid promotions. Producers and importers are given the opportunity to submit labels only after the reviews have been finalized and assigned to a specific issue. Labels are reproduced and printed along with tasting notes and scores. For information on label purchases, contact Denise Valenza at 813.571.1122; fax 866.896.8786; or email [dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net](mailto:dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net)

Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at [winemag.com/ratings](http://winemag.com/ratings)



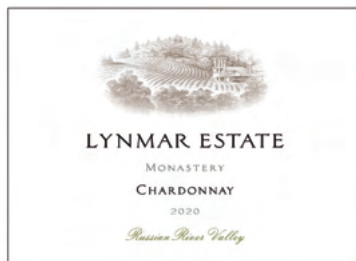
## 98 Three Sticks 2020 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

A creamy mouthfeel of exuberant nuttiness is met by an undercurrent of fresh lemon, tangerine and peach in this highly impressive coastal wine. Deliciously balanced, complex and layered, it exhibits length, breadth and tremendous beauty, exceptional in every way. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$70



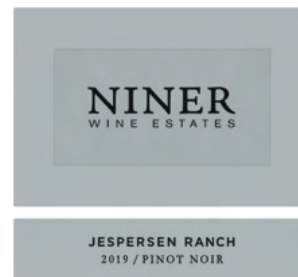
## 97 Castello di Neive 2019 Albesani Santo Stefano (Barbaresco).

Fragrant and refined, this compelling red has aromas of woodland berry, ground pepper, camphor and tilled earth. Full-bodied and structured, the youthfully tense palate features ripe red cherry, pomegranate, star anise and ground nutmeg. Tight, fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity provide support and energy. It shows great aging potential. Drink 2029–2039. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA



## 97 Lynmar Estate 2020 Monastery Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Juicy in a depth of fig and pear, this white is beautifully smooth and supple, with layers of richness that are balanced and bright in acidity. Entirely barrel fermented, it holds its oak with ease and elegance, allowing it to quietly add a twist of baking spice, vanilla bean and honeycomb. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$58



## 97 Niner 2019 Jespersen Ranch Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).

There's an incredible, intense aroma of cherry paste on the nose, as well as mint, loam and geranium scents that add complexity. Black cherry sorbet, dark mint and sweet oak element are framed by sandy tannins on the palate, which unfolds into a mesmerizing display of texture and flavors. Drink now–2039. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75



## 96 Three Sticks 2020 One Sky Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain).

From an estate vineyard at 2,300-foot-elevation above the fog, this exquisite white is floral and bursting in anise and honey. With a balanced approach and seamless mouthfeel, it is lengthy and complex, with beautifully light layers of peach, pear and toast. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$70



## 96 Vasse Felix 2020 Heytesbury Chardonnay (Margaret River).

This vintage—more restrained than previous ones—offers notes of white peach fuzz, toasty vanilla oak, beeswax, ginger spice and a wet stone nuance. The nut and oak spice is more prominent on the palate, but a crystalline acidity and a long citrus and stone fruit finish beautifully balances the oak influence. Restrained and elegant with freshness and length, this should cellar well into the 2040s. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

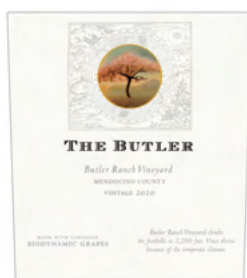


COHN VINEYARD

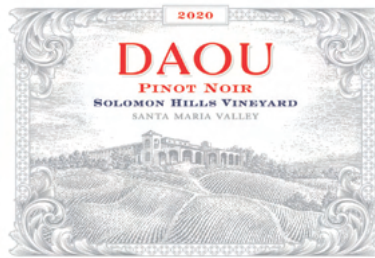
**95 Benovia 2019 Cohn Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** This incredibly delicious and complex wine is full of tension and texture, inviting in every way. White pepper, rose and great red fruit combine for a blockbuster of memorable flavor and a length of supple tannin—the oak adding a touch of baking spice that complements the balanced richness. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$85



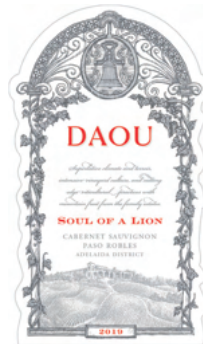
**95 Blue Farm 2019 Farmhouse Estate Farmed Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Floral and complete in tension and energy, this is a high-acid, brightly fruited wine, complex in every way. Moderate concentration binds it to a robust structure and sinewy tannins, with impressive length and finesse. . —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95



**95 Bonterra 2020 The Butler, Butler Ranch Vineyard (Mendocino County).** Big, broad aromas of black fruit, black pepper and woodsmoke give way to well-saturated black-cherry, tar and singed rosemary flavors in this dramatic and concentrated wine. Tightly knit tannins add great structure to the mouthfeel, setting the wine up for a long life. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60



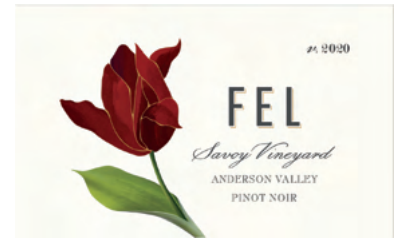
**95 Daou 2020 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** There's a compelling combination of rich boysenberry fruit and complex layers of bay leaf, tree bark, eucalyptus oil and hard spices on the nose of this bottling. The powerful palate packs roasted berry flavors with sagebrush, toasted oak and wild thyme. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$90



**95 Daou 2019 Soul of a Lion Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Toasted espresso-bean, charred walnut-shell and seared meat aromas ride atop a dark cassis tone, all contributing to the portrait of a brooding wine. That classic toasty, woody element spreads through the palate, as dark-cocoa dust sprinkled across rich berry-sauce flavors get a light pop of mint on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$170



**95 Domaine des Baumard 2018 Clos du Papillon (Savennières).** Slowly developing, this wine from the butterfly (papillon) shaped vineyard is impressive. Its mineral character and its tight acidity are harbingers of long-term aging. The white fruits and tight texture will soften over time. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65



**95 FEL 2020 Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Very ripe fruit and an impression of sweetness pervade this fully ripe, rich and delicious wine from a noted site. Soft tannins and a full body embrace red and black cherries, spearmint and redwood forest nuances for an indulgent and complex expression. Best from 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$75



**95 Gainey 2020 Limited Selection Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lovely layers of raspberry, smashed currant, earthy mints and potpourri make for a dynamic nose on this bottling. The palate snaps with immediate, grapefruit-peel-like acidity, then slowly unfurls into black-cherry-framboise flavors laced with white pepper, hard spice and toasty oak into an extended finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$60



**95 Goldeneye 2019 Gowan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This sleek and subtle wine offers great balance, classic aromas and flavors and a good sense of structure that will help it improve over time. Concentrated but restrained red and black cherries, black currants, mint and light oak spices give it plenty to savor, and should develop even more from 2025. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$88





**95 Goldeneye 2019 Ten Degrees Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Complex, toasty and rich, this full-bodied wine blended from select vineyards offers potent black-cherry and blackberry flavors accented by light woodsmoke and cinnamon. Moderate tannins give it a good grip on the palate and, with the wine's excellent concentration, suggest a good aging curve. Best from 2025–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$130



**95 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2019 Block 3 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** This powerful but composed wine should have a long life ahead and get more complex each year. Its ultraconcentrated black-currant flavors and subtle, integrated oak spices are gently and firmly wrapped in fine-grained tannins. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$60



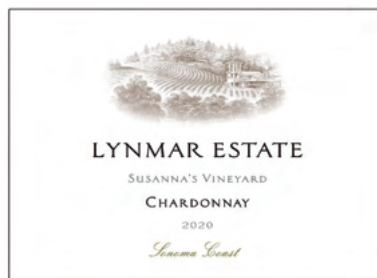
**95 Justin 2018 Isosceles Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Roasted meat, preserved plum and smoke aromas make for a pleasantly rugged nose on this bottling, which includes 9% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. The palate is rugged and rich as well, with teriyaki, baked black-plum and smoked meat flavors, with acid washing into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$85



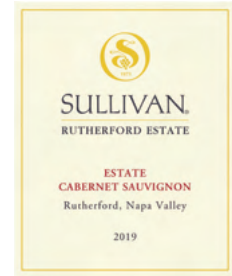
**95 Kenzo Estate 2021 Asatsuyu Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This beautiful white includes 4.5% Sémillon, the wine barrel-aged in equal parts neutral French oak and stainless steel. Rounded and expansive on the palate, it is balanced in terms of acidity and fruit, with flavors of pear, peach and hibiscus giving in to a hint of vanilla that lingers on a long, rich finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$80



**95 Lail 2019 Georgia Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Fermented and aged 21 months in French oak, 70% of it new, this sophisticated, complex and structured white is from a three-acre site that is dry-farmed. Viscous, textured and high-toned, it has flavors of lemon peel, wet stone and grapefruit as well as an earthy embrace of dried herb and lemongrass. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$160



**95 Lynmar Estate 2020 Susanna's Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** A barrel-fermented white from an estate coastal site, this wine is broad across the palate in tingling acidity, fresh and crisp throughout a textured body of great tension and energy. Apple, pear and a hint of citrus combine around an earthiness that endures throughout. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$63



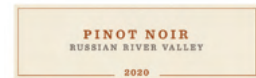
**95 Sullivan 2019 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Blended with 9% Petit Verdot, this estate wine is juicy, broadly expansive and grippy in tannin, with strong, rich layers of cassis, dark cherry and oak. Aged 21 months in all new French oak, it offers a spicy earthiness of clove, tobacco and dried herb that accent the fruit and texture with ease. Enjoy best from 2029–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$130

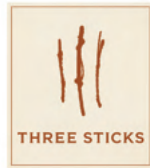


**95 Three Sticks 2020 Durell Vineyard Origin Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Fermented and aged in concrete egg and amphora, this wine is built to showcase the high quality and complexity of the famous estate site, and it does, with ease. Pear, apple blossom and quince highlight a core of lengthy acidity that accentuates notes of flint and stone. The finish offers a lovely parting note of richness that endures. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65



**95 Three Sticks 2020 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Stemmy, with a nice depth of fruit, this wine is textured and lengthy, with a delicious core of raspberry, cherry and tangy blood orange. It remains fresh throughout, showing just a touch of lushness and balanced richness, finishing in spice and cola. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$72





**95 Three Sticks 2020 Price Family Estates Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** A blend of six estate coastal sites, this wine is broadly juicy, broad and richly layered. Blue and red fruit are complemented by black tea, subtle oak and supple tannin, complex yet immediately delicious and decadently balanced. —V.B.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$72



**94 Bella 2019 Dupratt Vineyard Zinfandel (Mendocino Ridge).** This bold and complex wine made from 100-year-old vines is laced with herb and spice aromas from thyme to rosemary and wood smoke, on top of vivid blackberry and black-cherry flavors. A full body and moderate tannins give a grippy mouthfeel while black-pepper and wild-sage kick in on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$55



**94 Bonterra 2020 The McNab Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County).** This potent but sophisticated wine combines powerful, focused black-fruit flavors with restrained mint, toast and cocoa accents, cradled by fine-grained tannins that help it glide smoothly through the palate and lingering finish. Boosted by 20% Petite Sirah, it will drink best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$60



**94 Brassfield 2019 Estate Petit Verdot (High Valley).** A powerful core of black fruits and graphite is wrapped in moderate, velvety tannins that shape and polish it well. Hints of vanilla, dark chocolate and black cherries are revealed with repeated sipping. This full-bodied wine will be best through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

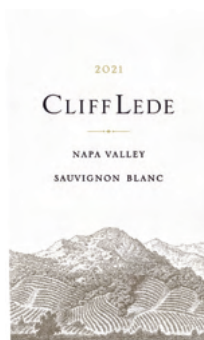
Price: \$50



**94 Calera 2019 Jensen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan).** Rugged cherry aromas meet with earth herbs, star anise and gamy charcuterie on the nose of this bottling, which was grown in true limestone at 2,200 feet. That rugged character rolls through the palate, featuring wild plums, salted meat, bay leaf and wood oil, with enough texture and acidity to last awhile. Drink now—2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$105



**94 Cliff Lede 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This is an outstanding white blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc with 9% Sémillon and 1% Sauvignon Vert. Bright and fresh in peach and wet stone, it is nicely textured, with just enough weight and breadth to add complexity and structure. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$32



**94 Domaine Carneros 2018 Brut Rosé (Carneros).** Made from 58% estate-grown Pinot Noir and 42% estate-grown Chardonnay, and given a minimum of three years of aging, this vintage-dated sparkler offers aromas of fresh hay. On the palate, it reveals lovely, light layers of barely ripe strawberry, orange peel and grapefruit that are lengthy with a delectable mouthfeel. —V.B.

abv: 12.09%

Price: \$45



**94 Famiglia Anselma 2017 del Comune di Monforte d'Alba (Barolo).** Camphor, leather, underbrush and toasted nut aromas mingle with pipe tobacco on this full-bodied red. Showing the heat of the vintage, the full-bodied palate offers dried cherry, ground clove and star anise framed in close-grained, drying tannins. Drink 2025–2032. Crus & Stills. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$47

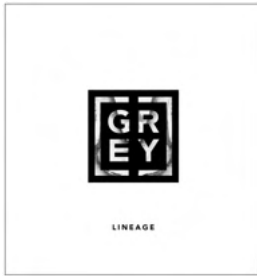


**94 Fess Parker 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** The delicate yet detailed nature of this bottling is immensely appealing, starting with aromas of crisp nectarine, blanched almond and sea salt. The palate is quite complex, with familiar lemon-zest, white-flower and apple-peel touches, but also a more exotic streak of ginger. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$44





**94 Grey Wolf Cellars 2019 Lineage (Paso Robles).** Clean and rounded aromas of blackberry jam, delicate licorice, roasted strawberry and a hint of wood show on the nose of this blend of 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Malbec, 24% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot. There's a firm, chalky grip to the sip, where rich flavors of blackberry, cocoa and pepper ride a fresh acidity into the long finish. Drink now–2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55



**94 GRO Wines 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** With 8% Cabernet Franc, this small-production wine from Star Vineyard is elegantly woven in lavender, bay leaf and black pepper. Rounded, elongated tannins surround blue fruit, dust and a lightness of spice, with a plush, deep and lengthy palate of great complexity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65



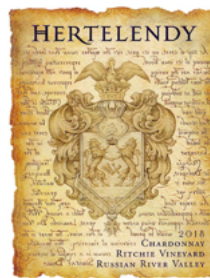
**94 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Franc (Red Hills).** Absolutely lush and mouthcoating, this superconcentrated and deeply colored wine made with organic grapes overflows with blueberries, black currants and dark chocolate. Its abundant tannins are velvety, warmly wrapping up the rich fruit and spice flavors. Best from 2026–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$65



**94 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2019 Petite Sirah (Red Hills).** This powerful and focused wine is a no-nonsense expression of the grape variety, showing only light oak accents to the wine's deep core of blackberries, wood char, black pepper and anise. Fine-grained tannins hold the flavors in rather tightly but this wine will reward patience. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65



**94 Henri Bourgeois 2019 Jadis (Sancerre).** From vines in the Bourgeois family's home village of Chavigny, the wine is a serious affair. Its rich structure and acidity allied to the still intense white fruits are impressive. The wine is almost mature, but will benefit from further aging. Drink from 2023. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60



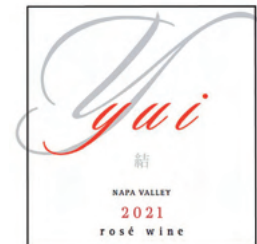
**94 Hertelendy 2018 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Rich and oak-driven, this impressive, over-the-top wine is aged in 90% new French and Hungarian oak. Buttery crème brûlée and tropical pineapple, guava and an opulent texture give it a complex intensity that persists in baking spice and vanilla on the palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$85



**94 J Vineyards & Winery NV Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley).** With an inviting, fruity nose, this is a crowd-pleasing, well-made and memorable sparkler with good acidity and lasting freshness. Flavors of tangerine, strawberry and raspberry rise to the fore of the palate, elegantly wrapped around textured elegance. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50



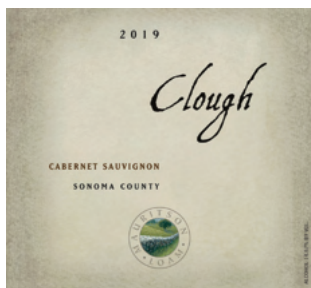
**94 Justin 2019 Justification (Paso Robles).** Sharp wood-spice aromas meet with dried meat and blackberry sauce on the engaging nose of this blend of 51% Cabernet Franc and 49% Merlot. The ripe and heavy berry-sauce flavors are ladled over smoked meat on the palate, which is contained by firmly structured tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 16.1% **Price:** \$65



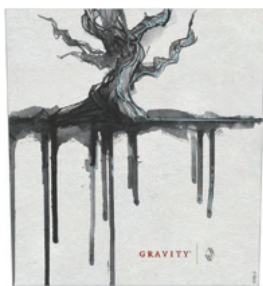
**94 Kenzo Estate 2021 Yui Rosé (Napa Valley).** Delicately colored, this wine is made from 54% Malbec, 37% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc. It sings in brisk acidity, with a robust mouthfeel of complex structure. Lovely notes of plum, dark cherry and pear give it a lively midpalate of weight and sophistication. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$80



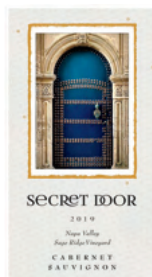
**94 Laetitia 2020 Whole Cluster Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** Impressive aromas of crisp black raspberry, ocean breezes, loamy soil and toasted wood show on the nose of this bottling. It's thick and juicy with creamy tannins on the palate, where raspberry-jam flavors are lifted by anise and singed tarragon, leading into a briny finish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$47



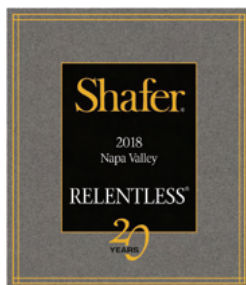
**94 Mauritsen 2019 Clough Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** Named for a gravelly loam soil layered in quartz and chert, this wine is juicy with a depth of structure and grippy intensity. Soft, underlying texture tempers the intensity and depth of structure, allowing room for a pillowy elegance of red fruit, cedar and baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.57% **Price:** \$95



**94 Mount Peak 2019 Gravity (California).** This concentrated, deep and well-layered wine made from Syrah, Petite Sirah, Zinfandel and Viognier is absolutely drenched in ripe black fruits laced with tempting mint, clove and tobacco nuances. It is complex, velvety in texture and remarkably flavorful, ending with a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$58



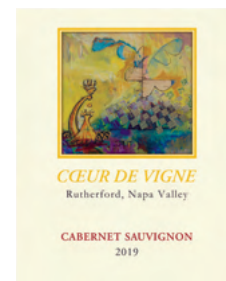
**94 Secret Door 2019 Sage Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** From a high-elevation site, this is a complex, powerful and ageworthy wine, with earth minerality at its core. Crushed rock, dried herb and mountain tannin make for a concentrated core of intensity and length on the palate, combining dense dark fruit with a hint of tobacco. Enjoy best from 2029–2034. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$200



**94 Shafer 2018 Relentless Syrah-Petite Sirah (Napa Valley).** This is a heavy, brooding and impressive wine, a blend of 76% Syrah with 24% Petite Sirah. Shocks of white pepper, violet and rich black fruit wrap around a thicket of firm tannin and hearty oak, the wine sinewy and richly layered. This is the 20th anniversary vintage of this wine. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$90



**94 Sky Devil 2018 Reisacher Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley).** A 100% varietal wine that spent 26 months in all new French oak, this red is ripe and decadent in style. Baked cherry, berry and nutmeg accent a thick core of concentrated opulence and elongated tannin. Let this lie for a while and enjoy best from 2028–2033. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$135



**94 Sullivan 2019 Coeur de Vigne Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Blended with 8% Petit Verdot and 2% each of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, this hearty red is brimming in thick tannin, considerable oak and expansively youthful layers of vanilla, cassis and plum. Impressive in its grasp of both variety and appellation, it is worth cellaring; enjoy best from 2029–2034. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$110

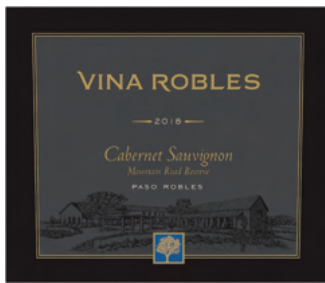


**94 Trefethen 2021 Dry Riesling (Oak Knoll District).** An estate-grown white that is perennially impressive from this producer, this vintage continues the legacy, offering inviting aromatics of petrol and white flower. On the steely palate expect lithe layers of tangerine, apricot and fig, demure and fresh through a long finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

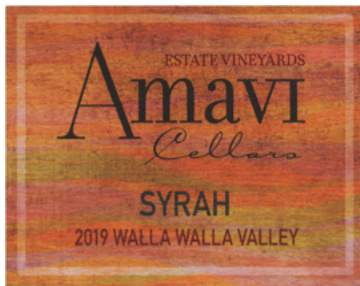


**94 Vasse Felix 2020 Chardonnay (Margaret River).** This is a restrained, poised and age worthy vintage. There's tangy orange and melon with flickers of salt, toast and florals. The palate is slightly more expressive with prickly acidity and a lovely texture. Harmonious and refreshing, with some buttered toast oak influence and a tangy fruit finish. Drink now–2030. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$47





**94** Vina Robles 2018 Mountain Road Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Ripe, inviting and juicy aromas of blackberry and milk chocolate draw the nose immediately into this bottling. Those rich qualities are quickly greeted with very sandy tannins on the palate, which give a firm structure to cassis and espresso-bean flavors that will evolve over many years. Drink 2024–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$62



**93** Amavi 2019 Estate Vineyards Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The aromas offer notes of violets, smoked meat, gravel, blue fruit and raspberry. Plush feeling fruit flavors follow showing depth and intensity. The balance is exquisite. It's classic Washington Syrah. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42



**93** Bel Colle 2013 10 Anni Riserva (Barolo). Aromas of rose petal, leather and black-skinned berry emerge from the glass. The polished, balanced palate offers Morello cherry, licorice and a balsamic note alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2033. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70



**93** Blair Fox 2019 Fox Family Vineyard Grenache (Los Olivos District). Crumpled carnation, violet and dark-raspberry aromas meet with loamy soil and peppery spice on the nose of this excellent bottling. The palate is thick with rich flavors of baked strawberry, which are layered in cinnamon and pepper spices, as tannins rise into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$60



**93** Brassfield 2019 Estate Zinfandel (High Valley). This gorgeous, complex and high-powered wine deftly blends light oak spices of cinnamon, vanilla and cedar with ripe, tempting blackberry and raspberry flavors on a velvety texture of soft tannins. It's one of the best Zins coming from Lake County grapes. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 16.1% **Price:** \$35



**93** Brassfield 2017 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). Rich, powerful and mouthfilling, this full-bodied wine shows deep and concentrated black cherries, black plums and dark chocolate on a velvety, gently tannic texture. Containing 18% Malbec and 7% Petit Verdot, it's well balanced for further aging. Best through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65



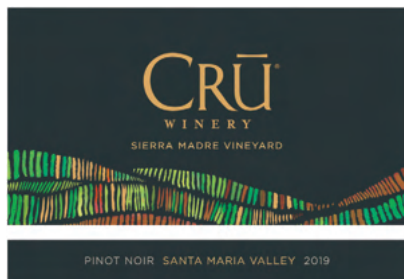
**93** Brecon Estate 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District). Crisp and brisk red-currant aromas meet with licorice and freshly cracked white pepper on the nose of this bottling. The palate is crisp, light and refreshing, with red-flower and smoked berry flavors riding waves of acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$84



**93** Château Clarke 2016 Llistrac-Médoc. This property owned by the Edmond de Rothschild family, has long led the pack in Llistrac. This vintage, still maturing, is an example of the elegance and great style to be expected from the estate, especially in a fine vintage. The wine's black currant fruits, issuing from the 70% Merlot in the blend and the tannins both need time. Drink from 2025. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$74



**93** CheckMate 2019 Silent Bishop Merlot (Okanagan Valley). The aromas are forward, with notes of dark raspberry, fruit rollup, cedar, tar, dark plum and a whiff of mesquite smoke. The flavors are palate coating, showing depth, intensity and impressive freshness, with tart acidity. There's plenty of tannic structure around it all. It's beautiful. Best after 2026. CheckMate. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80



**93** **Crū 2019 Sierra Madre Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Very light in the glass, this bottling is loaded with beautiful aromas of strawberry, pomegranate and raspberry, with complex lines of wet soil and toasty spice adding intrigue. The palate lands with hibiscus and cranberry flavors, as green hints of shiso and bay leaf arise toward the midpalate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$50



**93** **Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Field Blend Zinfandel (San Francisco Bay).** This full-bodied and superflavorful wine boasts wonderful wild-blackberry and sage aromas, deep black- and red-fruit flavors and a great sense of concentration. It's a true standout, and should improve with mid-term aging. Best from 2025. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50



**93** **Destinata 2021 Carbonic Grenache (Paso Robles).** This bottling moves the carbonic style into a more complex category. A light raspberry color in the glass, this wine begins with superfresh aromas of black-raspberry sorbet and rose petals. The palate stays fresh and bright, picking up dark hibiscus, black plum and elderflower flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$30



**93** **Dobbes Family Estate 2019 Grand Assemblage Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The aromas pop, with notes of satsuma, dark berry, black tea and cinnamon. Full bodied, balanced flavors follow, showing depth, layering, focus and tension. Bright acid enlivens it, and firm tannins provide the spine. It's glorious. Decant. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30



**93** **Edna Valley Vineyard 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Graphite and anise aromas cut against the ripe black-plum core on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm tannic structure to the palate, where maduro cigar, cedar and fennel flavors give depth to the plummy core. Drink now–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55



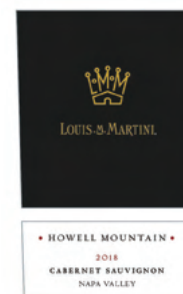
**93** **Fess Parker 2020 Ashley's Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Tart and ashy aromas of yellow apple, lemon peel and grapefruit zest make for a racy nose on this bottling. There's a great textural edge to the palate, where lemon pith and crisp acidity cuts through broad nectarine and salty almond flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$44



**93** **Hertelendy 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** With thick tannins and a big style on offer, this wine spent 23 months in barrel and is undeniably opulent, concentrated and generous in oak. Black fruit dominates around secondary notes of dried herb, clove and pleasant layers of earth. With structure and complexity, it should do well in the cellar; enjoy best 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$150

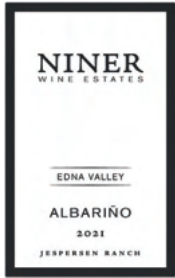


**93** **Jayson 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Earthy, brawny and spicy, this blockbuster red is full of intensity and length, with rich, dense layers of blueberry, clove and leather. Moderate grip provides a touch of structure amidst an otherwise decadent experience. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$100



**93** **Louis M. Martini 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** Nicely perfumed in cassis and plum, this is a big, generous and richly layered wine from the mountain appellation, tannic and oak-driven in style. Rich, dark notes of caramel and toffee finish out the robust ending of the wine. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$150





**93 Niner 2021 Jespersen Ranch Albariño (Edna Valley).** Both sharp and floral aromas of apple flesh and pear blossoms meet with hints of crushed stone on the dynamic nose of this bottling. There's a firm tension to the sip, where bold citrus flavors cruise across an underlying stony quality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$30



**93 Niner 2019 Jespersen Ranch Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Toasty aromas of brioche, apricot, sea salt and gardenia make for a very compelling nose on this bottling. That warm pastry touch shows on the palate as croissant flake, with plumeria and charred coconut flavors adding opulence as the texture holds firm and tight. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55



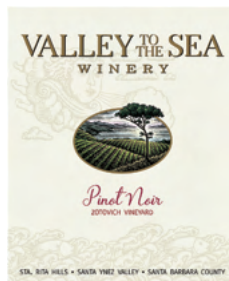
**93 Robert Oatley 2021 Signature Series Chardonnay (Margaret River).** Pale gold in color, this is a top example of this renowned Margaret River style. A perfume of fresh hazelnut, honeydew melon and lemon is underpinned by some florals and subtle oak. The palate is full bodied. Where it lacks a little in depth and poise it gains in tastiness, helped by supportive oak and a lively lift of citrusy acidity. A lemony finish lingers. Food friendly sipping now–2032. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25



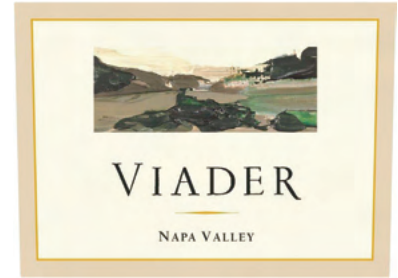
**93 Summerland 2020 Spear Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Baked nectarine, salted almonds and delicious oaky spices make for a very toasty nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate is very cohesive in flavors, offering lemon peel, buttermilk and more oak. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$49



**93 Tongue Dancer 2020 Foxtrot Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This outstanding wine offers vivid black-fruit flavors, a great structure and lively texture. The nose and palate feature abundant black cherries, red cherries and blackberries along with hints of mint, cedar, and pine, while moderate tannins and good acidity keep it fresh and mouth-watering. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$39



**93 Valley to the Sea 2020 Zotovich Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dark yet crisp aromas of raspberry, green peppercorn and bay leaf show on the lively, engaging nose of this refreshing bottling. The palate is very juicy and easy to quaff, with bright red-fruit and fruit-punch flavors gaining complexity from slight herbal hints. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$51



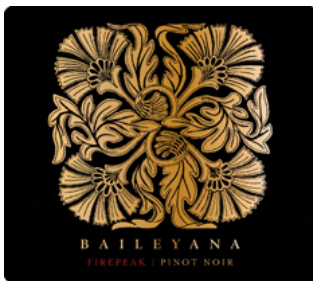
**93 Viader 2019 Proprietary Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley).** Combining 58% Cabernet Sauvignon and 42% Cabernet Franc, this wine is powerfully built and mountainous in tannin profile, with surprising elegance. Violet, bay leaf, crushed rock and dried herb provide an earthy, savory context of great complexity and endurance. Enjoy best from 2029–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$195



**92 Armida 2019 Chalone Vineyard Chardonnay (Chalone).** Lime peel, white-flower and light guava aromas make for a delicate nose on this bottling. The palate lands with a chalky grip, offering richer flavors of buttered apricots, cherimoya and macadamia nut. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$55



**92 Armida 2019 Chalone Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone).** Both tart and black-cherry aromas meet with peppery spice and light herbs on the nose of this bottling from a rugged appellation. Dark-cherry, sandalwood and cedar flavors are complemented by the sagebrush and wild herb elements that are typical of the region. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$55



**92 Baileyana 2020 Firepeak Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Longtime winemaker Rob Takigawa only shows more experience each vintage on this relatively affordable bottling. Aromas of black cherry and black raspberry meet with vanilla and pie crust on the delicious nose. The palate lands with ripe cherry-compote and strawberry-sorbet flavors, but the intrigue is added by mint leaf and a firm tannic frame. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30



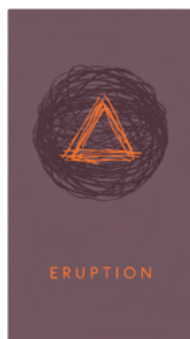
**92 Bel Colle 2018 Bussia (Barolo).** Aromas of mocha, smoke and ripe black-skinned berry take shape in the glass. The firmly structured palate dried black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75



**92 Bel Colle 2018 Simposio (Barolo).** Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, cedar and tobacco lead the way. The full-bodied palate offers baked plum, mocha and clove alongside tightly-wound tannins. Drink 2024–2033. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60



**92 Bouchaine 2019 Hyde Vineyard Syrah (Carneros).** This is a spicy, stemmy and earthy red, funky in all good varietal ways. Meaty and thickly layered, it is complex and structured, with a length of lush black fruit, lavender and licorice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$85



**92 Brassfield 2019 Eruption Volcano Ridge Vineyard Estate (High Valley).** Rich, mouth-coating blueberry and dark-chocolate flavors are complemented by light wood-smoke, tobacco and black-pepper nuances in this huge, full-bodied and deeply flavored wine. Moderate tannins balance out its richness and bode well for drinking through at least 2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$28



**92 Brassfield 2017 Perspective Vineyard Estate Syrah (High Valley).** This polished, supple but full-bodied wine offers a seamless knitting of delicious black-fruit flavors and subtle dark-chocolate notes. It is elegant in texture and beautifully balanced while offering great concentration. Best from 2024–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65



**92 Brassfield 2017 Volcano Ridge Vineyard Estate Malbec (High Valley).** Full bodied, smooth and soothing in texture, this richly fruity wine is also subtly accented by light toast, cedar and dark-chocolate notes. Its complexity and layering are great attributes that keep improving with each sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$40

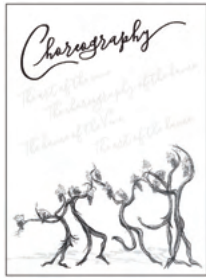


**92 Brecon Estate 2021 Albariño (Central Coast).** The year 2021 appears to be a great vintage for Albariño across the region, and this appellation blend is a great display of that. Aromas of river stone, yellow-apple flesh and lime peel lead into a cleanly cut palate of chalk, lemon-lime and kiwi flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40



**92 Broken Earth 2019 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** There's a purity of dark berry and cherry on the nose of this bottling, along with a lush hint of caramel. The palate shows similar dark-fruit qualities, but with ample tension that pushes through the finish as well as underlying wood-spice, herb and pepper notes. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25





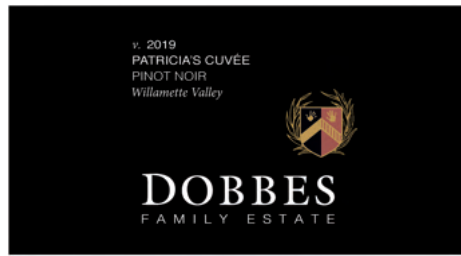
**92 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Choreography (Livermore Valley).** This smooth and harmonious wine blends bright raspberries with rich dark cherries and subtle oak spices. It is light in tannins, mouthfilling, medium to full bodied and nicely polished in texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$75



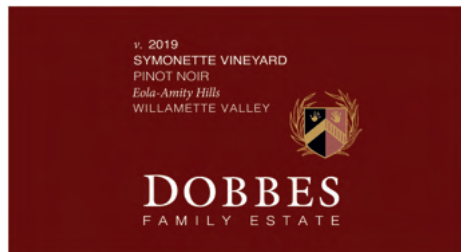
**92 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Madden Ranch Ghost Vines Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley).** Hints of mint and rosemary accompany bold blackberry and blueberry flavors in this firm-textured, full-bodied wine. It shows great concentration, depth and ability to improve with age. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50



**92 De Bortoli 2018 Noble One Semillon (New South Wales).** A deep but vibrant honey color, one of Australia's most famous dessert wines is a beaut to look at. Aromas of baked pear and lemon verbena are backed by spicier ones like nutmeg, vanilla and butterscotch, with flickers of green herbs like mint and fennel. It's intense but with just enough acidity to keep it from being cloying. The honeyed sweetness dominates the palate, and the more subtle aromas get lost, but drink this chilled from a sherry glass with a salty cheese and it will be a delight. PH Importing. —C.P.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$40



**92 Dobbes Family Estate 2019 Patricia's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Flower, raspberry, cedar, cinnamon candy, black tea and orange rind aromas lead to citrus filled flavors that start out on the lighter side of medium bodied. The frame fills in over time. Coffee notes linger on the finish. Give it time to open up or decant and it fully delivers. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50



**92 Dobbes Family Estate 2019 Symonette Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Arresting aromas of cigar box, cedar, raspberry, clove and dried orange rind lead to medium-bodied red fruit flavors, threaded with cinnamon notes. A tart finish ties it all together. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$68



**92 Edna Valley Vineyard 2019 Winemaker Series Meritage (Paso Robles).** Smashed blackberry, loamy earth and pencil-shaving aromas make for a compelling and complete nose on this bottling. There's a firm, leathery tannic grip to the palate, giving structural depth to the baked cranberry and boysenberry flavors, as pepper and light herbs arise on the finish. Drink now—2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45



**92 Fort Ross Winery 2018 Fort Ross Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** Spicy cherry and pomegranate meet savory forest and black tea in this coastal estate wine, planted at high elevation. Balanced in weight and acidity, it is earthy, complex and nicely structured, with a finishing touch of cardamom and clove. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$52



**92 Goose Ridge 2021 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Goose Gap).** The aromas pop, with notes of lemon pith, fresh herb, mineral, lime and whiffs of tropical fruit. Tart, racy, puckering, medium bodied, acid driven flavors follow sailing on the finish. It's outrageously good. Acid hounds take notice. Oysters anyone? *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24



**92 Greywacke 2020 Wild Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Indigenous yeast and old oak barrels add a richness and complexity to this Sauvignon. It's pale straw in color, with a reductive notes of nuts, charred toast and lemon pith, the grass and herbal notes taking a back seat. The palate is ready in texture, buoyed by crystalline acidity. There's length, balance and a long lemony finish. A solid pairing with rich, herb-flecked dishes. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31



**92 Ironstone 2020 Petite Sirah (Lodi).** Intense blueberry, blackberry and black-fig flavors fill this full-bodied, richly tannic wine to the brim. Light, attractive oak spices of cinnamon, vanilla and cedar accent the deep and layered fruit flavors for a seamless and complex expression. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14



**92 J Vineyards & Winery 2017 Vintage Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley).** Made with 66% Pinot Noir, 33% Chardonnay and 1% Pinot Meunier, and vintage dated, this sparkling wine is pretty in peach color, with a taste and texture of peach fuzz. Rich, layered and giving, it offers a dense hint of nougat and vanilla cookie, with decent acidity keeping it fresh. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$70



**92 Lamoreaux Landing 2019 Reserve Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This refreshing dry Riesling shows a deep well of yellow apple and white peach enlivened by brisk elements of wet stone, quince and sliced fennel bulb. The cohesive medium-bodied palate showcases all that fruit and freshness on a gently rounded texture that extends on the lingering finish. This dry Riesling is a true delight. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$35



**92 Lava Cap 2018 Estate Bottled Syrah (El Dorado).** Nicely packed with anise, black fruits and smoky, herbal accents, this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine tastes bold and complex. Its fine-grained tannins deftly balance the powerful, ripe black cherries and wood-smoke notes. Best from 2024–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$28



**92 Louis M. Martini 2018 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A tight, intense and hugely concentrated wine from the famous site, this red is dense and brooding in graphite, crushed rock and blue and black fruit. Oak and tannin provide a fortress of additional weight and breadth across the palate, begging for more time in bottle. Enjoy this best from 2028–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 16.1% **Price:** \$200



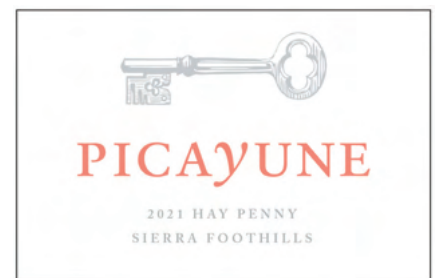
**92 Metz Road 2020 Riverview Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey).** This bottling comes from a very unique in-vineyard experimentation regime that is quickly showing fascinating results. Aromas of rugged boysenberry, smoked meat, crushed rocks and earth lead the nose into a tensely woven palate, where black plum plays with thyme, sagebrush and green-peppercorn flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35



**92 Monchiero Carbone 2018 Renesio Incisa Riserva (Roero Arneis).** Vinified and aged partly in amphora, this has delicate aromas suggesting Spanish broom, dried botanical herb, beeswax and stone fruit. The savory, rounded palate shows finesse, body depth and restraint, featuring dried apricot, ripe pear and hazelnut mineral notes recalling saline. Fresh acidity keeps it lifted right through a finish of unsweetened lemon drop. Tita Italian Import & Export. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

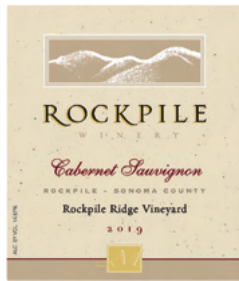


**92 Murrieta's Well 2019 The Spur (Livermore Valley).** Deep and delicious, this full-bodied but soft-textured wine based on Cabernet Sauvignon overflows with plump black cherries, blackberries and baking spices backed by light tannins. Good concentration and a creamy mouthfeel add to its enjoyment. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35



**92 Picayune 2021 Hay Penny Rosé (Sierra Foothills).** This pale-colored and light-bodied wine is beautifully aromatic, exuding rose petals and dark plums that continue on the palate with a good nip of acid and a hint of textural tannin too. It's well balanced, refreshing and concentrated. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$22





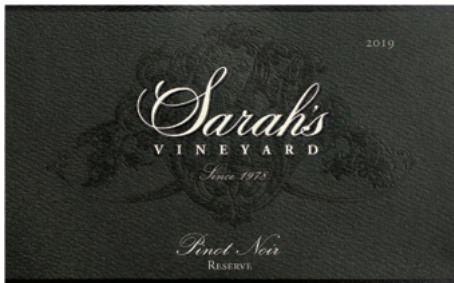
**92** Rockpile Winery 2019 Rockpile Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rockpile). From a high-elevation site and blended with 13% Malbec and 10% Petit Verdot, this red is inky dark, with soft, supple and well-integrated tannin and oak. Hints of dried herb, mint and currant are complemented by richer notes of dark chocolate and vanilla. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.57% **Price:** \$75



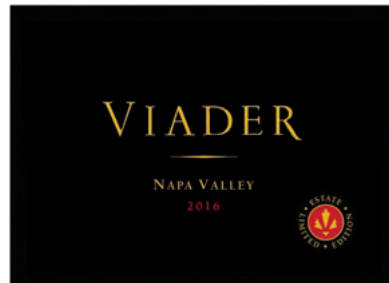
**92** Summerland 2020 Rancho La Vina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Cranberry and pomegranate aromas meet with light herb and simple white pepper on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up a riper red-plum and strawberry character, as black-pepper and mace elements add nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$65



**91** Ancient Peaks 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Margarita Ranch). Green-pear peels and fresh pear-flesh aromas invite the nose into this bottling, always a great expression at a fair price. It's super-zippy on the palate, with likable flavors of yellow apple and green herb. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



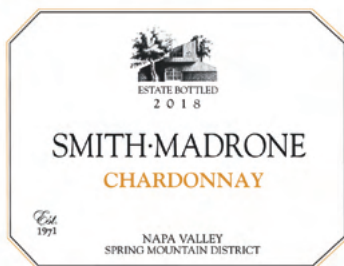
**92** Sarah's Vineyard 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley). Dark plum, cherry and black-sage aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a taut frame to the palate, where dried elderberry, earthy sagebrush, lingering bay leaf and hints of eucalyptus oil coast to the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68



**92** Viader 2019 Black Label Limited Edition Estate (Napa Valley). A powerhouse of tannin and refined fruit, this blends equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah with smaller amounts of Cabernet Franc and Malbec, all estate-grown. High-toned red fruit, cedar and *garrigue* accent a richly textured core of lengthy intensity. Enjoy best from 2019–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$150



**91** Balboa 2018 Artist Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas are forward and appealing, with notes of ripe dark fruit and spice. Palate coating flavors follow. It brings undeniable appeal—a bottle of straight up goodness at a superb price. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**92** Smith-Madrone 2018 Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District). Barrel fermented and aged in 55% new French oak, this perennially impressive white is creamy and seamless on the palate, in ripe layers of pear, pineapple and vanilla bean. Balanced acidity and structure keep it focused and finessed. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45



**92** Williams Selyem 2020 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). This remains one of the best deals in the space, a wine that consistently overdelivers on its price point and shows remarkable blending and sourcing skill. Cool-climate characteristics of bright acidity, red cherry and strawberry are lifted aromatically by rose petal notes in this textured, light and elegant vintage. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$39



**91** Brassfield 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). This ripe, bold and appropriately tannic wine is well stocked with black cherries, blackberries and oak spices on a full body, adding good fruit acidity underneath for balance. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35



**91 Broken Earth 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Fresh aromas of candied berry pick up dried earth and a hint of mushroom on the nose of this bottling. There's a tight tannic frame to the palate, where cassis and brown-spice flavors work well together. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**91 Calera 2020 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** Briny aromas of lemon peel and crisp apple show on the inviting nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the palate, where grapefruit-peel and apple-flesh flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26



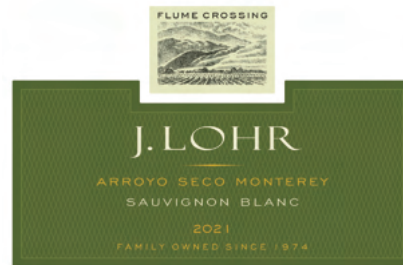
**91 CheckMate 2019 Opening Gambit Merlot (Okanagan Valley).** The aromas offer appealing notes of dark plum, mineral, licorice, spice and a whiff of mesquite. Highly structured red fruit flavors follow, with a lot of acid and tannin behind them. Best after 2025. CheckMate. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$80



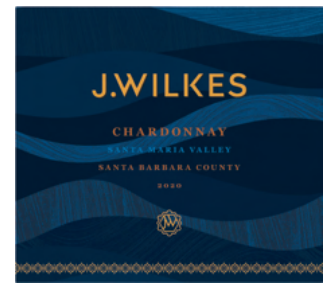
**91 D'Arenberg 2018 D'Arry's Original Grenache-Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** There's a savory, peppery note atop the plum and black currant fruit on this fleshy Grenache, Shiraz blend. It's that pepper, licorice, brambly fruit and heady spice combo that reels you in, then the palate seals the deal. The tongue is cinched by a distinctive line of spicy, talc-textured tannins unique to this brand. They're big, but unlike others in the vast stable of d'Arenberg reds, they're in balance with the plummy fruit and secondary flavors. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22



**91 Goldeneye 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This fruity, spicy, well-balanced wine hits all the right notes from a cherry and cinnamon scented aroma to ripe black-cherry and blueberry flavors to a silky texture with a light touch of tannin. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60



**91 J. Lohr 2021 Flume Crossing Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco).** This widely available bottling packs a ton of bang for the buck. Aromas of grass, crisp lime and crushed cement are fresh and easy to enjoy. There's a jalapeño kick to the sip, where a grippy structure clings to passion fruit and green-apple flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14



**91 J. Wilkes 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** A sleek new package presents a very solid vintage from this affordably priced brand, which silently sources much of its fruit from the legendary Bien Nacido Vineyard. Aromas of nectarine, honey and chamomile lead into a palate where a rocky tension delivers cohesive flavors of lemon curd, apple flesh and vanilla spice. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

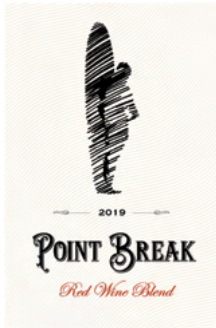


**91 Lincourt 2020 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Orange zest, lemon peel and butter meet with a slightly earthy tone on the nose of this bottling. A fine tension contains the fatter melon and pear-slice flavors of the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35



**91 Lincourt 2018 Rancho Santa Rosa Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Blistered plum, dried meat and dark-wood aromas show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate pops with black-cherry and charred wood flavors, making for a rich, dark and hefty style of Pinot Noir. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$40





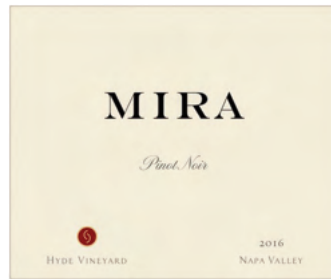
**91 Longboard 2019 Point Break (Sonoma County).** This is a delicious blend of nearly equal parts Syrah, Merlot and Carignan, with a touch of Malbec. High-toned, dense and candied, it shows bright acidity and chewy tannin around velvety layers of blackberry, cinnamon and cola. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29



**91 Lucy 2021 Pico Blanco Pinot Gris-Pinot Blanc (Monterey County).** This is a fun blend of 70% Pinot Gris and 30% Pinot Blanc, grapes that have become rare to this region. Aromas of subtle citrus and light white flower lead into a creamier palate, where pear and apple flavors are cut by crisp Meyer lemon and a firm texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$24



**91 Mia Marie 2021 Muscat (San Diego County).** Who knew a bone-dry Muscat could excel in the warmth of San Diego County? This exciting bottling begins with brisk aromas of wet stone, honeydew rind, lime and green pear on the nose. There's a brief hit of texture following by a creamier palate loaded with yellow pear-flesh and pear-rind flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$35



**91 Mira 2016 Hyde Vineyard Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** Made in a robust style with ample richness and ripeness, this wine shows tangy acidity and supple tannin. Layers of strawberry, dried herb and forest floor give it an impressive yin and yang of flavor and character, finishing with length. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$95



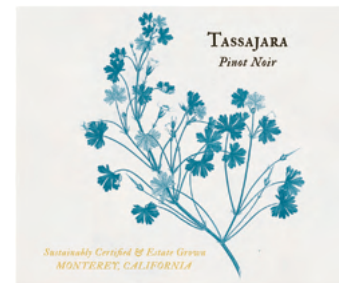
**91 Obsidian 2021 Poseidon Vineyard Pezsgo Pet Nat Sparkling Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Fun, fruity and balanced, with sharp acidity and a quaffable spirit, this sparkling Pinot Noir tastes of candied strawberry, watermelon and lemon candy. Tangy and crisp, it is well made and easy to love. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$36



**91 Ottella 2021 Le Creete (Lugana).** Elderflower, tropical fruit and citrus aromas mingle with a whiff of crushed tomato vine. The bright, tangy palate offers white peach, gooseberry and grapefruit before a bitter almond finish. Lyra Wine. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25



**91 Pahlmeyer 2017 Merlot (Napa Valley).** Reductive at first, this is a seriously robust, intense and complex version of the variety, a perennial powerhouse and regional benchmark. Leather, tobacco and a thickness of cherry are met by contrasting characteristics of clove, dried herb and cedar, begging for more time to unfurl. Enjoy best from 2029–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$105



**91 Tassajara 2020 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** There's a rugged, smoky quality to this bottling that works with aromas of dark plum, sagebrush and salt-and-pepper on the nose. Leathery tannins frame roasted cherry and berry flavors on the palate, with hints of iodine and more smoke. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



**91 The Crusher 2019 Pinot Noir (California).** Gorgeous fruit flavors and a good, grippy mouthfeel give this full-bodied wine from Don Sebastiani & Sons a lot of left on the palate. Red and black cherries, black tea and cinnamon come out with further sipping. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17



**91 Tribute 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A full body and rich texture carry ripe, fruity and savory flavors from honeydew melon to golden apple and hints of straw and almond. It's a big, smooth and concentrated wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$17



**91 Verraco Ridge 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County).** This brand manages to consistently pump out zesty, fresh and detailed wines for affordable prices. This bright bottling starts with aromas of chiseled stone, lime peel and citrus blossom balm on the nose. The palate's acidity is sharp and the texture is grippy, carrying grapefruit, lemon and Rangpur lime flavors—a solid choice for shellfish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20



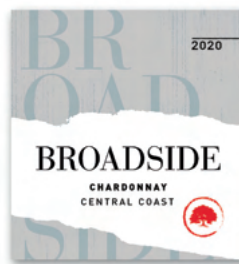
**91 Viader 2019 V Petit Verdot-Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Leading with 76% Petit Verdot, the remainder Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a dry, tannic and intensely built red, from grapes grown at 1,200-foot-elevation. The tannins are long and sturdy, the oak generously toasted and the fruit rich and layered. Let this one lie a bit and enjoy best 2029–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$210



**91 Vina Robles 2021 Jardine Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles).** Crisp pear, lime and grapefruit-pith aromas combine for a fresh and zesty entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate sizzles with acidity and grips with a chalky texture, giving way to grass, green-pear and green-pepper flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22



**90 Bel Colle 2018 Monvigliero (Barolo).** This opens with aromas of cedar, mocha and baked plum. The ripe palate offers blackberry jam, tobacco and toasted hazelnut alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2030. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75



**90 Broadside 2020 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** This widely available wine will satisfy Chardonnay fans of many types. Golden hued in the glass, the bottling shows macadamia nut, lemon curd and brine on the nose. The palate is toasty with hazelnut and lemon-cream flavors, but there are tons of vibrant acidity and savory sea salt to keep it compelling. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17



**90 Broken Earth 2018 CV Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** Blueberry, black currant and light pepper make for a fruit-driven nose on this bottling. The palate is quite ripe with juicy dark-fruit flavors, yet the cured meat, cracked pepper and herb elements make for a more cohesive experience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$40



**90 Château d'Esclans 2021 Rock Angel Rosé (Côte de Provence).** The latest release of this wine in the range from Esclans is a ripe, full rosé. It has the crispness but the red fruits are warm and rounded. That gives a fine rosé that is definitely made for food and will be ready from 2023. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

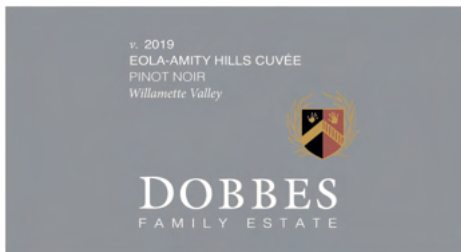


**90 Château Magnol 2019 M de Magnol (Haut-Médoc).** The second wine of this Haut-Médoc estate is lightly structured and shows well-wrought black fruits and tannins. It has spice and ripe berry flavors that will soften well. Drink from 2025. Barton & Guestier USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25





**90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Sparkling Grüner Veltliner (Monterey County).** It's always exciting to see still grapes used in sparkling ways. In this case, the Grüner Veltliner hits the nose with complex yet approachable aromas of kiwi, lime, white melon and peach blossom. The palate is a tad sweet, but full of likable apple and pear-flesh flavors, with a persistent mousse. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50



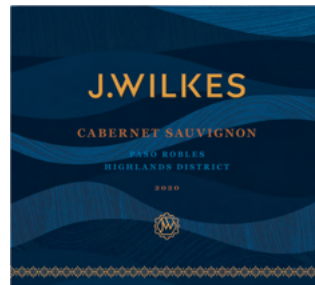
**90 Dobbes Family Estate 2019 Eola-Amity Hills Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The aromas are fruit-forward and generous, with notes of raspberry, Jolly Rancher, cranberry, cigar box and dried herb. There's elegance and delicacy to the lighter framed red fruited flavors that fill out over time. It's tasty. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38



**90 Dry Creek Vineyard 2021 Fumé Blanc (Sonoma County).** This wine consistently overdelivers on its price point, providing a lively, bright and light style of stainless-steel fermented delight. Celebrating its 50th vintage in 2021, it offers a refreshing core of melon, wet stone and lemon-lime zest that honors its Loire Valley inspiration. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16



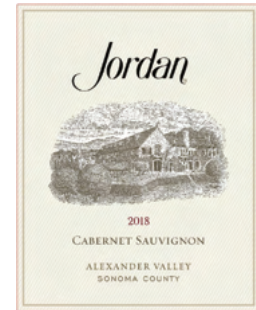
**90 Gaslighter 2020 Rosé of Pinot Noir (California).** Tangy red-fruit flavors and good acidity make this wine bright and lively. A light body, fresh texture and crisp finish give it an unusually mouthwatering, appetizing expression. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25



**90 J. Wilkes 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Highlands District).** Roasted cranberry and dried rose-petal aromas make for a light entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate is lightly bodied as well, with roasted cranberry, strawberry, pencil-shaving and herb flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30



**90 J. Wilkes 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Subtle aromas of tart cranberry, dusty red flowers and dried meat show on the nose of this bottling. The palate hits with crisp pomegranate and berry flavors that are quite clean, as layers of charcuterie, thyme and dust emerge toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30



**90 Jordan 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Blending in 11% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot and 2% Malbec, this elegant wine displays the great conditions of the vintage, allowing blackberry fruit, fig, cedar and a note of dark chocolate to mingle over a medium-bodied palate of refined tannin and oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$60



**90 Klinker Brick 2019 Marisa Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** This ripe, rich and robust wine is full-bodied, packed with blackberry-jam, maple-syrup and chocolate flavors and braced by moderate tannins for a good grip in the texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$28



**90 Klinker Brick 2019 Old Ghost Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** Snappy, spicy oak aromas and flavors are rather thick but delicious in this full-bodied, ripe and lush-textured wine. Chocolate, cloves, cinnamon and vanilla coat over the ripe berry notes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$40



**90** **La Crema 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** Fermented and aged in both stainless steel and neutral oak, this is a fine, friendly and approachable white, that's tropical and fleshy with underlying richness. Pineapple, mango and hints of fennel and dill give it a contrast of fruit and herb. —V.B.

**abv:** 13.5%

**Price:** \$25



**90** **Lamoreaux Landing 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This zesty, fresh dry Riesling delivers refreshing aromas of sea spray, lemon zest, limestone and white cherry. The medium-bodied palate is nicely filled out with juicy white cherry and peach flavors, honed by twangs of limestone and citrus peels. A wet stone note lingers gracefully on the dry finish. —A.P.

**abv:** 11.5%

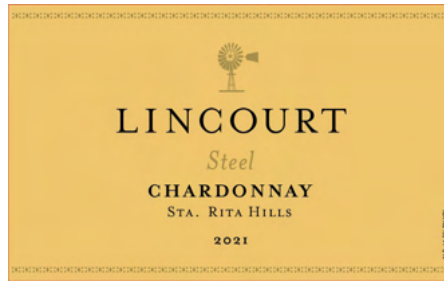
**Price:** \$17



**90** **Lava Cap 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (El Dorado).** Powerful and flavor packed, this brawny wine offers tons of ripe blackberries, dark cherries and dark chocolate on a big frame of moderate tannins and a full body. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5%

**Price:** \$35



**90** **Lincourt 2021 Steel Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Fruity aromas of pear and pineapple are also crisp on the nose of this bottling, which was processed all in steel without any oak influence. The palate is wrapped in a decent texture and filled with acidity, and the flavors are quite ripe and pear-like. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.3%

**Price:** \$30



**90** **Louis M. Martini 2018 Monte Rosso Vineyard Mountain Red (Sonoma Valley).** Combining 83% Syrah and 17% Grenache, this hearty, robust and powerfully ripe wine is bursting in rich red- and black-berry fruit. With an edgy herbaceous quality, it is lush in style and generous in tannin, with plenty of oak. —V.B.

**abv:** 15.4%

**Price:** \$65



**90** **Lucas & Lewellen 2018 Hidden Asset (Santa Barbara County).** This blend of Malbec, Merlot, Syrah, Petite Sirah and Cabernet Franc begins with aromas of charred cedar, roasted berry and potpourri on the nose. The palate brings a strong cigar-box flavor, which wraps around the dark-berry and cocoa elements. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5%

**Price:** \$34



**90** **Lucashof 2021 Pet Nat Riesling (Pfalz).** This delightfully fun, fizzy Riesling juxtaposes a lavishly perfumed nose with a bracing, spry palate. A pétillant naturel bottled following a single fermentation and produced with no added sugar or yeast, it's light as a feather yet piercing with honeyed lemon and apple flavors. A rarity well worth the effort to seek out. Best enjoyed young. HB Wine Merchants. —A.I.

**abv:** 10.5%

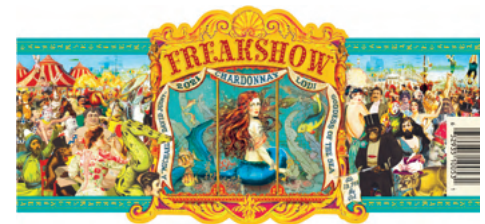
**Price:** \$31



**90** **Mauritson 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).** Aged half in stainless-steel and half in *foudre*, this minimally oaked white shows freshness around a core of crunchy green apple, wet stone and a touch of tropical fruit like pineapple. The finish provides a rich hint of vanilla that complements the acidity. —V.B.

**abv:** 13.75%

**Price:** \$31



**90** **Michael David 2021 Freakshow Chardonnay (Lodi).** Lively green-apple aromas and mild, baking-spice flavors make good counterpoints in this medium-bodied, complex and well-balanced wine. It's on the light side, but has full flavors and a lingering, nutmeg finish. —J.G.

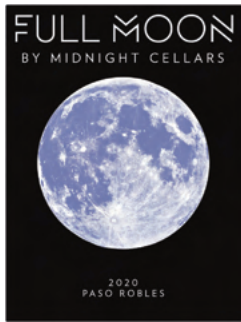
**abv:** 13.5%

**Price:** \$18

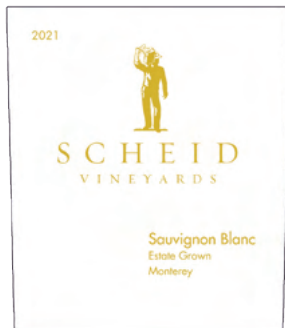




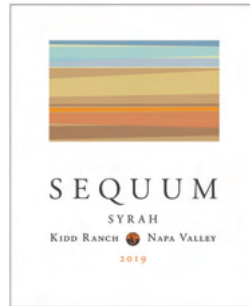
**90 Michael David 2020 Sixth Sense Syrah (Lodi).** This boisterous, jammy, and fresh-tasting wine blends baking spices like cinnamon, vanilla and cocoa with ripe blackberry and blueberry flavors on a rich, velvety texture of moderate tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18



**90 Midnight 2020 Full Moon (Paso Robles).** This accessibly priced blend is fresh on the nose, with strawberry-sorbet, minty chocolate and licorice aromas. The freshness continues on the palate, where juicy raspberry-jam, tarragon and anise flavors align. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$25



**90 Scheid 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey).** Seared seaweed, freshly cut lawn, lime-peel and seashore aromas show on the maritime nose of this bottling. That kelpy tone comes through on the palate as well alongside green bell pepper. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25



**90 Sequum 2019 Kidd Ranch Syrah (Napa Valley).** A tiny-production wine from an estate site, this offers depths of black cherry, dried herb and chalky tannin. Structured and balanced, with an elegant approach, it remains crisp in acidity throughout. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$54



**90 Silverado 2018 Mt. George Vineyard Merlot (Coombsville).** From an estate-grown site in the relatively cool-climate appellation, this 100% varietal wine is robust in red cherry and plum, with an herbal complexity. Fine tannins coat the palate within a context of integrated, spiced oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$48



**90 Summerland 2020 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** The nose on this bottling is very inviting, appealing with aromas of black cherry, star anise and ginger snap. The palate is also quickly likable, if almost sweet and somewhat single-noted, showing all range of strawberry flavors, from sauce to smoothie to freeze-dried dust. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$65



**90 Talamonti 2021 Rosé (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This millennial-pink rosato delivers refreshing aromas of pink grapefruit, lemon peel and cherry bubblegum. The medium-bodied palate is tense in bright citrus-laden flavors further perked up by a blast of sour cherry. This perky, boisterous pour will draw you in with its nearly perfumed intensity of aromas and flavors. PH Importing. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17



**90 The Four Graces 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Pale peach, the aromas bring notes of wet stone, strawberry, orange rind and flower. A broad feeling, kiwi-filled palate follows. Juicy acid ties it all together. For those looking for a richer style, full-flavored rosé, look no further. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$21



**90 Trefethen 2018 Dragon's Tooth (Oak Knoll District).** From estate grown Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine is lush in red and blue fruit, with a backbone of acidity. Balanced, the tannins are dense and supple and the oak brimming in baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65



**90** Viader 2019 Homenaje Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Floral, herbal and grippy in tannin, this is made from 57% Malbec and 43% Cabernet Sauvignon. Blueberry, compost and lavender give it an earthy intensity that lasts through layers of integrated tannin and spicy, pronounced oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$150



**90** Wente 2021 Morning Fog Chardonnay (Central Coast). There's a steely edge to the pear, apple and crisp pineapple aromas on the nose of this bottling. The palate sizzles with acidity and offers a touch of grip, with Key lime pie flavors most prevalent. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



**88** Michael David 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi). This tangy, refreshing, stainless steel-fermented wine offers plenty of cantaloupe and honeydew melon flavors on a medium body. Its fruitiness lasts nicely through the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18



**89** Michael David 2020 Freakshow (Lodi). Ebullient, grapey and jammy, this blackberry-saturated wine is loaded with broad, ripe and drinkable fruit flavors on a smooth texture backed by light tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20



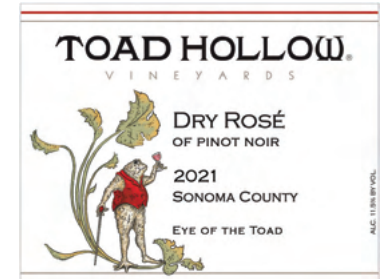
**88** Michael David 2020 Freakshow Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This full-bodied wine is so ripe and jammy that it seems sweet, offering strawberry aromas and blackberry and maple flavors on a moderately tannic texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20



**89** Michael David 2019 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). Abundant, ripe berries and cherries give a core of ripe fruitiness to this likable, full-bodied and moderately tannic wine made from low-yielding vines and aged in mostly American oak barrels. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$15



**88** Sunny with a Chance of Flowers 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey County). The alcohol-reduced wine competes with “regular” Sauvignon Blancs, just shows a bit lighter as one might expect. Aromas of apple water, grass and steel shavings lead into a brisk palate of green apple skin and light bell pepper. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$17



**88** Toad Hollow 2021 Dry Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). A perennially great value wine, with great flavor and likability, this has a lovely nose of melon, rose and strawberry. A crowd-pleaser, it is balanced and crisp, with a delicate elegance that appeals. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

## BEST BUYS



**92** Peirano 2020 The Heritage Collection Viognier (Lodi). This seductive, opulent wine blends caramel, vanilla and toast aromas into rich flavors of toasted almonds, poached pears and honey for a very lavish mouthfeel and lingering finish. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$14

## BEST BUYS



**91 Sebastiani 2020 Butterfield Station Chardonnay (North Coast).** This full-bodied and ultra-smooth textured wine boasts the classic California Chardonnay qualities, from a light toasted oak aroma to rich pear and marzipan flavors that expand on the palate and linger on the finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$13



**90 Biutiful NV Brut Nature (Cava).** With persistent bubbles in the glass and aromas of green pear, hazelnut and almond blossom, this sparkling wine has flavors of Granny Smith apple, baking bread, toasted nuts and jasmine. Bold acidity washes over the side palate and holds on into the finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15



**90 Bogle 2019 Petite Sirah (California).** Ripe, thick blueberry and blackberry flavors give this tannic but smooth wine a very concentrated, rich expression, oozing dark fruits through the lingering finish. It's a terrific value on a wine that the Bogle family mastered decades ago. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

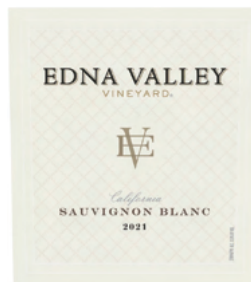
## BEST BUYS



**90 Clos du Bois 2021 Pinot Grigio (California).** Well-concentrated Pippin apple, white-pepper and jicama flavors give a lot to savor in this medium-bodied, smooth and well-balanced wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11



**90 Cycles Gladiator 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** This rich, full-bodied and warmly spicy wine offers ripe, luscious black-cherry and rhubarb flavors accented by woodsmoke, cinnamon and forest-floor notes that give plenty to appreciate. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13



**90 Edna Valley Vineyard 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This medium-bodied wine shows the classic snap peas and fresh herbs in the nose, and tangy citrus and green-veggie notes on the palate. A savory, brothy expression sets it apart. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

## BEST BUYS



**90 Estancia 2020 Merlot (Central Coast).** Fresh red-fruit and dark wood-spice aromas make for a very approachable and familiar nose on this widely available bottling. There's decent heft to the palate, where soft tannins frame flavors of dried meat, dark cherry and leather. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$13



**90 Geysler Peak 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Nicely concentrated mineral, citrus and light herb flavors are energized by good, snappy acidity in this well-balanced and mouthwatering wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14



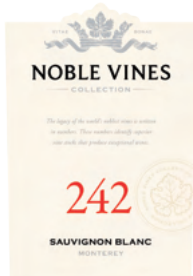
**90 Hahn 2020 G-S-M (California).** This smooth, delicious wine offers ample black-fruit flavors accented by chocolate and vanilla, and soft tannins that keep the texture velvety. It's all easy enjoyment. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15



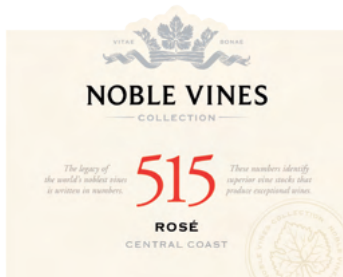
## BEST BUYS



**90 Hahn 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** This generous, fruity and well-rounded wine is packed with red and black cherries in the aroma and hints of chocolate and vanilla on the palate. A full body and soft tannins make it easy to sip and enjoy. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15



**90 Noble Vines 2021 242 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey).** This widely available wine hits the nose with lemon, lime and crushed cement as well as a light jalapeño scent. That becomes an ever sharper serrano pepper note on the palate, where it meets with tart apple flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12



**90 Noble Vines 2021 515 Rosé (Central Coast).** Bubblegum and limeade aromas converge on the nose of this rosé. The palate is tightly wound with strawberry and banana flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

## BEST BUYS



**90 Ryder Estate 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (California).** This light, delicate and well-balanced wine offers fresh strawberry and raspberry flavors, a nice touch of crisp acidity and a lingering, fruity finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

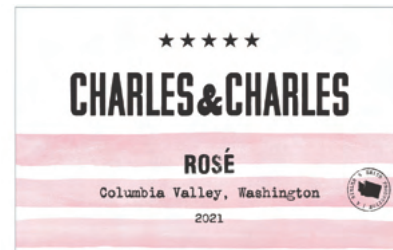


**90 Simple Life 2021 Rosé (California).** This nicely dry wine combines fresh raspberry and red-cherry flavors on a brisk texture backed by good, snappy acidity. Great balance and focused fruitiness make it extra appealing. It is made from mostly Syrah, Grenache and Zinfandel grapes. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15



**90 Wellsley Farms 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Baked and fresh strawberry aromas are spiced up by pepper on the easygoing nose of this affordable bottling. Tight tannins frame the sip, where rich blackberry and red-berry flavors meet with baked pastry flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$8

## BEST BUYS



**89 Charles & Charles 2021 Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Syrah makes up 44% of this wine, Grenache 25%, Mourvèdre 24% and the rest a splash of Cabernet Sauvignon. It's a very appealing pale copper color with a pink tinge. The aromas are generous, with notes of watermelon, bubble gum and yellow strawberry. A quite light, crisp, flavorful palate follows, with tart acid upping the interest. More please. **Best Buy.** —S.S.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$13



**89 Clos du Bois 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Grassy and citrus aromas give way to snappy, fresh lemon and grapefruit flavors in this medium-bodied, well-balanced and nicely concentrated wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11



**89 Dark Horse 2021 Rosé (California).** A light-pink color belies the ripe fruits and full body in this mouthfilling wine. Cantaloupe, red-cherry and peach flavors saturate the palate and linger on the finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

## BEST BUYS



**89 Robertson Winery 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Robertson).** Just-ripe peach, guava, white melon and strawberry hull dance on the nose of this bright and attractive white, with an herbal sweet-grass accent riding atop it all. It's medium-minus in weight, showcasing more of those just-ripe-fruit tones alongside a pronounced lime flavor and medium acidity. It's clean and easy to like, with a medium-length finish that leaves you primed for more. Indigo Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

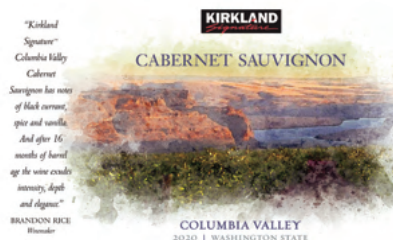


**88 Cupcake 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County).** Light apple-flesh and white-melon aromas pick up a toasted almond warmth on the easy nose of this bottling. The palate is very straightforward, with honeysuckle and light pear flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$11



**88 Frisk 2021 Prickly Riesling (Victoria).** This is a straightforward Riesling with a touch of sweetness and, as the name implies, a wee bit of fizz. Honey, petrol, lime leaf and lavender lead on the nose, followed by a palate that is fresh and fruity and falls away quickly. Drink cold with salty cheese. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$12

## BEST BUYS



**88 Kirkland Signature 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The aromas display notes of carob, black cherry, dried herb and spice. There's sophistication to the lighter styled dark fruit flavors, brightened by tart acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$9



**88 Scotto Family Cellars 2021 Silvaspoons Vineyard Reserve Torrontés (Lodi).** This herbal-tasting and full-bodied wine starts with fresh parsley and thyme aromas followed by a ripe, rounded palate sensation. It offers melons and apricots on a smooth, broad texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13



**87 Clos du Bois 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Jammy flavors of blackberries and black grapes are accented by vanilla and coconut in this very smooth and soft wine. It's full bodied but quite light in tannin. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

## BEST BUYS



**85 Dark Horse NV Big Red Blend (California).** Wood char and pencil-shaving aromas lead to rather sweet berry and vanilla flavors in this smooth, soft and oak-tasting wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$8



**87 Dark Horse 2020 Chardonnay (California).** Vanilla and butter aromas lead to sweet-seeming baking-spice and pear-syrup flavors in this full-bodied and rich-textured wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$8

## SPIRITS



**95 Argonaut Speculator Brandy (USA; E&J Gallo, Sanger, CA).** This burnished-gold California brandy mixes brandies aged three years (more than half the blend) to 19 years. The end result is lots of orchard fruit, with nuanced fresh pear, golden raisin and a hint of elderflower landing lightly with a ginger and white floral exhale. **Best Buy.** —K.N.  
**abv:** 43% **Price:** \$38

## SPIRITS



**94 Pierre Ferrand 1840 Original Formula Cognac** (France; W.J. Deutsch & Sons, Stamford, CT). Golden raisin, honey and oak leads into a red fruit-tinged midpalate. The elongated finish tapers off with plentiful sweet spices, drying to a cigar wrapper hint. It's fairly hot if sipped straight, but stands up nicely in cocktails, as intended. No age statement. —K.N.  
**abv:** 45% **Price:** \$47



**93 BrandyLab California Brandy** (USA; O'Neill Vintners & Distillers, Parlier, CA). Made with California grapes, this small-batch bottling combines brandies aged from five to 10 years. Look for an amber hue and mild mocha scent. Each sip shows black cherry, fresh fig and cocoa powder, with a creamy nougat hint on the clove-accented finish. The final exhale whispers of chocolate-covered brandied cherries. An ideal dessert pairing. Limited edition of 400 cases. —K.N.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$35 for 375 ml



**93 Tycoon VS Cognac** (France; Interactions & Transactions, Napa, CA). A new brand from American rapper E-40, this Cognac has concentrated vanilla aromas. Creamy caramel and cocoa coat the palate, finishing warming with teasing clove and black pepper heat. —K.N.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$45

## SPIRITS



**93 Tycoon VSOP Cognac** (France, Interactions & Transactions, Napa, CA). This is a rich, robust Cognac. Almond and baked pear aromas lead into toasted gingerbread, molasses and caramelized brown sugar on the palate. The long finish brings plenty of sweetness and baking spice. —K.N.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$65



**91 Seven Tails XO Brandy** (France; Shaw Ross International, Miramar, FL). What's in the bottle is blend of Cognac, Armagnac and other French brandies, finished in an emptied port cask. The end result is a tawny hue and mild allspice and almond aromas. The bright palate opens with brisk oak and tingly ginger, leading into stone fruit and a finish that blossoms with baking spice. It almost reads like a spiced rum, but make it brandy. *Best Buy.* —K.N.  
**abv:** 41.8% **Price:** \$40



**90 Tamworth Garden VSOP Apple Brandy** (USA; Tamworth Distilling, Tamworth, NH). Made with heirloom New Hampshire apples in the style of France's Calvados and aged four years, this brandy has a tawny hue with orange highlights and rich caramel aromas. The palate opens big and spiced, with cinnamon and clove leading into a juicy midpalate tinged with orange peel. Each warming sip finishes with a burst of cayenne heat. —K.N.  
**abv:** 50% **Price:** \$85

aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Manoir Galhaud 2016 Grande Cuvée** (Bordeaux). The wine is ready to drink. Wood aging and a fine, Merlot-dominated blend give the wine richness that has developed well. Berry flavors, juicy acidity and finishing acidity, give a wine that is complete. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**87 Château Bellevue 2021 Bordeaux.** There is a streak of freshness with red berry flavors in this wine. It reflects the vintage with its acidity and gentle tannins. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 Château Grand Jean 2020 Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon** (Bordeaux). From one of the original estates owned by the Dulon family who have been producing wine for 250 years, this wine has some structured tannins along with ripe berry fruits and a layer of juiciness. The wine is young, likely to be ready to drink from 2024. Lompian Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Cheval Quancard 2020 Réserve** (Bordeaux). Dark chocolate and spice give this wine weight. The firm tannins front some juicy black currant fruits and acidity. Bold Merlot gives generosity. The wine will be ready from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Kressmann 2020 Terra Mae** (Bordeaux). Ripe and full, this generous red fruit flavored wine is spicy, smoky and lightly textured. It is young, vibrant and is ready to drink. Organic. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87 Vignobles Despagne 2020 L'Onde Rythmique Lunaire** (Bordeaux). Juicy black fruits and spice come together in this superripe wine. Its dense tannins and concentration need softening. Drink from 2024. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Château Barrail Meyney 2020 Bordeaux.** The wine is heavy, solid with tannins and ripe black fruits. It shows its alcohol in a pepper edge. The redeeming feature is the juicy acidity and final smokiness of the wine. Drink from 2023. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$12

**86 Château Castagnac 2021 Cuvée Tradition** (Bordeaux). Wild yeasts and aging in tanks have given a wine that is direct with lightly stalk fruits and a youthful structure. The wine is going to improve well and be drinkable from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10



**86** **Château la Croix du Grand Jard 2020 Bordeaux.** A soft, generously textured wine, this has plenty of bright black fruits and friendly tannins. It is ready to drink. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

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## BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

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**90** **Château Grand Jean 2019 Cuvée GJ (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Aged for 18 months in large barrels, the wine is now polished and smooth. Rich tannins have softened into the generous black fruits. The wine, a blend of half and half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, has spice and concentration. Drink from 2024. Lompian Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Château Terre de Grand 2019 Bordeaux Supérieur.** There is a juicy character to this black currant fruit flavored wine. Its acidity is still prominent, allowing for freshness as well as structure and smokiness. Drink this fine, ageworthy wine from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**89** **Château de Lavagnac 2018 La Grand Dame de Château Lavagnac (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A blend of 90% Merlot with 10% Cabernet Franc, the wine comes from the best parcels of the estate. It has developed quickly with ripe fruits that are now mature and tannins that have softened. Ripe and with a fine touch of spice, the wine is ready to drink. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**88** **Château Coudert-Mauzevin 2020 Bordeaux Supérieur.** The richness of the wine comes from the 100% Merlot. It is a generous, ripe wine, full of structure and concentrated black fruits. It is likely to develop well, ready to drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château de Lavagnac 2018 Bordeaux Supérieur.** Produced from vines close to the Dordogne River, the wood-aged wine is full of blackberry fruits and a generous structure from the tannins that lie underneath the fruit. The wine is still maturing, so drink from 2023. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Château Saint-Elme 2019 Bordeaux Supérieur.** From close to the vineyards of Saint-Emilion, this wine is ripe with black fruits that give a lush feel. Berry flavors and ripe tannins succeed in giving a rich wine that will be ready from 2023. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Château Bel-Air 2019 Réserve Spéciale (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine is already soft with open, ripe fruits and tannins that have melded into the fruit. That all means that this wine is mov-

ing fast and will be ready from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**87** **Château Cleyrac 2021 Bordeaux Supérieur.** The wine is fruity, crisp with fresh black currants. It is young with bright fruitiness and a touch of wood. The acidity will soften well into a balanced, always fresh wine. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Château Croix Mouton 2020 Réserve du Château Croix-Mouton (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A soft, juicy wine that has attractive red berry fruits. Acidity and a light core of drier tannins give balance. The wine will be drinkable from 2023. Evaki Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Maison Bertrand Ravache 2020 Léo by Léo (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Part of a range of appellation wines, this is soft and fruity. It has juicy fruits, black currant and spice in a blend that is almost all Merlot. The wine has some tightness meaning it needs to age further. Drink from 2023. Evaki Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$250

**85** **Château Tour Saint Paul 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine has a lean edge to it, encouraging the tannins rather than the fruit. It misses the roundness of 80% Merlot. It will soften so wait until 2023. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

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## CADILLAC CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

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**90** **Château de Malherbes 2016 M de Malherbes Grand Vin (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** This wine is now mature. The rich tannins have softened into the secondary flavors of the black fruits. Acidity and richness combine happily in the wine that is ready to drink now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**90** **Château Grimont 2020 Cuvée Prestige (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** A blend of 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Sauvignon from the principal property of the Yung family. The juicy fruits and wood aging are combining well with rich tannins and jammy fruitiness to give a wine that will age. Drink from 2025. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Château de Malherbes 2019 M de Malherbes Grand Vin (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine, in its exceptionally heavy bottle, is still very young. It has promise, with ripe tannins and blackberry fruits. So it needs time to soften and broaden. Drink from 2025. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**89** **Château de Malherbes 2018 M de Malherbes (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Rich, spicy and juicy, the wine is almost fully developed. Spice and perfumes come through strongly, giving ripe black fruits and a contrast of juicy acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Grimont 2020 Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux.** A ripe wine with blackberry fruits and a layer of dark chocolate, this is full, juicy and, of course, young. It has a solid character that will allow it to develop and lose the bitter edge. Drink from 2024. AHD Vintners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Château Sissan 2020 Grande Réserve (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** A powerful wine with dark coffee flavors from firm extraction. As this softens the wine's dense black fruits will be revealed showing a wine that has a good balance between fruits and structure. Drink the wine from 2025. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château de Malherbes 2019 M de Malherbes (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine's weight gives it a powerful character. The black fruits along with the acidity bring a juicy, succulent character that is both fresh and contrasts well with the still-young structure. Drink from 2025. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Château de Malherbes 2018 M de Malherbes Grand Vin (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Fermented in wood, this wine has layers of solid tannins that still dominate the black fruits. The extraction gives a hard edge as if the winemaker has worked too hard. Drink from 2024. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**87** **Château Sissan 2020 Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux.** This rich, generous wine with its bold tannins underneath the blackberry fruits is maturing well. It has a fine line of fruitiness that dominates and gives freshness to the aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

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## CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

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**92** **Château Canon Montségur 2019 Cuvée Lancelot (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** Dense Cabernet Franc, aged in wood and amphorae, have produced a powerful wine with a fine structure and aging potential. Smoky black fruits and a dense texture are working towards maturity. Drink from 2025. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$59

**91** **Château Canon Montségur 2018 Cuvée Lancelot (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** Aged in amphorae and barrels, this wine is packed with

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spicy, perfumed black fruits. It is young still with smoky flavors and great acidity that will soften easily. Drink from 2025. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$59

**90** **Château Canon Montségur 2019 Cuvée Oscar (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** The fine perfumed character of this wine comes from the 41% of Cabernet Franc in the blend. That gives the wine great finesse as well as structure and acidity. It is a well poised and balanced wine that will be ready to drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Château Canon Montségur 2016 Cuvée Oscar (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** Aged for 16 months in wood, this wine, with its high proportion of Cabernet Franc, is now mature. Big, bold black currant fruits and ripe tannins have integrated into a dense wine, generous and full in the mouth. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Château Haut la Pierrière 2020 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** Vineyards close to the Saint-Emilion appellation boundary share some of the rich, powerful fruits. Perfumed Cabernet Franc and juicy Merlot sustain the wine's generous character. Wood aging has added spice. It will be best from 2025. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**89** **Château Joanin Bécot 2019 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** The wine, produced by the Bécot family of classed growth Château Beau-Séjour Bécot in Saint-Emilion, is ripe, full of dark tannins and concentrated fruit. It has density as well as the solid fruits and richness. There is an openness about this wine that promises early aging. Total Wine & More. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Clos les Lunelles 2019 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** This wine from Castillon next to Saint-Emilion shares many of the same characteristics as its more illustrious neighbor. It has rich, jammy Merlot that also has a juicy component. Black fruits and acidity complete the ensemble. Drink from 2025. Vignobles Perse. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

## CÔTES DE BOURG

**90** **Château Lagrange 2020 Côtes de Bourg.** This estate in Côtes de Bourg has produced a fine, black currant and spice wine. The juicy acidity balances well with the smoky tannins and ripe structure. Drink from 2025. Accolade Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Château La Grange Clinet 2019 Réserve (Côtes de Bourg).** The young wine has fine potential. Ripe black fruits have structure that is enhanced by the wine's acidity and reinforced by

tannins. The wine is dense, likely to be ready from 2025. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89** **Château Lagrange 2020 Emeraude (Côtes de Bourg).** There is a high level of wood aging in this toasty wine. This unusual Bordeaux blend with 50% Malbec brings dark fruits to this special cuvée and gives ripe blackberry flavors. It needs to lose some of its wood aging flavors before it is properly mature. Drink from 2025. Accolade Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**88** **Château de Thau 2020 Côtes de Bourg.** Ripe tannins and generous acidity are combined with dense black fruits in this Merlot-dominated wine. Succulent berry flavors mingle with dark chocolate and welcome acidity at the end. Drink from 2025. Vinamericas, Inc.. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

## GRAVES

**90** **Château Lusseau 2019 Graves.** With vineyards in the northern Graves, the estate has produced a wine with stylish black currant and gentle tannins. It is a fine wine, with the fruitiness of the vintage, the black currant fruits along with structure and potential. Drink the wine from 2024. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Château de Callac 2018 Prestige (Graves).** A perfumed wine that has been in aged in new wood for 12 months, this is rich and concentrated. The wood aging does show in the spice and polished feel of the wine. Black fruits are slowly coming through in a wine that has weight and some potential. Drink from 2024. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**88** **Château la Fleur Clémence 2019 Graves.** A wood-aged Merlot-dominant wine, this is dense while also well balanced. The dark fruits are balanced by dark chocolate and ripe berry flavors. Acidity gives the wine a final lift. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## GRAVES DE VAYRES

**88** **Château Cantalauvette 2019 Grand Vin (Graves de Vayres).** From this small region close to the Dordogne almost across across the river from the city of Libourne, the wine is packed with fruit and rich tannins. A touch of pepper and flavors of licorice indicate its weight and density. It needs time, wait to drink until 2024. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**88** **Château d'Arveyres 2016 Cuvée Prestige (Graves de Vayres).** Still dense and tannic, this is a powerful wine. Its structure speaks of high

extraction that has produced the firm, dry texture. It still needs some time, drink from 2024. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**87** **Château d'Arveyres 2018 Cuvée Prestige (Graves de Vayres).** The touches of dark chocolate go well with the blackberry fruits in this rich wine. It is solid, foursquare, rich in tannins as well as fruit. Wood aging has helped smooth out the structure. Drink from 2024. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**86** **Château Cantalauvette 2020 Graves de Vayres.** With rich tannins and dark fruits, this wine with its full-bodied Merlot is dense and structured. There is a touch of bitterness from extraction during winemaking and this needs to soften. Drink from 2024. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

## HAUT-MÉDOC

**91** **Château de Lamarque 2017 Haut-Médoc.** Now almost mature, this wine, from a lesser vintage in Bordeaux, shows richness and classical structure. Black currant fruits and a softening core of dry tannins bring along spicy flavors and a dense texture. Drink from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**91** **Château Lascombes 2019 Le Haut-Médoc de Lascombes (Haut-Médoc).** This Margaux estate also has vines in the Haut-Médoc just to the west. This wine with its tannins, spice and juicy black currant fruits is coming together well. This wine is full and concentrated, high alcohol, and needs a little aging. Drink from 2025. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$28

**91** **Château Paloumey 2019 Ailes de Paloumey (Haut-Médoc).** This is a fine, ripe wine, exuding black currants and generous tannins. There is a juicy character to this young wine that will stand it in good stead as it matures. Drink this second wine of Château Paloumey from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Château la Fon du Berger 2019 Haut-Médoc.** This attractive, fruity wine has ripe berry flavors, weight and a fine streak of fresh acidity. Black currants and a medium-bodied ripeness give the wine both brightness and potential. Drink from 2025. Bowler Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château Paloumey 2018 Ailes de Paloumey (Haut-Médoc).** The estate of Paloumey is in the southern Haut-Médoc. This second wine is a blend dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon with black currant fruits and the oak aging still showing. As it softens further, the wine will become balanced and

elegant. Drink from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2019 Madame de Beaucaillou (Haut-Médoc).** This is a ripe, juicy wine, full of succulent berry flavors. It has spice and delicious black fruits along with a core of tannins that will sustain it. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

## LISTRAC-MÉDOC

**93** **Château Clarke 2019 Listrac-Médoc.** The latest release from the Edmond de Rothschild family estate is impressive. Its richness and density are shot through with ripe tannins and acidity. Blackberry flavors are still young with richness and balanced structure. Drink the wine from 2026. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$74

**93** **Château Clarke 2016 Listrac-Médoc.** For full review see page 9. Wilson Daniels Ltd.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$74

**88** **Grand Listrac 2019 Listrac-Médoc.** The wine's structure is firm, giving a dry edge to the tannins. Behind this solid core is a wine with fine blackberry fruits and potential. Drink from 2025. José Moura Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Grand Listrac 2018 Listrac-Médoc.** This concentrated wine has ripe tannins, a rich structure. The black plum fruits and wine's wood aging both show strongly and need to soften. Drink from 2024. José Moura Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

## LUSSAC SAINT-ÉMILION

**91** **Château Haut-Piquat 2018 La Fleur (Lussac Saint-Émilien).** From a selection of Merlot parcels at this estate, the wine is richly wood aged. It has mint flavors from new barrels, along with dense black fruits and powerfully rich tannins. The wine needs to age further. Drink from 2024. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Château Jamard Belcour 2018 Lussac Saint-Émilien.** The Despagne family owns three estates in the area. Based on four parcels, this wine comes from a mix of clay and chalk soils. It is a richly textured wine, based on Merlot and finely textured. Rich, packed with black fruits, it will be ready from 2024. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**89** **Château Picampeau 2018 Lussac Saint-Émilien.** Merlot and Malbec give density to this dark fruited wine. It shows power and dense

tannins. These are lifted by the wine's acidity and the fresh character that comes from black currant flavors. Drink the wine from 2024. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

## MARGAUX

**98** **Château Margaux 2019 Margaux.** The structure of the wine is magnificent. With its dense concentration and ripeness, the wine is still just starting out. The wine's texture is rich, firm while also smooth. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$935

**98** **Château Palmer 2019 Margaux.** This is a very fine wine with a serious structure that is cushioned by the generous black fruits. It is so balanced, smooth with velvet behind the great tannins. The wine will age for many years. Drink from 2028. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$344

**96** **Château Margaux 2019 Pavillon Rouge de Château Margaux (Margaux).** The wine is rich, open and generous. The bold black fruits mask the tannins and bring out the fine balance between structure and fruit. Drink this very fine wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$205

**94** **Château Ferrière 2019 Margaux.** The wine is dense and concentrated. Its deep black plum fruits and solid tannins have weight and density. The wine does keep a sense of proportion in its balance and juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$49

**94** **Château Palmer 2019 Alter Ego (Margaux).** Finely perfumed, the wine has ripe tannins and well-crafted textures. The wine's black fruits are forward, showing complex structures and the promise of fine aging. This second wine of Château Palmer will age well. Drink from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$79

**93** **Château du Tertre 2019 Orangerie du Tertre (Margaux).** This fine Margaux estate produces a number of other wines of which this one, named after the beautiful orangery, is one. It is finely structured, ripe with a classical elegant profile. It is juicy, ripe with black fruits. Drink from 2025. Advantage International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$37

**93** **Château la Gurgue 2019 Margaux.** This is one of three properties in Margaux owned by Claire and Gonzague Lurton. The wine's structure and powerful tannins contrast with the black currant fruits and acidity. A touch of mint from

wood aging adds a polished feel. Drink from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**93** **Château Mongravey 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Margaux).** The wine has all the style and elegance of a fine Margaux. The black currant fruits, while still young, exhibit a structured, spacious character, ripe with a fine balance. Touches of wood aging are just right, giving the wine a polished character. Drink from 2027. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**92** **Château Dauzac 2019 Labastide Dauzac (Margaux).** A Merlot-dominated wine, this comes from selected parcels of vines on clay soil. The wine is rich and full, acidity and tannins giving structure. It is a well balanced, fruity wine that will also age. Drink from 2024. Suitable for vegans. Advantage International. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

## MÉDOC

**90** **Château Preuillac 2019 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This fine wine from the northern Médoc is spicy with the structure from Cabernet Sauvignon. It is balanced and textured, ripe and full. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Maison Bertrand Ravache 2019 Léo by Léo (Médoc).** Lightly structured with ripe tannins, this is an addition to the range of wines by this producer. It is a juicy blend of Merlot and Cabernet, spicy and ready to age a little further. Drink from 2023. International Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Cos d'Estournel 2019 G d'Estournel (Médoc).** Formerly Goulée by Cos d'Estournel, this wine comes from the northern Médoc. It revels in ripe red fruits and generous tannins. The texture is soft, full with acidity and a juicy aftertaste. The aftertaste brings in a touch of spice. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$39

**87** **Cheval Quancard 2019 Médoc.** A fine blend with 52% Cabernet Sauvignon gives a wine that is structured and full of black currant fruits. It is juicy with balanced texture and a hint of the wood aging at the end. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

## MONTAGNE-SAINT-ÉMILION

**91** **Château Guillou 2020 Montagne-Saint-Émilien.** The wine's richness is reinforced by the integrated, powerful tannins. The black fruits, solid, dense and with a juicy streak provide a fine contrast



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in this ripe wine. It is still maturing, drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Château Haut-Goujon 2019 Montagne-Saint-Émilien.** The wine still has firm tannins as well as spice from wood aging. They go alongside the fresh black fruits and structure. In all, this wine will develop well to open out as it matures. Drink from 2025. Vigneron Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Château de Beaulieu 2018 Montagne-Saint-Émilien.** This is minty, spicy and perfumed wine. The fine black fruits and integrated tannins are delicious. The 30% Cabernet Franc in the blend makes the difference in the weight and the attractive fruitiness of this balanced wine. Drink from 2024. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Château de Malengin 2019 Cuvée Eve (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** Owned by the Edmond de Rothschild family of Château Clarke in Lustrac, the wine is polished, rich with black fruits. Licorice and bitter chocolate need to soften as the wine matures and it becomes powerful and generous. Drink from 2025. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39

**90** **Château Marchand 2019 Montagne-Saint-Émilien.** Fruity while also structured with firm tannins, this 90% Merlot wine has balanced ripeness. The structure adds to the wine's potential. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Château Tuilerie Plaisance 2019 Montagne-Saint-Émilien.** Oak aged for 10 months and with smooth black fruits, this is a rich, velvet textured wine. There is a contrasting juicy black currant character that brings a touch of freshness to this full-bodied wine. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**88** **Château Haut-Goujon 2018 La Fleur du Baril (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** This second wine of Haut-Goujon is all fruit. Its blackberry flavors and warm Merlot ripeness have already softened generously into spice and roundness. Drink the wine now. Vigneron Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**90** **Château Mauvesin Barton 2019 Moulis-en-Médoc.** This is a ripe, full wine, the fruit dominant and the tannins in a supporting role. That gives the wine density and structure along with a richness that are well-suited to aging. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

## PAUILLAC

**100** **Château Pichon Baron 2019 Pauillac.** As always, it is the Cabernet Sauvignon that

sings. It brings an impressive structure to the wine, rich tannins and powerful black fruits. The wine is set for aging. It shows all the power and the open quality of the vintage. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$192

**98** **Château Mouton Rothschild 2019 Pauillac.** The wine is dense, concentrated, massive. It has a perfect combination of spice, dark fruits and tannins giving impressive potential. The wine is likely to take many years. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$906

**98** **Château Pontet-Canet 2019 Pauillac.** The wine is so perfumed, with ripe tannins set beside the black currant purity. The wine does have weight but the fruit is so refined and vibrant. Tannins give a core for aging, offering the structure and the density of a very fine wine. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$165

**97** **Château Lynch-Bages 2019 Pauillac.** The wine's power is important and impressive. Behind this lies a solid structure along with powerful black fruits, allowing the succulent nature of the Cabernet Sauvignon to shine. The wine will develop slowly over many years. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$171

**97** **Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2019 Pauillac.** The wine's tannins and beautiful fruits are impressive. It has the acidity and freshness of the vintage while also giving a structure and texture that will assure considerable aging. This is a very fine wine that will be ready from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$265

**95** **Château Haut-Bages Libéral 2019 Pauillac.** The classed growth, whose vineyard is in the south of Pauillac, is now performing impressively. This release has succulent black fruits that are braced with tannins and a firm, spicy structure. It is a dense wine that will age. Drink from 2026. Organic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**94** **Château Clerc Milon 2019 Pauillac.** A very fine wine, rich in both black fruits and dark tannins. Bold black fruits are softened by the ripeness of the fruit. Then they are structured by the layers of firm tannins. Drink this wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$95

**94** **Château Haut-Batailley 2019 Pauillac.** How this estate has improved since it came under the control of the Cazes family of Lynch-Bages. The new release has power and structure. At the same time, it brings out ripe jammy fruits that

feed into the wine's texture. This is developing well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$67

**94** **Château Mouton Rothschild 2019 Le Petit Mouton de Mouton Rothschild (Pauillac).** A big, ripe wine, the second wine of Mouton Rothschild is vastly improved. With its tannins developing well its black fruits are showing great richness. The wine has power while also having a juicy background. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$285

**94** **Château Pichon Baron 2019 Les Griffons de Pichon Baron (Pauillac).** This is the second wine of Pichon Baron. Its juicy richness echoes the top wine of the estate with its structure and powerful fruits. The texture though has a lightness that means it will mature relatively quickly. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**94** **Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2019 Pichon Comtesse Réserve (Pauillac).** The wine's richness is paralleled by its generous character and ripe blackberry flavors. Its texture is delicious, balancing structure and vibrant black fruits. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$51

**93** **Château Lynch-Bages 2019 Echo de Lynch-Bages (Pauillac).** The second wine of Lynch-Bages shows all the power of this estate. The difference lies in the tannins and the ripe flavors of the wine. It has power without the tannins that demand long-term aging. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$48

**93** **Château Pichon Baron 2019 Les Tourelles de Longueville (Pauillac).** Dominated by Merlot, this is a luscious wine. It has black fruits and ripe tannins giving the wine a generous and rich character. Expect this wine to age well. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**92** **Château d'Armailhac 2019 Pauillac.** Full of ripe black fruits, the wine has great structure and depth. Its density is palpable with richness and tannins showing strongly. The juicy finish lifts everything. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**92** **Château Haut-Batailley 2019 Verso de Haut-Batailley (Pauillac).** The wine revels in fruit. With a fine, stylish character, the second wine of this estate is juicy and full of black currant flavors. It will age well over the medium term, drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**92** **Château Pibran 2019 Pauillac.** This is a ripe wine, structured with tannins, but empha-

sizing the wine's fruit. With a high proportion of Merlot the wine has a fine jammy quality that gives weight and richness. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**88** **Château Clerc Milon 2019 Pastourelle de Clerc Milon (Pauillac).** The second wine of Clerc Milon has great power, density, wrapped within an elegant package. So the tannins are rounded and well structured. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

**98** **Château Haut-Brion 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** The wine's richness give it the density for aging. The bold structure is mitigated by the wine's juicy acidity that cuts the structure with freshness. This grand wine has a solid character as well as plenty of juicy fruits. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$681

**98** **Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** Rich in black fruits with a structure that acts as a support. Acidity and blackberry flavors with hints of black coffee and a core of denseness that is very fine. The wine will age well, drink from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$120

**97** **Château Haut-Bailly 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** The wine has precision, power and density, concentration and layer upon layer of fruit. The wine's spicy edge complements the impressive tannins, ripe texture and certainly promises much for the future. It will age well, drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$116

**97** **Château La Mission Haut-Brion 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** Suave textures and great richness give an impressively typical wine from this estate. It is ripe, full of black fruits and dense tannins. Set for aging, the wine will age at least until 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$499

**95** **Château Haut-Brion 2019 Le Clarence de Haut-Brion (Pessac-Léognan).** The wine's density and dusty tannins are impressive. This second wine of Haut-Brion has concentration while also focusing on black fruits. It is a powerful wine while also having plenty of style and focused balance. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$148

**95** **Château La Mission Haut-Brion 2019 La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion (Pessac-Léognan).** The wine is dense with layers of black fruits, ripe and still attached to their tannins. The structure is impressive and concentrated with dark

tannins and, even for a second wine powered and with fine potential. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**94** **Château de Fieuzal 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** The succulence of this wine is impressively palpable. It adds black currant fruits to spice, while keeping solid tannins in the background. This fine combination means it will certainly age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**94** **Château Haut-Bailly 2019 Haut-Bailly II (Pessac-Léognan).** The second wine of Haut-Bailly is impressive, with ripe tannins and dense black fruits. It brings concentration, spice and a structure that definitely has a fine potential. Drink the wine from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$37

**93** **Château le Pape 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** Richly velvet with ripe tannins, this is a very accessible wine. Its ripe blackberry fruits are generous, full of spice and a texture that is rounded and brings concentration. The juicy character of the vintage comes through at the end, Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**92** **Château Couhins 2019 Les Demoiselles de Couhins (Pessac-Léognan).** This second wine of Couhins, a property owned by the French government agricultural research institute, takes much of the smooth Merlot into its blend. It has some fine structure within the black fruits, and an aftertaste that promises further aging. Drink from 2025. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Mancèdre 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** The wine, a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, is juicy with fine fruit potential. Balanced, fruit contrasting with the tannins, the wine is going to be attractive. Drink from 2025. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## POMEROL

**96** **Château Trotanoy 2019 Pomerol.** Fine structure and dark Merlot flavors give this wine its richness. Despite the alcohol, it has style, the fruit not overwhelmed by the weight. It will take time, so drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$356

**95** **Château Hosanna 2019 Pomerol.** This is a grand wine, beautifully balanced with rich black fruits and great concentration. From an estate belonging to the Moueix family it will age gracefully.

It has power while also great style. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$388

**94** **Château Certan de May de Certan 2019 Pomerol.** The wine from an estate situated in the heart of the plateau of Pomerol, has freshness and acidity set against the powerful black fruits and structure. It has power, firm while developing tannins and a fine future. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$120

**94** **Chateau Grange-Neuve 2019 La Fleur des Ormes (Pomerol).** A generous, Merlot-dominated wine, this has dark tannins and ripe black plum fruits. Its spice and powerful tannins show a young wine. It does need aging, drink this impressive wine from 2025. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**94** **Château Grange-Neuve 2019 La Fleur des Ormes (Pomerol).** A generous, Merlot-dominated wine, this has dark tannins and ripe black plum fruits. Its spice and powerful tannins show a young wine. It does need aging, drink this impressive wine from 2025. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**94** **Château l'Évangile 2019 Pomerol.** The wine from an estate owned by the Rothschild family of Château Lafite-Rothschild, has great ripeness with elegant black fruits and succulence, rich and dense. It has beautiful black, spicy fruits. Young, it is packed with juicy acidity at the end. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$239

**94** **Château la Fleur-Pétrus 2019 Pomerol.** The structure of the wine masks the superrichness of the black fruits. Tannins are definitely to the fore giving density and ripeness. This is a big wine, needing to age. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$212

**93** **Chateau Grange-Neuve 2019 Pomerol.** This young wine's structure and firm tannins are still dominant. They give the wine its dry core and power that lie over the juicy black currant fruits. The wine will develop well, wait to drink until 2025. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Château Grange-Neuve 2019 Pomerol.** This young wine's structure and firm tannins are still dominant. They give the wine its dry core and powerful tannins that lie over the juicy black currant fruits. The wine will develop well. Wait to drink until 2025. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 25% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Château Latour à Pomerol 2019 Pomerol.** The wine's richness is concentrated into dark black fruits and spicy wood polish. It is a dark

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wine, ripe with berry flavors and concentration. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$216

## SAINT-ÉMILION

**100** **Château Troplong Mondot 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The magnificent Merlot in the blend has pushed up the alcohol, while also giving a velvet touch and power to the wine. This estate is now on top form, producing this generously ripe, black plum flavored wine. It is lifted by acidity while powering the wine's intensity. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$118

**99** **Château Ausone 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine's power and density shows against its beautifully textured black fruits. With richness and concentration, this is serious, impressive and needing plenty of aging. It is magnificent, not to be drunk before 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$806

**99** **Château Figeac 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine is seriously rich with solid tannins. The tannins are softening into a more velvet texture that suits this style of wine well. It is giving a smoky character to the wine as well as richness. This is a great wine, very aromatic and concentrated. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$325

**97** **Château Cheval Blanc 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine has power. It is dense but with such concentration along with a fine perfumed character from the Cabernet Franc in the blend. The wine's richness is impressive while leaving plenty of room for fruit. This fine wine will age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$839

**97** **Le Dôme 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This major wine, from a fine vineyard of old Cabernet Franc, is impressive. Its dark coffee and perfumed flavors are balanced by the elegant tannins and fresh acidity at the end. Drink from 2027. World's End LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$170

**96** **Château Bélair-Monange 2019 Saint-Émilion.** A structured, elegant wine at the top of its form. It has ripe blackberry fruits, a rich texture and a fine future. Solid but with a fine style, the wine will be ready from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$197

**96** **Château Pavie 2019 Saint-Émilion.** With 45% of Cabernets now in the blend, the style of Pavie has evolved. With this latest release, it has gained structure and aroma. The wine has rich tannins with concentration and powerful spice

and black fruits. Drink this intense wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$389

**95** **Château Ausone 2019 Chapelle d'Ausone (Saint-Émilion).** The second wine of Ausone comes from specific parcels of the vineyard. With 60% of Cabernet Franc in the blend with Merlot, the wine is structured and firm, perfumed and rich. It will age well, drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$177

**95** **Château Pavie Macquin 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine, from the vineyard on the top of the Pavie hill, is complex and rich. Solid tannins and dark fruits show strongly here with power and density. The weight of the wine is lightened by acidity that shines through this fine wine. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$83

**95** **Clos Fourtet 2019 Saint-Émilion.** A very fine wine, rich and generous in all the senses. It has weight, density set against elegant black fruits and spice from wood aging. The wine will need many years. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$121

**95** **Les Astéries 2019 Saint-Émilion.** A solid wine from a single parcel just to the east of the town of Saint-Émilion, it is full of dark tannins with great fruits and a structure that is solid and powerful. Minerality, typical of the structured character of this wine, shows against the bold black fruits. Drink from 2026. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**94** **Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This is properly dense, in keeping with the vintage, with fine tannins and rich black fruits. It balances well, juicy acidity combining with a firm and dry structure. The wine is fine, firm and sure to develop well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**94** **Château Cadet-Bon 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This Grand Cru Classé estate is making some fine wines. This latest release has perfumed mint and eucalyptus over some serious tannins, giving richness and concentration. Black currant fruits are still young and all this fine wine's elements need time. Drink from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$53

**94** **Château Fonplégade 2019 Saint-Émilion.** A fine texture with rich tannins and powerful structure give this wine its richness. The wine, under the ownership of Californians Denise and Stephen Adams, is concentrated and juicy, super-ripe, a sign of the high proportion of Merlot in the blend, and full-bodied. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$52

**94** **Château Guadet 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This is a densely textured beautifully fruity and tannins driven wine a proof of the great strides this estate has taken in recent years. Blackberry flavors and a fine structure mingle in this impressive wine. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**94** **Château la Gaffelière 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine has a dense structure alongside ripe black fruits and generous tannins. Its density brings out the fresh lift of the vintage, giving a wine that has weight and also succulence. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$87

**94** **Château Larcis Ducasse 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine's richness shows from the start with dense black tannins and great structure. It is a powerful wine, concentrated and full of potential. The black fruits are open, generous. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$105

**94** **Château Pavie 2019 Arômes de Pavie (Saint-Émilion).** From a separate parcel of the Pavie vineyard, the wine is richly textured, firm with tannins. To contrast neatly, it also has a supple, velvet character with juicy black fruits and an open aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$131

**94** **Château Pavie Decesse 2019 Saint-Émilion.** A dense wine, coming from a small vineyard just above Château Pavie, has powerful tannins and weight. Its structure and concentrated black fruits are rich, spicy with a strongly mineral texture. The wine will age well. Drink from 2026. Vignobles Perse. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$136

**94** **Château Petit Faurie de Soutard 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The high proportion of Cabernet Franc in this blend is a fine plus for this wine. It gives balance, smoky perfumes, acidity and great black currant fruit flavors. The wine is developing slowly but surely. Drink this impressive wine from 2026. Advantage International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**94** **Le Carré 2019 Saint-Émilion.** Dense chocolate and black plum flavors over this luscious wine give structure and fine concentration. The wine comes from a single parcel on the Saint-Émilion plateau. There is a juicy element to this fine, full wine that will repay further aging. Drink from 2025. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**93** **Château Bellevue Mondotte 2019 Saint-Émilion.** A Merlot-dominated wine from a small estate on the plateau of Saint-Émilion. The wine has richness and concentration, dark tannins



as well as a full, generous texture. Drink from 2026. Vignobles Perse. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$129

**93** **Château Cheval Blanc 2019 Le Petit Cheval (Saint-Émilion).** While Merlot is almost equal with Cabernet Franc in the blend, this second wine of Cheval Blanc, has plenty of structure. At the same time, it has beautifully opulent fruit and ripe blackberry flavors. It will age well over the medium-term. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$165

**93** **Château la Clotte 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This estate is improving every vintage. This latest release has great structure from the exposure of the old vines. It has some serious tannins set against the wine's juicy black fruits. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$97

**93** **Château Monbousquet 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine, from this impressive estate on the Dordogne plain, is ripe with a layer of tannins over the rich berry flavors. With its spice and aromatic generous fruits, the wine is set to develop well. Drink from 2025. Vignobles Perse. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$57

**93** **Château Moulin Saint-Georges 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This small vineyard of old vines is dominated by Merlot. Its ripe black fruits and dark texture comes from concentration and the wood aging. The wine has a fine juicy character to balance the structure. Drink from 2026 Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$38

**93** **Château Pas de l'Ane 2016 Saint-Émilion.** A perfumed, new-wood matured wine with mint and spice flavors. They march alongside the black currant fruits and ripe tannins. The wine is just now ready, but with its juicy aftertaste will shortly age further. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$75

**93** **Château Pas de l'Ane 2015 Saint-Émilion.** This mature wine is at its best. The tannins have softened into the wine's warm texture and juicy berry fruits. With a fine blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, the wine is rich, velvet textured and ready to drink. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

**93** **Château Yon Figeac 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This is a luscious wine, packed with superripe Merlot and rich tannins. Structure lies behind this generous fruitiness while spice and pepper add an exotic edge. The wine is set to develop well. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 15% Price: \$125

**92** **Château Haut-Simard 2019 Saint-Émilion.** From a small parcel of densely planted vines within the larger Simard vineyard, this fine wine has great definition alongside its rich tannins. Per-

fumed Cabernet Franc gives both texture and spice, richly concentrated and structured. Drink from 2025. Château Ausone. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**92** **Château la Gaffelière 2019 Dame de Gaffelière (Saint-Émilion).** The wine has a luscious quality. It comes from a dedicated parcel of the Gaffelière estate, giving a juicy black fruit style with rich tannins and layers of fine fruit. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**92** **Château Laforge 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This is a fine wine with great black fruits and an impressive density. Spice and ripe tannins make for a wine for aging. Drink from 2025. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**92** **Château Pas de l'Ane 2018 Saint-Émilion.** The wine is juicy, young with ripe tannins and a concentrated texture. Its ripe berry fruits are developing, but this fine wine needs plenty more time. Drink from 2025. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$76

**92** **Château Quinault L'Enclos 2019 Saint-Émilion.** Dominated by the ripe Merlot, the wine is rich, concentrated with black fruits everywhere. The estate, a vineyard in the city of Libourne, has produced, a dense wine although one that keeps its freshness. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$47

**92** **Clos de Menuts 2018 L'Excellence Saint-Émilion.** From the oldest parcels of this vineyard, this wine is structured and firm. It has a solid, prosperous feel to it, with dark chocolate and black fruit flavors. Acidity gives the the fine wine a lift and promises aging. Drink from 2025. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$65

**91** **Château Benitey 2019 Saint-Émilion.** Aged for a year in wood, the wine has ripe tannins and a fine structure. Solid tannins lie behind the wine's blackberry fruits, giving concentration allied to fine acidity and aging potential. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$65

**91** **Château Clos Junet 2019 Saint-Émilion.** A blend of 60% Merlot with 30% Cabernet Franc and a touch of Malbec, this wine is perfumed and ripe. Densely textured along with a fresh streak of black currant fruits, the wine is set to develop well. Drink from 2025. Dropping Wines. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**91** **Château d'Arcie 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The fresh black currant fruits show strongly in this ripe, perfumed wine. The blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc hangs well together, giving some firm tannins as well as spice and youthful fruitiness.

Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**91** **Château Haut Rocher 2016 Saint-Émilion.** Still young, with vital black fruits over rich tannins, the wine is impressive. Its juicy berry flavors enhance the wine's structure and ripeness. The wine is dense and will continue to develop. Drink from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**91** **Château les Grandes Murailles 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine's smooth texture comes from fermentation partly in amphoras. This small vineyard, soon to be amalgamated with neighboring Clos Fourtet, makes a generous, rich style of Merlot. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$53

**91** **Château Rol Valentin 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine from this small property on the plateau of Saint-Émilion has structure, fine tannins and ripe black fruits. It has juiciness allied to weight. This combination demands some time. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

**90** **Château Belle Assise Coureau 2019 Saint-Émilion.** From vines on the plain below the town of Saint-Émilion, the wine is rich, chocolate and spice flavored. Behind the structure lie fresh black fruits and some solid tannins. The wine is likely to be ready from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25

**90** **Château Cheval Brun 2018 Saint-Émilion.** A smooth, rich wine with fine tannins and polished wood aging flavors, this is a dense wine. Dry tannins emerge from the core to fill and strengthen the wine. Black cherries and a still-young structure promise aging. Drink from 2025. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

**90** **Château Divine Bêtise 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This juicy wine with its generous blackberry Merlot flavors is ripe and densely textured. Its tannins are the backdrop to the wine's rich succulence. Drink the wine from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$50

**90** **Château du Basque 2019 Saint-Émilion.** This estate, at the eastern end of the Saint-Émilion vineyard area, is ripe, with dusty tannins alongside bold blackberry fruits. Its structure and richness are fine harbingers for future development. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**90** **Château Grangey 2018 Les 5 Parcelles (Saint-Émilion).** Produced from 50-year-old vines, the wine has dark tannins and powerfully dense textures. The concentration of the wine and

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the blackberry fruits will still develop. The wine will be ready from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**90** **Château Haut Rocher 2018 Saint-Émilion.** A complex, developing wine, this has a balance between weight and black currant acidity. It is solid, dominated by Merlot, freshened by the fruitiness that lies under the structure. Give the wine time, until 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Château Pas de l'Ane 2018 Le Petit Pas (Saint-Émilion).** This is a generous, while balanced wine. The second wine of Château Pas de l'Ane reveals velvet Merlot with a touch of spice from Caberne Franc. It has a juicy aftertaste, black currants and acidity at the end. Drink from 2024. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**90** **Château Teyssier 2019 Saint-Émilion.** A ripe, full wine from vineyards on the Dordogne plain that has developed well. The tannins are still firm, promising to soften soon, with structure and black currant fruit, powered by the judicious wood aging. Drink from 2023. World's End LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Clos Petit Badon 2019 Bocquillon (Saint-Émilion).** The wine is perfumed from new wood with ripe tannins and generous blackberry fruits. Structured, already smooth, the stylish, Merlot-dominated wine will develop further. Drink from 2024. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Château Clos Junet 2018 Prélude (Saint-Émilion).** Merlot dominates this rich, dense wine. Tannins and black fruits come through along with licorice and a strong sense of wood aging. The wine is young, taking its time. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Château Grangey 2018 Saint-Émilion.** This 14-acre property with 60-year-old vines has produced a solid wine, structured and full-bodied. Its concentration and dense black fruits are both needing time. The extraction that leaves a bitter, peppery edge, needs to soften. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**89** **Château Hautes Versannes 2019 Saint-Émilion.** Perfumed and juicy, this structured wine boasts great black fruits and generous tannins. It has structure, but what shows is the black currant flavors of the bold fruits. The wine will age further, drink from 2025. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château la Chapelle 2020 Saint-Émilion.** From a vineyard on the Dordogne River plain of Saint-Émilion, this wine is full and fruity. It is dense with cushioned tannins and plenty of

succulent black fruits. Drink from 2024. Organic. Vinovia Wine Group. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$23

**89** **Château Mazouet 2019 Saint-Émilion.** An interesting blend for Saint-Émilion of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon (rather than Franc), this has a ripe, balanced feel to it. The tannins are behind the black currant fruitiness and acidity, giving the wine shape and potential. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Simard 2019 Saint-Émilion.** Aged for 12 months in wood, the wine has polished ripe berry flavors over generous tannins. Its juicy density is lightly textured with spice and blackberry flavors at the end. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$43

**88** **Château Austerlitz 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The estate, situated below the ridge of Saint-Émilion, has produced a generous, full-throated wine. Black fruits and acidity are right up front, supported by solid tannins. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**88** **Château Côte de Baleau 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine is perfumed, ripe with generous tannins. It comes from a small parcel of vines on the Saint-Émilion plateau. Smoky and ripe, the wine should age well. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Château de Fonbel 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine's richness comes from the ripe black fruits that sing with density as well as freshness. This is a concentrated wine that is full of black currant crispness as well. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**88** **Château Grangey 2014 Saint-Émilion.** This estate lies to the east of the city of Saint-Émilion. This mature wine is structured still with some firmness. That makes for the wine's hard edge and dark chocolate flavors. The wine is ready to drink. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$120

**88** **Château Haut Rocher 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The high alcohol of this wine derives from its high proportion of Merlot. That gives spice, a bite of pepper and superripe blackberry fruit flavors. The juiciness is a welcome afterthought. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**88** **Château Haut-Piquat 2018 Saint-Émilion.** There is just a touch of Malbec in this juicy, almost mature wine. Intensely juicy flavors and layers of spice and pepper spotlight the black cherry fruits. The wine is likely to develop a little further,

drink from 2023. Beverage Solutions and Logistics, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Château Von 2019 Saint-Émilion.** The wine has an austere edge to it with its firm tannins and black fruits. This should soften although the wine will probably remain structured as it matures. Drink the wine from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**86** **Château Pas de l'Ane 2014 Le Petit Pas (Saint-Émilion).** The wine is firm and beginning to dry out. The tannins are overwhelming the black fruits. So drink immediately. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

## SAINT-ESTÈPHE

**100** **Château Montrose 2019 Saint-Estèphe.** The wine has a massive structure, great concentration. It now really shows the results of the massive investment of the owners, the telecom magnate Bouygues family. The powerful tannins mask the impressive black fruits and the wine's rich berry flavors. This magnificent wine will develop slowly over many years. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$197

**98** **Château Cos d'Estournel 2019 Saint-Estèphe.** Gone are the days when this illustrious estate produced the most powerful wine possible. This new release is stylish and packed with great black fruits. Some dark chocolate flavors add density while keeping the wine's perfume and blackberry flavors. It is impressive, likely ready to drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$203

**96** **Château Calon Ségur 2019 Saint-Estèphe.** Dark, firm with great intensity and rich fruits, this is a powerful wine. Its richness is opened up by the succulent acidity and fine freshness coming from the fruit. Together, the elements work well, power and fruit in harmony. Drink the wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$136

**94** **Château Montrose 2019 La Dame de Montrose (Saint-Estèphe).** The second wine of Montrose is seriously structured with dark tannins. It has impressive weight and concentration, a big wine while polished appropriate for this estate. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$49

**93** **Château Capbern 2019 Saint-Estèphe.** Big black, smoky flavors give this wine great weight. It is powered by its tannins and its density. Licorice and dark coffee flavors show some extrac-

tion. Drink from 2026 Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**93** **Château Cos d'Estournel 2019 Pagodes de Cos (Saint-Estèphe).** The name of the second wine of Cos d'Estournel highlights the exotic Chinese pagodas that adorn the roof of the cellars. It is a dense wine, smoky, spiced from wood aging. Licorice flavors will integrate as the wine ages further. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$57

**93** **Château Ormes de Pez 2019 Saint-Estèphe.** Big and full of tannins and structure, this is packed with dark fruits with a dry core. The wine's weight is impressive, density and richness. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$37

**92** **Château Calon Ségur 2019 Le Marquis de Calon Ségur (Saint-Estèphe).** This second wine of Calon-Ségur is a rich, black fruits surrounding tannins and giving a fine style to the bold structure and the wine's juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$36

**92** **Château Cos Labory 2019 Le Saint-Estèphe de Cos Labory (Saint-Estèphe).** This is a sophisticated second wine from Saint-Estèphe chateau Cos Labory. It is generous while full of dark tannins and rich black fruits. The wine is a fine junior partner to the top wine. Drink from 2025. Advantage International. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$27

**92** **Château Tronquoy-Lalande 2019 Saint-Estèphe.** The wine is smooth with great black fruits and ripe tannins. It has structure that is buried in the ripeness of the wine. It will develop well, likely to be ready soon from 2025 and then rest at the same level of maturity. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$39

**91** **Château Meyney 2016 La Chapelle de Meyney (Saint-Estèphe).** This vintage of the second wine of this fine Saint-Estèphe estate is almost mature. Its tension and structure have softened and offer ripe black fruits and hints of truffles. Drink this wine from 2023. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$55

**90** **Château L'Argilus du Roi 2019 Saint-Estèphe.** This small property in Saint-Estèphe has produced a dense wine, structured and with a dry core. Its black currant fruits from Cabernet Sauvignon are going to be attractive as the wine ages further. Drink from 2025. Château L'Argilus du Roi. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

## OTHER RED WINES

**92** **Château Saint-André Corbin 2020 Saint-Georges-Saint-Émilion.** From the small neighbor to Saint-Émilion, this wine gives density, richness and a powerful aging potential. It is structured, the black fruits shining through the firm tannins and revealing potential. Drink the wine from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

**91** **Château Haut-Goujon 2019 Lalande de Pomerol.** The richness of the Merlot, forming 80% of the blend, gives this juicy wine power as well as rich black fruit flavors. Wood aging has helped smooth the explosion of fruits and will allow the wine to develop well. Drink from 2025. Vignerons Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 15% Price: \$30

**91** **Château Langlais 2019 Puisseguin Saint-Émilion.** This fine, Merlot-dominated wine, is ripe, packed with juicy black fruits. The wine's structure, still apparent, gives it density and richness. This is a powerful, wood-aged wine. Drink from 2025. Organic. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**90** **Château Laborde 2018 Lalande de Pomerol.** A balanced blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this ripe wine comes from just north of Pomerol itself. The spicy, juicy character of this wine is deliciously infectious, giving structure and richness. The wine will be ready from 2024. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**90** **Château Poujeaux 2019 Moulis-en-Médoc.** The wine with its balance between Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon is full of dark fruits and rich black tannins. It is a dense wine ready for long-term aging. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

**90** **Château Puygueraud 2019 Francs Côtes de Bordeaux.** This full Merlot from the far east of the Bordeaux vineyard, is suffused with ripe, smoothly textured dark fruits. It has a touch of spice at the end from the Cabernet Franc. Structured tannins come at the end. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

## SAINT-JULIEN

**98** **Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2019 Saint-Julien.** A very fine wine, rich with its tannins and its structure. The wine is powerful without losing sight of its fine fruits, black currant flavors and acidity. Balanced and with great potential. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$245

**96** **Château Léoville Barton 2019 Saint-Julien.** The wine is rich, complete. Its impressive structure is cushioned by the velvet black fruits and acidity. The wine's construction is powerful but never overpowering. It will age well, ready to drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$126

**94** **Château Langoa Barton 2019 Saint-Julien.** The powerful tannins give this wine structure. They go with the jammy black fruits and richness. Spice and a complex texture are promising in this fine, stylish wine. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$63

**94** **La Croix de Beaucaillou 2019 Saint-Julien.** The wine has power and density. Packed with generous, firm tannins and dense fruits, the wine is a balanced blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Produced from a specific parcel, the wine will age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$51

**93** **Château Lalande 2020 Saint-Julien.** The wine is rich and dense with already velvet textures. It has ripe black fruits layered with wood aging and a sophisticated tannins. This is obviously a wine to age further. Drink from 2027. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**92** **Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2019 Le Petit Ducru (Saint-Julien).** A complete, spicy wine, full of acidity balanced by the tannic structure. The wine is dense, with a firm core. This is the junior wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

## SWEET WINES

**93** **Château d'Arche 2019 Sauternes.** With its high proportion of Sémillon, the wine is luscious and finely honeyed. The wine has depth and layers of dry botrytis mingling with the yellow fruits and orange zest flavors. It is still young, ready to age for many years. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**90** **Château d'Arche 2020 Soleil d'Arche (Sauternes).** This is an open, welcoming sweet wine. It has freshness and citrus flavors against a honeyed background. Light wood aging has softened the wine's acidity and enhanced its spicy aftertaste. Drink the wine now. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$49/375 ml

**87** **Cheval Quancard 2021 Apertus (Premières Côtes de Bordeaux).** Mainly Sémillon to give the wine its creamy, honeyed character, the wine is sweet with apricot and spice. Its light texture holds back on intensity, giving a bright wine that will be



great as an aperitif. Drink from 2023. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

### BORDEAUX BLANC

**92 Château Cos d'Estournel 2019 Bordeaux Blanc.** The wine is dense, powered by generous white fruits that are boosted by citrus acidity. It is rich, full of spice and ripeness. Likely to age further, drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$128

**91 Le Nardian 2019 Bordeaux Blanc.** A pleasing herbal wood-aged wine with bright acidity and some density. This is a ripe wine with some green fruit as well as tropical flavors. Drink from 2023. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**90 Château Clarke 2021 La Merle Blanc de Château Clarke (Bordeaux Blanc).** The wine has strong citrus edge and grapefruit flavors. It balances a crisp character with wood aging flavors and fresh, juicy acidity. From the estate owned by the Edmond de Rothschild family, the wine is finely textured and elegant. Drink from 2023. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$58

**90 Château de Malherbes 2020 M de Malherbes (Bordeaux Blanc).** Young, vibrant fruits will open as this tight, mineral textured wine matures. It has all the elements with fruit and light toast merging together. Drink from 2024. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**90 Château de Malherbes 2017 M de Malherbes (Bordeaux Blanc).** This wood aged wine is now mature. It comes from a fine white Bordeaux vintage and shows quality and perfumed, herbal and creamy flavors. Drink now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**90 Château Lynch-Bages 2019 Blanc de Lynch-Bages (Bordeaux Blanc).** Mainly Sauvignon Blanc, this is a ripe, herbal wine. Green fruits, acidity touched by more tropical flavors give the wine freshness and ripeness at the same time. Drink from 2023 Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**89 Château Clarke 2020 Le Merle Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc).** The white wine from the estate owned by the Edmond de Rothschild family is lightly toasty, filled with creamy white fruits. Its texture and tangy edge are just right to drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$52

**89 Château de Malherbes 2019 M de Malherbes (Bordeaux Blanc).** The wine is still really fresh, with tight acidity and green plum and toast flavors. It has a bright character that will soften, although the wine is ready now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**89 Château de Malherbes 2018 M de Malherbes (Bordeaux Blanc).** The wine has weight and density, green apple flavors balanced against light acidity and spice. The wine's softness suggests it is ready to drink. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**88 Château Cos d'Estournel 2019 Pagodes de Cos (Bordeaux Blanc).** One of two whites produced at this estate, the wine is smoothly textured, rounded by wood aging flavors. There is a spicy edge that balances the kiwi and baked apple flavors. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Château Rauzan Despagne 2021 Bordeaux Blanc.** A bright, light and crisp wine, this is full of citrus flavors. Grapefruit and perfumed white fruits sing in a wine that comes from a fine white wine specialist. Drink from 2023. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**88 Jean Médeville et Fils 2021 Médeville Collection (Bordeaux Blanc).** This is an attractive wine, bringing together tropical fruits, crisp citrus and a generous core of apples. The combination is already refreshing, and will be better from 2023. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Kressmann 2021 Monopole (Bordeaux Blanc).** A delicious, lightly textured Sauvignon Blanc, this is full of fruit with lively acidity and a touch of yellow fruits to give a ripe feel to the wine. Drink now. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**88 Producta Vignobles 2021 Mission St. Vincent (Bordeaux Blanc).** The wine's fine fruitiness of this crisp, textured wine is already delicious. Its lemon freshness and bright acidity are all set to go. Drink now. Vinamericas, Inc.. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

**88 Vignobles Despagne 2021 Biface (Bordeaux Blanc).** A creamy wine that has the freshest fruit set against a tangy texture. Citrus and bright acidity give freshness to the wine's vivid profile. Drink now. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**87 Château Haut Peyruguet 2021 Sauvignon-Sémillon Bordeaux Blanc.** Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Château Haut-Meyreau 2021 Bordeaux Blanc.** Fresh and fruity, the wine has bright citrus flavors and lively acidity. Its herbal edge will soften

shortly, so the wine will be ready from 2023. Connecticut Distributors. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Producta Vignobles 2021 Château Chaubinet (Bordeaux Blanc).** Soft and fruity with citrus and white fruit flavors, this brings out a tropical aspect to Sauvignon Blanc. The wine's freshness contrasts with a creamy aftertaste. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Producta Vignobles 2021 BDX Revolution (Bordeaux Blanc).** Bright fruit in this fresh, modern wine give a lively character and crispness. It is an easy, light wine with that is ready to drink. Jandell Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**85 Compagnie Vinicole d'Aquitaine 2021 Wine Surf (Bordeaux Blanc).** Crisp, herbal and a real warm weather wine, this is bright and lemony. The wine's lively character demands to be drunk now. Organic. T. Elenty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

### ENTRE-DEUX-MERS

**90 Château de Fontenille 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers.** The wine is aromatic with ripe herbal flavors. The acidity is tangy, the wine is spicy with a touch of pepper. Green fruits balance the acidity with a zesty character. Drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**90 Château de L'Hoste 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Entre-Deux-Mers).** A fine edge of concentration gives this full-bodied wine a balance between crisp freshness and a more rounded character. There is good spice, tangy flavors and the potential for further aging. Drink this fine wine from 2023. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**90 Château La Mothe du Barry 2021 Cuvée French Kiss (Entre-Deux-Mers).** There is a perfumed character to this wine from the Sauvignon Gris in the blend. It is particularly fruity, crisp, direct with its acidity and freshness. This is an attractive wine that is ready to drink. Organic. Elite Wines Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 Château Lestrille 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers.** The wine is spicy, full of white fruits and brightly delicious. There is a creamy side to this fine wine, giving richness from the Sauvignon Gris and Muscadelle. The wine is richly textured, ready to drink now. Charles Neal Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Château Tour de Mirambeau 2021 Réserve (Entre-Deux-Mers).** Owned by the Despagne family, this historic estate has produced a ripe wine with layers of acidity and yellow fruits. Spicy and

packed with refreshing acidity, the wine also has some aging potential. Drink from 2023. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Vignobles André Lurton 2021 Diane by Jacques Lurton Sauvignon Blanc (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. Intense white fruits are filled with both citrus and ripe kiwi flavors. It is full, with white currant fruits and minerality. The wine, from vines at the Lurton family's Château Bonnet, is ageworthy. Drink from 2023. V&N Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Château Grand Jean 2021 Le Veggio (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The Dulon family, well installed in the Entre-deux-Mers, has produced a brightly sophisticated wine. It is textured, with green herbal flavors set against a taut texture. Drink from 2023. Suitable for vegans. Lompian Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Château Landereau 2021 Ajsai Première Pressée (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. Bright fresh herbal and citrus fruit shine with this wine. Tight and fresh, attractively spicy, the wine is intense and fills the mouth with green fruits. The wine should soften, and will be best from 2023. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Sainte Marie 2020 Cuvée Madlys (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. With 10 months in wood, this wine with its shot of perfume from Sauvignon Gris is still fruity and vivid. Its bright flavors are balanced by the wine's fuller, spicy texture. Drink now. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Château Turcaud 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. An open wine with ripe acidity offers spice as well as green fruits and layers of acidity. It will soften over the next few months. Drink from 2023. Sussex Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**89** **Domaine du Bourdieu 2021 Sainte Anne (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The wine has ripe fruit with a soft, juicy texture. The third generation of the Boudon family to run this estate has produced a delicious, crisp and perfumed wine that is ready to drink. Organic. Chartrand Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château La Rose du Pin 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. An attractive wine from vineyards worked by the Ducourt family. The wine's fruit gives white fruits and a light pineapple edge, crispness and a rounded texture. It is ready to drink. Planet Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château Landereau 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. Bruno Baylet makes a fresh, citrus and kiwi flavored wine. It is bright and fruity, tangy and textured with acidity. There is an attractive perfumed

character from the Muscadelle and Sauvignon Gris in the blend. Drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château les Arromans 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. This is a ripe wine, with tropical fruit flavors filling out the citrus crispness. It is fruity and lightly textured. Acidity gives a lift at the end. Drink now. Organic. Elite Wines Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château Moulin De Ferrand 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. A delicious, crisp and juicy wine, this has bright acidity and concentration. The wine is fragrant with some potential from the Sémillon in the blend. Drink from 2023. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**88** **Château Vermont 2021 Prestige (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. With ripe lime and grapefruit flavors, the wine is crisp with warmth. Its full texture is balanced by tangy acidity and a creamy feel to the aftertaste. Drink now. Touton Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château Vermont 2020 La Grande Cuvée (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. Wood aging has given this wine its ripe white fruits a fine balance between spice and crispness. The wine is aromatic, full and driven by minerality. Drink from 2023. Touton Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**88** **Cheval Quancard 2021 Cuvée Clémence (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. With a nice touch of Muscadelle to perfume the wine, it is bright and light. There is a touch of spice from six months in wood that balances this bright, fruity wine. Drink now. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Domaine du Rouchet 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. There is a fine, creamy touch of Sémillon in this wine. That broadens out the texture from just crisp Sauvignon Blanc acidity. The wine is fresh and still young. Drink from 2023. Stockton Fine Wines NJ. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Château de Beauregard-Ducourt 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. Pure citrus fruitiness gives this wine its refreshing character. It is a bright wine, lively and balanced. There is a tangy aftertaste, bringing out lime and grapefruit flavors. Drink now. Baystate Wine & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Château Grand Jean 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. Owned by the Dulon family, the vineyard has produced a zesty wine, textured with youthful acidity and minerality. The wine is herbal, tight and needs a little time. Drink from 2023. Lompian Wines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$8

**87** **Château le Prieur 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. Mainly Sauvignon Blanc, the wine is herbal and green. It is zesty and brightly tangy, with a pinch of pepper. A wave of freshness with a lively aftertaste come through at the end. Drink now. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Château Roquefort 2021 Rives (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. A simple wine, this is lightly textured and packed with attractive citrus fruits. A zesty character lifts the wine, bringing out fine acidity and freshness. Giuliana Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Château Sainte Marie 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. As so often the case, old vines with low yields give the wine concentration. It is a dense wine, yet there is a light touch of freshness and acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**86** **Château Au Grand Paris 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. Light, crisp with lively acidity, this is an attractive, simply textured wine. It has tangy, citrus flavors and is ready to drink. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**86** **Château Castenet 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. The blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Muscadelle is lightly spicy with vivacious, ripe fruits and layers of still-young acidity. It is fresh and fruity, ready to drink. Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**86** **Château Lagrange 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. The Lacoste family's vineyard has produced a crisp, herbal wine, dominated by Sauvignon Blanc, that has a tight tang of acidity. Citrus flavors balance the wine's bright fruit. Drink now. Organic. Dry Farm Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

**86** **Château Malène 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. The wine is soft with apple and spice flavors. The wine's crispness takes a back seat to the fresh and tangy texture. The aftertaste is gentle and rounded. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$9

**86** **Château Vignol 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers**. Dating back to the 18th century, this estate has produced a wine that is juicy with citrus fruit flavors. It is fresh, needing aging. Drink from 2023. The Wine List Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**85** **Cave de Monségur 2021 Grain d'Océan (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The wine, dominated by Sauvignon Blanc, is crisply textured. It has a herbal character that exudes green fruits and citrus. The

# BUYINGGUIDE

wine is in a blue bottle and ready to drink. Vineyards to Table. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

**85 Château Brondeau du Tertre 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers.** White fruits dominate this wine, giving attractive acidity. In the background, the more citrus flavors give the wine its tang and texture. The wine is ready to drink. Artisan Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**85 Château Maison Noble Saint Martin 2021 Entre-Deux-Mers.** The wine is simple, ripe with dominant Sauvignon Blanc. There is a strong herbal, green fruit character to this zesty wine. Drink now. Vidalco International, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

## PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

**96 Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** A wine that has great richness with spice, one of a line of great whites from this estate. Tropical fruits and generosity give a ripe, full-bodied wine, that is immediately attractive. The wine is going to age further, drink from 2024. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$197

**95 Château de Fieuzal 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** The wine is poised and balanced between a fresher aspect and ripe tropical fruits. It has a full-bodied richness to it, bringing spice from wood aging and crispness from citrus flavors at the end. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$85

**95 Château Haut-Brion 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** This impressive wine is going to be rich, dense, textured and superripe. It still does have freshness and acidity but that is subsumed into the wine's combination of tropical flavors and citrus, filled out with spice. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$1066

**95 Château La Mission Haut-Brion 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** The wine is ripe, open in style. Generous white fruits and spice from wood aging and from a rich vintage, are present along with a structure that is still young. It follows in the line of great white wines from this estate. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$899

**94 Château Haut-Brion 2019 la Clarté de Haut-Brion (Pessac-Léognan).** Full of exotic spice and tropical flavors, this is a rich wine. The second white wine from Haut-Brion is packed with ripe white fruits, densely textured, full-bodied and set to age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$120

**93 Château Bouscaut 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** This rich wine is generous, rounded with spice and full white fruit flavors, It has weight and touches of tropical fruits, set for further aging. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$51

**92 Château Larrivet Haut-Brion 2019 Pessac-Léognan.** A ripe blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, this is full and concentrated. While it lacks some freshness, that is compensated by the ripe apricot and mango flavors touched by wood.. Drink now Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**91 Château Couhins 2020 Les Demoiselles de Couhins (Pessac-Léognan).** This estate, part of the French government's wine research program, is performing at a high level. This second wine is 90% Sauvignon Blanc, a fresh and crisp wine with green fruits and citrus acidity. The wood aging adds some spice. Drink the wine from 2023. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Château Latour-Martillac 2021 Lacroix-Martillac (Pessac-Léognan).** The second white wine of Latour-Martillac shares plenty of the delicious fruit texture with the first wine. Green fruits and a perfumed layer of Sémillon gives the wine richness and total freshness. Drink from 2024. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Château Mancèdre 2020 Pessac-Léognan.** The herbal side of Sauvignon Blanc shows strongly in this wine. It is softened by some white currant and a creamy touch from the Sémillon in the blend. Drink the wine from 2023. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**89 Château Petit Boyer 2021 Sauvignon (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A really herbal wine, all crisp fruits and citrus. There is some relief given by the perfumed Muscadelle and Sauvignon Gris. They will bring their attraction to the blend over the next few months. Drink from later this year. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Château Langlet 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Graves).** A mix of herbal and tropical fruits gives this wine both fine acidity and richness. From an estate owned by Pessac-Léognan property Latour-Martillac, this is a fine wine, ripe and needs a little aging. Drink from 2023. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Château Cantalaudette 2021 Cuvée Prestige (Graves de Vayres).** Crisp, fruity with attractive green fruits and citrus, this is bright with great fruitiness and a touch of spice. There is a pure

line of acidity that gives the wine great freshness. Drink now. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## BORDEAUX ROSÉ

**88 Château Haut Dambert 2021 Bordeaux Rosé.** This Entre-deux-Mers estate, owned by the Hitier-Buffeteau family, has produced a light-hearted rosé with some warmth as well as structure from the Malbec in the blend. The wine with its crisp red berry flavors is ready to drink. Bowler Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Kressmann 2021 Villa des Dunes (Bordeaux Rosé).** Bright and still with youthful freshness, the wine is lively. Red currant fruit come from the blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The wine is ready to drink. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**86 Compagnie Vinicole d'Aquitaine 2021 Wine Surf (Bordeaux Rosé).** Ripe and fruity with strawberry flavors and bright acidity, this is an attractive wine. Its freshness needs appreciating now, so drink now. Organic. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**86 Kressmann 2021 Pink de Kressmann (Bordeaux Rosé).** This is a fine, fragrant wine, crisply textured while lightly touched by caramel. The red berry fruits and orange zest balance freshness and fruitiness. Wine Source International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**86 Maison Raymond 2021 Les Hauts de Lagarde (Bordeaux Rosé).** With Merlot and the two Cabernets in a harmonious blend, this is a red fruit and caramel flavored wine. It has already softened and is just ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Natural Merchants, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**85 C. Mondavi & Family 2021 French Blue (Bordeaux Rosé).** An attractive, perfumed blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, the wine is bright and fresh. Vibrant red currant fruits show well against the tangy citrus texture. Drink now. C. Mondavi and Family. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**85 Château Grand Jean 2021 Bordeaux Rosé.** Fruity with red currants and tight acidity, this is a vivacious wine, crisp and ready to drink. Lompian Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**85 Producta Vignobles 2021 Rosé Minéral (Bordeaux Rosé).** A bright, light and fruity wine, this is attractively ready to drink. Fresh red currants give the wine, made from Cabernet Franc, crispness and a touch of perfume. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13



## LOIRE VALLEY

### SANCERRE

**94** **Henri Bourgeois 2019 Jadis (Sancerre)**. For full review see page 7. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**94** **Henri Bourgeois 2018 Etienne Henri (Sancerre)**. The wine celebrates the founder of the Bourgeois business. It is a powerful wine for Sauvignon Blanc, giving great richness, touches of spice and overlying acidity. The wine's aging potential is considerable. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**93** **Henri Bourgeois 2019 Sancerre d'Antan Terroir de Silex (Sancerre)**. The wine's style and richness fills the glass. It has maturity and ripeness with fine, textured fruit and acidity that intertwines beautifully. Its spice, density and concentration give it a still youthful character. Drink from 2023. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**92** **Henri Bourgeois 2020 La Côte des Monts Damnés (Sancerre)**. The iconic Monts Damnés slope takes its name from its hard-to-work steepness. The wine, of course, benefits from the incline. It is perfumed, ripe with density and concentration. Still young, the wine also has minerality and a steely edge. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Henri Bourgeois 2019 La Bourgeoise (Sancerre)**. Vibrant and fruity with fine acidity and touches of crisp herbal flavors, the wine is still fresh. Bright and lightly textured, it will age further. Drink from 2023. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

### SAVENNIERES

**95** **Domaine des Baumard 2019 Clos du Papillon (Savennières)**. The vineyard shaped like a butterfly (papillon) is one of the top vineyards in Savennières. Steeply sloped, it produces an intense wine with high acidity and steely white fruits when young. This wine will soften beautifully, giving richness, always a nutty character over the bone dry aftertaste. Drink from 2026. Vintus LLC. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**95** **Domaine des Baumard 2018 Clos du Papillon (Savennières)**. For full review see page 4. Vintus LLC. **Cellar Selection**. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**93** **Domaine des Baumard 2019 Savennières**. The schist soil of this wine's vineyard gives

a tensely mineral character. Along with the intense crispness and acidity and the young white fruits, honey and almonds, it is a wine with a great future. Drink from 2024 and beyond. Vintus LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

### OTHER WHITE WINES

**94** **Domaine des Baumard 2018 Quarts de Chaume**. The freshness of Loire Chenin Blanc is so apparent in this wine that balances honey and ethereal acidity. The wine is delicious, but really young and deserves to develop. Drink from 2025. Vintus LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$50/375 ml

**93** **Henri Bourgeois 2019 La Demoiselle de Bourgeois (Pouilly-Fumé)**. As is so often with Pouilly Fumé, the wine is taking its time. That makes it still young with vivid fruitiness over the wine's rich, creamy character. There is a fine mineral tension at the end. Drink this powerful wine from 2023. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**88** **Domaine Beauséjour 2021 Les Grenettes (Touraine)**. A tensely herbal wine with gooseberry and green fruit flavors, this has a lightly mineral texture. It is fresh and full of great fruitiness. Drink now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Bougrier 2021 Famille Bougrier Confidences (Menetou-Salon)**. Lightly herbal with a citrus zing, the wine is crisp. Its bright fruitiness and texture are attractive. The wine is ready to drink. Total Wine & More. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

### ROSÉS

**88** **Henri Bourgeois 2021 Famille Bourgeois Jeunes Vignes Rosé (Sancerre)**. Produced from Pinot Noir, this ripe cherry flavored wine is lightly textured with a crisp edge of acidity to accompany the fruitiness. Drink the wine now. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Henri Bourgeois 2021 Petit Bourgeois Rosé de Pinot Noir Rosé (Val de Loire)**. A crisp style with bright red fruits and considerable acidity, the wine is lightly perfumed, tangy and ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

### SAINT-NICOLAS-DE-BOURGUILL

**94** **Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2019 Le Clos des Quarterons Vieilles Vignes (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil)**. This deliciously, impressively rich wine comes from the Amirault home vineyard. There is light wood aging with ripe tannins and a

density that is superb. The wine's future is assured: drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Vineyard Brands. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$43

**93** **Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2020 Les Quarterons (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil)**. The wine is young, but already the texture is smooth and well structured. Black fruits still have a stalky edge that will soften as this fine wine develops. The aftertaste brings out smokiness. Drink from 2024. Organic and biodynamic. Vineyard Brands. **Editors' Choice**. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$33

**92** **Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2018 Le Vau Renou (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil)**. This is a structured wine, still not quite mature but with immense potential. Its rich black fruits, spice and balanced acidity are developing well and this fine wine will be ready from 2024. Organic and biodynamic. Vineyard Brands. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$55

### OTHER RED WINES

**92** **Henri Bourgeois 2018 La Bourgeoise (Sancerre)**. Rich, generously structured and still with potential, this is a powerful wine. Maybe too powerful because the pepper edge indicates the high alcohol. The wine does have juicy black fruits to balance and will age further. Drink from 2024. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Henri Bourgeois 2018 Les Baronnes (Sancerre)**. A friendly wine with ripe black cherries and soft tannins, this is richly ready to drink. The wine's light texture brings out juicy fruits and attractive spice at the end. Drink now. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**88** **Domaine Beauséjour 2020 Cuvée Vincent (Touraine)**. A smoothly textured wine with still-young berry fruits, this is ripe and bright. Its light tannins balance the spike of fruitiness, adding some pepper to the seasoning and finishing with some stalkiness. Drink the wine from 2023. JP Bourgeois. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## SOUTHWEST FRANCE

### WHITE WINES

#### CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

**88** **Château du Cèdre 2020 Blandine le Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne)**. Happily, the wine is not too intense with its blend of Colombard and Ugni Blanc. Instead it has freshness, a creamy texture and acidity that is fully integrated. Drink now. Martine's Wines. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88** **Domaine de Papolie 2021 Pepouy (Côtes de Gascogne)**. With its herbal edge contrasting with lemon fruit flavors and delicious, light touches of honey. The wine, from this estate established in the 17th century, is floral and refreshingly fruity. Drink now. Lanterna Distributors Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**88** **Domaine Tariquet 2021 Chardonnay (Côtes de Gascogne)**. The wine is soft and ripe with white fruit flavors that are balanced by acidity. It is a fruity wine, hinting at vanilla and with refreshing final acidity. Drink now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**88** **Plaimont 2021 Brumes de Gascogne (Côtes de Gascogne)**. From the mists that lie in the cool, Atlantic-influenced Côtes de Gascogne, this bright and light wine. It is an attractive, fruity wine, now ready to drink. Brickell Wines LLC. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$10

**88** **Plaimont 2021 Echo Indigo (Côtes de Gascogne)**. A ripe, generous wine, its citrus flavors warmed by apple and kiwi, this is attractive and fresh. It has weight and a lively texture that is just rounding well. Drink now. Brickell Wines LLC. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12

**88** **Villa Dria 2021 Jardin Secret (Côtes de Gascogne)**. This wine, lightly honeyed medium sweet, is smoothly textured. Acidity and ripeness have balanced each other well to give freshness and bright acidity as well as a warmer aftertaste. Drink now. Vine Direct LLC. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Domaine Laffitte 2021 Côtes de Gascogne**. The Laffitte brothers, Christophe and Sébastien, have produced this off-dry wine, lightly fruity and with a fine line of acidity. Drink this attractive wine now. Final Port Imports LLC. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Domaine Tariquet 2021 Premières Grives (Côtes de Gascogne)**. This medium sweet wine is lightly honeyed, full of forward, buoyant fruit and attractive acidity. The wine's crispness and freshness make a fine contrast to the wine's sweeter side. Drink now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Plaimont 2021 Colombelle Colombard-Sauvignon (Côtes de Gascogne)**. With white currant fruitiness and strong citrus flavors, this is a bright and fruity wine. It is intensely fresh, and is ready to drink. Brickell Wines LLC. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$10

**87** **Villa Dria 2021 Côte Sauvage (Côtes de Gascogne)**. From a winery that is totally operated by solar power comes a classic Gascon blend.

Its herbal flavors and bright acidity are packed with bright fruitiness. There is a fine tang of citrus at the end. The wine is ready to drink. Vine Direct LLC. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$10

**86** **Domaine Chiroulet 2021 Terres Blanches (Côtes de Gascogne)**. This softly textured wine with its 55% of Gros Manseng, combines freshness with a riper honeyed character. Its white fruits are layered with tangy acidity, a bite of citrus to give freshness. Drink the wine now. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**86** **Domaine de Maubet 2021 Loubadère (Côtes de Gascogne)**. The wine is soft, open with juicy green fruits and gentle acidity. It is an attractive wine, bright and vibrant. It will benefit from some softening, so drink from 2023. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$14

**86** **Domaine de Pouy 2021 Côtes de Gascogne**. The wine is fruity, just off dry. It is perfumed and light, vivacious and crisp with white fruits and a touch of honey. Drink the wine now. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Domaine du Rey 2021 4 Cépages (Côtes de Gascogne)**. The four grapes in this blend are Ugni Blanc, Colombard, Sauvignon Blanc and a touch of Gros Manseng. The result is softened citrus and white fruits along with bright acidity and a light, dancing texture. Drink now. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

**86** **Domaine Tariquet 2021 Classic (Côtes de Gascogne)**. This is the classic blend from this large family vineyard. Its acidity and its crisp freshness are delicious, bright with citrus and acidity. Drink this light alcohol wine now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$14

**86** **Domaine Tariquet 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne)**. This is a grassy, dusty wine, with citrus and kiwi fruits. Bright acidity is a strong element of the wine, light and very fruity. The wine is ready to drink. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Domaine Uby 2021 No. 3 (Côtes de Gascogne)**. The typical Gascon blend of Colombard and Sauvignon Blanc yields its crisp, grassy character in this wine. The intensity of the wine demands some softening and aging. Drink later this year. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$14

**85** **Domaine de Maubet 2021 Côtes de Gascogne**. Crisp and tangy with lemon freshness, the wine is lively and bright with green fruits. A touch

herbal and certainly fruity, the wine is ready to drink. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$14

**85** **Domaine Tariquet 2021 Amplitude (Côtes de Gascogne)**. With acidity and crispness, this wine is bright, very crisp and packed with lemon flavors. It is ready to drink. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**85** **Domaine Uby 2021 No. 1 (Côtes de Gascogne)**. This intensely grassy Sauvignon Blanc is crisp with bright herbal and citrus fruits. Its acidity gives total freshness to the wine which is ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$14

**85** **Plaimont 2021 Elia (Côtes de Gascogne)**. Light as a feather, this juicy, white currant fruit flavored wine comes from the local Colombard grape, usually found in a blend. There is a hint of off-dry to this perfumed wine, giving bright citrus and honey. Drink now. The wine is also available in cans. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$11

**83** **Maison Rigal 2021 Original Sauvignon (Côtes de Gascogne)**. Fresh, herbal fruits and bright citrus flavors give this wine a crisp character. Bright and fruity, it is ready to drink. JLI Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$24

## GAILLAC

**91** **Domaine Gayard 2020 Loin de l'oeil (Gaillac)**. Lightly wood aged, this wine, made from Gaillac's widely planted white grape, has hints of yellow fruits as well as apple and tight citrus. The spicy character adds complexity and richness. Drink from 2023. Steep Hill Importing. **Editors' Choice**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**88** **Domaine des Terrisses 2021 Sec (Gaillac)**. Juicy and full of white fruits from the Mauzac, Loin de l'Oeil and Sauvignon grapes, the wine is young, promising plenty of ripeness. It is perfumed, vivacious while also full and fruity in the mouth. Drink from 2023. Wine Traditions. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**88** **Domaine Rotier 2021 Les Gravels (Gaillac)**. The wine is smoothly textured, with spice and creamy white fruits and touch of baked apple. The blend of Loin de l'Oeil and Sauvignon Blanc brings together a rounded texture and crisp, herbal citrus. Drink the wine from 2023. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**88** **Domaine Rotier 2020 Les Gravels Blanc (Gaillac)**. This soft wine with its gentle white fruits and light acidity is lightly perfumed.

Kiwi and green apples are prominent and delicious. Drink the wine now. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## JURANÇON SEC

**93** **Domaine Bordenave 2019 Terres de Memoire (Jurançon Sec).** An impressively dry, yet ripe wine, this has great intensity as well as a powerful texture. Its yellow fruits and touches of pineapple are rich, concentrated. This is almost a sipping wine, such is its dense fruitiness. Drink from 2024. Organic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 93% **Price:** \$13

**92** **Domaine Bordenave 2019 Encore et Encore (Jurançon Sec).** Aromatically, this is almost a sweet wine with its honey and yellow fruits. On the palate, the wine draws on dryness, balanced freshness and great rich fruits. The wine's power and density is mitigated by its crisp, directly fruity character. Drink from 2024. Organic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**92** **Domaine Cauhapé 2019 Quatre Temps (Jurançon Sec).** In this dry form, the two Manseng grapes, Gros and Petit, keep a shadow of their sweeter characters. So there is honey and spice as well as intense acidity and textured citrus flavors. The wine is just coming into balance, so drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Domaine Bordenave 2019 Les Copains d'Abord (Jurançon Sec).** Full-bodied and suitably rich for a Jurançon, the dry wine is densely textured. It has intense white fruits that are given an exotic character by the peach and pineapple flavors. Drink from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

**91** **Domaine Cauhapé 2021 Geysier (Jurançon Sec).** This is an intriguing blend of five grapes including the rare local grapes of Camaralet, Lauzet and Petit Courbu. The result is beautifully textured with citrus and honey flavors set against acidity and a vivid texture. The wine needs to soften, drink from 2023. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**90** **Domaine Cauhapé 2021 Chant des Vignes (Jurançon Sec).** The wine's ripe fruit has hints of honey as well as fresh melon and white fruits. It is a delicious medley of flavors, with weight and acidity, touched by spice at the end. Drink from 2023. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Domaine Bordenave 2019 Souvenirs d'Enfance (Jurançon Sec).** A blend of the two Mansengs, Gros and Petit, along with Petit Courbu and the rare Camaralet, this is a ripe, aromatic wine. Herbal white ripe, it has pure fruit flavors, tightened with acidity and perfumed with

baked apple flavors. Drink from 2023. AP Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Domaine Roche Guilhem 2021 (Jurançon Sec).** Even at its driest, a Jurançon Sec will have, as here, a touch of honey. The wine is spicy, touched by pepper from the alcohol. White fruits and orange zest are shot through with acidity. Drink from 2023. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2020 Clos Cancaillau Au Lavoir (Jurançon Sec).** Pure Petit Manseng, even dry, gives a honeyed, ripe and full-bodied wine. White fruits and acidity are balanced and generous. Drink from 2023. Swiss Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2020 Clos Cancaillau Au Lavoir (Jurançon Sec).** Pure Petit Manseng, even dry, gives a honeyed, ripe and full-bodied wine. White fruits and acidity are balanced and generous. Drink from 2023. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91** **Château d'Aydie 2021 Odé d'Aydie (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh).** A blend of Petit and Gros Manseng, the wine is ripe and fruity. Yellow fruits and a full, tropical fruit panoply give the wine its richness and round structure. The wine is lightly textured with a hint of honey at the end. Drink now. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**91** **Château de Cabidos 2018 Gaston Phoebus Petit Manseng Sec (Comté Tolosan).** In its dry style, Petit Manseng cannot quite forget its vocation as the base of great sweet wines. The honey and the hints of lemon marmalade are very present as is the richness from the alcohol. The wine is almost ready, but give it until 2023. LVDH. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Château les Mailleries 2020 Bergerac Sec.** Dominated by finely perfumed Sauvignon Gris, this is delicious. Tropical fruits and floral perfumes are followed by richness, spice and balance with apricot and quince flavors. The wine is very fine, ready to drink. Organic. Planet Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**89** **Plaimont 2019 Héritage de Saint-Mont (Saint Mont).** This bright blend is juicy and full of white fruits. Its acidity brings a citrus element that freshens the wine and contrasts with the apple flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Domaine de Moulin-Pouzy 2021 Bergerac Sec.** Herbal Sauvignon Blanc, with grapefruit and gooseberry flavors, the wine is all about light crisp-

ness. There is an attractive freshness to this wine. Drink now. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## CÔTES DE GASCOGNE ROSÉ

**87** **Domaine Tariquet 2021 Rosé de Presse Rosé (Côtes de Gascogne).** Bright red fruits give a lively wine that has a salmon pink color. Its crispness is balanced with warmer background of berry flavors. Drink now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Plaimont 2021 Colombelle Rosé (Côtes de Gascogne).** A blend of Tannat and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is tight, crisp. With intense acidity it is bright and breezy, as fresh as possible. Drink this wine now. Brickell Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Domaine de l'Herré 2021 La Galope Rosé Red Blend (Côtes de Gascogne).** This producer in the west of Gascony has delivered a bright, fruity wine that includes a wide range of grapes, dominated by Merlot and the very local Marselan. It has bright red cherry flavors and tangy orange acidity. Drink now. Bridge Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**85** **Domaine du Rey 2021 Lola Rosé (Côtes de Gascogne).** Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Syrah have been blended into a bright and fruity wine. The fruit bounces along, giving freshness and lively acidity. Drink now. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER ROSÉS

**87** **Château Lagrézette 2021 Le Rosé de Julie Rosé (Côtes du Lot).** The wine is soft and gently rounded. Produced from Malbec, it has fresh red berry fruits, intertwined with acidity and a boost of orange zest. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Vinovalie 2021 Inès Rosé (Fronton).** This blend of Négrette and Syrah is bright and light. Full of attractive fruits and vibrant red berry flavors, the wine is fresh and ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**86** **Château Lagrézette 2021 Roseberry Rosé (Côtes du Lot).** This is a fine, fruity, Malbec-based wine. Crisp acidity is typical of rosés from the Cahors region. That goes with the red currant fruits and a zesty final texture. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## SOUTHWEST FRANCE RED WINES

### CAHORS

**95 Château Haut-Monplaisir 2018 Pur Plaisir (Cahors).** This is a big dense wine with mint aromas and dark black fruits. It has density and concentration as well as structure and longevity. The wine is impressive and powerful, set to age for many years. Drink from 2026. Vintage '59 Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$52

**94 Château de Chambert 2017 Grand Vin (Cahors).** An impressive, wood-aged wine that has rich black fruits and dense and concentrated tannins. It comes from a selection of the estate's best parcels, allowing for a wine that is powerful and dark, needing further aging. Drink from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$47

**93 Château de Gaudou 2019 Grande Lignée (Cahors).** This is a firm wine, its structure still finely intact. It promises plenty, juicy black fruits and tannins ready to soften. Wood aged, the wine has weight and density, spice and toast balanced together. Drink this Malbec and Merlot blend from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**93 Château du Cèdre 2019 Le Cèdre (Cahors).** The wine's welcome low alcohol belies its intensity and weight. It is a bold and fruity wine, sustained by dark tannins and rich black fruits. It has a long development and great future ahead of it. Drink from 2026. Organic. Martine's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**93 Château Eugénie 2020 Tsar Pierre le Grand (Cahors).** The wine, named after Peter the Great the 18th century Russian emperor, has solid tannins to go alongside the black fruits. Still young, of course, it has a fine richness and power. Drink from 2026. Global Spirits and Wine. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**93 Château Lamartine 2019 Expression (Cahors).** This wood-aged wine is perfumed with mint and structured with stylish black fruits. It's a powerful wine in its concentration and richness. Drink this fine wine from 2026. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Château Ponzac 2020 Le Temperadou (Cahors).** This is the top wine from the estate owned by the Molinie family. It is structured and densely textured. Ripe with tannins and elegant black fruits, the wine is very complete. The tannins

are beginning to soften. Drink from 2025. Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**93 Clos d'Audhuy 2020 Cahors.** This is a finely structured wine. Its ripe tannins balance with the intensely juicy black fruits in a wine that is already satisfying. Ripe, full while also fresh, the wine will be ready from 2026. Ripe Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**93 Clos Troteligotte 2017 K-lys (Cahors).** The wine is beautifully perfumed and now mature. Its ripe tannins are fully balanced with the black fruits and the rich texture. The wine is impressive, a medley and fruit and tannins. Drink now. Organic. Authentique Vin. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**93 Georges Vigouroux 2019 Château de Haute-Serre Geron Dadine (Cahors).** This is a fine wine from the Vigouroux estate at one of the highest points in Cahors. Its powerful black fruits and spice from wood aging are already impressive and promise further aging. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Château de Chambert 2017 Cahors.** A bold juicy wine, with beautifully intense fruits layered over fruit that is almost mature. There is a spicy, smoky character to the that has been softened by wood aging. The wine needs some more time, so wait until 2024. Organic and biodynamic. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**92 Château du Cèdre 2020 Cahors.** This solid wine with its 90% Malbec is powerfully juicy and rich. The estate wine at Cèdre, it has considerable potential. A dense structure is balanced by spicy flavors and black fruits. Drink from 2026. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**92 Château du Cèdre 2019 Cahors.** The estate wine of this premium Cahors estate shows all the richness and structure associated with the wines. It has juicy acidity, brightening the black fruits and dense tannins. The wine needs to age, drink from 2025. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**92 Château Haut-Monplaisir 2020 L'Envie (Cahors).** Made as an expression of the pure berry fruits of Malbec, the wine is elegant, structured while ripe with juicy freshness. The wine is very complete, perfumed and will be ready from 2025. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$37

**92 Château Haut-Monplaisir 2019 Prestige (Cahors).** Lightly wood aged, the wine is rich and generously structured. Produced from vines on the first terrace above the Lot river with clay and

stony soil, the wine has density and perfumed concentration. Drink from 2024. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**92 Château Leret Monpezat 2018 Cahors.** A comfortable blend of Malbec and Merlot gives a wine that is balanced with dark fruits and acidity. It is a fine wine, with serious tannins and a mineral texture and acidity that promise aging. Drink the wine from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**92 Château Pech de Jammes 2019 Cahors.** A ripe wine, full of spice and tannins as well as black fruits, this has richness and fine balancing acidity. The wine comes from a protected vineyard amphiteater, giving ripe black fruits. Drink this wine from 2026. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**92 Château Ponzac 2020 Cahors.** Ripe and with structured tannins along with black fruits, this is a dense, concentrated wine. To contrast, there is great juiciness and delicious acidity, giving both structure and a fine future. Drink from 2025. Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**92 Domaine Capelanel 2017 Amphût (Cahors).** Aged half in wood and half in amphorae, the wine is richly balanced. Generous black fruits are smooth, layering acidity and black plum fruits. The wine is impressive and ready to drink. Cépaé. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**92 Domaine de Cause 2019 La Lande Cavignac (Cahors).** From vines planted in the 1960s, this wine has concentration and rich density. It is structured, still young, giving great promise of layered black fruits and a solid texture. Drink the wine from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Clos Troteligotte 2018 K-lys (Cahors).** This is a powerfully dense wine, dark with tannins and perfumed with succulent black fruits. It has a fine textured character that is softening well and allowing the wine to develop gently. Drink from 2024. Organic. Authentique Vin. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 Château du Cèdre 2019 Chatons du Cèdre (Cahors).** The junior wine of Château du Cèdre, the wine is fruity, juicy and with attractive fresh black currant flavors. It is bright with a light structure that promises early drinking. Drink from 2024. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**90 Château Haut Téron 2020 Cahors.** This is a smoky, spicy, wood flavored wine that also has plenty of ripe black fruits. As the wine develops and is smoothed by the wood aging, it will develop



richness and a fine concentration. Drink from 2025. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**90** **Château Haut-Monplaisir 2020 Tradition (Cahors).** A ripe full wine this exudes fruitiness and juicy acidity. Blackberry flavors are laced with light spice as well as a touch of pepper. With its freshness and balance, the wine will be ready from 2024. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**90** **Château Haute-Borie 2016 Prestige (Cahors).** The wine is now mature, the tannins softened into spice and black fruits. Produced from old vines and with wood aging, the wine has density and generous structure. The wine is ready to drink. Jerome Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château Ponzac 2020 Les Peyrières Rives d'Olt (Cahors).** A generous wine that is textured with tannins that are dominated by delicious black fruits. It is balanced already, full of short-term potential, meaning it will be ready from 2025. Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Château Saint-Sernin 2018 Malbec de Calcaire (Cahors).** From vines growing on chalk soil, this is structured and dense. The black plum fruits with touches of bitter chocolate are still developing to give a rich wine. Drink from 2024. Cuvée Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Domaine les Roques de Cana 2018 Sanguis Christi (Cahors).** A rich and dense wine that is perfumed, juicy and aged in wood, this is finely structured. It has power and spice, richness and black plum skin flavors that bring the fruitiness. The wine is full and needs more time. Drink from 2024. Atlanta Improvement Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2020 Coeur de Malbec (Cahors).** This is Lionel Osmin's celebration of Malbec. It has all the right complexity and ripeness along with great acidity and structure. The black fruits are still young and vibrant, so the wine does need to age. Drink from 2024. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**89** **Domaine le Bout du Lieu 2014 Orbe Noir (Cahors).** Finely textured and with a great poise between dark fruits and tannins, this is now fully mature. Yet it also has great freshness behind the dark chocolate and spice flavors. Drink now, but the wine will continue for several more years. The Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**89** **Domaine les Roques de Cana 2020 Cuvée 1305 (Cahors).** Full of ripe black fruits that are still full of tannins as well as solid tannins, the wine is rich and concentrated. The potential

suggests a good future, as the tannins soften and the vibrant fruit opens out. Drink from 2024. JA Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Château de Gaudou 2020 Tradition (Cahors).** The blend of Malbec, Merlot and Tannat brings out soft blackberry fruits, soft tannins and a ripe texture. Made to drink young, the wine's structure is gentle and open. Drink from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château du Cèdre 2019 Cèdre Héritage (Cahors).** Full of black currant flavors and with a fine line of acidity, this wine is lightly structured and will be ready early. It is fresh, shaped with gentle tannins. Drink from 2023. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château du Cèdre 2019 Extra Libre (Cahors).** Bottled with low sulfur, this wine has a slightly metallic edge that spoils the otherwise attractive black fruits. There are tannins that suggest the wine needs to age further. Drink from 2025. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**88** **Château Eugénie 2020 Réserve de l'Aïeul (Cahors).** A juicy wine with soft tannins and perfumed acidity, this is a blend of Malbec and Tannat. With its touches of spice and berry flavors, the wine is likely to be ready from 2024. The Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Château Haute-Borie 2019 Tradition (Cahors).** A young and fruit-driven wine, this has tannins that support the ripe berry fruits. Sébastien and Pierre Sigaud have created an approachable wine that will be ready from 2023. Jerome Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Clos d'Audhuy 2020 Pommier d'Armand (Cahors).** An open, fruity wine with generous tannins and structure, the wine is perfumed and juicy. It is an immediately attractive, the textures soft and the fruit already fully integrated. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Jean-Luc Baldès 2019 Clos Triguédina Malbec du Clos (Cahors).** The wine is open, juicy structured. Its black fruits are already softened into the fine tannins. Owned by the Baldès family for seven generations, the Triguédina vineyard has given a generous wine that will be ready from 2023. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Château du Cèdre 2020 Juvéniles (Cahors).** Open, fruity Malbec, softly textured and with bright acidity and blackberry fruits, this is

friendly, barbecue wine that is made to drink young. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Château Haut Téron 2020 La Bête Noire (Cahors).** This bright and fruity Malbec shows a soft side to the grape. The wine's blackberry fruits and juicy acidity are ready to drink. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**87** **Château Haut-Théron 2020 La Bête Noire (Cahors).** This bright and fruity Malbec shows a soft side to the grape. The wine's blackberry fruits and juicy acidity are ready to drink. Bowler Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**87** **Château Lamartine 2021 Tandem (Cahors).** This is a bright, light wine with juicy red berry fruits all ready to drink. Acidity and rounded tannins are bound together in a wine that is fresh and perfumed. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**87** **Château Ponzac 2020 Maintenant ou Jamais (Cahors).** This is a juicy wine, bright with acidity and light red berry flavors. It is pure fruitiness and freshness. Drink now. Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**87** **Château Saint-Sernin 2018 Mana (Cahors).** Mana is the life spirit or power of Tahiti and this wine, with its juicy fruits and tannins, is certainly a power house of flavors. It will be ready to drink from 2023. Cuvée Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**87** **Domaine Capelanel 2019 La Rangée du Curé (Cahors).** The wine is perfumed and juicy. While tannins are present, they have been rounded by wood aging and fine black fruits. The wine is juicy and will be ready to drink from 2023. Cépae. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**87** **Domaine de Cause 2020 Cosy de Cause (Cahors).** This ripe and juicy wine is bright and fragrant. Its acidity and direct black fruits dominate a lightly structured wine. It should be ready from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Domaine du Prince 2016 Lou Prince (Cahors).** The wine is big and heavy, just like the bottle. The dark chocolate flavors and powerful tannins are both over the top, leaving a spicy wine with a bite of pepper from the alcohol. Drink from 2025. Petit Vin. —R.V.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$60

**87** **Domaine le Bout du Lieu 2016 Cahors.** A smoky ripe wine that has open fruit with juicy black currant flavors, this is now fully developed. Its freshness and open structure are part of

# BUYINGGUIDE

the same pattern. Drink now. The Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**87 Jean-Luc Baldès 2019 La Part des Biches (Cahors).** A fine, open wine that has been made to be drunk young, this is fruity, perfumed and juicy. A tannic core promises further aging although the wine will be ready from 2023. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**86 Domaine les Roques de Cana 2019 Cuvée 1306 (Cahors).** The wine has berry fruits and acidity and juicy flavors. It seems to have a hole at its heart, fruit without a core. Drink from 2023. JA Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**85 Domaine Capelanel 2020 Cuvée Petitou (Cahors).** Soft tannins and really juicy black fruits give this wine a fresh character. Bright with black currants and lightly textured, the wine will be ready from 2023. Cépaé. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## BERGERAC

**91 Château les Mailleries 2020 Bergerac.** A wood-aged wine with smooth tannins that give the wine richness. There is a succulent black fruit character from the wine from this 133 acre property. Bold fruits are right up front, backed by the wine's generous structure. Drink from 2024. Organic. Plant Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**90 Château les Mailleries 2019 Bergerac.** One of the properties owned by the Castaing family, this is full, ripe and rich. There is a fine structure that likely comes from the Malbec in the blend and offers a good future for this juicy, fruity, black currant flavored wine. Drink from 2025. Organic. Planet Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**90 Château Michel de Montaigne 2019 Bergerac.** The chateau of this estate was the home of 16th century French philosopher Michel de Montaigne. The wine is a fine blend of Merlot and the two Cabernets, ripely fruity and with generous tannins. The wine has weight and density and a fine future. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$15

**89 Domaine de Moulin-Pouzy 2019 Classique (Bergerac).** This smooth wine, rich in black fruits is a fine blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Fifth generation Fabien Castaing has produced a succulent wine, rich in blackberry and integrated tannins. Drink the wine from 2024. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88 Domaine de Moulin-Pouzy 2020 Retiens Ton Soufre (Bergerac).** The name translates as "you can keep your sulfur". This is a wine without added sulfur, emphasizing ripe black fruits and generous tannins. Spice and blackberry fruits have an open character and the wine is developing fast. Drink from 2023. Wine Without Borders. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**86 Le Clos du Breil 2021 Bergerac.** This is a ripe, juicy wine, bursting with black currant fruits. Its gentle structure and acidity mean that it will be ready to drink by 2023. Summit Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

## COMTÉ TOLOSON

**90 Château Clamens 2020 Négrette-Syrah (Comté Tolosan).** The wine is dense and concentrated, full of perfumed black fruits and ripe tannins. Wood aging gives a smoky edge to the wine while promising well for the future. It is solid and will be ready to drink from 2024. Magnum Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**87 Château Clamens 2020 Le Petit Clamens (Comté Tolosan).** The second wine of this estate is fruity with juicy acidity and soft tannins. The wine's texture and open character are developing well. Drink from 2023. Magnum Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**85 Maison Rigal 2021 Original Malbec (Comté Tolosan).** A juicy, soft wine that mixes tannins and red fruits. The wine is fresh, lightly structured and ready to drink. JLJ Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

## CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

**87 Domaine Chiroulet 2018 Grande Réserve (Côtes de Gascogne).** This blend of old vine Merlot and Tannat comes from the north of Gascony close to the city of Condom. It is a ripe wine with juicy black fruits running alongside youthful stinky flavors. Drink the wine from 2024. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**87 Plaimont 2020 Manseng Noir (Côtes de Gascogne).** Plaimont is known for unearthing ancient vines. This wine is from the recently rediscovered red skinned version of white Manseng with fine black currant fruits and stinky acidity. Tannins and considerable juiciness are part of the package. Serve the wine slightly chilled. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**86 Plaimont 2021 Echo Indigo (Côtes de Gascogne).** The wine's blend of fresh berries and light tannins is attractive and fresh. With its

black fruits and gentle structure, the wine is likely to be ready from 2023. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**85 Plaimont 2021 Brumes de Gascogne (Côtes de Gascogne).** All about black fruit freshness, this balanced blend of Merlot and Tannat is light, bright and open. The wine finishes with a touch of spice. Drink now. Brickell Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**85 Plaimont 2021 Colombelle (Côtes de Gascogne).** The wine is light and slightly smoky. It has black fruits and acidity alongside it with an edge of stinky tannins. The wine is made to drink young and is ready now. Brickell Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**83 Domaine Laffitte 2021 Côtes de Gascogne.** This is a smoky wine, whose spice and woodiness completely overwhelms the fruit. The two elements may combine, but the fruit and structure do not have much chance. Final Port Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

## CÔTES DU MARMANDAIS

**90 Domaine de Beyssac 2017 Essentiel (Côtes du Marmandais).** A wine dominated by the recently-revived Abouriou, this is perfumed, wood aged and juicy. It is a ripe wine, balanced tannins and red berry fruits. Acidity and spice are right there. The wine is ready to drink. Bond Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Domaine des Geais 2019 Côtes du Marmandais.** An eclectic mix of Abouriou, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah come together in a fruity, juicy wine, bright with succulent acidity and freshness. The wine's grape chorus sings well and will be ready from 2024. Organic. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Domaine de Beyssac 2020 Le Monde d'Après (Côtes du Marmandais).** This is a rare wine, 100% Abouriou, a wine ripe in juicy fruits and open tannins. It does have structure, but the attraction of the wine is its blackberry flavors that are lightly spiced and succulent. Drink from 2024. Bond Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**88 Domaine des Geais 2019 Le Geais Cépages Oubliés (Côtes du Marmandais).** Subtitled forgotten grapes, this wine, made from Abouriou, celebrates the revival of vines that almost disappeared. The wine supports the faith the producer had in this grape. Ripe red fruits and cherry flavors are brought out by the natural fruitiness of

the grape. It is a friendly wine, ready to drink from 2023. Organic. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## FRONSAC

**92 Château Renard Mondésir 2019 Fronsac.** The wine's density and richness are balanced, nothing in excess. Instead, the wine has fine blackberry fruits, generous juiciness and a bold pinch of spice. The wine is going to mature well, so drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Château Tessendey 2018 Fronsac.** Merlot and Cabernet Franc give a superripe, dense wine. With some firm tannins still in place and a rich, spicy character, the wine is also juicy and generous. It is a fine and full-throated wine and will age further. Drink from 2025. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Château Jeandeman 2018 La Chêneraie (Fronsac).** This wine, with a dominant Merlot richness, is ripe and fruity as well as structured. Dense and with layers of black fruits, the wine is maturing well. Drink from 2024. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90 Château Renard Mondésir 2018 Fronsac.** From this area west of Saint-Emilion comes this ripe, fragrant and juicy wine. It has weight but that has already been subsumed by the wine's bright berry flavors and acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89 Château Malvat 2019 Fronsac.** The texture of the superripe Merlot is opulent, dense and structured. The wine's concentration comes with pepper as well as black cherry flavors and spice. This is a big wine that needs to soften. Drink from 2025. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$28

**88 Maison Bertrand Ravache 2019 Léo by Léo (Fronsac).** Part of a range under this name, the wine has a fine blend of the two Cabernets with Merlot. It is a ripe, juicy wine, not quite ready to drink, so wait until 2023. International Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

## FRONTON

**91 Château Flotis 2019 St. Noire (Fronton).** Just west of Toulouse and almost within the city boundaries, the Fronton appellation produces rich wines from the Négrette grape. This smoky wine, with its ripe tannins and dense black fruits, is impressive and structured. It's still young, drink from 2025. Cru Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Château Laurou 2018 Absolu Négrette (Fronton).** Low yielding Négrette gives a concentrated, dense wine. Powered by spice and by tannins, the wine has richness, black cherry with a pepper bite. Wood aging has smoothed the wine's texture. It will age further. Drink from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Organic. PS Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**91 Domaine Plaisance Penavayre 2018 Tot ço que cal (Fronton).** The name of the wine in the ancient Occitan language translates as "all that you need" and, says the producer, it shows the potential of the Négrette grape. It is certainly a rounded, structured wine, full of black fruits and young tannins. The edge of licorice is likely to soften. Drink from 2024. Organic. Corkhoarder LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90 Château Coutinel 2020 Fronton.** Ripe, juicy and comfortably plump and polished, this 100% Négrette wine is a fine celebration of the grape and the appellation close to Toulouse. This is a fine wine could age further, so drink from 2023. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**90 Domaine Plaisance Penavayre 2019 Alabets (Fronton).** This a bold, black fruited wine. It has rich tannins along with a touch of licorice and spice. Dark perfumed fruits and concentration mark this wine with its fine structure. Drink from 2025. Terra Firma USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Château Flotis 2020 Le Roc Folle Noire d'Ambat (Fronton).** A dusty, smoky wine with spice and touches of wood aging, this is ripe and still developing. Its structure and rich tannins balance with the juicy black fruits of the Négrette grape. Drink the wine from 2025. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Château Laurou 2020 Tradition (Fronton).** A blend that includes half Négrette, the local grape, this is juicy with a slight earthiness as well as red berry fruits. The wine's light structure fits well with the soft tannins and full fruit. Drink from 2023. Suitable for vegans. Organic. PS Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 La Colombière 2020 Coste Rouge (Fronton).** Pure Négrette, Fronton's local grape, reveals a ripe, juicy wine full of delicious black fruits and light tannins. The black currant flavors are the star of this wine, a bright and clear line of fruitiness. Drink from 2024. Organic and biodynamic. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 88% **Price:** \$35

**88 Vinotalie 2019 Haut-Capitole (Fronton).** Named in homage to the Capitole, the famed city hall of nearby Toulouse, the wine is rounded and soft. After aging in wood for a year, Négrette, the local grape, dominates giving a juicy, perfumed

character. Drink the wine from 2023. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87 Château Coutinel 2019 Le Temps des Fleurs par Anne Arbeu (Fronton).** The wine's structure and juicy acidity are on the light side but with berry flavors and a core of gentle tannins. The wine will be ready from 2023. Zev Rovine Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Château Coutinel 2020 Le Temps des Fleurs par Anne Arbeu (Fronton).** The wine is soft, light and a far cry from Négrette's usual structure. It's a pleasing wine with light black fruits and acidity. Drink now. Zev Rovine Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**85 Château Coutinel 2020 Fronton.** A blend with Négrette and Syrah, the wine is rich with black fruits. It does have a stalky edge that will hopefully soften. Drink from 2024. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

## GAILLAC

**93 Château Lastours 2020 Cuvée du Pigeonnier (Gaillac).** Named after the dovecote on the estate, this wine is a serious blend of Braucol, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Its rich tannins and powerful black fruits are finely shaped and structured. The wine is rich while also poised and stylish. Drink from 2026. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**91 Domaine Gayraud 2020 Braucol (Gaillac).** Laure and Pierre Fabre have revived the family's estate and are now producing this rich, structured wine from Braucol (Fer Servadou). It is packed with juicy blackberry fruits and acidity that are concentrated and ripe. The wine will age further, so drink from 2025. Organic. Steep Hill Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**91 Domaine Rotier 2019 Les Gravelles Rouge (Gaillac).** With a touch of Prunelart, an almost extinct grape that has been revived by a few Gaillac producers, this wine is smoky, juicy, full of black fruits and perfumed acidity. It is ripe, balanced and full of final bright acidity. Drink from 2024. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Domaine des Terrisses 2020 Gaillac.** From the seven-generation Cazottes family estate, this primarily Braucol blend is spicy, with vivid red fruits and an edge of tannins. The wine is lightly structured, with a peppery texture balanced by the finishing acidity. Drink from 2023. Wine Traditions. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88 Château Lastours 2020 Tradition (Gaillac).** A full, ripe wine a blend of five grapes that straddle the divide between Atlantic and Mediterranean, this is generously juicy. It has bright freshness as well as tannins and black currant flavors. The wine will be ready from 2024. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87 Domaine Rotier 2021 Esquisse (Gaillac).** A soft wine, full of red fruits and gentle tannins, this is an open, perfumed wine. Its balance is already established. The wine is ready to drink. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

## MADIRAN

**95 Château Bouscassé 2018 Madiran.** A magnificent wine Alain Brumont that is still young. It is deep in dark Tannat flavors and a dense structure, the wine powerful with its black fruits and texture. Smoky, ripe, the wine's wood aging is set to smooth and give depth as it matures. Drink from 2026. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**94 Château Montus 2018 Madiran.** Known as the showcase estate of Madiran, Alain Brumont always produces impressive wines. This latest release is in the same mold. It is rich in tannins with dark black fruits and a massive structure that needs time. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**94 Domaine Berthoumieu 2016 Charles de Batz (Madiran).** The Berthoumieu family, working with local Southwest negociant Lionel Osmin, has produced this powerful, dark chocolate and rich tannin wine. Now maturing, it still has some softening to do as the Tannat opens up. It's an impressive wine, ready to drink from 2023. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**93 Château Laffitte Teston 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Madiran).** A solid, bitter chocolate flavored wine that is concentrated from its dark tannins to its intense black fruits. It is a dense wine, the wine's spice and power promising aging. Drink from 2026. Wine Traditions. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**93 Plaimont 2019 Crouzeilles Côte Abeilles (Madiran).** A fine blend of Tannat and Cabernet Sauvignon, the Cabernet adding its own structure and juicy black currant flavors to the firm Tannat. The wine is perfumed, ripe with great fruits and texture. It needs time, drink from 2026. Brickell Wines LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 Plaimont 2019 Vignobles Marie Maria Argilo (Madiran).** This powerful Tannat based

wine is rich and dense. Its black fruits, cut with acidity, are textured and polished from wood aging. The wine is impressively rich and worth aging further. Drink from 2026. Brickell Wines LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**92 Domaine Berthoumieu 2019 Aulet (Madiran).** Densely tannic, this concentrated wine still has considerable potential. It is solid, four-square, packed with spicy black fruits and a powerful structure. Not a shy wine, this will age further. Drink from 2026. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**92 Domaine Berthoumieu 2019 La Fé Tannat Sans Soufre (Madiran).** Bold and structured, this rich wine was bottled without sulfur. It has given fine juiciness and a pure line of black fruits. They go with the density of the wine's structure that promises considerable aging. Drink from 2026. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$18

**92 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2018 Mon Adour (Madiran).** This pure Tannat wine is rich with tannins and black fruits and with a powerful polished character from wood aging. Black plum skins, dark coffee and acidity give the wine a succulent feel, augmented by the powerful structure. Drink the wine from 2024. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**92 Plaimont 2019 Vignobles Marie Maria Grèvière (Madiran).** With its rich fruit and dark tannins, this is a dense wine. Concentrated with spice and smokiness from wood aging, the wine is dark and demanding aging time. Drink this powerful wine from 2026. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**92 Plaimont 2019 Vignobles Marie Maria Mont Durou (Madiran).** A bold and rich Tannat-based wine, this has fine intensity and deep concentration. Its structure is powerful. Black fruits, laced with acidity, are still developing. Wait to drink this wine from 2025. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$48

**92 Plaimont 2014 Vignobles Marie Maria Grèvière (Madiran).** Now mature, this rich wine shows black fruits that have acquired secondary flavors alongside rich tannins. The wine's weight and richness still bring out juicy berry flavors to go with the serious structure. Drink this fine wine now. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**91 Château Laffitte Teston 2018 Reflet du Terroir (Madiran).** The wine has dark fruits, rich tannins and fine concentration. It is a young wine, the tannins and juicy black fruits both working together to develop the wine's richness. It is definitely worth aging further, so drink from 2025. Wine Traditions. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Château Peyros 2019 Cuvée Marie Blanque Edition No. 3 (Madiran).** From the steep slopes of the Peyros vineyard, this wine is concentrated, with bitter chocolate and spice. They contrast with the dense black fruit flavors and acidity. The wine's balance is looking good. Drink from 2026. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**91 Domaine Berthoumieu 2017 Constance (Madiran).** Still young, this is a seriously dense wine. The firm dry tannins come from a dry core that still dominates. The succulent black fruits are gently developing in the background. Drink the wine from 2024. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**90 Domaine Damiens 2018 Saint Jean (Madiran).** The wine's ripeness is still developing. It gives the promise of richness and a dense texture and plenty of aging potential. The wine's black fruits are stacked with tannins, touches of spice and wood aging flavors. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Organic. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**90 Famille Laplace 2019 L'Origine (Madiran).** Ripe fruits and generous tannins from the Tannat in this wine are based on blackberry flavors and smoky acidity. The wine, with its structure, is set for aging. Drink from 2024. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**90 Plaimont 2019 Château de Crouzeilles (Madiran).** The wine, with its strong Tannat richness and solid tannins, is concentrated and dense. Berry flavors, ripe fruits and a firm texture all promise a wine with some serious aging ahead of it. Drink the wine from 2026. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 Plaimont 2019 Vignobles Marie Maria Novel (Madiran).** A generous and powerful black fruit structured wine, this shows intensity and dense tannins. Its youth and bold fruits need to soften to give a wine with concentration and a smoother texture. Drink the wine from 2025. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**89 Château Peyros 2019 Cuvée Heritage (Madiran).** A straightforward blend of Tannat and Cabernet Franc offers both firm tannins and perfumed black fruits. The wine is powered by its dark, young structure and licorice flavors. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**87 Domaine Damiens 2019 Tradition (Madiran).** The wine is all fruit. The tannins have been softened by micro-oxygenation (blowing oxygen in during fermentation) and the result is a wine that is full of juicy acidity and vivid black fruits. The wine will be ready from 2023. Organic. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30



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## MARCILLAC

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**90** **Domaine Laurens 2016 La Bruyère (Marcillac).** This is a ripe, smoky wine from a small wine region on the edge of the central Massif Central. The terraced vines have produced a full-throated wine, rich in black fruits and generous tannins. Drink the wine now. Potomac Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**88** **Domaine Laurens 2020 Cuvée Pierres Rouges (Marcillac).** From the foothills of the Massif Central, the central mountain range of France, this is a cool climate wine, full of bright red fruits and racy acidity. The wine's light tannins are just right to support the bright fruits. Drink the wine from 2023. Potomac Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2020 Fer de Soif (Marcillac).** Made from the local Mansois grape, this wine comes from the foothills of the Massif Central mountains in the heart of France. It is spicy, juicy with red fruits and a touch of softness. The wine will mature quickly. Drink from 2023. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

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## SAINT MONT

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**95** **Plaimont 2019 Vignes Préphyloxériques (Saint Mont).** A blend of true 19th century pre-phyloxera Tannat and Pinenc, this impressive wine has weight and dense structure. Its richness and juicy black fruits are full of potential, giving intense tannins and ripeness. The plot, rediscovered in a sandy backyard, is now a French Historical Monument and offshoots are tended in an ampelographic conservatory. Drink this memorable wine from 2026. Brickell Wines LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$95

**94** **Plaimont 2019 La Madeleine de Saint Mont (Saint Mont).** This blend of Tannat, Pinenc and Cabernet Sauvignon comes from the first Gascon vineyard replanted after phylloxera in the 1880s near the ancient monastery of Saint-Mont. The wine is juicy while seriously structured and dense. It has weight to go with the black currant flavors and spice from wood aging. Drink this jewel of a wine from 2026. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**94** **Plaimont 2018 Vignes Préphyloxériques (Saint Mont).** Drawing on the wealth of ancient vines in the Saint-Mont region, this wine originated in a pre-phyloxera vineyard that is now a National Monument. The wine is densely structured with great concentration. It is a serious, powerful wood-aged wine that offers richness and aging potential. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$95

**93** **Plaimont 2019 Château de Sabazan (Saint Mont).** From one of the showcase estates run by the Plaimont cooperative this wine is powerfully structured and dense. There is a core of solid tannins that will propel the wine forward as it matures. It's an impressive blend of Tannat, Pinenc and the two Cabernets, warm and rich and likely to be ready from 2026. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Plaimont 2019 Monastère de Saint-Mont (Saint Mont).** Named after the monastery next to the Plaimont winery and now a luxury hotel and restaurant, this wine is beautifully textured. Its ripe, balanced fruits and acidity are laced with tannins and spicy flavors from wood aging. The wine needs time, drink from 2025. Brickell Wines LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92** **Plaimont 2019 Château Saint-Go (Saint Mont).** In the hills above the Adour valley, this estate has stood since 1421. This new release is densely structured with powerful dark tannins and rich black plum fruits. It will age well, drink from 2025. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**91** **Plaimont 2019 Château de la Roque (Saint Mont).** Of course, the wine is young. But its rich potential is very apparent, showing ripe dark tannins and juicy black fruits. The wine's wood aging has had a smoothing effect on the structure, moving its development forward. Drink this wine from 2025. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**90** **Plaimont 2019 Les Vieilles Vignes (Saint Mont).** The familiar Saint-Mont blend of Tannat, Pinenc and Cabernet Sauvignon here comes from old vines giving density and concentration. The wine is ripe with young tannins and black plum fruits. Drink from 2024. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Plaimont 2018 Domaine la Vendôme (Saint Mont).** This estate, run by the Plaimont cooperative, has produced a generous open wine. Red fruits and developing tannins are present, along with bright acidity. The wine will be ready from 2024. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Plaimont 2018 Héritage de Saint-Mont (Saint Mont).** Two native varieties—Tannat and Pinenc—are blending with the more familiar Cabernet Sauvignon in this homage to the grapes of southwest France. The result is a rich, structured wine, allowing plenty of room for dark fruits and juicy acidity as well as tannins. The wine needs to age further. Drink from 2024. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

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## OTHER RED WINES

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**90** **Le Clos du Breil 2020 Lei Peires (Côtes de Bergerac).** From the chalk soil of the slopes around Bergerac, this wine has developed a mineral edge that gives structure to the black fruits. The wine has a fine fragrant character allied to tannins and acidity, all promising aging. Drink from 2025. Summit Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Château Labastide Orliac 2020 Royal Héritage (Brulhois).** From a small appellation south of the city of Agen, this wine is a blend of four grapes, including Cabernet Franc and the rare Abouriou. It is perfumed, juicy, ripe with acidity and spice as a contrast. The wine will be ready from 2025. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

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## JURANÇON

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**94** **Domaine Bordenave 2019 Cuvée des Dames (Jurançon).** This beautiful late harvest wine is rich and dense. Ripe yellow fruits, marmalade and honey come together with great acidity to give the balanced style of a fine Jurançon. Let the wine age, drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**93** **Domaine Bordenave 2019 Cercle des Amis (Jurançon).** The wine is dense with sweetness that is rich while also having a dry core. As with all Jurançon, this is a late harvest wine, vinified from concentrated grape. There is a touch of wood here, just hinting at spice. Drink from 2024. BCI (Bonnette Consulting INC). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Domaine Bordenave 2019 Cuvée Savin (Jurançon).** Acidity and orange zest contrast with the wine's intense sweetness. The result is a full-bodied, concentrated wine that sings of richness and very fine ripe yellow fruits. Drink from 2024. BCI (Bonnette Consulting INC). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Domaine Cauhapé 2020 Symphonie de Novembre (Jurançon).** Gently sweet, the wine is beautifully textured. With acidity shooting right through the honeyed flavors, the wine has a dry core that will soften. Age this fine wine and drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$41

**91** **Domaine Bordenave 2019 Encore et Encore (Jurançon).** A beautifully honeyed wine that has a generous texture, open and balancing honey and acidity. The wine has yellow fruits, great ripeness and is set to age further. Drink from 2024. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**90 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2015 Clos Cancaillaü Le Dernier Carré (Jurançon).** A luscious wine with fine acidity balancing the honeyed character. This late harvest wine is rich and delicious with a fine touch of dryness at the core. Drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Domaine Bordenave 2019 Harmonie (Jurançon).** A gently honeyed wine, this draws on apricot fruits and the drier component of Gros Manseng. It is likely to intensify as it matures. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**87 Domaine Bordenave 2019 Les Copains d'Abord (Jurançon).** A light style of sweet Jurançon, this is fruity, perfumed and bright with acidity. These sit against apricot and pineapple flavors, just a touch of honey. Drink from 2023. Potomac Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## OTHER SWEET WINES

**93 Château de Cabidos 2016 Gaston Phoebus Petit Manseng Doux (Comté Tolosan).** Pure Petit Manseng in its full glory, the wine packs richness and sweetness along with intense, ethereal acidity. The wine is textured, balanced and with freshness still very much there. The wine will age further, so drink now for freshness or leave until 2024 for greater maturity. LVDH. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$22/500 ml

**93 Domaine de Moulin-Pouzy 2014 La Cuvée (Monbazillac).** Now well mature, this is a complex wine with honey, spice from wood aging and dense fruits. Vanilla, candied fruits and fresh apricots give a panoply of flavors in this very fine wine. Drink now. Lanterna Distributors Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**93 Plaimont 2015 La Saint Sylvestre (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh).** Produced from the last grapes harvested on New Year's Eve (the feast of Saint Sylvestre in France), this wine is luscious, rich, full of orange and spice, acidity balanced with sweetness. Shot through with botrytis dryness and the intense acidity from the Manseng grapes, this wine is now ready to drink. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$60/500 ml

**92 Domaine Rotier 2017 Renaissance Vendange Tardive (Gaillac).** This sweet late harvest wine is ripe with honey and spice, light by acidity. It is a beautifully textured wine, with just a bite of orange. The wine is ready to drink. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40

**89 Domaine de Moulin-Pouzy 2018 Classique (Monbazillac).** This is a finely balanced

wine, with freshness and spice. They match the wine's sweetness, marmalade flavors and acidity. Honey permeates the wine along with the drier core of botrytis. Drink from 2023. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

## OTHER FRANCE WHITE WINES

### ARBOIS

**94 Domaine Dugois 2014 Vin Jaune Savagnin (Arbois).** Bottled in Jura's unique bottle, the 620cl Clavelin, the wine is, as usual, extraordinary. Matured over many years in old oak barrels under a layer of yeast, the wine is intense, with nutty flavors, freshened by apples. The wine opens gently into a more rounded character. Drink now. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70/620 ml

**93 Domaine Dugois 2017 Sous Voile Savagnin (Arbois).** Matured under a layer of yeast, the wine is intense with nutty flavors set against acidity and a yeasty character. Drink this rare wine slowly as an aperitif. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**91 Domaine Dugois 2019 Cuvée Auréoline Savagnin (Arbois).** A yeasty wine, hinting at wood aging and impressive ripe white fruits, the wine still needs some time. Its intense texture, spicy character and dense flavors will continue to develop. Drink from 2023. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Domaine Dugois 2019 Terre de Marne Chardonnay (Arbois).** The chalk soil of this vineyard adds a touch of minerality to the wine. It is perfumed, with a creamy texture that is enhanced by yeastiness at the end. Drink now. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

### ROUSSETTE DE SAVOIE

**90 Domaine de l'Idylle 2020 Anne de Chypre (Roussette de Savoie).** The small appellation of Roussette gives spicy, vanilla and white fruit flavored wines from the unusual Altesse grape. This is softly textured with fine, light acidity and a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Petit Monde Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$21

**90 Jean Perrier et Fils 2020 Altus Altesse Vieilles Vignes (Roussette de Savoie).** A ripe wine with great fruits and fine acidity, this is also light and buoyant. There is a tangy character giving the wine acidity and freshness to complement the smoother final texture. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**90 Le Caveau Savoyard 2020 Cuvée Signature (Roussette de Savoie).** The wine is perfumed, ripe with attractive acidity and a lively texture. Citrus and green apples come together in a delicious vivid wine that is ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

## VIN DE SAVOIE

**90 Le Caveau Savoyard 2020 Cuvée Signature Cru Aprémont Jacquère (Vin de Savoie).** Beautifully textured with gentle acidity and ripe fruits, the wine is perfumed, creamy with a touch of lime and layers of spice and acidity. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Jean Perrier et Fils 2020 Cuvée Gastronomie Cru Aprémont Jacquère (Vin de Savoie).** A fresh, fruity, creamy wine, now at its peak, this is packed with green and lemon fruits. It is vivacious, a bright package of crisp fruits with a zesty texture. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Jean Perrier et Fils 2020 Altus Cru Aprémont Vieilles Vignes Jacquère (Vin de Savoie).** Totally ready to drink, the wine is full of soft fruits and creamed apple flavors. There is still plenty of the freshness of the mountains here, a cool wine. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Jean Perrier et Fils 2020 Cuvée Altus Cru Abymes Jacquère (Vin de Savoie).** The Jacquère gives its apple and pear flavors that are rounded and gently textured. The acidity, fully integrated, is just right and refreshing. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Les Rocailles 2021 Cru Aprémont Jacquère (Vin de Savoie).** A bright, light wine, this is lively, full of crisp apple flavors. With its citrus fruits it is refreshing and tangy, ready to drink now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Jean Perrier et Fils 2020 Cuvée Gastronomie Cru Abymes Jacquère (Vin de Savoie).** This is a fresh, crisp wine. Bright acidity, lively green fruits and a textured freshness come together. The wine is light in texture and weight and is ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Le Caveau Savoyard 2020 Cuvée Signature Cru Abymes Jacquère (Vin de Savoie).** The creamed pear and balanced acidity of this wine are tangy and fresh. The citrus backdrop to the ripe fruits gives a lift of pure enjoyment. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

## VIN DE FRANCE

### 88 Domaine Bordenave 2019 Les Copains d'Accord Gros Manseng (Vin de France).

One of a pair of Bordenave wines bottled as Vin de France, this wine is dry with citrus and great acidity. White fruits are dominant along with the lemon freshness. The wine needs to soften, so drink from 2023. BCI (Bonneter Consulting INC). —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

### 88 Domaine Bordenave 2019 Les Filles d'Abord Gros Manseng (Vin de France).

Described as fruity, this one of a pair of wines bottled as Vin de France, is actually medium sweet. So it has some honey flavors and yellow fruits as well as acidity and crisp orange zest character. The wine will be ready from 2023. Garber and Co. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

### 87 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2021 Villa Plage Blanche (Vin de France).

Spicy, fruity and with white currant and bright acidity. There is a hint of honey along with the apple and spice flavors. Drink from 2023. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.

abv: 10.5% Price: \$10

### 86 Henri Bourgeois 2021 Petit Bourgeois Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de France).

This is an entry level Sauvignon Blanc with its crisp citrus and herbal flavors. It is tangy with lemon zest and the brightest acidity. Drink the wine now. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$15

### 86 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2021 Villa Côte d'Argent Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de France).

A crisp, herbal wine that has lovely fresh acidity and a touch of white peach ripeness with a zingy texture. The wine is ready to drink. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$11

## CÔTES DE PROVENCE ROSÉ

### 90 Château d'Esclans 2021 Rock Angel Rosé (Côtes de Provence).

For full review see page 18. Moët Hennessy USA.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

### 90 JCP Maltus 2021 Le Rêve Rosé (Côtes de Provence).

An attractively fresh wine that also brings out ripe red currant fruits, this is crisp and lightly textured. The wine is vibrant, finishing with acidity and a pepper aftertaste. Drink now. World's End LLC. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

### 89 Château Yssole 2021 Chabaud Rosé (Côtes de Provence).

A smoothly textured wine, this has warm red fruit and brighter citrus flavors. It is juicy, refreshing as well as having some weight. It can be drunk now, but will age for a few months. Keep and drink in 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

### 89 Château Yssole 2021 Signore Rosé (Côtes de Provence).

This wine, dominated by Cinsault, the wine is bright, ripe and fruity. It is perfumed with a fine tang of zestiness and acidity. The wine is bright and ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

### 88 Cap Wine 2021 Madam Rosé (Côtes de Provence).

This attractive, fruity wine has great red fruits intertwined with acidity. It has a light touch, floating and vivid. The wine is ready to drink. Bridge Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$16

### 86 Château Yssole 2021 Jolies Filles Prestige Rosé (Côtes de Provence).

A bright blend with plenty of Cinsault for its fruitiness, the wine is perfumed with red currant flavors. The wine is bright, crisp and ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

## OTHER ROSÉS

### 90 Blanville 2021 Rosé (Languedoc).

This rosé leads with vibrant aromas of fresh strawberry, cherry and peach, all hit by an herbal wash of garrigue-like lift. It boasts a plump impression in ripe fruit flavors upon entry, yet remains refreshing and light on its feet through the finish, thanks to bright acidity and mouthwatering citrus tones that linger on the close. Enjoy now. Cape Classics. —W.E.

abv: NA Price: \$18

### 88 Domaine de l'Idylle 2020 La Brise Rosé (Vin de Savoie).

A softly textured wine from the red grape Mondeuse, giving ripe red fruits and gentle acidity. The wine is rounded, with a lightly crisps aftertaste. Drink now. Petit Monde Wine Merchant. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$18

### 87 Château Miraval 2021 Studio by Miraval Rosé (Méditerranée).

A junior rosé from the Brad Pitt owned Château Miraval, this is a ripe, attractive wine. Its red berry fruits are balanced with refreshing acidity and there is a hint of a crisp texture at the end. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$16

### 87 Château Yssole 2021 Jolies Filles Classique Rosé (Méditerranée).

The wine is soft, gently textured. Orange zest combines with crisper acidity and red currant flavors in a wine that is full of fruitiness. It is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

### 87 Château Yssole 2021 Pyxis Rosé (Méditerranée).

A soft wine with a light texture and fresh red berry fruits, that is very ready to drink. It is lightly peppery to add spice to the pure red fruits. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

### 87 Les Rocailles 2021 Rosé (Vin de Savoie).

A crisp, fresh wine that has lively and bright acidity. Red currant flavors shine in this lightly textured wine. Drink now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$18

## SPARKLING WINES

### 90 Union Aube NV Lionne Royale (Champagne).

Produced in the southern Champagne Aube region, this wine is rounded, smooth and with a fine touch of toastiness. Acidity and crisp fruits also make their appearance to provide balance and immediate drinkability. Palm Bay International. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$40

### 88 Les Rocailles NV Crémant de Savoie (Vin de Savoie).

Jacquère and Chardonnay have produced a pleasing, creamy wine. Baked apples give a soft flavor profile to this delicious, fresh wine. Drink now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$39

## OTHER FRANCE

### RED WINES

#### ARBOIS

### 90 Domaine Dugois 2018 Trousseau Grevillière (Arbois).

So smooth, the wine is like velvet. It has a spicy edge along with mint flavors from two years in wood. Dense black fruits and a backdrop of acidity are impressive and will propel the wine forward. Drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.

abv: 14% Price: \$35

#### VIN DE SAVOIE

### 90 Le Caveau Savoyard 2020 Cuvée Signature Pinot Noir (Vin de Savoie).

Smoothly textured with ripe black fruits and a fine, perfumed texture, this wine is perfectly ready to drink. Black cherries and spiced dominate this gently structured, juicy wine. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$16

### 89 Domaine de l'Idylle 2019 Le Coteau d'Albert Arbin Mondeuse (Vin de Savoie).

The Tiollier family has produced a deliciously perfumed and fragrant wine from the unique Mondeuse grape. Acidity works with red fruits and a light texture that gives smokiness. The wine is ready to drink. Petit Monde Wine Merchant. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$24

### 88 Domaine de l'Idylle 2020 Cuvée 1840 Gamay (Vin de Savoie).

The year 1840 was when the Tiollier family bought this estate. The Gamay, fermented and aged in stainless steel, is full of mature cherry fruits with acidity and the lightest

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texture. Drink now. Petit Monde Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$21

**88 Jean Perrier et Fils 2020 Cuvée Gastronomie Pinot Noir (Vin de Savoie).** A lightly spicy wine with a juicy texture, this is immediately attractive. Red cherry flavors and acidity give the wine an open character that is ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**87 Domaine de l'Idylle 2020 Le Tithonien Mondeuse (Vin de Savoie).** Grown on chalk soil, the wine has fine acidity and layers of spice. Minerality adds further texture. Drink from 2023. Petit Monde Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Les Rocailles 2020 Mondeuse (Vin de Savoie).** This fresh wine with tight acidity is stinky and textured. Tannins show it is young and bright with black currant fruits. The wine needs a little time to calm down. Drink from 2023. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

## VIN DE FRANCE

**88 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2019 Prunelard (Vin de France).** Produced from a Gaillac grape that was almost extinct, this wine comes into the producer's Le Conservatoire range. It is a firm wine, layered tannins upon tannins. At the same time, the wine also has luscious black fruits that will deliver as the wine matures. Drink from 2025. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Château Coutinel 2021 Poison Rouge (Vin de France).** The blend of Malbec and Braucol gives a dusty, stinky wine. Smoky black fruits and juicy acidity are an attractive fresh and structured combination. Drink the wine now. Metropolis Wine Merchants, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**87 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2017 Le Roi Boeuf Fête des Boeufs Gras de Bazas (Vin de France).** The wine was created to celebrate the so well-marbled beef, race Bazadaise, from the city of Bazas in southeast Gironde. The wine has firm tannins and a strongly structured and a juicy black currant character. Drink now, with beef. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**86 Château du Cèdre 2020 Marcel Malbec (Vin de France).** Reflecting a soft style of Malbec, the wine is fruity with red berry flavors and refreshing acidity. It is well balanced, polite and ready to drink. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**82 Château Coutinel 2021 Rince Cochon Négrette (Vin de France).** Described as a

wine to quench the thirst, this is thin, light and with a stinky texture. It will soften, but it is certainly best drunk young. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$17

## VIN DE LIQUEUR

**88 Château du Cèdre 2016 Le Cèdre Malbec Vin-tage (Vin de Liqueur).** This fortified Malbec is a successful curiosity. It has structure, jellied sweetness go alongside tannins and a fine spicy character. The wine's texture promises some aging, drink now or wait until 2025. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 17% **Price:** \$38/500 ml

## AUSTRALIA CHARDONNAY

**96 Vasse Felix 2020 Heytesbury Chardonnay (Margaret River).** For full review see page 3. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**95 Tolpuddle 2020 Chardonnay (Tasmania).** From Tasmania's southeastern Coal River Valley, Tolpuddle has cemented its reputation as one of Australia's most revered single vineyards. The winery's Chardonnay style is a rich, Burgundian expression, leaning fairly heavily into reductive, struck match, flint and roasted nut territory. But it never goes too far. The delicate white peach and preserved lemon notes are what tip it back into balance. The palate is mouthfilling but lifted by pristine acidity. A lick of hazelnut oak supports without dominating, and a toasty, saline finish lingers long in the mouth. A classy and distinctive Chard with a long life ahead. Drink now—2037. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$76

**94 Vasse Felix 2020 Chardonnay (Margaret River).** For full review see page 8. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$47

**93 Devil's Corner 2019 Resolution Chardonnay (Tasmania).** There's no denying the Tasmanian thumbprint on this Chardy. A delicate yet vibrant fruit bowl of fresh red apples, cantaloupe and preserved lemon is underpinned by nut butter and salt. The mouthfeel is prickly and piercingly lemony right to the finish, but with textural richness amidst the rapier acidity. A dusty stoney note lurks in the shadows. Classy modern Chard that'd be a knockout with grilled white fish. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**93 Robert Oatley 2021 Signature Series Chardonnay (Margaret River).** For full review see page 11. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**93 Vasse Felix 2021 Filius Chardonnay (Margaret River).** The entry level Chard from Margaret River's oldest estate is a steal, and a stellar intro to this West Aussie style. Delicate and seamlessly integrated notes of lightly toasted hazelnut and cream lead, with a salty sea breeze vibe. The pineapple, melon and preserved lemon notes take supporting roles. It's beautifully balanced, the crunchy acidity neatly juxtaposing the textural weight. Finessed with polish and craftsmanship, but also utterly drinkability now. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Franklin Tate 2021 Tate Chardonnay (Margaret River).** This is a solid example of the Margaret River Chardy style. It's bright and fresh, with notes of lemon, peach and melon tinged with salt seashells and a hint of ginger and toasty oak spice. The lemony freshness continues on the palate, cutting through the lactose texture. The oak flares up on the finish but it's not too intrusive. Food friendly weeknight drinking for now and over the next few years. Indigo Wine Group. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Ministry Of Clouds 2019 Chardonnay (Tasmania).** This is an ultrafresh but tightly restrained Tassie Chard that needs some coaxing before it reveals its subtle charms. Beneath some Band-Aid-like reduction peaks delicate and decidedly more appealing tangerine, peach, spring blossoms and stone dust notes, with a salted nut underbelly. The palate is also austere with its angular acidity and lean frame, but the salted orange tang and chalk dust texture shows structure and a glimmer of more generosity in the future. Drink until 2029. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$30

**88 Devil's Corner 2021 Chardonnay (Tasmania).** In contrast to the delicacy of Devil's Resolution Chardonnay, this bottling is quite a blousy, rich style. It leads with aromas of peach, orange and lemon sherbet, backed by cream and toasty oak. The palate offers mouthwatering acidity and creamy texture with a lick of oak and a lemony finish. Still young and a little on the clunky side, this is likely to improve with another year or two in bottle. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## PINOT GRIS

**89 McPherson Wine Company 2019 MWC Pinot Gris (Victoria).** Pale to medium gold, this PG, made more in the Alsatian style than the Italian, offers lovely honey and white spice aromas at the top, backed by beeswax, peach, pear and lemon curd characters. It's medium weight in the mouth with fleshy fruit, a creamy texture, and just enough acidity to keep things fresh. There's a honeyed citrus note to the finish, even if it's on the short side. Would make a versatile cheese pairing. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16



**87 Blackbilly 2018 Pinot Gris (Adelaide Hills).** This pale gold wine is somewhat reductive (rubbery and Band-Aid-like) to start, but with time in glass reveals more pleasant notes of pineapple rind and lemon zest. There's a lemon pith texture to the palate and a nice crunch of acidity. The fruit gets a little lost, and the finish falls flat, but there's still a bright appeal here. Ecosur Group, LLC. —C.P. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**86 Fourth Wave 2020 Children of the Revolution Vegan Pinot Gris (Australia).** This low alcohol wine has an appealing if commercial vibe to it. Aromas of white peach, lemon and white spice lead to a slippery-textured palate that offers a pleasant fruitiness and a spice-tinged finish. Liquid Innovation. —C.P. **abv:** 9.9% **Price:** \$17

**85 Innocent Bystander 2019 Pinot Gris (Victoria).** This is a fruity if somewhat synthetic-feeling PG. Notes of apple, peach and lemon curd, with quieter florals, are met with what feels like a touch of residual sugar and a forced acidity. Chill well before drinking. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**84 Pure Vision 2019 Pinot Gris (Adelaide Plains).** There's a reductive, sulfur blanket on the nose of this wine, although it does also show more appealing notes of lemon, white flower blossom, and a honeyed, buttery character. Acidity in the mouth is shrieking, and the slippery texture isn't enough to bring it down a few notches. Lots of winemaking here, and a very short finish. Liquid Innovation. —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

## RIESLING

**94 Ministry Of Clouds 2021 Riesling (Clare Valley).** A Riesling from a combo of Clare Valley sites, and from a thoughtful small batch producer, there's a lovely brightness to this wine. It swirls and twirls, honeyed and peachy, with orange blossom and lime popsicle perfume. It's dry in the mouth but with a juicy fruitiness, lightly slippery texture and lift of rapiere acidity. A tingle of citrus tang on the finish makes it easy to take another sip. Balanced and downright delicious, this should be a summertime fridge staple. K&L Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P. **abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$20

**92 Hewitson 2021 Gun Metal Riesling (Eden Valley).** This is a bright and bouncy Riesling with aromas of apple skins and fresh squeezed lime, with bass notes of kerosene and honey. The mouthfeel is chalky and pithy with razor's edge acidity and a long, limey finish. Balanced and varietal, this may be a bit austere for those unaccustomed to the bone dry Aussie Riesling style, but paired with the right cheese or seafood, or aged in bottle a few years for more honeyed complexity, and it should win over most hearts and palates. Finn Partners. —C.P. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Frisk 2021 Prickly Riesling (Victoria).** For full review see page 25. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy.* **abv:** 10% **Price:** \$12

**88 Maxwell 2021 Riesling (Eden Valley).** Drink this only slightly chilled for it to put its best foot forward. If too cold, the juicy lemon-lime, chalk dust and floral soap notes will be lost. Closer to room temperature will also highlight the crisp acidity, talc-like texture and citrusy finish. Drink now. Rodinia LLC. —C.P. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**85 Reschke 2021 R-Series Riesling (Limestone Coast).** Quite reductive to start, the Band-Aid and kerosene notes don't completely overpower the lemon-lime fruit. In the mouth, acidity is piercing and there isn't enough texture or flavor depth to hold it up. It finishes short and flat. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

## SPARKLING WINES

**89 Thorn Clarke NV Brut (Eden Valley).** This straw colored South Aussie bubbles offers an appealingly fruity nose. There's honeyed green apples and peach cobbler, and a bit of bubble gum sweetness too. The palate is off dry although it's a gentle sweetness that allows for a lift of crisp, refreshing acidity. Pleasant drinking for chilling right down. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Fourth Wave NV Tread Softly Prosecco (Australia).** Big vigorous bubbles fill the glass when first poured, but they dissipate quickly, leaving pleasant—if somewhat synthetic—aromas of yeasty red apples, honeyed toast and gentle florals. There's a touch of sweetness in the mouth but overall this is a dry style with a short finish and a slippery texture. Liquid Innovation. —C.P. **abv:** 9.9% **Price:** \$17

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**90 Mr. Riggs 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** Brambly red and blackberry aromas provide lovely lift to this muscular Cab. The fruit is underpinned by notes of mocha, spice, mint and pipe tobacco. The full figured palate is cinched with raspy tannins but there's some nice fresh, juicy fruit and spice that balances and provides varietal character. Drink now—2027. Epicurean Wines. —C.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Penley Estate 2019 Tolmer Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** While currently quite austere and tightly wound, Tolmer also shows what feels like a little volatile acidity. In this case it adds, rather than detracts, by adding lift and complexity to the broody aromas of cassis, black cherry, mint and spice. The palate is framed by drying, dusty

tannins that cinch the plump fruit and earthy spice. Give this time or a decanter and plenty of protein. Drink now—2029. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**86 Angove 2019 Naturalis Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** This is a minty, chocolatey Cab with dark brambly berry fruit and peppery spice. The palate is on the lean and mean on side, with a jagged edge of acidity and tight, drying tannins that pinch the plump fruit and savory characters. Trinchero Family Estates. —C.P. **abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$14

**84 Scissor Kick 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** There's a sweet overlay of chocolatey oak here with ripe blackberries, mint and a slightly musty underbelly. The palate is full figured with silky fruit but with drying clunky tannins and an astringency to the finish. The oak—along with a synthetic note—weighs it down. Firstleaf. —C.P. **abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$NA

**83 Reschke 2019 R-Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Limestone Coast).** A sweet toffee oak note overlays ripe berry fruit, mint and chocolate on this straightforward Cab. The acidity is elevated, souring the fruit a little. Tannins are muscular and drying and the finish is short. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

## RED BLENDS

**93 Brash Higgins 2019 MCC Lennon Vineyard Red (McLaren Vale).** This singular wine is anything but a wall flower. It wears its raw, hearty personality loud and proud. Highly herbal and brambly, there're notes of green peppercorn, bay leaf, tarragon, mint, Zataar, berry bushes (stems, leaves, thorns and all), and wild roses. The palate is muscular but fresh and uniquely textured, the flavors of the nose turned down a few notches; the acidity giving the berry fruit a freshness and a crunch. There's a touch of skiny astringency to the tannins. Strikes a balance between raw and polished, rustic and finessed. Drink with a plate of charcuterie. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P. **abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$30

**91 D'Arenberg 2018 D'Arry's Original Grenache-Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** For full review see page 16. Old Bridge Cellars. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 D'Arenberg 2018 The Bonsai Vine G-S-M (McLaren Vale).** Broody and densely structured, this classic South Aussie blend opens on primary notes of black cherry and raspberry that flow along a dusty, savory spiced spine, with cracked pepper and terra-cotta at the base. A powerful grip of chalky tannins feel both savory and drying, but there's a lovely freshness and tartness to the red fruit, too, and a lingering pepper spice right to the

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finish. Drink now with hefty helpings of protein to cut through those massive tannins. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**87 D'Arenberg 2018 The Stump Jump Grenache-Shiraz-Mourvèdre G-S-M (McLaren Vale).** A nose of strawberry and plum jam, backed by licorice, mocha, green peppercorn and a Szechuan spice note, leads to a full figured palate that is muscular and a little warm alcohol-wise, but isn't without freshness. Tannins creep in slowly but eventually envelop the tongue, ending pinched and drying, with some woodiness showing, too. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Fox Creek 2019 Postmaster G-S-M (McLaren Vale).** A ripe, fruity GSM with bundles of baked cherry, sweet cola-like oak and savory spice, there's a medium weight mouthfeel of tart fruit, elevated acidity and chunky, astringent tannins. The oak is a little heavy handed, but there's a good lick of acidity to freshen things up. Paradigm Collection. —C.P.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

## PINOT NOIR

**88 Fourth Wave 2021 Tread Softly Pinot Noir (Australia).** Riding the low alcohol wave, this is a fruity, somewhat confected Pinot with notes of cherry pie, violets and mocha. There's a syrupy feel to the palate but just enough acidity to hold it in place. It falls flat on the finish. Straightforward with a commercial feel, but with crowd appeal. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.

**abv:** 10.8% **Price:** \$17

**87 Fourth Wave 2021 Children Of The Revolution Pinot Noir (Australia).** Candied cherry leads on this perfumed wine, trailed by notes of baking spice and a slight mustiness. The palate is straightforward with raspy, drying tannins and a short finish. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.

**abv:** 10.8% **Price:** \$20

## SHIRAZ

**97 Clonakilla 2019 Shiraz-Viognier (Canberra District).** Clonakilla's Shiraz-Viognier was one of the first of its kind, ushering in a new era of more delicately aromatic and succulent Shiraz Down Under. It remains a benchmark of the style. The color of cherry juice, it's beautifully perfumed, with aromas of rose petals and white pepper atop earthier, meatier notes. Warm stone undertones back fresh squeezed raspberry, cherry and cranberry juice. In the mouth there's a succulence to the brambly fruit that comes like the pop of a fresh red berry in the mouth. Crunchy acidity and the raspy power of sappy, fine tannins add structure and complexity. This is finely crafted and distinctly cool climate Aussie wine that drinks well now but

is capable of aging until 2037 at least. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$121

**95 Clonakilla 2019 O'Riada Shiraz (Canberra District).** From the celebrated estate that put the Canberra region on the map, this quintessentially cool climate Shiraz is plump and aromatic. It wafts appealing aromas of cherry, strawberries and cream and hibiscus with autumnal undertones of damp earth and leaves and peppery spice. The tingly acidity on the palate washes over the tongue, and chiseled, sinewy tannins tighten up the fleshy fruit, florals and spice. A tightrope of power and elegance, this drinks well now with protein at hand, or could cellar until 2035 or so. It's also a bargain in comparison to this producers Shiraz-Viognier. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**94 Ben Haines 2020 Great Western Syrah (Grampians).** Talented small batch producer Ben Haines has captured a sense of place and character in this cool climate Syrah from Western Victoria. Layers of aromas waft from the glass: plum, raspberry, licorice, chocolate, and holiday spice note are backed by a warm earth and graphite spine. The palate is tangy and plush fruited but cinched in powerful, savory, dusty tannins. Drink now with a steak or roast beef. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$35

**93 Blue Pyrenees 2018 Richardson Shiraz (Pyrenees).** With a plush nose that you could sink into like a comfortable armchair, this Shiraz, from the Victorian Pyrenees region, offers succulent notes of plum, cassis and red currant backed by freshly ground black pepper, violets, licorice and mocha oak. The chalky palate is powerfully wound in raspy, well-placed tannins. The fruit and spice still find their way through the cracks and the lift of acidity reminds one we're in a comparatively cool climate. Still in its youth, this would benefit from a few more years in bottle or, if drinking now, a decant and a plate of protein. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**90 Colab and Bloom 2018 Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** This is an chocolatey, juicy, plum-fruited red with mint, earthy spice and some oak sweetness. It's medium weight with drying but nicely integrated tannins. A modern, refreshing Shiraz for drinking now. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 D'Arenberg 2018 The Stump Jump Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Although still fairly young, this feels like it's a bit older than it is. There's some volatile acidity on the nose which, while a little nail polish-y, adds a lift to the shriveling fruit. There's mint and a peppery, earthy spice here, too. Tannins are chalky, muscular and austere. They feel extra broody against the crunchy acidity. But the freshness is welcome amidst the power, and the oak is nicely tucked. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Jasper Hill 2019 Georgia's Paddock Shiraz (Heathcote).** Jasper Hill's single vineyard Shiraz are never light-on-their-feet wines. They always express the heavy soils of this unique region. This vintage is in a particularly broody place. Deense but round in shape, aromas of plump plum and cassis, chocolatey oak, pencil lead, terra cotta and licorice are all there. Tannins are massive and a bit on the oak and drying side. There's a distinctive texture and the fruit is there hiding behind all that power. This may just need a few more years to find its way. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$85

**88 D'Arenberg 2018 The Wild Pixie Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** A ripe, tannic wine, this opens with notes of plush plums, blackberry, licorice and mint chocolate. Hulking, drying tannins dominate the palate, and the alcohol is on the warm side. Despite being a chunk monster, this has a straightforward fruit-and-spice appeal. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**85 Fox Creek 2018 Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Chocolatey sweet oak frames plump dark blackberry and plum fruit on this dry but ripe Shiraz. Tannins are chunky and drying, and the oak flares up on the finish. Paradigm Collection. —C.P.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

## FORTIFIED WINES

**99 Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Rare Muscat (Rutherglen).** A rich comforting coffee color with a slight green rim, Chamber's Rare Muscat is a national treasure, with vines over a century old and from a solera blending system that's even older. Like sinking into your favorite armchair at the end of a long day, it envelops the senses in a cloak of melted dark chocolate, hazelnut, milky coffee, toffee and the spine of an old library book. The palate is intensely concentrated, with a viscous texture that glides satin-like over the tongue. The alcohol is present but in check, and a remarkable freshness remains. Divinely indulgent, to be savored slowly on its own or drunk with a nutty dark chocolate dessert. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

**abv:** 17% **Price:** \$350/375 ml

**94 Seppeltsfield NV Para Grand Tawny (Australia).** The Para Grand Tawny is an excellent example of this style as well as an affordable opportunity to try a fortified from this renowned historic estate. Aged an average of 10 years, it's a burnt sugar color, with the beginnings of a green rim, but still looking vibrant. The nose is less nutty and oxidative and more evocative of dusty library books, leather armchairs, baked raisins, molasses, coffee beans and warm spice. In the mouth a lovely acidity cuts through the sweetness. There's burn to the alcohol but stays balanced, the flavors flowing to a long finish. Sip slightly chilled with creme brûlée or tiramisu. Legend Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.

**abv:** 20.9% **Price:** \$39

**94 Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Muscadelle (Rutherford).** A vibrant maple syrup hue with a slightly green rim, this delightful and wildly well-priced fortified smells like Cow Tale candy; a toffee and cream combo that swirls with heady notes of dried tangerine and brown sugar backed by smokey and vaguely mineral nuance. The palate is as unctuous and sticky as you'd expect. The alcohol adds heat and lift. This would be a knockout with a citrus and custard dessert like an orange flan. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 18% **Price:** \$16

**91 Seppeltsfield NV DP38 Rich Rare Apera Solero (South Australia).** This Apera sees a minimum average age of 18 years. It's amber hued with a green rim, and evokes a plethora of aromas from dusting polish over glossed mahogany, English Christmas pudding with baked with raisins, sultanas and baking spice, honey roasted nuts, and a burn of alcohol that's emphasized on the palate. There's textural viscosity, a woody note and a lingering lingering dried tangerine peel finish. Sip like a Sherry with roasted, salted nuts and other tapas fair. Legend Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 23% **Price:** \$37

**90 Seppeltsfield NV DPI16 Aged Flor Apera Solero Palomino (South Australia).** Made from 100% Palomino (in true Sherry style), this vibrant burnt orange colored Apera offers up notes of toffee, marmalade, melted butter and peanut shells. The palate emphasizes the bitterness of the style as well as the elevated alcohol, but those marmalade, nut and toffee notes are there too. Legend Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 22.5% **Price:** \$37/500 ml

**89 De Bortoli NV Fine Tawny 8 Year Old (Australia).** De Bortoli's espresso-hued Tawny isn't as well known as its Noble One. Aromas of milky coffee, root beer, raisins and chocolate flow into flavors on the palate, where the alcohol and sweetness are tempered by just enough acidity. It lacks much of the intriguing oxidative character and harmony of other Tawnys, but would be a tasty pairing with a caramel-and-nut based dessert. PH Importing. —C.P.  
**abv:** 18.5% **Price:** \$50

## SWEET WINE

**92 De Bortoli 2018 Noble One Semillon (New South Wales).** For full review see page 13. PH Importing.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$40

## AUSTRIA

### SMARAGD RIESLING

**96 Weingut Knoll 2019 Reid Loibenberg Loibner Riesling Smaragd (Wachau).** This is gloriously expressive and perfectly balanced, with a powerful white fruit and spice accents that are

supported by precise, crunchy acidity. It is sophisticated with an impressive intensity to the flavors and mineral details. The finish lingers and promises more in years to come. Best from 2025–2040. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$81

**95 Rudi Pichler 2020 Ried Kirchweg Riesling Smaragd (Wachau).** This is a seductive beauty, with a refined profile, featuring a plush and viscous texture. Intense tropical spice and ripe orchard fruit notes emerge with baked pear and quince leading the way. All elements carry through the long, lush finish, which keeps inviting you for another sip. This is gorgeous now, but it will only get better with aging. Best from 2025–2040. Winebow Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$64

**93 Weingut Knoll 2019 Loibner Riesling Smaragd (Wachau).** This shows a hoppy edge at the beginning, but turns out really bright, pure and elegant. It features a pronounced mix of stone and orchard fruit, with an elderflower note gliding to stony finish. Minerally grip adds to the structure and complexity. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$58

**93 Weingut Knoll 2019 Ried Schütt Dürnsteiner Riesling Smaragd (Wachau).** This classic expression is nicely crafted, with subtle tune chiming in from the finish, like a soft trumpet, but the note of citrus and wet stone expands and builds on. Its complexity is not obvious, but rather marked by the play of different mineral elements. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$92

**92 Rudi Pichler 2020 Terrassen Riesling Smaragd (Wachau).** This intriguing white is marked by a mix of lime, yuzu and apple aromas and flavors, with stony mineral elements glide in the background. A hint of elderflower joins the party and cruises to a lingering, detailed finish. Winebow Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**92 Weingut Knoll 2019 Ried Kellerberg Dürnsteiner Riesling Smaragd (Wachau).** Riesling that is subtle and suave, always finds its lovers and this is exactly it. It keeps a fine line between its rustic and flashy side, where acidity wins, along with a beautifully fine elderflower note. It remains focused on the finely-knit finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$81

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**92 Schauer 2019 Ried Gaisriegl Sauvignon Blanc (Südburgenland).** What a delightful Sauvignon Blanc this is, with slight reduction that adds to the overall experience. Its texture has a slight grip which just serves as a cushion to its citrusy and peachy profile. Roasted pineapple notes echo on the finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Tement 2019 Ehrenhausen Korallenkalk Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark).** This shows a glistening set of flint, peach and thyme, delivered with great precision. Its structure is firm, yet the wine is very approachable, but not in loud way, rather a softly played harmony. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**89 Hager Matthias 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Niederösterreich).** This has a smooth, viscous texture that plays as a canvas in this mineral-driven Sauvignon Blanc. Vanilla and lemon oil notes mark the mouthwatering finish. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**89 Tement 2020 Kalk & Kreide Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark).** This is fresh and pure, with hoppy and flinty notes that are shaded by grapefruit and mineral. vibrant acidity drives it all to an herb-flecked finish. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## CHARDONNAY

**93 Ebner-Ebenauer 2019 Black Edition Chardonnay (Niederösterreich).** This delightfully complex whitey reminds of what we all love in a good Chardonnay. It features a slightly reduced start, with peach and dried honey notes tip-toeing in, where they get washed off by the seashore impression. Hazelnut tinge strikes towards the finish where it sits shading all the other elements. Best from 2025–2037. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$82

**90 Weingut Mad 2020 Chardonnay (Leitha-berg).** This shows a classic profile of Chardonnay, but with the sense of Burgenland, with firm acidity and beautiful salinity to the wine. Serious, this doesn't let loose, until the very end, where it expands on the palate. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**89 Netzl 2020 Chardonnay (Carnuntum).** This is a lighter style with a zesty overtone of grated pink grapefruit accenting flavors of nectarine and slivered almond. It is lithe with a stony finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

## WEISSBURGUNDER

**90 Schauer 2019 Ried Höchtemmel Weissburgunder (Südsteiermark).** The glossy texture of this white is offset by vibrant acidity and chalky minerality, while lemon and orchard fruit notes mingle midpalate. This is more about its mineral and texture than being flashy. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

## WHITE BLENDS

**90 Jutta Ambrositsch 2020 Ein Liter Wien (Weinland Österreich).** Here is a broad style for the category, featuring a fleshy texture, while notes of peach, grapefruit and white pepper mark the midpalate. It delivers a bracing structure. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27/1L

**89 Hugl-Wimmer 2020 Gemischter Satz (Weinviertel).** Beautiful aromas of jasmine and orange oil blend into the juicy, citrusy details on the palate, in this light and refreshing white. There is firmness to its acidity that is nicely integrated. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Johanneshof Reinisch 2020 The First by Sebastian & Thomas (Austria).** This version's main themes are smoke and white pepper, while peach and elderflower notes add an aromatic dimension. It is fresh and taut, with a stony finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**89 Jutta Ambrositsch 2020 Kosmopolit Gemischter Satz (Weinland Österreich).** This is a well-delineated white that offers mingling melon, squash and white pepper flavors, with a hint of sea salt chining in on the moderate finish. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**87 Höppler 2021 Pannonica (Austria).** This is aromatic and tropical, with notes of lychee, jasmine and mango in the front seat, while mineral and pepper accents mark the finish. USA Wine Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

## BLAUFRANKISCH

**91 Claus Preisinger 2020 Kalkstein Blaufränkisch (Neusiedlersee).** This plays softly and elegantly with an incredible harmony to the notes of red cherry, rose water and red licorice. It is light on its feet, yet very precise, moving gracefully like a cat. It features a mineral-tinged finish. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Jalits 2019 Blaufränkisch (Eisenberg).** Polished and well-meshed, with an expressive palate, featuring notes of currant and black cherry, underscored by violet and rooibos tea notes. It shows complexity and balance, with a well-defined finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Markus Altenburger 2019 Vom Kalk Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** This is a pure violet-scented red, with a very focused profile, featuring notes of raspberry and pomegranate, with a leather echo. This is a singular and well-crafted red

with balanced structure and a good finish. Schatzi Wines. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Weingut Schwartz 2020 The Butcher Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** This is a medium-bodied version, with blackberry and currant flavors framed by the notes of sandalwood and thyme. It is nicely balanced and juicy, with enough complexity to enjoy with a great meal. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88 Günter & Regina Triebaumer 2019 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Ripe and peppery, with a deep well of blackberry and dark plum, this is a classic style, with a satisfying amount of complexity for enjoyment. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

## PINOT NOIR

**92 Hillinger 2018 Eveline Pinot Noir (Burgenland).** Notes of cola and black licorice are layered with flavors of dried thyme, baked black cherry and mandarine orange zest and loamy mineral in this rich, yet silky medium-bodied version. It is nicely knit with well-integrated tannins that just add to the overall experience. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Anton Bauer 2019 Pinot Noir (Wagram).** This is mouthwatering and nicely knit, with a black cherry flavor that defines it from start to finish, while notes of smoke, licorice drop and pomegranate branch it out. It presents a persistent finish, with a lingering violet note. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Ebner-Ebenauer 2017 Black Edition Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** A pure beam of ripe black cherry and black olive is finely-meshed with soft, melting tannins, in this balanced, medium-bodied version. It offers savory accents of loam and cumin, with sandalwood echoing on the long, inviting finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$85

**90 Heinrich Hartl 2019 Classic Pinot Noir (Thermenregion).** This is classic, but with an interesting sun-dried tomato note to start, followed by red cherry and some fresher notes. It gets a wave of acidity midpalate that accentuates the whole experience and balances the slight grip and body. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**89 Johanneshof Reinisch 2020 Pinot Noir (Thermenregion).** This is a polished, classic expression of Pinot Noir, with beautiful spice mix accenting notes of cherry and violet. It is silky in texture with bright acidity giving energy. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

## CANADA

### RIESLING

**90 Cave Spring 2019 Dry Riesling (Niagara Peninsula).** Aromas of diesel, white peach, fresh mint, honeysuckle and lime leaf lead to juicy, bone dry flavors with impressive acidity. It's almost austere in style. Acid hounds, look no further. Cave Spring Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$17

### MERLOT

**93 CheckMate 2019 Silent Bishop Merlot (Okanagan Valley).** For full review see page 9. CheckMate. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**91 CheckMate 2019 Opening Gambit Merlot (Okanagan Valley).** For full review see page 16. CheckMate. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$80

**88 CheckMate 2019 Black Rook Merlot (Okanagan Valley).** Aromas of dark fruit, BBQ smoke, tire rubber and spice lead to light, bright red fruit flavors laced with smoke notes. Gruff tannins back it up. It shows pleasing length. CheckMate. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$80

**88 CheckMate 2019 End Game Merlot (Okanagan Valley).** The aromas bring notes of mesquite, dried tobacco, and dark cherry. Full bodied flavors follow, with smoke notes throughout. It shows some grit. It's a shame as the underlying fruit is lovely. CheckMate. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

## GERMANY

### TROCKEN RIESLING

**90 Schäfer 2020 Made with Organic Grapes Dry-Style Riesling (Rheinhessen).** Lavender florals and tea-leaf notes perfume this salt-edged, lip smacking Riesling sourced from organically grown fruit. Medium bodied and juicy on the palate, it highlights sunny yellow-apple and pear flavors with a smoky, spicy kick on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Seebrich 2020 Roter Schiefer Riesling Trocken (Rheinhessen).** This is a slim dry Riesling marked by flavors of freshly pressed red apples and pears accented by hints of dusty, stony earth. Juicy in fruit profile yet bracing with acidity, it's a vital, thirst quenching white best enjoyed now–2027. Artisans & Vines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28



**90 Weinbiet 2020 Philipp Bassler Grosses Gewächs Riesling Trocken (Pfalz).** Broad apple, pear and lemon notes introduce this full-bodied, salt-laced white. While crisp and zesty in fruit, it's a richly textured, weighty expression of Riesling with a long finish marked by a hint of hazelnut. Ready to enjoy now but should hold well through 2027. Terroir Connections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90 Weingut Georg Albrecht Schneider 2020 Vom Kalk Nierstein Riesling Trocken (Rheinhausen).** Shades of stone, salt and steel lend a shimmering mineral undertow to crisp Mirabelle and white-grapefruit flavors in this brisk dry white sourced from limestone soils. Thirst quenching and deliciously nervy, it's a thrilling expression of Rheinhausen Riesling at an unbeatable price. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Carl Ehrhard 2019 Frau Ehrhard Natürlich Riesling Trocken (Rheingau).** Whiffs of tea leaves and white mushroom meld into orange rind and pressed apple in this lean, savory white. Vinified with natural yeast over 19 months in neutral oak barrels, it's a delicately spicy, smoky Riesling with a pleasantly puckering finish. Best enjoyed now. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**87 Carl Ehrhard 2019 Herr Ehrhard Riesling Trocken Unfiltered (Rheingau).** Whispers of sweet spice and savory herb accent brisk lemon and pressed-apple flavors in this slim dry Riesling. Produced from grapes grown without fertilizer or herbicide and fermented in neutral oak, it's a fresh-footed, sharply balanced expression of traditional winemaking with a refreshing, minimalist touch. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**86 Carl Ehrhard 2019 Rudesheim Riesling Trocken (Rheingau).** Hints of smoke and crushed stone lend spicy, savory accents to tart lemon and lime in this slim, spine-tingling dry Riesling. A sprightly, steely white that finishes on lingering notes of pressed green apple and fresh herb. Best enjoyed young. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

## KABINETT RIESLING

**93 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Müller-Burggraef) 2020 Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett Gold Cap (Mosel).** Silken on the palate yet backed by an electric spine of acidity, this elevated off-dry Riesling offers rich, ripe streaks of sweet white melon, peach and pear. Penetrating with fresh, primary fruit and struck by stone and steel, it's a complex, hedonistic sip that's irresistible young but likely to improve through 2035 and hold further. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$54

**91 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Müller-Burggraef) 2020 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett (Mosel).** This feather-light, sumptuous semidry Riesling opens with fragrant, cooling tones of crisp white melon and lime. Packed with sun-drenched white-peach and apple flavors and edged by smoke and petrichor, it's a penetrating, lip smacking kabinett that could only come from the Mosel. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Bollig-Lehnert 2020 Piesporter Estate Bottled Riesling Kabinett (Mosel).** Crisp lime and lemon acidity highlight streaks of salty, slaty minerality in this bracing off-dry Riesling. Packed with mouthwatering green apple and citrus flavors, it's a zesty, pristinely fruity white with just a hint of sweetness cushioning the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Bollig-Lehnert 2020 Trittenheimer Apotheke Estate Bottled Riesling Kabinett (Mosel).** Cool strikes of river rock and tart pineapple meld into tropical mango and papaya in this semidry kabinett. Equal parts scintillating minerality and piercing, sunny fruit, it's a juicy, bristling with a delicate caramelized-honey finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Weingut Georg Albrecht Schneider 2020 Niersteiner Paterberg Riesling Kabinett (Rheinhausen).** Dashes of salt and dusty mineral tones lend nuance to bright, piercing lemon and lime flavors here. Light footed and electric with acidity, it's a mouthwatering off-dry white with a refreshing, puckering grapefruit finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Paul Anheuser 2020 Schlossböckelheimer Königsfels Riesling Kabinett (Nahe).** Whiffs of freshly pressed apple and sweet spice introduce this smoky semidry Riesling. Broad and soft on the palate, it's an easy drinking, apple-y sip with a seductive anise finish. Best enjoyed young. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$17

## SPÄTLESE RIESLING

**94 St. Urbans-Hof 2020 Nik Weis Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Mosel).** This is a toe tapping, spine tingling late-harvest Riesling highlighting gorgeous peach, pear and apricot flavors dusted with shavings of spice, smoke and slate. A sun-drenched medium-sweet sip balanced by luminous tangerine acidity, it's welcoming young but will improve through 2030 and gain savory complexities long after that. HB Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$58

**94 St. Urbans-Hof 2020 Nik Weis Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage**

(Mosel). Bracing acidity and rich, honey-kissed swirls of cantaloupe and yellow peach meld seamlessly in this sweet-tart spätlese. Lavishly fruity, almost tropical in tone, yet steely and honed, it's a reverberating, thrilling white with a lingering sweetness on the finish. Delicious young but will improve through 2030 and hold much longer still. HB Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2020 Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** While sprightly on the palate, this is a powerfully concentrated medium-sweet Riesling that pulsates with flavors of honey-glazed peaches, apricots and tangerines. Lip smacking and racy, it's a sun-drenched expression of the Middle Mosel with a lingering sweet-melon finish. At peak now—2030. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$30

**93 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2020 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** Swirls of honey, crushed stone and white pepper accent sweet yellow peach and Mandarin orange flavors in this sumptuously fruity, complex nectar. While light in body an alcohol, it's a powerful, decadent medium-sweet Riesling ideal alongside a cheese plate or foie gras. Ready now but should mature beautifully well through 2030. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$28

**91 Peter Nicolay 2020 Bernkastel Badstube Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** Sun-kissed yellow peach and mango flavors abound in this decadent, fruity spätlese. Racy and sleek, it's a feather-weight, medium-sweet sip that darts and dances on the palate, lingering on subtle notes of smoke and saffron. Ready now but should hold well through 2030. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$30

**91 SJ Montigny 2020 Kreuznacher Mönchberg Riesling Spätlese (Nahe).** Ripe, sun-kissed lemon, tangerine and white-peach flavors are anchored by bracing, tonic strikes of acidity in this light-footed Riesling. Semisweet in style yet invigorating and zesty, it's lovely now for its youthful verve but should drink well through 2028 at least. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$22

**91 Ulrich Langguth 2020 Piesporter Günterslay Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** This lively, luminous spätlese is a wild ride of sweet-tart nectarine and yellow-cherry flavors struck by tangs of salt and steel. Medium sweet and feather light in style, it's a vibrant, high-toned white with a mouthwatering lemon-drop finish. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$24

**90 Bollig-Lehnert 2020 Dhroner Hofberger Alte Reben-Old Vines Estate Bottled Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** Steely and bracing, this dry white made from late-harvest Riesling highlights cutting lime and grapefruit flavors dusted with flecks of salt

# BUYINGGUIDE

and slate. Light bodied yet ripe and supple in texture, it's a smoky, elegant sip that should drink well through 2027 at least. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Hansen-Lauer 2020 Bernkasteler Graben Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** Slim yet penetrating, this honey-kissed spätlese is packed with sweet yellow peach and apricot flavors. Backed by a racy streak of lime and lemon acidity, it's a spine tingling, electric sip with a lacy veil of sweetness and smoke on the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$27

**86 Wilhelm Bergmann 2019 Bernkasteler Kurfürstlay Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** Hints of sweet spice and potpourri florals perfume sunny apple and lemon flavors here. An easy drinking, medium-sweet Riesling best enjoyed now. Knows Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Bollig-Lehnert 2020 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Estate Bottled Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** A sheen of salt lends a crystalline tone to honeydew and greengage flavors in this bright-fruited, sweet-tart sip. Light bodied yet decadently fruity, it's a fleshy, penetrating white at peak now—2027. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$23

**86 Alfred Graf 2018 Erdener Treppchen Vineyard Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** This light-bodied, medium-sweet Riesling opens with prominent notes of slate and smoke. While the palate highlights pert green-apple and lemon flavors, it's a subtly earthen, smoky sip with a puckering lime-candy finish. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Wilhelm Bergmann 2017 Piesporter Goldtropfchen Riesling Spätlese (Mosel).** Streaks of marmalade and dried apricot are accented with honey and lemon in this medium-sweet Riesling. A spicy, subtly savory sip flecked with saffron and clove, it's an easy drinking white best enjoyed now. Knows Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$13

## OTHER RIESLING

**92 Richard Böcking 2018 Ungsberg Gold Cap Riesling (Mosel).** Sourced from the harrowing slopes of the Ungsberg vineyard, this richly textured, honey-kissed dry Riesling highlights luminous yellow peach and apricot flavors accented by a salty, smoky minerality. Vibrantly balanced in acidity yet weighty and powerful in structure, it's a wine that's approachable young but likely to improve further through 2030. Kindred Vines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$43

**90 Richard Böcking 2018 Burgberg Gold Cap Riesling (Mosel).** Weighty and voluminous on the palate, this dry, full-bodied Riesling highlights crisp white peach and pear flavors edged by

dashes of anise, smoke and peppery spice. Nervy on the palate and rimmed by a kiss of tea tannins, it's an unusual expression of the Mosel at peak now—2030 but likely to hold further still. Kindred Vines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$43

**89 Richard Böcking 2018 Schlossberg Gold Cap Riesling (Mosel).** Whiffs of freshly laundered linen and lifted white florals introduce this bracing nearly-dry Riesling sourced from biodynamically grown grapes. While slim in profile, it's a concentrated white packed with ripe pear and yellow-plum flavors. The finish is gripped by a delicate rim of tea tannins, smoke and spice. Kindred Vines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$43

**88 Bollig-Lehnert 2020 Dhroner Hofberger Estate Bottled Riesling Auslese (Mosel).** Rich yellow plum and tangerine flavors are fleshy and ripe in this light-footed yet mouthfilling white. Sweet on the palate yet balanced by zesty lemon-lime acidity and dashes of smoky, salty minerality, it's a crowd pleasing sip to accompany soft, creamy cheeses or a fresh-fruit dessert. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$NA

## SPARKLING WINES

**90 Carl Ehrhard 2019 Rudesheim Pinot Sekt Brut (Rheingau).** Whiffs of smoke and crushed stone lend nuance to tart raspberry, lemon and apple flavors in this spine tingling Pinot Noir sekt. A light footed, dry sparkler produced via charmat method, it's a refreshingly zippy, delicately effervescent wine with a pristine red-berry finish. Best enjoyed young. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$25

**90 Lucashof 2021 Pet Nat Riesling (Pfalz).** For full review see page 20. HB Wine Merchants.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$31

**89 Hansen-Lauer 2017 Brut Sekt Riesling (Mosel).** Earthen and smoky yet vibrantly fresh in fruit, this slim Riesling sparkling offers pristine lemon and grapefruit flavors catapulted by a bristling spine of acidity. Elegant and racy, it's a perfumed, pleasantly dry-ish sip with a lean, penetrating finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**87 Von Schleinitz 2019 HD Bubbly Riesling (Mosel).** Streaks of preserved yellow peach, melon and mango extend from nose to finish in this boldly fruity yet delicately effervescent Riesling. A high-toned, juicy sip balanced by a zesty spine of acidity, it's a crowd pleasing thirst quencher best enjoyed young. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$17

## SPÄTBURGUNDER

**89 Carl Ehrhard 2019 Rudesheim Berg Rose-neck Spätburgunder Trocken Spätburgunder (Rheingau).** This rose-scented, slender Pinot Noir is a consistently well-made, accessibly priced introduction to the world of German Spätburgunder. Concentrated in raspberry and red-cherry flavors and accented by hints of anise, smoke and tar, it's a fresh-footed, vibrant red that finishes on fine, smooth tannins. Best enjoyed young. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Fritz Allendorf 2019 Trocken Spätburgunder (Rheingau).** This is a richly concentrated yet racy Pinot Noir packed with ripe, luscious black cherry and plum flavors. While supple in texture, its high-toned acidity lends a bracing, structured feel. The finish is marked by dashes of crushed black pepper, tar and ash along with a fine rim of smooth, silken tannins. At peak now—2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

## GREECE

### ASSYRTIKO

**90 Alexakis 2020 Assyrtiko (Crete).** Textured and glossy, this Crete bottling has bright, balanced notes of citrus and melon on the nose and palate. It's easy-drinking but substantial enough to pair with a meal, especially if shellfish is on the table. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

### RED BLEND

**88 Domaine Sigalas 2017 M/m (Cyclades).** Made from Mavrotragano and Mandilaria on Santorini, the blend is bright, fresh and flavorful, with anise, cherry, dried herb and olive scents and flavors speaking to its exotic origins. The wine finishes with a touch of spice and the island's trademark sea salt flair. Diamond Importers Inc. —S.K.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$33

## PIEDMONT

### ROERO

**94 Angelo Negro & Figli 2015 Sette Anni (Roero).** Delicately scented, this opens with alluring aromas of yellow spring flower, stone fruit, dried herb and an inviting whiff of bread dough. Showing incredible freshness and energy, the savory palate delivers juicy white peach, apricot, lemon drop and flinty mineral before a hazelnut close. Just delicious, smooth and still going strong. Remarkable. The Piedmont Guy. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**93 Angelo Negro & Figli 2019 Perlaudin Riserva (Roero).** Aromas of Spanish broom, yellow stone fruit, hay and hazelnut form the nose. The medium-bodied has a creamy, polished texture that cushions ripe yellow peach, pear and a hint of lemon drop before finishing on a honeyed almond note. Totally delish. The Piedmont Guy. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92 Bric Cenciurio 2020 Sito dei Fossili (Roero).** Tangy and full of flavor, this polished white has aromas recalling ripe stone fruit, sun warmed hay, chamomile and hazelnut. The savory, rounded palate delivers ripe yellow pear, white peach, lemon drop and saline mineral notes alongside soft but refreshing acidity. It closes on a note of honeyed almond. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Valdinera 2021 (Roero).** Aromas of peach, apricot and fennel seed follow over to the polished palate along with savory saline mineral notes. Tangy acidity carries through to the hazelnut finish. John Given Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**91 Lorenzo Negro 2020 Sant'Anna Riserva (Roero).** Aromas of hazelnut, Spanish broom and fennel seed follow over to the medium-bodied palate along with ripe peach and mineral notes recalling smoke and flint. It shows depth and finesse, while fresh acidity lifts the rich flavors. Mucci Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Rabino 2021 (Roero).** Chamomile, stone fruit and whiffs of nut form the nose. Round and medium-bodied, the savory palate offers ripe peach, yellow pear and citrus notes before a hazelnut close. It's polished, with a creamy texture. Swiss Cellars. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Ca' Rossa 2020 Le Coste Riserva (Roero).** The delicate nose eventually reveals spring blossom, toasted nut, stone fruit and oak. On the full-bodied palate, tangy acidity accompanies dried apricot, lemon drop and acacia honey before a bitter walnut finish. Ribevi Wine Int. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

## ROSÉ

**87 Gianni Doglia 2021 Rosato Il Rosé di (Piemonte).** Made with Freisa, this has aromas of red berry that mingle with whiffs of violet and botanical herb. On the crisp, straightforward palate, vibrant acidity accompanies tart cherry, strawberry and a hint of white pepper. Petit Pois. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## BAROLO

**99 Cavallotto 2016 Bricco Boschis Vigna San Giuseppe Riserva (Barolo).** A combination of an extraordinary vintage and a fantastic producer are behind this stunning wine. It opens with aromas recalling woodland berry, pipe tobacco, forest floor, balsamic notes of camphor and new leather. Still youthfully austere, the firmly structured palate delivers ripe Morello cherry, licorice, ground clove and iron notes set against tightly knit, fine-grained tannins. Bright acidity keeps it well balanced. Drink 2028–2046. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$280

**98 Brovia 2018 Rocche di Castiglione (Barolo).** Drop-dead gorgeous and utterly delicious, this dazzling, fragrant red opens with heady aromas of iris, forest berry, new leather and culinary spice. The elegantly structured, focused palate features juicy red cherry, spiced cranberry, cinnamon and star anise before a savory, almost salty close. Firm, refined tannins provide support while bright acidity keeps it energized and beautifully balanced. Drink 2026–2038. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**97 Giacomo Fenocchio 2016 90di Riserva (Barolo).** Camphor, ripe berry, forest floor and oak-driven spice aromas lead the nose. Full-bodied and heroically structured, the youthfully austere palate exhibits dried cherry, raspberry compote, licorice and tobacco set against a tannic backbone. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Like the Barolos of Yore, this needs years to come around but will offer decades of pleasure. Drink 2028–2046. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**97 Giovanni Rosso 2018 Ester Canale Rosso Podere Antica Vigna Rionda (Barolo).** Rose petal, forest floor, woodland berry and wet iron aromas come to the forefront on this stunning red. All about finesse and balance, the delicious, precise palate features juicy raspberry, red cherry, star anise and ground clove framed in tightly knit but ultrarefined tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2026–2038. Vias Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$434

**96 Elvio Cogno 2017 Ravera Bricco Pernice (Barolo).** Defying the heat of the scorching vintage, this fragrant red has aromas of iris, violet, wild berry, leather and eucalyptus. On the full-bodied, delicious palate, fresh acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins support dried cherry, nutmeg and licorice before a tobacco finish. Drink 2025–2032. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$157

**95 Famiglia Anselma 2017 Bussia (Barolo).** Iris, crushed mint and woodland berry aromas waft out of the glass. Warm and savory, the enveloping palate features ripe Morello cherry, raspberry

compote and cinnamon framed in tightly knit, slightly grainy tannins that leave a firm finish. Crus & Stills. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$69

**95 Giovanni Rosso 2018 Cerretta (Barolo).** Iris, hay, woodland berry and botanical herb aromas come to the forefront on this fragrant, delicious red. The focused, vibrant palate picks up where the nose leaves off, delivering juicy Morello cherry, strawberry compote, star anise and tobacco framed in tightly wound, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2026–2033. Vias Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$97

**95 Mauro Veglio 2016 Rocche dell'Annunziata Riserva (Barolo).** Aromas of pressed rose, ripe black-skinned berry and oak-driven spice come to the forefront. The delicious, full-bodied palate delivers raspberry compote, licorice and coffee bean framed in polished, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2036. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$120

**94 Barale Fratelli 2015 Bussia Riserva (Barolo).** Ripe plum, forest floor and leather mingle with pipe tobacco and a whiff of blue flower. Full-bodied and enveloping, the already accessible palate features juicy Morello cherry, prune, vanilla and licorice before a salty mineral finish. Velvety tannins provide seamless support. Drink through 2030. Williams Corner Wine. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110

**94 Famiglia Anselma 2017 (Barolo).** Aromas of white pepper, forest floor, menthol, ripe red berry and new leather follow over to the palate along with savory, almost salty mineral notes. Tightly knit, close-grained tannins provide the backbone and leave a dusty, drying finish. Drink 2025–2032. Crus & Stills. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**94 Famiglia Anselma 2017 del Comune di Monforte d'Alba (Barolo).** For full review see page 6. Crus & Stills. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$47

**94 Giovanni Rosso 2018 del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo).** Aromas of red berry, camphor and wet stone form the nose. Savory and vaunting an understated elegance, the luminous, focused palate offers strawberry compote, juicy red cherry, baking spice and crushed mint framed in fine-grained tannins. Vibrant acidity keeps it energized and balanced. Drink 2026–2033. Vias Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**94 Mauro Veglio 2018 Castelletto (Barolo).** Ripe dark-skinned berry, camphor, violet and French oak aromas shape the nose. Elegantly structured and savory, the polished palate offers juicy Marasca cherry, spiced plum, star anise and espresso alongside fine-grained tannins. Bright

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acidity keeps it fresh. Drink 2023–2028. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**94 Mirafiore 2016 Riserva (Barolo).** Ripe dark-skinned fruit, leather, underbrush and culinary spice aromas emerge from the glass along with whiffs of purple flower. Structured and elegant, the palate exhibits ripe red cherry, flinty mineral and star anise set against taut tannins. Bright acidity keeps it fresh and balanced. Drink 2024–2031. Trinity Beverage Group. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$180

**93 Bel Colle 2013 10 Anni Riserva (Barolo).** For full review see page 9. Quintessential Wines.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**93 Bric Cenciurio 2017 Coste di Rose (Barolo).** This opens with aromas of graphite, underbrush and ripe black-skinned berry. The tense palate offers dried black cherry, star anise tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2032. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**93 Giovanni Rosso 2018 Serra (Barolo).** Aromas of red berry, blue flower and whiffs of oak-driven spice take shape in the glass. The palate is almost ethereally elegant, featuring crushed raspberry, sour cherry, star anise and ground clove accompanied by taut, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it vibrant and balanced. Drink 2023–2030. Vias Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$97

**93 Mauro Veglio 2018 Gattera (Barolo).** Aromas of French oak, ripe red plum and camphor come to the forefront. Linear and focused, the taut palate exhibits dried red cherry, toasted hazelnut, coconut and vanilla framed against taut, fine-grained tannins that leave a rather drying close. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 Monchiero 2018 del Comune di Castiglione Falletto (Barolo).** Red skinned berry, forest floor and leather aromas emerge from the glass. The juicy, balanced palate offers crushed raspberry, clove and licorice alongside fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Drink 2024–2033. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**93 Oddero 2018 Brunate (Barolo).** Camphor, violet, oak-driven spice and woodland berry aromas shape the nose. Lithe and polished, the full-bodied palate offers ripe Morello cherry, coconut, vanilla and star anise set against fine-grained tannins that leave a drying close. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Bel Colle 2018 Bussia (Barolo).** For full review see page 12. Quintessential Wines.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Bel Colle 2018 Simposio (Barolo).** For full review see page 12. Quintessential Wines.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Bric Cenciurio 2015 Coste di Rose Riserva (Barolo).** Aromas of black plum, cooking spice and tilled soil slowly take shape. The savory palate offers blackberry jam, toasted hazelnut and licorice alongside polished tannins. Drink through 2030. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**92 Castello di Verduno 2017 Massara (Barolo).** This has aromas of leather, scorched underbrush and camphor. Reflecting the extremely hot, dry vintage, the rather shy, linear palate exhibits dried cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside tightly wound, close-grained tannins. Give the tannins a few more years to unwind then drink sooner rather than later to capture the fruit and freshness. Drink 2024–2029. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$90

**92 Marchesi di Barolo 2018 Cannubi (Barolo).** Aromas of red-skinned berry, camphor and forest floor emerge from the glass. The savory, balanced palate offers ripe raspberry, star anise and cinnamon alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2033. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$120

**92 Rattalino 2015 del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba Novantuno91 (Barolo).** This opens with aromas of dark-skinned fruit, underbrush and leather. The savory palate offers Marasca cherry, white pepper and star anise alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2030. The Harvest Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$52

**92 Sobrero 2015 Pernanno Riserva (Barolo).** Rose petal, tobacco and forest floor aromas emerge from the glass. The chewy palate offers Marasca cherry, star anise and tobacco alongside velvety tannins. Drink 2023–2030. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$125

**91 Bric Cenciurio 2017 (Barolo).** Earthy aromas of tobacco, scorched earth and dark-skinned fruit emerge from the glass. The full-bodied palate offers ripe blackberry, clove and licorice alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2029. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**91 Monchiero 2018 del Comune di La Morra (Barolo).** This opens with aromas recalling iris, tobacco and underbrush. The full-bodied palate offers dried black cherry, licorice and clove alongside polished tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2023–2030. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$51

**91 Monchiero 2018 Rocche di Castiglione (Barolo).** Aromas of cedar, black-skinned berry and cooking spice lead the way. The full-bodied

palate offers ripe blackberry, prune marinated in spirits, tobacco and star anise alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**91 Monchiero 2016 Pernanno Riserva (Barolo).** Cedar, dark-skinned fruit and cooking spice aromas lead the nose. The firm palate offers blackberry jam, vanilla and licorice alongside solid, dusty tannins that leave a drying finish. Drink 2024–2031. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**91 Sobrero 2017 Parussi (Barolo).** Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, leather and tilled soil emerge from the glass. The savory palate offers blackberry jam, star anise and tobacco alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2025–2032. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

**90 Bel Colle 2018 Monvigliero (Barolo).** For full review see page 18. Quintessential Wines.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**90 Rattalino 2015 Bussia Trentacinque35 (Barolo).** Aromas of violet, cooking spice and scorched earth emerge from the glass. The solid palate offers blackberry jam, licorice and toasted hazelnut alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2029. The Harvest Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**90 Santa Vittoria 2018 (Barolo).** Aromas of underbrush, cedar and dark-skinned fruit lead the nose. The solid palate offers dried black cherry, star anise and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Trinity Beverage Group. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$43

**90 Sobrero 2017 Ciabot Tanasio (Barolo).** This opens with delicate aromas of violet, culinary spice and scorched earth. The solid palate offers sour cherry, star anise and tangerine zest alongside taut tannins. Drink 2024–2030. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**89 Demarie 2017 (Barolo).** This opens with aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, mocha and scorched earth. The ripe palate offers cherry marinated in spirits, espresso and clove alongside assertive tannins. Drink after 2023. Uva Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Demarie 2013 Riserva (Barolo).** Aromas of toasted oak, mocha and baked plum emerge from the glass. The dense palate offers prune, espresso and tobacco alongside close-grained tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. Uva Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA



**89 Demarie 2010 Riserva (Barolo).** This opens with aromas of espresso, toasted oak and mature dark-skinned fruit. The ripe palate offers baked plum, cocoa and tobacco alongside close-grained tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. Uva Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

## BARBARESCO

**93 La Spinona 2018 Secondine (Barbaresco).** Aromas of wild red berry, blue flower, crushed mint and oak-driven spice come to the forefront. Reflecting the nose, the full-bodied, polished palate features juicy Morello cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and spearmint alongside lithe tannins. It's balanced, with bright acidity and closes on a note of bitter almond. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

## ABRUZZO

### ROSÉS

**91 Barone Cornacchia 2021 Casanova Superiore (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This rich black-cherry-hued Cerasuolo presents more like a light-bodied red. Its dense aromas of red cherry and blackberry are peppered with highlights of hibiscus and clove. The palate is juicy yet grippy, with the broad structure balance by driving acidity. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**91 Ciavolich 2020 Fosso Cancelli (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This earthy Cerasuolo shows aromas of wild thyme and wet stone mixed with melon and strawberry. It's broad yet grippy on the palate, with a glossy texture that supports the juicy berry and peppery herb flavors. First Vine, LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Contesa 2021 (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This vibrant cherry-colored rosato shows nicely intense aromas of crushed black cherries and blackberries alongside wet stone and peppery herbs. It's broad and juicy on the palate, filled out by plump berry fruit, yet honed by glossy tannins and driving acidity. Vinifera Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**90 Il Feuduccio Di S. Maria D'Orni 2021 Feuduccio (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** Savory aromas of crushed rock and thyme lead this taut, structured Cerasuolo. Tense flavors of red cherry skins and wet stone meet a lacing of balsamic-dipped berries, with refreshing acidity and a gentle slick of grippy tannins building it out. Empson USA Ltd. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Talamonti 2021 Rosé (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** For full review see page 21. PH Importing.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**89 Cantina Zaccagnini 2021 Dal Tralcetto (Colline Pescaresi).** A funky wash-rind cheese aroma blows off to reveal bright aromas of lemon, grapefruit and melon in this salmon-pink rosato. It's broad and juicy on the palate yet honed by driving, zesty acidity, giving it a glossy, cohesive texture. WinesU. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Il Feuduccio Di S. Maria D'Orni 2021 Fonte Venna (Terre di Chieti).** This strawberry-hued rosato offers brisk aromas and flavors of cherry skins, red plum and steeped hibiscus. The palate is broad and rounded, with a gentle grip of fuzzy tannins lending support alongside refreshing acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87 Ilauri 2021 Chiola (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This perky rosato offers a blast of watermelon candies and lemon zest on the nose. It's rounded and juicy on the palate, delivering brisk sour cherry and melon flavors lifted by just enough acidity to keep it balanced. PSP Imports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**87 La Valentina 2021 (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** Cherry bubble gum, crushed raspberry and cinnamon give this rosato an easy, approachable vibe. It's well balanced by brisk acidity and fuzzy tannins, making it a solid choice as an aperitif. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**83 Fantini 2020 (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This light-pink rosato carries aromas and flavors of dried blood orange peel and raspberries. The flavors are lean and light on the palate, with piercing acidity pushing through. Empson USA Ltd. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**82 Menicucci 2020 Ginesia (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** Very savory aromas of dried cherries, mixed fruit syrup and medicinal herbs carry to the thick palate. The acidity is mild, with not much definition holding this together. Tuscany Wines Import. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO

**90 Cantina Tollo 2018 Colle Secco Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Heady aromas of frankincense and tar ride atop dense black cherry and spice in this full red. It's solid in stature on the palate, with glossy tannins and bright acidity yielding a polished, poised outcome for such a densely backed wine. Enotec Imports, Inc. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Tenuta I Fauri 2020 Baldovino (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** This concrete-aged Cerasuolo offers intense aromas of crushed cherries and strawberries mixed with steeped hibiscus and peppery herbs. Sour cherry and hibiscus flavors drive the palate, with fuzzy tannins and refreshing acid-

ity give this lift and drive. Wineberry America LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Bosco Nestore 2018 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Savory aromas of harissa paste and tobacco leaf add interest to the plump black cherry and red plum aromas. This is plush and seamless on the palate, with a gentle grip of tannins and wrap around the plump berry flavors. It's cohesive in feel, with a fruit-filled finish. Votto Vines Importing. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88 Collefrisio 2019 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Soy and spice aromas are at the fore on the nose, with a rich core of black cherry and blackberry filling it out. There's weight and heft to the luscious berry fruit on the palate, with a firm coating of baking spice and tobacco. Good Life Wine and Spirits LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 La Valentina 2019 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Aromas of tar and dark cherry blend with tobacco and lightly charred spices in this plush red. It feels glossy and supple on the palate, with gently gripping tannins to hone the plump cherry fruit. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 La Valentina 2018 Spelt Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** This supple, plush red offers cherry and blackberry jam aromas and flavors perked up with a spicy clove accent. Mild tannins and fresh acidity keep it streamlined and focused. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**87 Barone Cornacchia 2019 Casanova (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Black cherry, mentholated tobacco and peppery spices drive this well-balanced red. Gently grippy tannins and fresh acidity provide a solid structure for the straightforward flavors to live. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87 Bosco Nestore 2018 B (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Wood grain and baking spice aromas ride over brandy-soaked cherries in this red. The fruit takes a back seat to oak flavors on the light-bodied palate, with tannins showing mild grit. Orvino Wine Imports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Menicucci 2019 Ginesia (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Nicely compact aromas of black cherry mix with resinous herbs and tobacco in this rich red. It's plush and supple in texture, with racing acidity that pushes it along. Tuscany Wines Import. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**86 Cantina Zaccagnini 2019 Dal Tralcetto (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** This richly fruited red delivers ripe black cherry in full force, with tobacco and warm spice backing it up. It's straight-

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forward in its appeal, with a cohesive, easy nature. WinesU. —A.P.  
abv: 13% Price: \$17

**85 Il Feuduccio Di S. Maria D'Orni 2018 Feuduccio (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Tobacco and dried herbs are front and center in this red. The medium-bodied palate shows grip and grit, with a clench of tannins that streamlines the experience. Empson USA Ltd. —A.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$22

## SICILY ETNA

**92 Tenuta di Fessina 2020 Erse (Etna).** Red berry, Mediterranean brush and camphor aromas escape the glass on this elegant red. The elegantly structured, medium-bodied palate features ripe raspberry, wild cherry, crushed mint and fennel seed alongside bright acidity and polished tannins. Drink through 2029. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

**92 Torre Mora 2021 Scalunera (Etna).** Scents of beeswax, white white spring blossom and apple form the delicate nose. On the dry, vibrant palate, crisp acidity underscores ripe Bartlett pear, Meyer lemon and saline mineral notes. Liber USA. —K.O.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

**90 Tenuta di Fessina 2020 A Puddara (Etna).** Racy and mineral driven, this has aromas of hazelnut, Meyer lemon and wet stone. The linear, vibrant palate shows ripe yellow apple, saline and the same hazelnut note as the nose set against crisp acidity. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.  
abv: 12% Price: \$70

**90 Terlato 2021 (Friuli Colli Orientali).** This opens with aromas of spring blossom and white stone fruit. The rounded palate offers juicy white peach, green apple and a hint of white almond alongside fresh acidity. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**90 Terra Costantino 2020 De Aetna (Etna).** Spanish broom, ripe stone fruit and citrusy aromas shape the nose. The, bright, medium-bodied palate features ripe peach, lemon drop, fennel seed and tangy mineral notes suggesting oyster shell. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

**88 Terra Costantino 2017 Contrada Blandano (Etna).** Aromas and flavors of oak, coconut and oak-driven spice lead the nose. The aromas follow over to the palate along with dried yellow apple slice, lemon rind, bitter almond and a hint of chestnut honey but it's rather lean on fruit richness. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

## SICILY

**91 Tasca d'Almerita 2021 Regaleali Leone (Terre Siciliane).** Aromas of spring blossom, white and yellow stone fruit and Mediterranean brush waft out of the glass. Delicious and elegantly structured, the medium-bodied palate features juicy yellow peach, Meyer lemon, saline and a dollop of vanilla alongside tangy acidity. Trincherio Family Estates. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**90 Donnafugata 2021 (Sicilia).** This pretty white has aromas recalling beeswax, spring blossom and a whiff of sea breeze. The fresh, savory palate offers juicy white peach, honeydew melon and a saline mineral note. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.  
abv: 13% Price: \$23

**89 Gorgi Tondi 2021 Midor (Sicilia).** Intense aromas of white lily follow through to the bright palate along with tropical fruit, honeydew melon and white peach. Crisp acidity and saline notes keep it energized and balanced. Sheehan Brothers. —K.O.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

## ROSÉS

**93 Tenuta di Fessina 2021 Erse (Etna).** What a fantastic rosato. It opens with aromas of Mediterranean scrub, red berry, stone fruit and sea breeze while the elegant, mineral-driven, palate features juicy red cherry, wild strawberry, aromatic herb and spice set against bright acidity. It closes on a saline note. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**92 Terra Costantino 2021 Rosato De Aetna (Etna).** Floral aromas recalling Spanish broom mingle with Mediterranean scrub and white stone fruit. Dry, medium-bodied and savory, the focused palate offers red berry, white peach and tangy saline alongside bright acidity before a fennel seed close. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**89 Tasca d'Almerita 2021 Regaleali Le Rose (Terre Siciliane).** Aromas of red berry, hay and Mediterranean herb come to the forefront. On the easygoing palate, lithe tannins accompany juicy strawberry and star anise. Trincherio Family Estates. —K.O.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

**88 Donnafugata 2021 Rosato Dolce & Gabbana (Sicilia).** A blend of Nerello Mascalese and Nocera, this has aromas of white stone fruit, hay and Mediterranean brush. The light-bodied palate offers red cherry, bitter almond and hints of chestnut honey. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

## OTHER ITALY WHITE WINES

### ALTO ADIGE

**92 Falkenstein 2019 Valle Venosta (Alto Adige).** Aromas of yellow peach and spring blossom waft out of the glass along with the barest whiff of petrol. The aromas segue over to the elegant, savory palate joining ripe apricot, citrus and flinty mineral. Bright acidity keeps it balanced. Schatzi Wines. —K.O.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**91 Girtan 2021 Indra (Alto Adige).** Subdued aromas of elderflower, hay and stone fruit shape the nose. Savory and elegantly restrained, the full-bodied palate offers ripe peach, grapefruit and honeydew melon alongside fresh acidity. Panebianco. —K.O.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**91 Meran 2019 Tyrol Riserva (Alto Adige).** This full-bodied white has delicate scents recalling graphite, stone fruit and Alpine field flower. Elegantly structured, the palate offers ripe yellow pear, dried apple, fennel seed and toasted hazelnut alongside fresh acidity. Vin de Garde Wines. —K.O.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

**88 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2020 Vial (Alto Adige).** The shy nose eventually offers subtle aromas of oak, oak-driven spice and graphite. The aromas follow through to the palate along with yellow apple and lemon drop. Crisp acidity keeps it bright. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

**87 Colterenzio 2020 Berg (Alto Adige).** Aromas of oak and beeswax mingle with eucalyptus and hay. Reflecting the nose, the medium-bodied palate shows coconut, oak-driven spice and coffee bean but not much fruit richness. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

### SOAVE

**93 Inama 2019 Foscario (Soave Classico).** Rounded and polished, this has delicate, enticing scents of Spanish broom, hay, yellow stone fruit and botanical herb. Fermented 70% in barrique and 30% in steel and resting on its lees for six months, the savory, elegant palate features yellow peach, lemon drop, ginger and hazelnut framed in bright acidity. It closes on a tangy mineral note suggesting oyster shell. Editor's choice. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

**93 Inama 2019 Foscario I Palchi Gran Cuvée (Soave Classico).** Fermented in 60% barrique and 40% large casks, this has understated aromas recalling yellow stone fruit, camphor, field

flower and citrus. The elegant palate has layers of subtle depth, featuring dried apricot, lemon drop, tangerine and toasted almond before a tangy mineral close suggesting wet stone. This screams out for food and can accompany the entire meal. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**92 Inama 2020 Foscario (Soave Classico).** Spring blossom, yellow stone fruit and toasted hazelnut aromas come to the forefront. Linear and elegant, the polished palate offers dried apricot, yellow pear and bitter almond before closing on a tangy mineral note suggesting saline. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Corte Mainente 2020 Pigno (Soave Classico).** White spring flower, tropical fruit and botanical herb aromas appear in the glass. Savory and medium-bodied, the linear palate shows ripe white peach, green melon and saline notes set against bright acidity. Jansen International. *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 I Stefanini 2020 Monte de Toni (Soave).** Spring blossom, tropical fruit and spice aromas waft out of the glass along with whiffs of wild herb. Savory and rounded, the polished palate shows juicy green melon, ripe nectarine and saline before a bitter almond close. Imports Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Bolla 2020 Tufaie (Soave Superiore).** This has aromas of yellow apple and citrus. The aromas follow over to the palate along with honeydew melon, honeyed almond and confectionary notes alongside fresh acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**86 Santi 2021 (Soave Classico).** This easygoing white has aromas of white spring flower and tropical fruit. The light-bodied palate suggests honeydew melon, passion fruit, candied notes and a hint of bitter almond alongside crisp acidity. It's simple but well made. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Mustilli 2019 Sant'Agata dei Goti Vigna Segreta (Falanghina del Sannio).** Spring blossom, ripe white stone fruit and wild herb aromas come together on this medium-bodied white. Savory and polished, the palate offers ripe Bartlett pear, apple and hints of ginger alongside tangy acidity. It closes on a hint of white almond. Casa de Case. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Ottella 2021 Le Creete (Lugana).** For full review see page 17. Lyra Wine.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 Corte del Golfo 2021 (Greco di Tufo).** Aromas of tropical fruit and citrus carry over to the palate along with grapefruit, nectarine and saline mineral notes. Crisp acidity keeps vibrant and tangy. Schenk Wines USA. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## SPARKLING WINES

**92 Princic & Cetric 2016 Sinefinis Rebo- lium MMXVI Metodo Classico Brut (Vino Spumante).** Aromas of spring blossom, red berry and stone fruit lift out of the glass on this pretty sparkler. Savory and elegant, the polished palate offers juicy red cherry, strawberry, vanilla and pastry dough notes alongside bright acidity and a refined, persistent perlage. It closes on a hint of saline. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Princic & Cetric 2016 Sinefinis Rebo- lium MMXVI Metodo Classico Brut (Vino Spumante).** Made with native grape Ribolla Gialla, this offers aromas of yellow stone fruit and bread crust. The flavors follow over to the palate along with ripe yellow apple, orange drop and a hint of walnut. Bright acidity and a lively perlage provide the backdrop. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

## ROSÉS

**91 Curto 2021 Rosato EOS (Elo).** This crisp Rosato, made with 100% Nero d'Avola, opens with aromas of spring wild flower, red-skinned berry and white pepper. The dry, savory palate offers tart cherry, pomegranate with saline close and bright acidity. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Cantina di Venosa 2021 Verbo (Basilicata).** Perfumed aromas of pink grapefruit, strawberry, melon and lemon zest are pure and bright on the nose. The light-bodied palate is perky and zesty, delivering tart citrus and berry fruit alongside pulsing acidity. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Tormaresca 2021 Furia (Salento).** Creamy melon meets brisk citrus and a hint of white flowers in this rosato blend of Negroamaro, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. It's broad in feel, filled out by plump melon and berry flavors, with ample acidity driving it home. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 Tenuta Le Colonne 2020 (Costa Toscana).** This easygoing, enjoyable rosato has aromas recalling berry, Mediterranean brush and beeswax. The light-bodied palate offers juicy red cherry, peach and a hint of saline alongside fresh acidity. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Tormaresca 2021 Calafuria (Salento).** Melon, strawberry and raspberry aromas create a cohesive, fruity start to this delightful rosato. It's juicy yet lightly concentrated on the palate, with refreshing citric lift to keep it lively. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**86 Crifo 2020 Grifone Bombino Nero (Castel del Monte).** Sun-baked stones and resinous herb aromas mask the glimmer of strawberry on the nose. The light-bodied palate shows more earthy tones over tense melon and white raspberry accents. It's lightly concentrated and brisk in nature. Pullano Imports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

## NEW ZEALAND

### SAUVIGNON BLANC

**93 Astrolabe 2020 Kekerengu Coast Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Astrolabe consistently delivers Sauvignons of balance and refreshment, and this bottle doesn't disappoint. The nose is rich with aromas of stone fruit, guava and honeysuckle. There's a lovely textural roundness in the mouth that's buoyed by crunchy acidity. Layers of food friendly flavor finish longer with citrus and spice. Drink now and over the next few years. Share a Splash. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Greywacke 2020 Wild Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** For full review see page 13. Old Bridge Cellars.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**91 Savvy 2021 Little Darling Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is an ultracrowd-pleasing Sauvignon with grassy pungency and oodles of passionfruit, peach and lime. The palate offers mouthwatering acidity amidst lots of limey flavor. Summer sipping for the masses. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**90 Koha 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is a bright, zippy and balanced Sauvignon for drinking cold in the height of summer. Passionfruit and lime burst from the glass followed by fresh herbs like fennel fronds and lavender. There's a slipperiness to the palate, the juicy fruit lingering on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**90 Nautilus 2020 The Paper Nautilus Heritage Block Renwick Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Fermented and aged in large format French oak, this age worthy Sauvignon is still young and quiet. With some time in glass, it whispers notes of flint, lemon pith, grapefruit, peach and grass. Acidity is a touch shrill but there's lovely texture and a mouthwatering, citrus finish. Needs a bit

# BUYINGGUIDE

more time in bottle. Drink 2023–2027. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$49

**90 OTU 2021 Otuwhero Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is textbook Marlborough Sauvignon. It's bright, extroverted and ultra-refreshing. It gets the fruit-veg balance right with heady notes of green bell pepper, grass, guava and lime. Acidity is a little young and shrill but a citrusy finish makes taking another sip an easy endeavor. Winesellers, Ltd. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89 Seresin 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This Sauvignon is blended with 10% Sémillon for a wine that is light overall but with a lick of textural weight. It opens with ripe aromas of lime, peach, pineapple, honey and chalk dust. Crisp acidity and a lingering grapefruit finish make this a straightforward but tasty tippie. The Sorting Table. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**89 Ten Sisters 2021 Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Green veg notes take the lead on this balanced Savvy B. Fresh bell pepper and tomatoes stems are backed by notes of guava and passionfruit. The palate is crunchy with gentle creaminess to the mouthfeel and a lingering herba-ceous flavor on the finish. Bartow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88 Te Pa 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Less bombastic than others in this popular wine style, this leads with gentle notes of pineapple rind and grapefruit, with a greener underbelly, like snap peas or fresh green beans. It's juicy and crisp in the mouth, with some textural weight, but a bit of a burn from the sulfur at the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**85 Spy Valley 2020 Easy Tiger Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Initially muted, with what feels like a blanket of SO<sub>2</sub>, a lemony citrus note peaks through the cracks. The palate is equally lemony with quite shrill acidity and a slightly chalky texture. Young and a bit on the mean and lean side. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$18

## RIESLING

**95 The Boneline 2020 Dry Riesling (Waipara).** With an unmistakably NZ Riesling-esque nose (think: bright lime, lemon oil, kerosene, honeysuckle and warm beeswax), this lucid, layered and thoughtfully made wine is one of the best young Rieslings in New Zealand. And it's a bargain to boot. It's bone dry with a lemony, tart acidity that slices and dices. But the texture—somehow both lean and generous—and the vibrant, honey-flecked fruit tip the scales back to the center. Sip with young, creamy cheese or cellar until around 2030 for a

richer, more honeyed and complex bottling. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$30

**92 Greywacke 2020 Riesling (Marlborough).** There's richness and concentration to this slightly off-dry Riesling. Notes of honey, lime leaf, chalk dust, lemon oil and a touch of kerosene lead. A flicker of honeyed sweetness adds texture and roundness to the palate. While it lacks the rapier acidity typical to this variety, it's fresh enough. Citrus oil lingers on the finish. A deliberate and well crafted style for sipping with spicy Thai or Mexican cuisine. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**90 Mondillo 2021 Riesling (Central Otago).** A daintily aromatic nose opens this Otago Riesling. Peach, lavender and citrus blossoms lead, but as the wine warms, riper, fleshier stone fruit and green apple characters emerge. The palate is dry overall, but a hint of sweetness lurks. There's freshness and a chalky texture amidst the tangy fruit. Drink now–2027. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$42

**89 Greywacke 2019 Riesling (Marlborough).** Where the 2020 vintage of this wine is drinking deliciously now, the '19 is more reticent, with the sugar showing more. It requires time in glass to open up. Rich and concentrated, it offers aromas of kerosene, lemon oil, toffee apple and honeysuckle. There's some sweetness on the palate, but just enough acidity to keep it afloat. An intriguing texture adds character. But fruit doesn't quite come to meet the richness in the middle, and it falls a little flat on the finish. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$25

**87 Barker's Marque 2018 Three Brooms Riesling (Marlborough).** A heady perfume that smells like the height of spring blooms opens this Riesling. The florals are underpinned by ripe peach, lemon-lime and a honey-and-lavender soap note. It's ripe and a bit full throttle, but appealing nonetheless. The palate takes a different turn, with acidity akin to popping a whole lemon slice in your mouth. There's a bit of residual sugar just visible too. Still young and mouthpuckering, this needs a creamy coconut curry or something with similar richness to balance it out. International Vines, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**94 Greywacke 2018 Botrytis Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** The color of melted butter, this is a luscious and intensely aromatic botrytised dessert wine with notes of lemon drops, nectar and cherry blossoms at the height of bloom. The palate is mouthcoating and unctuous with enough acidity to cut through the sweetness, which feels subtle rather than cloying. Chill down like a white and drink on

its own or with a salty blue cheese. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45/375 ml

**90 Hans Family Estate 2018 Viognier (Marlborough).** In typical Herzog style, this is a full throttle, but minimally made Viognier that takes no prisoners. The nose is as toffeed as the bright gold, green tinged appearance suggests. It swirls with heady aromas like freshly collected honeycomb, melting beeswax and orchard blossoms. The palate is less unctuous than one would think, but it's also less vibrant, those raw beeswax notes intriguing but left wanting for more fruit and acidity. Oak flares up on the finish, as does the alcohol. Chill this down slightly and pair with a cheese board, though, and watch it shine. Cape Ardor LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**88 Decibel 2019 By Daniel Brennan Viognier (Hawkes Bay).** This certainly smells like a Viognier, and a ripe one at that. Peaches and cream, lime blossoms and a little ground ginger dominate in aroma and taste, while the mouthfeel is rich and round, and a little short on acidity. Whanau Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

## SPARKLING WINES

**95 No 1 Family Estate NV Blanc de Blanc Cuvée No.1 Methode Traditionelle (Marlborough).** The Le Brun family's *Champenoise* roots stretch back to 1648, but they've been based in Marlborough since 1980. Their vibrant, hay-colored Blanc de Blanc opens with layers of slightly oxidative aromas like lemon oil, peach pit, browned butter, toasted pine nuts and fresh mushrooms. There's wonderfully zingy acidity and a unique texture to the palate. Flavor layers continue right to the lemon zest finish. This walks to its own beat, but maintains balance, length and complexity. It's also outstanding value. New Zealand Wine Navigator. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$38

**94 No 1 Family Estate NV Brut Rosé No. 1 Rosé Methode Traditionelle (Marlborough).** This estate, entirely focused on traditional method bubbles, swims under the radar in the ocean of Marlborough Sauvignon. But it's time to sit up and take notice. The rosé is the color of a watery sunset. Aromas are on the autolytic side, like strawberry shortcake beside a bowl of baker's yeast. But with time in glass more subtle layers emerge. The chalky palate punches with crunchy acidity and tart red currant and cranberry fruit. It's yeasty as well. Could make a tasty pairing with a bowl of fresh strawberries and cream, but really, it's layered enough to pair with a wide range of foods. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$41

**93 No 1 Family Estate NV Brut No 1 Assemblé Methode Traditionelle (Marlborough).** Hailing originally from Champagne, the Le Brun fam-



ily are one of the few in NZ to focus exclusively on traditional method sparkling. The NV Brut is a honey-hued beauty with an opulence that shows straight off the bat via lucid aromas of melted butter on toast, baker's yeast, apricot kernel and orchard blossom. The palate is as rich as nose implies, but with an electric jolt of acidity and tangy fruit. Some of the more delicate flavors get lost amidst the gauzy texture and CO<sub>2</sub>, but this is a thoroughly pleasurable and indulgent drop nonetheless. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$33

## PORTUGAL WHITE WINES

### VINHO VERDE

**90 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 (Vinho Verde).** The wine comes from the Monção and Melgaço region of Vinho Verde, the home of Alvarinho. It is a textured wine, poised between freshness and ripe white fruits. The wine will soften over the next few months, broadening out very satisfactorily. Drink from 2023. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**89 Casa Santa Eulália 2021 Avesso (Vinho Verde).** The Avesso gives a tight, mineral wine that needs a little aging. It has brightness and the texture and citrus flavors will soften. Drink the wine from 2023. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**88 Casa Santa Eulália 2021 Alvarinho-Trajadura Vinho Verde.** There is a slight prickle on this attractive, fruity blend of two of Vinho Verde's principal grapes. It is light, full of white fruits and citrus. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**88 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 João Portugal Ramos (Vinho Verde).** The soft style of Loureiro is well evident in this creamy, ripe wine. It has a crisp edge to the white fruits and cool freshness. The wine is ready to drink. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**87 Casa Santa Eulália 2021 Plainas Loureiro (Vinho Verde).** From the estate vineyards of Eulália, the wine is bright, crisp and fruity. Its young acidity is vibrant, bouncy and full of green apple flavors. Drink the wine from later this year. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**85 Casa Santa Eulália 2021 Plainas (Vinho Verde).** From the eastern Vinho Verde region of Basto, this wine is light, bright and crisp. Vivid citrus comes through strongly bringing out the wine's mineral texture. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$11

## DOURO

**91 Quinta de São Luiz 2017 Winemaker's Collection Grande Reserva (Douro).** From the estate, perched high above the Douro, this wine is rich, mature and creamy. It has ripe yellow fruits that are set alongside the wine's spice and acidity. This fine wine is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2021 Douro Superior (Douro).** The wine is rounded and rich, full of bright white fruits and with tight acidity. It is an attractive, perfumed wine, ready to drink now. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**88 Wines & Winemakers 2021 Lua Cheia (Douro).** Made from a field blend of old vines, this ripe wine is rich and full-bodied. The wine's concentration comes from the vineyard, low yields giving density. White fruits and spice are delicious now. Costa Nova. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Wines & Winemakers 2020 Andreza Reserva (Douro).** Wood aging and rich white fruits give this wine spice and generous citrus and apple flavors. Its blend of Viosinho and Verdelho complement each other well, giving ripeness and a fresh, crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Costa Nova. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87 Duorum 2021 Tons de Duorum (Douro).** The wine is perfumed, structured and with a mineral edge. The Moscatel in the blend gives the perfumes, while the wine is textured as well as freshly fruity. The wine will be ready from 2023. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87 Sogevinus 2021 Curva (Douro).** This blend of Malvasia and Gouveio is perfumed and with a creamy texture. It is bright with white fruits, spice and a kiwi aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## LISBOA

**94 Quinta de Chocapalha 2016 Guarita da Quinta de Chocapalha (Lisboa).** A big wine in every sense, this is rich and concentrated. The power and dark color are enhanced even more by the solid black fruits and the tannins that are now fully integrated. While the wine is ready to drink, it has more years ahead. Drink now or wait until 2024. **Not Imported into US. Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**90 Quinta de Chocapalha 2019 CH by Chocapalha (Lisboa).** Light wood aging has given this wine spice, ripe apple and crisp citrus flavors. It is a fine wine, balanced with incipient richness as

well as great freshness. Drink now. **Not Imported into US.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Quinta de Chocapalha 2021 (Lisboa).** An attractive blend of Viosinho and Arinto, the wine is softly textured. Perfumes, juicy acidity. White fruits are sharpened with citrus and light minerality. Drink the wine now. **Not Imported into US.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Quinta de Chocapalha 2020 Arinto (Lisboa).** Crisp and citrusy, this wine, made from the local white grape, Arinto, is bright, lively and packed with fruit. It is vivid and briskly ready to drink. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**86 Aveleda 2021 Mandriola de Lisboa (Lisboa).** The wine is softly textured and light, full of bright fruits and tangy acidity. A blend of Fernão Pires and Moscatel Graúdo, this is easy drinking and ready now. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

## ALENTEJANO

**86 Adega de Redondo 2020 Maré Viva Selection (Alentejano).** Soft baked apple and light spice give a wine that is full of white fruits and shot through with acidity. It is an attractive wine, ready to drink. Saraiva Enterprises. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$9

**85 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Loios Alentejano.** A simple blend of Roupeiro and the less common Rabo de Ovelha, this perfumed wine is as fresh as possible, lively and bright. Drink now. **Not Imported into US. Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

**85 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Pouca Roupa (Alentejano).** The wine's freshness is right up front, giving a crisp texture, bright green fruits and plenty of tangy, herbal acidity. The wine is just right for lovers of Sauvignon Blanc that forms a part of the blend. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Marquês de Borba Vinhas Velhas (Alentejo).** This wood-aged blend of old vines is finely textured, ripe with white fruits that round out the acidity. Spice from the wood adds complexity and richness. Drink from 2023. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**90 Aveleda 2020 Villa Alvor Domus (Algarve).** Spicy and with ripe yellow fruit and mango flavors, this is an attractive wine from the southern-

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most province of Portugal. It is juicy, delicious now and ready to drink. Avelada Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Casa Santa Eulália 2021 Alvarinho (Minho).** Entirely made with Alvarinho from across the region, this is a bright, creamy wine with plenty of potential. It is light and crisp at the end. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90 Fiuza 2020 Ikon Alvarinho (Tejo).** The flagship Ikon from this producer is now in a white version. It is wood aged and rich. The acidity and fresh white fruits are balanced and go well with the wine's spice and final tangy edge. Drink the wine from 2023. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 Casca Wines 2021 Monte Cascas Colheita (Beira Interior).** From the mountainous interior of Portugal, this wine is crisp and cool. Its acidity and freshness are balanced with kiwi and spice, with baked apples. Drink now. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87 Adega de Penalva 2021 Colheita (Dão).** With 30% Encruzado in the blend, the wine is creamy while also showing attractive perfumes from Malvasia. The wine is delicious and refreshing, ready to drink now. MAF Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**87 Fiuza 2021 Alvarinho (Tejo).** Alvarinho, a usually northern grape, this is from southern Portugal. The wine preserves some of the grape's crispness but spreads it out into a full wine. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

## SPARKLING WINE

**86 Casca Wines NV Monte Cascas Bruto (Beiras).** A ripe and off-dry wine with fruitiness and apple flavors. The wine is crisp and flavorful and is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

## ROSÉS

**87 Fiuza 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon-Touriga Nacional (Tejo).** This is an attractive, fresh and fruity wine. A smooth texture gives it a light structure, followed through with red fruits and acidity. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**87 Quinta de São Luiz 2021 Winemaker's Collection (Douro).** Produced from Tinta Cão, this wine is soft and rounded, gentle and softly textured. The wine is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 87% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Quevedo 2021 Oscar's (Douro).** A rich Touriga Nacional rosé, with tangy red fruits and a bite of pepper and layers of acidity. The wine is fresh and textured. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**85 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Pouca Roupa (Alentejano).** An attractive soft rosé, this has bright fruits along with a crisp red currant freshness. The wine is light, tight and ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**84 Sogevinus 2021 Tavedo (Douro).** The wine is soft with gentle red fruits and an open texture, the wine is rounded and ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**84 Casa Santa Eulália 2021 Terroir Vinho Mundo (Vinho Verde).** There is a light texture to this wine, made from 100% Touriga Nacional. Spice and pepper add an edge to the red currant fruits and hint of caramel. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

## PORTUGAL RED WINES DUORO

**95 Burmester 2017 Quinta da Boavista Vinha do Ujo (Douro).** The wine is impressive, superbly structured and packed with now mature black fruits. It comes from a parcel of vines on the Boavista estate that have produced a wine that is seriously dense and concentrated. It is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$235

**94 Duorum 2018 Reserva (Douro).** This rich, field blend wine, with its mint and spice aromas, is impressive and certainly worth aging further. A strongly mineral texture with dark black fruits, and layers of richness and acidity, this fine wine should be ready from 2025. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$53

**94 Quinta de São Luiz 2017 Grande Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** The quinta, on the south bank of the Douro, has produced a very fine balanced and juicy wine. The tannins and the ripe black fruits are integrated, solid and darkly dense. Drink now or age further, certainly until 2026. Wine In-Motion. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Quinta de São Luiz 2016 Vinha Rumilã (Douro).** This wine, from a parcel at the Sogevinus-owned Quinta de São Luiz, is very fine. Black fruits, acidity, spice and mint, the wine makes

a powerful statement. It has a rich, velvet texture that gives both density and a welcoming character that makes the wine ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Burmester 2017 Boa-Vista Reserva (Douro).** This estate, founded by Baron Forrester, a leading British Douro figure in the 19th century, is producing serious, complex wines. This bold, black flavors are concentrated, with solid tannins and obvious aging potential. Drink the wine from 2023. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$88

**93 Burmester 2017 Quinta do Arnozelo Grande Reserva (Douro).** This is a powerful wine, belying its balanced alcohol. With wood flavors giving spice and a toasty edge even after five years, the wine is also rich and dense, with black fruits and a polished final texture. The wine can age further, drink from 2025. Wine In-Motion. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$88

**92 Wines & Winemakers 2019 Andreza Altitude (Douro).** Aged for a year in wood, this wine is rich and polished. A blend of Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca, it is rich while also having a fine line of acidity and fragrant black fruits. Although it is young, it is also vividly ready to drink. Specialty Wines & More. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 Burmester 2018 Touriga Nacional (Douro).** The wine's structure and balance are exemplary. That gives space to the black currant fruits, the wine's perfumes and the core of dense tannins that need to age further. The wine should be ready from 2024. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$47

**90 Burmester 2017 Boa-Vista Touriga Nacional (Douro).** This wine, with its polished wood aging and rich black fruits, is perfumed and ripe. It is a full wine, concentrated and packed with blackberry flavors. A pepper edge from alcohol does spoil the finale of the wine. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$58

**89 Wines & Winemakers 2019 Touriga Nacional-Touriga Franca (Douro).** Partially aged in wood for a year, the wine has a polished texture and dense fruits. The blend of half and half Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca combines well with perfumed and tannins, black fruits and acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. Costa Nova. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**88 Burmester 2020 (Douro).** A blend of Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca, is friendly, lightly textured. Bright berry fruits and polished wood aging are balanced and right up front. Drink this fruity wine from 2024. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## DÃO

**92 Adega de Penalva 2019 Touriga Nacional (Dão).** Touriga Nacional from the central Dão region, is here in its element. This wine, rich in tannins and perfumed and packed with dark fruits is full, generous and structured. It has spice from wood aging, layered with firm tannins and a juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2024. MAF Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2019 (Douro).** The grapes for this wine come from the east of the Douro region, in Douro Superior. It is richly structured with a firm, still young, core of tannins. The wine will develop further, drink from 2024. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$66

**88 Adega de Penalva 2020 Colheita (Dão).** Despite its light alcohol, the wine is dense under the perfumed, fresh black fruits. Even at two years, it is very approachable, polished from wood aging and generous in its structure. Drink from 2023. MAF Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**88 Quinta do Covão 2019 (Dão).** The wine is perfumed and structured with a strong mineral texture. Underlying black fruits give a juicy, vibrant side to this balanced wine. It will certainly age, drink from 2024. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## LISBOA

**94 Quinta de Chocapalha 2018 CH by Chocapalha (Lisboa).** Despite its weight, this is an elegant wine. It is rich and dense, but it is the wine's poise that impresses. The perfumed Touriga Nacional shines through the structure and promises much. Drink this wine from 2025. 1\_Not Imported into US. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**94 Quinta de Chocapalha 2017 Vinha Mãe (Lisboa).** Fermented in open top lagares, the wine comes from the estate's oldest vines. It has a big structure and polished, generous black fruits. Structure and density enhance the richness of this fine wine. Drink from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Quinta de Chocapalha 2017 (Lisboa).** The estate wine from this family-owned estate north of Lisbon is generous with a tarry texture, approaching maturity. The tannins are cushioned by the bold black fruits and dense structure of this impressive age-worthy wine. Drink from 2023. Winebow Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87 Aveleda 2020 12 Knights (Lisboa).** Named after medieval warriors who helped protect Portugal, this wine is dense and with promise of early development. It does have weight, succulent black fruits showing strongly. Drink from 2023. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**86 Aveleda 2021 Mandriola de Lisboa (Lisboa).** This is a fresh, juicy wine, full of bright red fruits and acidity. The wine has a crisp edge, tangy texture and is ready to drink. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

## TEJO

**91 Wines & Winemakers 2020 Companhia das Lezírias Tyto Alba Touriga Nacional (Tejo).** A ripe, luscious wine, this has opulent black fruits that are outlined by tannins. The wine is structured and dense, rich in black fruits and juicy acidity. Drink this fine wine from 2024. Specialty Wines & More. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**90 Encosta do Sobral 2018 Vinhas Velhas (Tejo).** The wine is ripe with minerality and powerful black fruits. It comes from schist soil, giving a complex structure as well as a firm edge. That suggests the wine could age further. Drink from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Wines & Winemakers 2020 Companhia das Lezírias Tyto Alba (Tejo).** A wine from the natural reserve in the northern Tejo, this is ripe, spicy with generous black fruits and tannins that have already begun to soften. It is balanced, a rich wine, finishing with acidity. Specialty Wines & More. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

## ALENTEJANO

**92 Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Reserva da Família (Alentejano).** A wood-aged blend of 50/50 Touriga Nacional and Syrah, this is rich, structured and still young. Its solid tannins go with perfumed fruits and a generous texture. From selected parcels, the wine can age further. Drink from 2023. LGL Imports LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**91 J. Portugal Ramos 2020 Ramos Reserva (Alentejano).** Partial wood aging has polished this wine, softening the juicy black fruits and adding a touch of smokiness. The wine is finely textured with ripe tannins and spice. Drink from 2025. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**88 Casca Wines 2021 Monte Cascas Colheita (Alentejano).** Juicy and full of black fruits,

this is a soft, open wine despite high alcohol. A touch smoky and with layers of acidity, the wine will be ready to drink from 2023. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$14

**87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Guarda Rios (Alentejano).** This is a simple, fruity and young wine. Its soft tannins and ripe red fruits give a bright, spicy wine that will be great for barbecues. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**86 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Pouca Roupa (Alentejano).** There is an edge of toastiness to this wine from its light wood aging. That balances the young, vibrant black fruits in a fine blend that includes Alicante Bouschet and Touriga Nacional. Drink the wine now. 1\_Not Imported into US. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

## OTHER RED WINES

**94 Quinta de Foz de Arouce 2017 Vinhas Velhas de Santa Maria (Beira Atlantico).** This structured wine, pure Baga, is powerful and densely textured. Black fruits, the spice from wood fermentation and aging and a solid feel, give this wine great richness. Drink this fine wine from 2024. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**88 Sogevinus 2019 Veedha (Douro).** A fruity, attractive and succulent wine, this is full of fruit and tannins that are already soft. The wine is full of black fruits and acidity. It will be ready from 2023. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Sogevinus 2019 Curva (Douro).** A ripe, fruity wine, full of red berry flavors, this is lively and lightly textured. The wine is juicy and will be ready to drink from 2023. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**85 Sogevinus 2020 Tavedo (Douro).** An open, fruity wine, a blend of five grapes, that has ripe, soft textures and bright red fruits. The wine is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## PORT

**96 Kopke NV 50 Years Old White (Port).** The wine's concentration is amazing, with density from the long wood aging. While it so intense, the Port also has impressive freshness even at this stage. Balanced and velvet, the wine is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 29% **Price:** \$180/375 ml

**95 Quevedo 1974 Colheita (Port).** After all the years in wood, this is a rich gold toffee wine that is in a magnificent condition. Its rich-

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ness is balanced by spice and by impressive acidity and concentration. The wine still has amazing freshness. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$231

**93 Kopke NV 20 Years Old White (Port).** This wood-aged Port has a fine point of balance between fruit and old wood flavors. Its richness comes from the concentration and the acidity working in harmony. Drink the wine now. Wine In-Motion. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$110/375 ml

**92 Kopke 2004 Colheita (Port).** In colheita terms, this Port is still young with plenty of fruit as well as wood aging flavors. That gives the wine structure alongside the ripe spice and final tang of spirit. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$50

**92 Quevedo 2019 Vintage (Port).** Ripe black fruits have produced a Vintage Port that is both structured and on the sweet side. That gives it a generous character, ripe with tannins and blackberry fruit flavors. It needs to age, drink from 2030. P.R. Grisley Company. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$86

**90 Quevedo 2017 Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** Aged partly in tank and partly in wood, the wine is maturing well. It is not yet ready, with tannins still driving the wine along with the blackberry fruits. It will be better from 2024. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$28

**90 Quevedo 2007 Colheita (Port).** The Port might seem old, but in terms of a Colheita it is youthful. That means fruit is still present in the this rich, velvet textured wine. It has great richness and balance. Of course, it is ready to drink. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$57

**88 Kopke NV 10 Years Old Tawny (Port).** The Port has plenty of fruit as well as some youthful wood-aging flavors, still leaning towards fruit. It is a easy wine to drink and to like. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$35

## SOUTH AFRICA

### CHENIN BLANC

**93 Van Loggerberg 2019 Trust Your Gut Chenin Blanc (Western Cape).** A medium-light gold color, this wine opens with scents of caramelized leek, dried apple skin, lemon custard and a touch of melon rind. The palate is direct and focused, with a direct seam of acidity to cut through the rich fruit and spice tones and lend verve and vibrancy to the close. A lovely textural grip unfolds on the midpal-

ate and lingers with interest through the long finish. Drink now—2025. Vine Street Imports. —L.B.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

**91 Safriel House 2018 Barrel Fermented Reserve Chenin Blanc (Paarl).** Rich and oaky tones of buttered popcorn, brioche, baked apple and orange custard form the nose on this golden pour. The palate is similarly concentrated, presenting more waves of wood-grilled stone and orchard fruits alongside a sweet orange-oil characteristic that keeps it in balance and from feeling too round or overdone. The finish delights in long-lingering flavors of baked apple and ripe honeydew melon. MHW, Ltd. —L.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$28

**90 Bosman Family Vineyards 2017 Optenhorst Single Vineyard Bushvine Chenin Blanc (Wellington).** There's a muted richness to the nose of this medium-gold pour. It offers initial scents of soft-baked apples, ripe yellow-melon flesh and orange custard all graced by a soft sweet-butter top note. The palate is medium-plus in weight and round in feel, with rich fruit flavors as the nose suggests coupled with more assertive sweet wood and spice tones that carry on the medium-length close, with a salty, umami-like impression on the back. Wine For The World. —L.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$44

**90 Bruce Jack 2020 Heritage Collection Boer Maak'n Plan Chenin Blanc (Breedekloof).** There's a slightly woody, smoky overlay to the nose of this wine, riding atop tones of buttered brioche, honeydew and fresh apple pie. The palate shows a bit more restraint in its richness, with those ripe, bold tones balanced by a saline cut and river rock minerality. Ample acidity and a slightly pithy grip lend depth to the sip and continue through to the close for a lingering textural impression. Manzanos Wines USA. —L.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

**90 Edgebaston 2019 David Finlayson Camino Africana Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** This wine smells rich and woody at the start, with overt aromas of wood-grilled apple, ripe yellow melon, orange cream and a touch of salted butter in the background. It's round and generous on the palate, with more grilled apple and spiced orange tones that fill the mouth and linger long on the spicy, lightly gripping finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

**89 Terre Brûlée 2021 Le Blanc Chenin Blanc (Swartland).** Melon pith, straw, honey-suckle and orange blossom tea all dance on the nose upon first whiff of this enticing wine. The palate is medium in weight, with ripe orange and orchard-fruit flavors that linger with good intensity through to the finish, structured by ample acidity for freshness and a lightly bitter framework for textural interest. Cape Classics. —L.B.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

**88 Kumusha 2020 Chenin Blanc (Breedekloof).** This smells fresh, fruity and inviting right

off the bat, with enticing aromas of juicy Bartlett pear, Honeycrisp apple and mandarin that fill the nose. It's light in weight and clean in feel on the sip, with a bright citrus edge that continues to the refreshing finish. Drink now. Baobab Wines Inc. —L.B.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

**88 Reyneke 2020 Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** Lanolin, melon rind, fresh beeswax and delicate ramp form the bouquet of this interesting, earthy wine. It's a bit round and soft in feel at first, with medium-weight melon and orchard-fruit tones that are begging for a bit more lift at the jump. Thankfully, a pithy texture and delicate acidity unfold as part of the picture on the midpalate and through the finish, lending more overall balance to the sip. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$34

**87 Black Pearl 2021 Chenin Blanc (Swartland).** Bruised red apple, mandarin rind and yellow melon fill the nose of this superpale gold wine, with a lifted dried-rooibos tone in the back for extra interest. The palate is medium-light in weight and generally easygoing, with more citrus and melon flavors that offer a pithy edge, lending a delicate texture to the sip and through the close. Drink now. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

**87 Rustenberg 2021 Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** Lime, snappy apple, green plum and underripe pineapple lead the nose of this fresh and vibrant Chenin. The palate is light and easygoing, with bright acidity that complements the tart green fruit and citrus flavors which all carry through to the refreshing, mouthwatering finish. Drink now. Indigo Wine Group. —L.B.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

**86 Bosman Family Vineyards 2020 Generation 8 Chenin Blanc (Wellington).** Yellow apple, honeydew rind and fresh straw form the bouquet of this light and breezy wine. The palate is fresh and vibrant, with citrus flavors and medium acidity that yields a clean, mouthwatering finish. Drink now. Wine For The World. —L.B.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$16

**86 Reyneke 2020 Vinehugger Chenin Blanc (Western Cape).** There's a bit of warmth on the nose of this white, with aromas of under-ripe white peach, nectarine, pineapple rind and a touch of sweet grass. The palate is light and easygoing, with light fruit tones and just enough acidity to keep the close clean. Drink up. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$17

**86 The Beachhouse 2021 Citrus Grove Chenin Blanc (Western Cape).** Green mango, melon and pineapple rind form the bouquet of this tropical-leaning pour, with delicate hints of sweet grass and peony in the background. It's light and soft in the mouth, with delicate acidity and round, under-ripe tropical-fruit flavors that continue on to the



finish but don't hang around too long. Drink now. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**85 Lubanzi 2021 Chenin Blanc (Swartland).** Fresh red apple and Anjou pear lead the bouquet of this pale gold wine, with additional glimmers of white melon and clover to keep things interesting. It's medium-minus in weight, with a delicate slickness to the fruit impressions on the palate and a lingering pithiness that promotes a slightly bitter edge to the close. Cape Venture Wine Co. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**85 Painted Wolf 2021 The Den Chenin Blanc (Swartland).** There's a sweet-chalk top-note on the nose of this wine, with supporting aromas of baby's breath, orange blossom and white peach. It's light and easy on the palate, with soft sweet-citrus flavors and a flash of acidity to keep it fresh and clean, though also somewhat fleeting, on the close. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**91 Lomond 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Cape Agulhas).** Pineapple rind, green melon, plum and gooseberry all combine to form the fruity core of this wine, with additional glimmers of lime leaf and lemongrass for an interesting herbal lift. The palate is light-plus in weight, driven more by pithy lime flavor than ripe fruits, with a seam of salinity and bright acidity that results in a vibrant, mouthwatering finish. Drink now—2025. Cape Classics. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Julien Schaal 2021 Mountain Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Elgin).** This fruit-forward white opens with scents of white peach, papaya, white raspberry, ripe currant and a touch of violet florals. The palate is medium-minus in weight, carrying more of the fruity impressions that the nose offered, but with supporting acidity and moderate length to the close. It's very pleasant and hard to resist now, so pop and enjoy for all its fruity splendor. Distinctive Domaines. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Downes Family 2021 Sanctuary Peak Sauvignon Blanc (Elgin).** Yellow apple, melon, plantain and orange peel aromas are front and center on the nose of this superpale yellow-gold wine, with accents of straw and lemon verbena dancing playfully in the back. It's medium in weight and a little soft on the midpalate, though brightened back up on the finish thanks to ample acidity and a lightly lingering citrus-pith tone that lends some pleasantly bitter texture to the experience. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**89 Excelsior 2021 Produced and Bottled by the De Wet Family Sauvignon Blanc (Robertson).** Crisp peach, white plum, green melon and a touch of

white currant form the nose of this enticing white, with just a hint of freshly dried lemongrass in the background. The palate is brisk and vibrant, with lemon-lime acidity and a light pithiness that lends a subtle texture and yields a clean, mouthwatering finish. Enjoy now. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**89 Robertson Winery 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Robertson).** For full review see page 25. Indigo Wine Group. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**88 Cape D'or 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Swartland).** A lovely, floral top note of baby's breath unfolds on the nose of this bright and easy-going white, with supporting fruit tones of firm white nectarine and Asian pear. The mouthfeel is light-plus in weight, with more orchard-fruit flavors that are complemented by a seam of orange pith and bitter melon rind. Drink now. Oaktree Imports. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Glen Carlou 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Cape Town).** A light yellow color in the glass, this wine opens with aromas of pineapple rind, ripe gooseberry and white melon, with a delicate overlay of sweet lime. It's light and refreshing on the palate, with bright acidity and a clean finish fueled by citrus and green plum flavors. Drink now. Pace Wine and Spirits. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Rustenberg 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Stellenbosch).** There's a decadent ripeness upfront on the nose of this wine, expressed in aromas of lightly caramelized peach, grilled melon, guava and lemon curd. Those flavors continue through to the palate, which is light in weight but yields a slight impression of roundness thanks to the ripe fruit tones. Ample acidity balances the sip and results in a clean, medium-length finish. Indigo Wine Group. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Ridgeback 2021 Lion Hound Sauvignon Blanc (Paarl).** Sweet grass, honeysuckle and ripe banana lead the bouquet of this attractive white, with a ripe gooseberry flavor grounding the core. The palate follows in similar suit, though with a prickly acidity that helps to lift the ripe green-fruit tones and keep the finish fresh. Drink now. Artisans & Vines. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**87 Riebeek Cellars 2021 Elton Bay Sauvignon Blanc (Coastal Region).** Lime leaf, white plum and a touch of green mango form the nose of this attractive white wine, with a hint of sweet grass on the back. The palate is light and direct, with more tart fruit and lime flavors that are partnered with brisk acidity and a vibrant finish. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## CHARDONNAY

**92 Hamilton Russell 2020 Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde).** There's a flinty, mineral impression right from the start on the nose of this wine, coupled with tones of cedar-grilled apple, buttercup blossom, toasted brioche and freshly dried straw. Medium in weight and round yet absolutely not flabby in feel, it shows more toasted orchard-fruit tones on the palate alongside additional flavors of clove-studded orange, pie crust and peach pit that remain steady through the enduring finish. It's hard to resist now, but shows the balance and structure to mature well through 2026. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$43

**91 Kara-Tara 2020 Chardonnay (Western Cape).** Wood-grilled apple, toasted brioche, yellow melon, lemon verbena and a touch of honeysuckle all dance on the nose of this attractive white wine. On the sip, bright lemony acidity comes immediately into play, lifting up the ripe fruit flavors with verve and brilliance that carries them through to the mouthwatering finish. It's a well-balanced and easy-to-like pour, ready to drink now and through 2025. Vineyard Brands. **Editors' Choice.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**91 Van Loggerberg 2020 Break a Leg Chardonnay (Polkadraai Hills).** There's an immediate flinty impression to the nose of this wine, which offers a lightly toasty impression to the yellow apple, melon and orange aromas found underneath. On the palate, there's more baked apple and clove-studded orange flavors, but they're supported by a high-cut of pristine, saline-tinged acidity that keeps the mouthfeel fresh and the finish vibrant and lingering alongside a lightly tannic texture and dried porcini character. Vine Street Imports. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23

**90 Aslina by Ntsiki Biyela 2020 Chardonnay (Western Cape).** There's a lovely richness on the nose of this wine, with aromas of fresh apple pie, cedar-grilled peach, creamsicle and a touch of orange blossom—it's ripe and slightly decadent but with clarity and focus. The palate offers more ripe-fruit tones with a sweet toasty overlay, though it's not overly so, as ample acidity keeps the weight and richness in check and delicate wood tannins lends some texture to the sip and medium-length finish. Wine For The World. —L.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**90 Bruce Jack 2020 Reserve Collection Chardonnay (Breedekloof).** Lemongrass, verbena and ginger are front and center on the nose of this earthy, herbal pour, with supporting fruit aromas of white melon rind, strawberry hull and Bosc pear underneath. The sip is similarly herbal and spiced in impression, with an almost mentholated lift to the green melon rind and apple flavors. Fresh and clean, it shows nice refreshment on the

# BUYINGGUIDE

medium-length close. Manzanos Wines USA. **Editors' Choice.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Julien Schaal 2020 Mountain Vineyards Chardonnay (Elgin).** Toasted hazelnut and pie crust aromas abound on the bouquet of this brilliant light-gold wine. Underneath, scents of wood-grilled apple, singed orange rind and corn cob add more depth and interest, and reveal themselves with greater intensity alongside a buttered popcorn element on the medium-weight palate. It's rich, toasty and woody through the enduring close. Distinctive Domains. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Mont Rochelle 2019 Chardonnay (Franschhoek).** Toasted apple, honeycomb, grilled pineapple and spiced pear all abound on the nose of this enticing, well-balanced pour. It's ripe and slightly round yet focused in overall feel, with caramel corn and apple pie flavors that are enlivened by ample acidity and a lightly woody texture, leading into a medium-length finish. Drink now–2025. The Triton Collection. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Tesselaarsdal 2020 Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge).** This wine opens with delicate aromas of apple flesh, just-ripe peach and dandelion. The palate offers more just-ripe stone and orchard fruit flavors, with a brilliant seam of lemon-lime acidity lifting it all up and carrying through to the lightly spicy, delicately textured close. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90 The Valley 2020 Chardonnay (Elgin).** Medium gold in color, this wine opens with delicate aromas of dried apple skin, melon rind and orange pith. It's shy right now, needing time and airing to coax out more nuances of dried grass and white tea. The palate is medium in weight and well-balanced between the ripe citrus and orchard-fruit tones and a lightly toasty overlay that carries through to the medium-length finish. Give this a bit more time to shine. Drink after 2024. Meridian Prime Inc. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Topiary 2020 Chardonnay (Franschhoek).** Top notes of clove, allspice and frankincense dance in the bouquet of this light gold pour, with notes of pie crust, baked apple and spiced orange at the core. The medium-weight palate offers similarly rich and toasty flavors as the nose put forth, but with a kiss of salinity that hangs on through the finish. Drink now. Cape Classics. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Boschendal 2019 Appellation Series Chardonnay (Elgin).** Intense green plum, gooseberry and lime aromas flood the nose of this bright and vibrant wine, with a sweet grass element weaving through it all for added depth and interest. The palate is light in weight and soft in acidity, with more tart green-fruit flavors that help to keep it

clean and lifted through the close. Drink now. Cape Classics. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**89 Craven 2020 Chardonnay (Stellenbosch).** Scents of baked apple, orange oil and banana-topped Nilla Wafer all unfold on the nose of this light-gold pour. The palate offers more of the same, though with ample acidity to keep the richness in check, as well as a thread of salinity that lends lift and mouthwatering refreshment on the midpalate and through to the close, followed by a clean finish. Drink now. Vine Street Imports. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$34

**88 Cap Maritime 2019 Chardonnay (Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley).** Caramel corn, buttered brioche and shortbread crust all form the nose of this rich and toasty white. Fruit takes center stage on the palate, appearing via waves of soft-baked apple, orange creamsicle and lemon custard. It's round and soft on the medium-plus palate, with delicate acidity and a long, woody finish. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$54

**94 Blackwater 2018 Picquet Chenin Blanc (Swartland).** There's a delicate toasty character to the nose of this wine, expressed in hints of sweet spice and grilled pineapple that unfold alongside tones of Bosc pear, gingered peach and orange blossom tea. The palate is pure and pristine, with focused flavors of spiced melon and orchard fruits that are cut by a pronounced seam of vibrant acidity and a light texture redolent of citrus pith. This is a well-balanced and complete pour, showing beautifully now but with all of the checkmarks to suggest a beautiful evolution ahead. Drink now–2028. Vine Street Imports. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Craven 2019 Karibib Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** Light gold in color, this smells slightly rich and concentrated yet simultaneously focused and pure right off the bat. Waves of fresh honeycomb, rooibos tea, baked apple, clove-spiked orange and spiced pear dance in the bouquet, while the medium-weight palate offers a distinct umami sensation of mushroom tea and salted sweet-cream butter. There's a beautiful texture on the palate, with a saline overtone to the ample acidity and delicate tannins that lend support to the body and length to the finish. Vine Street Imports. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

## ROSÉS

**88 Black Elephant 2021 Rebel Rosé (Western Cape).** There's an herbal overlay to the bouquet of this onion-skin pink wine, showcased in scents of cut grass and garlic scape. Underneath and on the palate, tones of red currant, tart cherry and rhubarb offer a fruity core, with medium acidity that's aligned to the fresh, snappy red-fruit delivery and a lingering delicate pithiness that offers a soft

texture to the close. Enjoy now. Meridian Prime Inc. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Boschendal 2021 The Rose Garden Rosé (Coastal Region).** A medium-pink onion-skin color, this rosé leads with scents of white chocolate-covered strawberry, cherry and just a touch of melon. The palate is just above light in feel, with more ripe red-fruit tones that are partnered with ample acidity and a fruit skin-driven pithiness that provides a pleasant texture and lends some length and depth to the close. Drink now. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

**87 The Beachhouse 2021 Rosé (Western Cape).** A superpale salmon color in the glass, this offers delicate aromas of peach and gingered orange peel that immediately draw you in. The sip is light and fruit-forward, with ripe, juicy tones of more peach, nectarine, mango and strawberry, all lifted by bright, refreshing acidity, with a clean, mouthwatering finish. Drink now. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**87 Warwick 2021 The First Lady Dry Rosé (Western Cape).** Delicate aromas of red plum, cherry and rhubarb dance on the nose of this fairly light-footed rosé. The palate is light yet soft in feel, with superfaint fruit tones that are expressed in waves of tart currant and strawberry hull flavors. Ample acidity keeps the sip fresh and the finish clean. Drink now. Elektra Wines LLC. —L.B.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

## CINSAULT

**92 Van Loggerberg 2018 Geronimo Cinsault (Stellenbosch).** Pressed African violet, red plum, raspberry and boysenberry aromas flood the nose of this intensely fragrant pour, showing beautiful balance between the earthy, floral elements and ripe red-fruit characters. The palate is medium in weight and vibrantly alive, with snappy red-fruit tones and a crunchy texture like crushed satin to lend support to it all. The finish is enduring and evolving, from red fruit to earthy forest floor and finally kisses of baking spice and bark. Vine Street Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Craven 2019 Cinsaut (Stellenbosch).** Rooibos, laurel and eucalyptus lead the nose of this intensely fragrant and herbal pour, as a core of snappy red berry, currant and tart cherry fruit lend support. The medium-weight palate offers a satiny texture and a shade more riper fruit characteristics than the nose suggests, with a lingering cherry flavor and shades of cocoa-kissed tannins. Vine Street Imports. —L.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Bosman Family Vineyards 2019 Twyfeling Cinsaut (Wellington).** There's a graphite-

like accent to the nose of this red, with additional earthy notes of *sous bois* and forest fruit. Flavors of fruit cake, baking spice and red cherry dance on the lightweight palate, with bright acidity to keep it all fresh and invigorated through the juicy yet lightly tannin-textured close. Wine For The World. —L.B.  
abv: 14% Price: \$28

**90** **Trizanne 2020 Cinsault (Swartland)**. Brambly raspberry, blackberry and red plum form the nose of this brightly fruity yet also earthy red, with top notes of church incense and iris that only further add to the herbal impression. The palate is light and bright in red fruit and berry tones, with a delicate structure of fine tannins and a plum-skin flavor that lend a soft grip to the fruit-fueled finish. Drink now. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —L.B.  
abv: 13% Price: \$18

## CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

**98** **Three Sticks 2020 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast)**. For full review see page 3.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$70

**97** **Lynmar Estate 2020 Monastery Chardonnay (Russian River Valley)**. For full review see page 3.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$58

**96** **Three Sticks 2020 One Sky Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain)**. For full review see page 3.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$70

**95** **Domaine Della 2020 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley)**. An outstanding white from a warm vintage, this shows rich layers of custard and lemon soufflé. Tangy tangerine and wet stone undertones give it lift and freshness as the richness returns for a full-throated, creamy and cohesive finish. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

**95** **Lynmar Estate 2020 Susanna's Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast)**. For full review see page 5.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$63

**95** **Three Sticks 2020 Durell Vineyard Origin Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast)**. For full review see page 5.  
abv: 14% Price: \$65

**94** **Fess Parker 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley)**. For full review see page 6.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$44

**94** **Hanzell 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley)**. Stony, flinty and crisp in lemon zest, this wine was given time in both new barrel and stain-

less steel, allowing for complex, floral tones to take hold. Complex, balanced and elegant in style, this wine is mightily structured, with plenty of time to unfurl and impress. —V.B.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$78

**94** **Hertelendy 2018 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley)**. For full review see page 7.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$85

**94** **LaRue 2019 H. Klopp Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast)**. From a coastal site, this wine offers mineral-driven gravel and rock undertones, textured and steely with a hint of grip. Dried herb, green apple and lemon candy come to the fore atop a linear thread of acidity that amplifies the acidity. —V.B.  
abv: 12.4% Price: \$60

**94** **Lynmar Estate 2020 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast)**. Broad and fleshy in tropical and floral notes, this impressive appellation wine is seamless in texture, as well as layered and complex, delivering outstanding value for the outstanding quality. Wet stone, gravel and citrus combine around a lightness of oak, the wine fermented and aged in half French oak and half cement egg. *Editors' Choice*. —V.B.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$38

**94** **Rancho Vinedo 2019 Dona Martina Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley)**. From own-rooted vines almost five decades old, this bottling begins with subtle yet focused aromas of sea salt, lime pith and light pear. There's a tight edgy and ashy grip to the palate, framing Meyer lemon-peel and light almond flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 12.7% Price: \$46

**94** **Rancho Vinedo 2017 Dona Martina Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley)**. Like a classic white Burgundy, this five-year-old bottling from own-rooted old vines is showing no age at all—still crisp, clean and chalky on the nose with lemon-zest, white-ash, chiseled stone and macadamia-nut aromas. The acidity holds sharp and the texture quite grippy through the sip, where sea-salt and pecan flavors meet with fresh citrus tones. *Editors' Choice*. —M.K.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$46

**93** **Fess Parker 2020 Ashley's Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills)**. For full review see page 10.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$44

**93** **Krutz 2019 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands)**. Warm aromas of peach, honeysuckle and white melon are edged by a steely minerality on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate lands with a creamy mouthfeel, carrying satisfying flavors of butter, baked nectarine and coconut flake, leading into a toasty finish. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$65

**93** **Niner 2019 Jespersen Ranch Chardonnay (Edna Valley)**. For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$55

**93** **Sangiaco 2020 Four Siblings Green Acres Vineyard Heritage Block Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast)**. An homage to the family's second generation, this impressive white is fleshy, full bodied and well integrated, generous in style and quality. Pineapple, pear and stone highlight a moderate palate of gravel-like texture and intensity, with finishing touch of *crème brûlée*. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

**93** **Summerland 2020 Spear Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills)**. For full review see page 11.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$49

**92** **Anaba 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast)**. Floral, light and lovely, this coastal wine is crowd-pleasing and brimming in stone fruit, apple peel and dried herb. Well-integrated oak and balanced weight keeps it fresh and lively, finishing in fennel and celery root. —V.B.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$40

**92** **Armida 2019 Chalone Vineyard Chardonnay (Chalone)**. For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$55

**92** **Covenant 2021 The Tribe Chardonnay (Lodi)**. This elegant, lightly buttered and well-balanced wine offers golden apples, a touch of caramel and a smooth soft texture backed by a touch of lemon. Fermented by native yeast, it is medium bodied and nicely dry. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

**92** **Flambeaux 2018 Sangiacomo Vineyards Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast)**. With a robust mouthfeel of anise, oak and tropical fruit, this wine is creamy and lengthy, with a dense midpalate. It unfurls in the glass to reveal bright underlying acidity that balances the richer overtones. —V.B.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$55

**92** **Joseph Jewell 2019 Phelps Vineyard Chardonnay (Humboldt County)**. A deep-gold color and aromas of toasted and buttered baguette lead to rich vanilla, butterscotch and poached pear flavors in this full-bodied, plush-textured wine. Aged for 16 months in new French barrels, it is delicious, indulgent and mouthcoating. —J.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$39

**92** **Rancho Vinedo 2018 Dona Martina Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley)**. Light almond and salted apricot aromas meet with a steely minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with zippy acidity at first, then ripens up to show toasted nut and baked lemon flavors, with a riper stone-fruit component slowly emerging into the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 12.7% Price: \$46

# BUYINGGUIDE

**92 Samsara 2020 Zotovich Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's a hint of toasty oak on the nose of this bottling alongside the crisp stone-fruit and white-flower aromas. The palate sizzles with a zesty acidity, offering tightly woven Key lime pie and lychee flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$52

**92 Scar of the Sea 2020 Vino de Los Ranchos Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Tightly wound aromas of lime pith and ashy cheese rind show on the nose of this bottling. There's a lemon-rind flavor and pithy tension to the palate, making a great partner for both zesty and rich foods. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**92 Smith-Madrone 2018 Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Stephen Ross 2020 Bee Sweet Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Sharp lemon- and lime-peel aromas give into nectarine and coconut on the tightly woven nose of this bottling. The palate is also grippy in texture, reminiscent of chiseled sandstone, yet offers fairly prominent flavors of baked lemon and orange. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$42

**91 Calera 2020 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**91 Fess Parker 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** A great entry-level expression for the veteran winery, this bottling begins with clean aromas of white peach, gardenia and woody pot-pourri on the nose. The palate clings with a textural edge, allowing lemon-blossom flavors to shine. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$20

**91 Fess Parker 2020 Sanford & Benedict Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Damp wood, seared lemon peel and hints of lanolin show on the nose of this bottling. Dried apple, melon-rind and citrus flavors pop on the palate, which also picks up intriguing hints of earth and herb. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$44

**91 J. Wilkes 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**91 Joyce 2019 Russell Joyce Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Chalky aromas meet with peach and pineapple wedge on the nose of this bottling. There's a rocky core to the palate, giving an edge to the stone-fruit and seared marshmallow flavors that arise on the tense finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**91 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Avant Unoaked Chardonnay (California).** Fruity and focused, this lightly tangy and well-balanced wine offers clean, ripe pear, apple and lemon nuances on a lively,

refreshing texture. Without barrel aging, it lets all the natural fruitiness of Chardonnay flow through. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**91 Kosta Browne 2019 El Diablo Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** With a touch of reduction on the nose in the form of matchstick, this white is a voluptuous wine with a rich, layered taste of almond paste and marzipan, making it nutty and savory, with earthy undertones. A lifted finish keeps it balanced and complex. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$160

**91 Lincourt 2020 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

**91 Lorenzi Estate 2019 Dijon Clone 76 Chardonnay (Temecula Valley).** This is a very rich and classic style of California Chardonnay carried out with expertise in Southern California. Rich aromas of hazelnut cream, macadamia nut, browned butter, seared lemon and baked apple lead into a comforting palate of oak, marshmallow and caramel flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.73% **Price:** \$45

**91 Sangiacomo 2019 Roberts Road Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap).** Generous oak and vanilla tones accent a voluptuous style of rich complexity in this coastal wine. Lush on the palate, it delivers fine flavors of peach, apricot and herb. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Scar of the Sea 2020 Bassi Vineyard Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast).** Both crisp and baked apple aromas show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression from an ocean-view vineyard, with hints of browned butter and toasted hazelnut as well. Seared lemon-pith flavors pop on the sip, where an ashy texture and hints of cheese rind carry into a salty finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$42

**91 Sebastiani 2020 Butterfield Station Chardonnay (North Coast).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$13

**91 Soquel Vineyards 2021 Partners' Reserve Pleasant Valley Farms Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Loads of grapefruit and lime aromas meet with Asian pear and white rose on the nose of this bottling. There's a lychee kick to the palate alongside that Asian pear, with hints of gardenia and chalk as well. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Valley to the Sea 2020 Kessler-Haak Vineyards Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Clean and crisp aromas of apple and wet grass make for a vibrant style of Chardonnay on this bottling. It picks up a chalky texture on the palate, which balances the lime-blossom and tropical, floral flavors of jasmine. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**91 Verraco Ridge 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County).** For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Anaba 2019 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** This is an elegant, light-bodied white with a steely midpalate that develops subtle richness as it goes. Gravenstein apple shines brightest, with Meyer lemon, wet stone and just a hint of baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90 Broadside 2020 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Cazadero Winery 2019 Bei Ranch Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** With an opening sweetness of pineapple and peach, this wine is plush on the midpalate with a full-bodied intensity and rich mouthfeel. Made in an ample style, it offers moderate acidity that helps balance its dense concentration. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39

**90 Cuvaison 2019 Methode Beton Chardonnay (Los Carneros).** Intensely aromatic in honey and fig, this wine is fermented and aged entirely in concrete egg, allowing a floral aroma to flourish and persist. White flower, honeysuckle and a hint of peach provide a welcome fruitiness that is elegant and well balanced. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**90 Domaine Della 2020 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Earthy and herbal, this coastal appellation wine is rich and thick in crème brûlée and tropical fruit, densely concentrated and lingering in toasted oak and baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72

**90 Gary Farrell 2019 La Rinconada Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's an earthy and tart element to this wine, starting on the nose with apple-skin, lime-peel and light lanolin aromas, as well as a touch of toast. There's more body to the palate, with broader orange-peel and poached apple flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$55

**90 Iron Horse 2019 Heart of the Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley).** As billed, this comes from a special portion of the estate, and it shines in floral, fresh and high-toned personality. Mineral-driven stone notes fleck around bright lemon, grapefruit and tangerine, finishing in a bite of green apple and baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$57

**90 Iron Horse 2019 Native Yeast Chardonnay (Green Valley).** Fleshy and expansive on the palate, this is a mineral-driven wine that is delightfully slatey in texture. Meyer lemon, apricot

and quiet oak showcase the fruit and finesse of the vineyard. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$57

**90 Iron Horse 2019 Rued Clone Chardonnay (Green Valley).** A clone that imparts tremendous floral qualities, this wine delivers on that promise aromatically and on the palate with light layers of apple, pear and apple blossom. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$57

**90 Kith & Kin 2020 Chardonnay (Rutherford).** This wine offers great value and quality. It is stainless-steel fermented to preserve its impressive freshness and approachability. Pear, peach and pineapple are light and bright in style, with lovely acidity throughout. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25

**90 Layer Cake 2019 Chardonnay (California).** Warm aromas of nectarine, poached pear and gardenia are cut by a touch of chalk on the nose of this popular wine. The palate hits with a blast of acidity, given balance to the juicy white-peach and pineapple flavors, as a pinch of sea salt lands on the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$13

**90 Lincourt 2021 Steel Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$30

**90 MacRostie 2019 Wildcat Mountain Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Richly layered in pear, vanilla bean and fig, this is a plush, ripe wine with a creamy texture and mouthfeel and generous oak. The style provides opulence within a well-made structure of ample complexity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$46

**90 Michael David 2021 Freakshow Chardonnay (Lodi).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Minus Tide 2019 Manchester Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge).** This is a big, nicely oaky and yet balanced wine from the deep-gold color to the toasty aromas and butter-scotch flavors. It is medium-to-full in body, and offers good lemon and crisp apple notes to balance rich pear and baked apple flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$42

**90 Ram's Gate 2020 El Diablo Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** With a gravelly texture, this nuanced white is demure in stone fruit, lime, Meyer lemon and wet stone. Made in a light, crisp style, it is focused and linear in nature, with a quiet use of oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$70

**90 Sojourn 2020 Reuling Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** From the famous site near Forestville, this white opens in a whiff of matchstick—just slightly reduced and tight in its youth. As it opens, it imparts lush layers of crème brûlée richness and

length, while being approachable and cradled in toasted oak and spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$69

**90 Wente 2021 Morning Fog Chardonnay (Central Coast).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Dorcich 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Clara Valley).** This is a broad take on Chardonnay, opening with pear, apple and jasmine aromas. The palate is fresh and cut with lime pith, as pear and apple flavors control the midpalate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$36

**89 Fess Parker 2020 Parker West Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** A bit subdued on the nose, this bottling offers toasted nut, baked peach and seared marshmallow aromas. The palate is a touch soft, with dried pineapple and orange-rind flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$44

**89 Foley 2019 Barrel Select Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Buttered marshmallow, toasted coconut and marzipan aromas make for a rich nose on this bottling. The palate is also loaded with flavors of buttered toast covered in peach marmalade. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$60

**89 Hahn 2020 Chardonnay (California).** This full-bodied and rich-tasting wine blends subtle oak and butter notes with generous almond, poached pear and peach flavors. It shows good complexity and nuance on the palate and finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Imagery 2020 Chardonnay (California).** Attractive toast and butter aromas lead to good, ripe apple and pear flavors along with more smoky, toasty notes in this full-bodied, expressive and well-balanced wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Jaffurs 2018 Radian Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Seared buttermilk aromas meet with a citrus pith and slightly reductive tones on the nose of this bottling. There's a nutty streak to the palate, with seared marshmallow and cream flavors, showing a touch of early age. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$40

**88 Crossbarn by Paul Hobbs 2020 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Both well integrated and approachable in style, this value-minded white is rich in stone fruit and apple skin, with layers of toasted oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$27

**88 Cupcake 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$11

**88 Iron Horse 2019 Heritage Chardonnay (Green Valley).** Floral and steely, this wine pos-

sesses a low imprint of oak, keeping it fresh and light. Wet stone, apple blossom and lemon candy accent a core of Gravenstein apple and subtle clove. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$57

**88 Ironstone 2019 Reserve Estate Chardonnay (Sierra Foothills).** Soft and buttery, this easy-going wine is low in acidity and high in butterscotch, vanilla and poached pear flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 Kendall-Jackson 2020 Estates Collection Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** A classic style of California Chardonnay, this bottling begins with buttery aromas along with fresh lemon zest on the nose. The palate pairs the butter and lemon with ripe peach flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Lava Cap 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (El Dorado County).** Fresh and fruity, this uncomplicated wine boasts a light toasty aroma and delicious ripe pears, apples and peaches on a smooth, rather soft texture and full body. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 McLroy 2019 Reserve Aquarius Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Made in a big, ripe style of flesh and oak, this is a succulent and straightforward white wine, with rich layers of tropical fruit. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40

**88 Sadler's Well 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey).** Quite floral on the nose, this bottling offers plumeria and pineapple aromas to begin. The palate is soft in texture, with lots of tuberose and more pineapple flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Sarah's Vineyard 2020 Tondre Grapefield Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Rich, slightly dried aromas of apricot, light peach, white flower and toasted almond show on the nose of this bottling. Baked apple, dried citrus, pineapple and mango flavors make for a riper palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$36

**88 Sisters Forever 2021 Un-Oaked Chardonnay (Central Coast).** Canned pear aromas meet with crisper apple slices on the nose of this bottling. There's a quick hit of tight texture on the palate before it flattens into white-flower and cooked pear flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$14

**88 Square Peg 2020 Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Nutty and light, with a texture of wet stone and restrained oak, this wine shows a stainless-steel imprint of quiet elegance. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$55

**87 Artevino 2020 Estate Chardonnay (Yorkville Highlands).** This rich-tasting and soft-textured wine verges on sweetness and favors toasted



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oak, earth, leather and baked apples on a medium body. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$48

**87 Ballard Lane 2020 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** Honeysuckle and pear flesh aromas are doused in lime on the nose of this bottling. Ripe limeade and juicy apple flavors show on the palate, which has a slight vinous character. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Chloe 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County).** Crisp pear, gardenia, tart lemon and buttered toast aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture with a slow-rising acidity, offering baked lemon, honeysuckle and light marzipan flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Dark Horse 2020 Chardonnay (California).** Vanilla and butter aromas lead to sweet-seeming baking-spice and pear-syrup flavors in this full-bodied and rich-textured wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$8

**87 J Vineyards & Winery 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County-Napa County-Sonoma County).** This oaky, full-bodied wine offers robust oak spice and toast aromas, butter, pear and vanilla flavors on a smooth, creamy texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**87 Tassajara 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey).** Scents of honeyed butter, lemon cake and light hazelnut show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe with seared apple, crushed pecan and more honey flavors, leaning almost toward a sweet expression. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Trefethen 2020 Eshcol Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District).** Simple, with an intensity of apple, lemon and wet stone, this wine offers a moderate ripeness of body weight and length, remaining approachable and crisp in the glass. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$20

**87 Ursa 2020 Wilson Vineyard Chardonnay (Clarksburg).** This medium-bodied wine shows a pale color and rather light flavors of baked apples on a smooth texture. It's easy in texture and light in concentration. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$24

**84 Leaping Horse 2020 Chardonnay (California).** This oaky, full-bodied wine pours on the toasted bread, butter and woodsmoke flavors. Mild apple and pear flavors underneath have a hard time breaking through. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

**82 Shortbread Wine Co. 2020 Buttery Chardonnay (California).** An unusually deep-gold color leads to heavy oak, cedar and vanilla aromas in this full-bodied, powerful, woody-tasting wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**81 Cupcake 2020 Butterkissed Chardonnay (California).** Heavy oak flavors of vanilla, coconut, wood smoke and clove overwhelm the fruit flavors in this extremely stylized, full-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**95 Illumination 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa County-Sonoma County).** This is an exceptional white wine, sophisticated, sultry and balanced throughout. A richness of peach and apricot are tempered by lovely layers of wet stone and dried herb, with nuances of lemongrass, fig and just a hint of vanilla. The mouthfeel is beautifully crafted and lengthy. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**95 Kenzo Estate 2021 Asatsuyu Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$80

**95 Lail 2019 Georgia Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$160

**94 Cliff Lede 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Stags Leap District).** For full review see page 6. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$32

**93 Cuvaision 2020 Methode Beton Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Los Carneros).** Fermented and aged in concrete egg, this wine is textured, sublime and elegant, with a forceful complexity. Balanced acidity girds a rounded midpalate of melon, grapefruit and kiwi, finishing as richly as it starts. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Grieve 2019 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Floral, mineral-driven and tight in its youth, this is a highly structured and complex white from the producer's organically farmed estate in Lovall Valley, a cool-climate appellation tucked in the southern reaches of the larger Napa Valley. Melon, pear and wet stone give it a fruity, textured liveliness and length. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$95

**93 Rochioli 2021 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** A perennial powerhouse of a wine, from the great Westside Road estate, this white opens in petrol, dried herb and white pepper. Dense layers of Gravenstein apple, pear and peach candy combine to provide complexity and enduring richness that finishes fresh and focused. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Ehlers Estate 2021 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (St. Helena).** Bright and fresh in grapefruit, lemon peel and wet stone, this wine was fermented and aged in concrete egg, French oak and stainless steel. Moderate body weight and length provide a

welcome complexity to the layers of flavor and floral aroma, finishing in steely acidity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$38

**91 Ancient Peaks 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Margarita Ranch).** For full review see page 15. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Ankora 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Clara Valley).** Fresh aromas of passion fruit, guava peel, lime and concrete are crisp and citrusy on the nose of this estate bottling. The vineyard's warmer days show in an array of tropical fruits on the palate, from guava peel to strong papaya, all leading into a nutty finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$28

**91 Gainey 2020 Limited Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Crushed rock, passion fruit and approachable apple aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is creamier in texture, with rounded flavors of grapefruit sorbet and more passion fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**91 J. Lohr 2021 Flume Crossing Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco).** For full review see page 16. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**91 La Lief 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (San Luis Obispo County).** This bottling from Alamo Creek Ranch was handled by winemaker Kris Curran, who presents crisp honeydew, Pink Lady apple and grassy tonic aromas on the nose. There's plenty of texture on the palate, where wet cement, nectarine and pineapple-guava flavors converge. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$36

**91 Lady of the Sunshine 2021 Stolpman Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Ballard Canyon).** Subdued hints of earth and grass lead into more exuberant aromas of orange-guava-passion fruit juice on the nose of this bottling. There's a richness to the sip, with papaya, kumquat and pear-flesh flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Tribute 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$17

**91 Vina Robles 2021 Jardine Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**90 Banshee 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** Fruity notes of vanilla, pear and papaya give this wine a crowd-pleasing approachability that is inviting and memorable. Juicy and rich, it has a nice thread of acidity that keeps it balanced and fresh. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$22

**90 Brander 2021 La Presa Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Los Olivos District).** Crystalline nec-

tarine aromas meet with honeysuckle and chiseled stone on the light and fresh nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a grassy tonic flavors, full of lime-peel and green-pineapple flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$28

**90 Dry Creek Vineyard 2021 Fumé Blanc (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 19. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 Edna Valley Vineyard 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**90 Ehlers Estate 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).** With a New Zealand-like grassiness and gooseberry flavor, this wine was fermented and aged in a combination of new French oak puncheons, stainless steel tanks and used French oak barrels. High-toned acidity keeps it fresh and focused in the glass, with a floral intensity throughout. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$38

**90 Gainey 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Very lime-driven aromas meet with cut grass on the nose of this always reliable bottling. There's a light texture to the palate, where peach and pineapple flavors give a round quality to the zesty acidity that builds into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$18

**90 Gen5 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** This substantive, well-concentrated wine boasts vivid, crisp, lemon, grapefruit and parsley flavors on a rather full body. It offers a big flavor impact yet stays well balanced. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$11

**90 Geyser Peak 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**90 La Crema 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Mauritsen 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 13.75% **Price:** \$31

**90 Navarro 2021 Cuvée 128 Sauvignon Blanc (Anderson Valley).** Fresh herb and lively citrus flavors seem to light up this light-bodied wine that does a great job of blending the herba-ceous and fruity qualities of the grape variety. Fermented and aged in large oak casks, it tastes fresh, clean and bracing. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$25

**90 Noble Vines 2021 242 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**90 Paradise Springs 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Very light in the glass, this bottling is layered in aromas of wet cement and guava shavings on the nose. It's zippy on the palate with caviar lime and lemongrass flavors, plus a hint of rainy sidewalks. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Qivira 2020 Fig Tree Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).** Fruity, rich and layered in grapefruit rind and dried herb, this is a lovely, balanced white made from certified-organic estate grapes. Elegant and earthy, it calls forth a springtime garden, topped with a lasting acidity that refreshes. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Ruby Hill Winery 2021 Reserve Collection Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley).** This full-bodied yet well-balanced wine shows classic grassy, herbal aromas and generous, tangy lemon and kiwi flavors that make it especially appetizing and refreshing. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$23

**90 Scheid 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Smith Story 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** This is a textured, fresh and linear white wine with an herbal undercurrent of great earthiness. The grapes are from a Sonoma Mountain site farmed organically and the wine fermented in stainless-steel to preserve its crisp character. Wet stone and grapefruit speak loudest. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Stewart 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Whole-cluster pressed grapes were fermented and aged in stainless steel to preserve a fruity freshness and deft acidity in this wine. Citrus, wet stone and melon ride along a hint of freshly cut grass and hay, finding a lovely balance and texture. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$30

**89 Brander 2021 Mesa Verde Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Los Olivos District).** Aromas of apple slices soaked in ice water and a pinch of grass show on the nose of this bottling. Pear-flesh flavors right a delicate zip of acidity on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**89 Clos du Bois 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**89 Duckhorn 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** This full-bodied wine offers light leafy, flinty aromas and a rich texture carrying subtle Bosc pear, lime and thyme flavors. It's rather big for the varietal and tastes relatively light in acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$32

**89 Firestone 2020 Barrel Select Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** A darker yellow in the glass, this bottling shows apparent oak influence, with baked lemon and toasted nut aromas. The nutty tone sinks into the palate as well, with lots of salt and seared wood flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**89 Heron 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This medium-bodied wine is pretty restrained in flavor, showing tangy green apples and minerals on a nicely crisp texture. Good balance will make it easy to pair with food. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**89 Jackson Estate 2021 Kelsey Hills Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Red Hills).** Vivid green-apple and kiwi flavors complement the crisp balance of this deceptively full-bodied wine. Snappy acidity keeps it very fresh and lively on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Murrieta's Well 2020 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley).** This especially smooth, full-bodied version of the varietal flows harmoniously from a light toast and vanilla aroma through generous honeydew melon flavors. It contains small portions of Malvasia Bianca, Orange Muscat, Viognier, Chardonnay and Sémillon. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Niner 2021 Jespersen Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley).** Lots of stony and wet cement aromas meet with a touch of white flower on the grassy nose of this bottling. There's a rocky grip on the palate that fades quickly into flavors of lime peel and cut grass. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**89 Tribeca 2021 Staple Street Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Muddled grass, guava peels and preserved lemon aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit soft in texture with more lemon and grapefruit-marmalade flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**88 AJA Vineyards 2021 Eds' Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Malibu Coast).** This is a strong showing for this still-emergent region, so embattled by wildfires in recent years. Tight aromas of lime peel, cut grass and lily bulb on the nose lead into flavors of green-pear flesh and lime peel on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Brassfield 2021 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley).** Crisp green-apple and citrus aromas are well matched by lively, bright fruit flavors and good acidity in this light- to medium-bodied wine. It's clean, refreshing and tangy. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88 Covenant 2021 Red C Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County).** This creamy-textured wine offers

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plenty of toast and butter aromas, rich and buttery flavors and a lemony edge on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 Pistachio Lane Sauvignon Blanc (San Francisco Bay).** Very fresh lemon and lime aromas lead to nicely ripe pear and green-apple flavors backed by good acidity and a touch of apparent sweetness. It's a well-made crowd-pleaser. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$30

**88 Michael David 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Qivira 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** This is an approachable, crowd-pleasing white that is simple in style, with an elegance and understated ripeness that keeps it fresh and focused in lemon, pear and wet stone. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$19

**88 Salvestrin 2021 Crystal Springs Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (St. Helena).** Light in citrus, grass and dried herb, this is an earthy white wine with a steely core of fresh acidity. Lemon zest, apricot and melon give it a lift of fruit and texture. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$32

**88 Starmont 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County-Sonoma County).** With snap pea aromas and grapefruit and celery flavors, this medium-bodied wine shows tons of varietal character on a tangy texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$20

**88 Sunny with a Chance of Flowers 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey County).** For full review see page 22. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$17

**88 Valley to the Sea 2020 Vogelzang Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Lime peels and lime flesh meet with kumquat and wet earth aromas on the nose of this bottling. Lime-marmalade flavors show on the palate, which is smooth in texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$32

**87 Balletto 2021 Clone 01 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Approachable and light, this is a delightful varietal wine, herbal and citrus-driven, with lasting layers of lemon and grapefruit with a hint of grass. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$22

**87 Edna Valley Vineyard 2020 Winemaker Series Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley).** Very light in the glass, this bottling offers sharp aromas of moss and dried lime peels. The palate is quite earthy and loaded with dusty flavors along with green pear on a somewhat soft structure. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**87 Imagery 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Ripe honeydew melon and golden apple aro-

mas lead to nicely rich fruit flavors and a smooth texture in this medium-bodied, generous-tasting wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Joel Gott 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Subtle but not quite neutral flavors give this medium-bodied wine a low-key expression, as green apples and crisp acidity balance well against a fairly rich mouthfeel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$16

**87 Pine Ridge 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Citrus-driven and high in acidity, this wine is also full-bodied and generously ripe, showing rich, fleshy layers of tropical fruit that override the freshness. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**87 Rubino Estates Winery 2021 Riserva Collection Fumé Blanc (Livermore Valley).** Hefty aromas of toasted almonds and brown butter dominate the first whiff of this full-bodied wine before poached pears and honey glide onto the palate. Being a fumé-style wine it shows its oak-aged expression clearly. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**87 Vigilance 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County).** This smooth, very flavorful wine offers ample ripe apples, pineapples and cream on a rather soft, almost-sweet texture. A full body adds to its richness. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**86 Frei Brothers 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Full-bodied and rich in style, this wine offers concentrated layers of melon and peach, finishing with a steely focus. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**86 Patent 2021 Miller Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville).** With Sauvignon Blanc, Sauvignon Musqué and Muscat in the mix, this wine offers a perfumed nose of grass and depth of richness on the midpalate. Peach, gooseberry and pea shoots give it a zesty liveliness. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$33

**86 Rickshaw 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This ripe, slightly sweet-tasting wine feels soft in texture and tastes very fruity, offering apples, bananas and peaches. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 Rippey 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** With a simple framework of fig, stone fruit and a hint of grapefruit, this is a fruity, approachable white, with a hint of matchstick. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$25

**86 Usual 2021 Limited Editions Bell's Echo Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino County).** Quite fruity in flavor and relatively soft in texture, this medium-bodied wine offers pineapple and banana aromas, and golden-apple flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8/187 ml

**85 Modus Operandi 2020 Dalla Gasperina Sauvignon Blanc (Coombsville).** Showing up-front salinity, this white is hearty and full bodied in style, with an ongoing taste of oyster shell, tropical richness and oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**85 Rombauer 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County-Napa County).** Rich, textured and approachable, this white is generous in pineapple, peach and freshly cut grass, with a lingering note of grassy meadow. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$26

**84 Cycles Gladiator 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A buttery, toasty aroma leads to butter, vanilla and baked apple flavors on a nervy, citrus texture. It conveys a jumble of styles. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**82 Cursive 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** Reductive, closed and tasting of pea shoots, this wine is unduly earthy and a tad harsh. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$16

## PINOT GRIS/GRIGIO

**93 Union Sacre 2021 l'Inconnue Oasis Vineyard Pinot Gris (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This skin-contact bottling looks exactly like rosé, and presents familiar, if particularly delicious, notes in that vein. Aromas of fresh melon, strawberry and chalk sink into a lovely palate of peach, more melon and tons of texture, proving both juicy and serious at once. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$39

**92 Bargetto 2020 Regan Vineyards Pinot Grigio (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Crushed sandstone, lemon-peel and light toast aromas make for a subtle but intriguing nose on this bottling. Dried lemon- and orange-peel flavors meet with a hint of chamomile on the dry palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**92 Brander 2021 Kick On Vineyard Pinot Gris (Santa Barbara County).** Asian pear and white-flower aromas make for a very tight nose on this bottling. There's a zesty acidity and chalky texture to the sip, where a range of citrus and apple flavors intertwine. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$26

**91 Alma Rosa 2020 La Encantada Pinot Gris (Sta. Rita Hills).** Crunchy Asian pear and crisp apple-flesh aromas invite the nose into this bottle. The palate grabs hold with a chalky intensity, carrying white-melon, pear and lychee flavors into a broadening finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$32

**91 Derby 2021 Derbyshire Vineyard Pinot Gris (San Luis Obispo County).** Mineral-driven aromas of struck flint lead into singed Meyer lemon, honeysuckle and plumeria on the dynamic nose of

this bottling. That struck stone and wet rock element arises on the tight palate as well, with ample green- and yellow-apple flavors as well as a grassy tone. —M.K.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**90 Blair Estate 2018 Pinot Gris (Arroyo Seco).** Hints of orange blossom, kumquat and jasmine show on the nose of this bottling. The palate keeps the wine quite dry, offering wet stone balance to the plumeria and Tuscan melon flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$30

**90 Clos du Bois 2021 Pinot Grigio (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**89 J Vineyards & Winery 2021 Pinot Gris (California).** This crisp, tangy wine offers subtle prosciutto and melon aromas, lively green-apple and citrus flavors and a mouthwatering texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$21

**89 Noble Vines 2021 152 Pinot Grigio (Monterey County).** There's a slight tint to the hue of this wine, which offers aromas of red apple, pear flesh, rose petal and geranium. There are pear and nectarine flavors on the palate, cut but a twist of lime peel. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Balletto 2021 Estate Grown Pinot Gris (Russian River Valley).** Only exposed to neutral oak, this white retains plenty of pretty aromatics of white flower and orange blossom. It is made in a fruity style that showcases light layers of pear. Pillow on the palate, it is delightful and crowd-pleasing in a myriad of ways. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$22

**88 Brassfield 2021 High Serenity Ranch Estate Pinot Gris (High Valley).** Lively, light citrus and jicama flavors also show a vein of ripeness in this light-bodied and refreshing wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**87 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Vintner's Reserve Pinot Gris (California).** Full-bodied and quite ripe-tasting, this generous, fruity wine has a soft texture and almost-sweet finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**83 Edna Valley Vineyard 2021 Pinot Grigio (California).** Good and crisp fruit flavors have an earthy, dusty aftertaste in this medium-bodied, basic table wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**82 La Prenda 2021 The Copper Pinot Grigio (Napa Valley).** Aged on skins for a month harnessing Ramato-style techniques, this wine is dark-cranberry colored, with a taste of apple skin and steely texture. Interesting, it's relatively flavorless and hard to like. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

## PINOT BLANC

**92 Alma Rosa 2020 La Encantada Pinot Blanc (Sta. Rita Hills).** This nearly forgotten grape is still making great wine, especially in coastal areas. Aromas of lemon wax, lime blossom and crisp Asian pear kick off the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with texture, carrying fully loaded flavors of honey, lemon curd and crisp apple. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**92 Brander 2021 Pinot Blanc (Los Olivos District).** Soft lemon and ripe melon aromas are clean and crisp on the nose of this small-batch estate bottling. There's a lot of nervy texture and vibrant acidity on the palate, cutting into the generous flavors of pear and honeysuckle. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**92 Navarro 2021 Pinot Blanc (Mendocino).** A smooth texture and lively honeydew melon and spiced apple flavors give this tempting, medium-bodied wine a generous fruitiness along with good balance. Light butter and baguette nuances develop with more sipping. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$20

**92 Union Sacre 2021 Delice Oasis Vineyard Pinot Blanc (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Very light in the glass, this bottling shows a generous range of aromas, from freshly squeezed passion fruit to crisp pear, with mineral hints of chalk and ash as well. The palate is layered in texture, giving an edge to those tropical- and pome-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$38

## VIOGNIER

**92 McKahn Family Cellars 2021 Catie's Corner Viognier (Russian River Valley).** Spicy aromatics and a lasting hint of honeysuckle make this white inviting on the nose, leading to a balanced, complex and viscous palate of good flavor and texture. Strong flavors of fig give it a sumptuousness and lasting richness that is met by moderate acidity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40

**92 Peirano 2020 The Heritage Collection Viognier (Lodi).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$14

**91 Jaffurs 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley).** Aromas of baked lemon, light honey and a touch of grass hit the nose on this bottling. There's a compellingly chalky grip to the palate, which is bright and tart with citrus-flesh and pith flavors making for a lively wine. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$29

**91 Whatever 2020 Viognier (Templeton Gap District).** Delicate but generous aromas of honeysuckle and peach blossom make for an inviting

entry to the nose of this wine. The palate is loaded with honeyed almond, nectarine and baked lemon flavors, making for a bold take on Viognier. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$28

**90 Locke 2020 Viognier (Calaveras County).** Enticing toast and butterscotch aromas give way to cream, vanilla and poached pear flavors in his full-bodied, complex and lush wine. It's bold, flavorful and almost-sweet tasting. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$30

**89 Mia Marie 2021 Viognier (San Diego County).** Apple and pear aromas meet with apricot blossoms on the nose of this bottling. There's a steely minerality to the palate, where orange-blossom and honeysuckle flavors are quite floral yet crisp. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$36

**89 Valley to the Sea 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley).** Very light on the nose, this bottling shows delicate lemon-pith, melon-rind and subtle wet rock aromas. The texture is soft on the palate, where dried lemon-peel, apricot and crisp nectarine flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**88 Hungry Hawk 2020 Viognier (San Diego County).** Baked nectarine and lemon-peel aromas pick up an exotic hint of lemongrass on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit soft in texture and honeyed in flavor, with a hint of pineapple. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

## ROUSSANNE

**92 Covenant 2021 Mensch Roussanne (Lodi).** Restrained fruity and savory components blend well in this medium-bodied, well-balanced wine that remains a bit quiet in flavor, but keeps inviting more sips and rewards the repetition with slow-revealing butter, walnut and lemon-cream nuances. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Cass 2021 Roussanne (Paso Robles).** Though from a somewhat warmer region, this Roussanne is a showcase of subtlety. Tightly woven on the nose, it begins with aromas of honeysuckle, coconut and lychee. The palate is very firm in texture, as a lime-like acidity cuts through the tube-rose and banana flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

**91 Jaffurs 2020 Stolpman Vineyard Roussanne (Ballard Canyon).** Crushed stone, tangerine pith, white flower, peach and a hint of lanolin show on the layered nose of this bottling. There's a stony minerality and firm tension to the palate where dried apple and pear flavors ride a zizzing acidity into a vanilla-inflected finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$36

# BUYINGGUIDE

**91 Pack String 2020 Roussanne (El Dorado).** This well-balanced, subtly flavored wine is far from obvious with its restrained woodsmoke, toasted almond and hazelnut nuances that are teased out with repeated sipping. It's complex in a non-fruity style. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$23

## CHENIN BLANC

**91 Calera 2020 Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dried lemon peel, intensely rocky minerals and a hint of lanolin show on the nose of this bottling from Curtis Vineyard. Intriguing leathery tannins frame the sip, where dried lemon, blanched almond and wild-herb flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$38

**90 Chalone Vineyard 2021 Chenin Blanc (Chalone).** Ripe aromas of honeysuckle, pear and banana show on the generous nose of this bottling. A citrusy splash kicks off the palate, then gives way to the richer banana and melon flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$44

**90 Dashe Cellars 2020 Concrete Cuvée Les Enfants Terribles Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg).** Light rose-petal aromas and good, juicy apple and peach flavors make this medium-bodied wine easy to drink and appreciate. Baked apples come out with more sipping and there is just enough crisp acidity to keep it slightly tangy and well balanced. It was fermented in a concrete egg. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$24

**89 Love & Terroir 2020 Jurassic Park Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Very rich aroma of baked orange, thick honey and pulverized nuts make for a rugged nose on this bottling. The palate hits with a dry landing, skipping across the tongue with tangerine-blossom and tonic flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$35

## GRÜNER VELTLINER

**93 Vöcal 2019 Alfaro Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Sommelier-turned-winemaker Ted Glennon puts an intellectual spin on this grape, starting with aromas of baked lemon, melon rind, wet hay and a briny white-flower tonic on the nose. There's a creamy texture to the rich palate, where layers of preserved lemon and green herb ride a cement-like tension into an extended finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Wine Without Borders 2021 Grüner Veltliner (San Francisco Bay).** Light citrus aromas and more developed flavors of crisp apple and kiwi make this full-bodied wine quite fruity and yet well balanced. It's delicate and fresh-tasting, perfect for lunch or pre-dinner. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Lincourt 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lime-blossom, green-melon and green-almond aromas show on the nose of this intriguing bottling. It's crisp and clean with an orange-blossom kick to the palate, proving fresh, with a hit of tension—perfect for the beach or lake. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Ottavino 2021 Alfaro Family Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Subdued hints of grass and moss meet with fresh apples on the unique nose of this bottling. Baked citrus and seared lime flavors show on the palate, which is softer in texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$35

## RIESLING

**94 Trefethen 2021 Dry Riesling (Oak Knoll District).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

**92 Brander 2021 Riesling (Los Olivos District).** The brand and appellation isn't known for Riesling, but it does great in this bottling. Laser sharp aromas of lime and more exotic citrus lead into a palate where vivid acidity and a taut texture engage on all fronts, with a citrus-candy flavor. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$28

**92 Union Sacre 2020 Fraulein Riven Rock Vineyard Riesling (Central Coast).** Sharp aromas of green-apple slices, white flowers and plaster of Paris make a compelling combination on the nose of this bottling. Riper flavors of green melon are cut back by firm lime, lemon-zest and grapefruit-peel elements on the sharp palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$39

**91 Brander 2021 Kick On Vineyard Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** Dried lemon peel, lime flesh and a hint of tangerine aromas make for a fresh and zesty nose on this bottling. The palate is loaded with green-citrus flavors, from pomelo to lime, making for a vibrant sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$27

**90 Union Sacre 2021 Fragrance Kick On Ranch Vineyard Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** A dark hue of gold in the bottling, this skin-contact bottling, which stayed on the skins for 30 days, is loaded with aromas of apple juice and peach chutney on the nose. The fascinating texture yanks at the palate in all directions while presenting more apple-juice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$42

**89 Wente 2021 Riverbank Riesling (Central Coast).** This fresh and lively wine is perfect for sunny brunches. Aromas of fresh coconut, lychee, white flower and grass kick off the nose. The palate picks up a slightly sweet tone of white melon,

ripe pear and more lychee, and stays zesty with acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**88 Firestone 2021 Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** Dried lime-peel and tight green-peppercorn aromas meet with a hint of seashore on the nose of this bottling. The palate begins with a firm grip and then sweetens toward green-melon, cantaloupe, lychee and kiwi flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## ALBARIÑO

**94 Joyce 2021 Albariño (Arroyo Seco).** Much of this year's bottling comes from Russell Joyce's recently acquired vineyard, and it bodes well for the future. Aromas of honeysuckle, wet cement and lime blossom pop on the nose, while a very grippy tension carries flavors of broad lime, rainy sidewalk and soda-water flavors. It's stony and acidic. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**93 Niner 2021 Jespersen Ranch Albariño (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$30

**92 Brecon Estate 2021 Albariño (Central Coast).** For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40

**92 Derby 2019 Project Espana Albariño (Paso Robles).** Crisp pear, lime sorbet, crushed rock and a hint of petrol aromas make for a tight, mineral-driven nose on this bottling. The palate grips firmly with tangerine peel on the palate as well as warmer tropical notes of coconut. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$26

**91 Bodega de Edgar 2021 Albariño (Paso Robles).** Crisp pear, honeysuckle and wet chalk aromas show on the nose of this crisp bottling—more evidence that bright whites can thrive in Paso. A grippy texture frames straightforward flavors of pear flesh and white blossoms. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$34

**90 Wood Family Vineyards 2021 Albariño (Livermore Valley).** This crisp and amply fruity wine offers abundant apricot and peach flavors on a medium body and tangy texture. It feels mouth-filling and rich, yet is well-balanced by acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**89 Adorato 2021 Daniel Albariño (Santa Maria Valley).** Tart citrus, flinty stone and brisk melon aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. There is a zippy acidity, much like finger limes on the palate, with wet rock flavors giving an earthy tone to the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**88 Donati Family Vineyard 2021 Albariño (El Pomar District).** Hints of lemon zest meet with riper peach aromas on the nose of this bottling.



The palate is a bit soft in texture, with baked apple and vanilla-like flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30

**88 Hendry 2020 Hendry Vineyard Albariño (Napa Valley).** A linear, approachable and highly likable version of the Spanish white from an estate vineyard, this wine is salty and crunchy in green apple, mango and a twist of lime. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$24

**88 Ruth's Garden 2021 Albariño (Edna Valley).** Tightly wound aromas of citrus peel, jicama and Asian pear show on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a hint of sweetness surrounding ripe apple and nectarine flavors, which are balanced back by an ashy texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$24

**88 Scheid 2021 Albariño (Arroyo Seco).** Clean lines of honeydew melon, light chalky and steel show on the nose of this bottling. Dried pear flavors show on the palate, which is a tad soft in texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

## WHITE BLENDS

**91 Lucy 2021 Pico Blanco Pinot Gris-Pinot Blanc (Monterey County).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$24

**90 Inglenook 2020 Estate Grown Rhône-style White Blend (Rutherford).** The great estate's blend of 36% Viognier with 33% Marsanne and 31% Roussanne, this white is creamy and steely at the same time, a study in contrasts. Floral, it is moderately viscous and herbal, with spicy tones of pepper and herb that coat a medium-bodied palate of green apple and apricot. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$68

**91 Lady of the Sunshine 2021 Chevey Sauvignon Blanc-Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** This is a playful yet serious blend of 60% Sauvignon Blanc and 40% Chardonnay, starting with aromas of salted pear, honey, struck flint and lemon curd. The slightly hazy wine hits the palate with lemon wedge, peach and a nutty warmth. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Calluna 2020 Estate Blanc Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Chalk Hill).** Made from 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Sémillon, then barrel-fermented and aged in neutral French oak, this light-bodied white is herbal and stony, with underlying minerality and plenty of crisp acidity. Green apple, lemongrass and a hint of apricot accent a focused, linear palate that finishes clean. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$28

**88 Lasseter 2019 Zut Alors Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Sonoma Valley).** Blending 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Sémillon, this white offers a touch of sweetness in the form of stone fruit and vanilla. The acidity is measured and stark, with

the nine months the wine spent in oak providing mouthfeel and a note of baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$46

**92 Brander 2021 Cuvée Natalie White Blend (Santa Barbara County).** This unique estate blend of 38% Pinot Gris, 35% Sauvignon Blanc and 27% Riesling hits the nose with fresh passion fruit, crisp lime and wet concrete on the nose, putting the three varieties in harmony. The palate is lively, fresh and fun, with passion fruit, citrus and more tropical tones. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**92 Cherry House 2021 White Blend (Paso Robles).** This is an affordably priced, Rhône-styled, organically grown blend that starts with crisp aromas of lemon blossom and riper melon rind. There's a chalky structure to the sip, where subtle flavors of peach are retrained by zesty citrus. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Testa Vineyards NV White White Blend (Mendocino County).** This dry, subtle and rather full-bodied wine offers an expansive, broad texture balanced by good acidity, and restrained white peach and Bosc pear flavors. It's an excellent wine in a quiet, confident style. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Armida 2019 Domus Alba White Blend (California).** Quite buttery in flavor and rich in texture, this barrel-aged wine blended from Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Pinot Gris is full bodied and mouthcoating, imbued with butterscotch and vanilla. Fruit flavors take a back seat to butter and oak spices on the palate and finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$40

**90 Bodega de Edgar 2020 La Guera White Blend (Central Coast).** Aromas of light honey-suckle, pineapple rinds and mandarin sorbet invite the nose into this Spanish-style blend of 75% Albariño and 25% Torrontes. There's a delicate grip to the sip, framing the easy flavors of citrus and melon. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$42

**90 Brendel 2019 Chorus Cuvée Blanc White Blend (Napa Valley).** This is a fun, fruity and lighthearted blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Chardonnay, 10% Malvasia Bianca and 10% Fernão Pires (all organically farmed), that is unusual and welcoming. Inspired by Friuli, it shows elements of sea spray, oyster shell, apricot and dried herb, with a slaty, flinty persona. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 Thacher 2020 Approximately Perfect White Blend (Paso Robles).** Rounded aromas of pear flesh and seared lime pith show on the nose of this blend of 71% Grenache Blanc, 15% Viognier and 14% Chenin Blanc. The palate is quite ripe and almost sweet, with canned pear and honeyed apple flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$36

**86 Brassfield 2021 Serenity Estate White Blend (High Valley).** This medium-bodied wine smells tangy and bright and tastes soft and fruity. It offers sugary, simple flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**81 689 Cellars 2021 White Blend (Napa Valley).** Dull and uneventful, this white, a blend of 60% Chardonnay and 40% Sauvignon Blanc, is not terribly appealing, tasting of dried apricot most of all. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**92 Bonny Doon 2021 Le Cigare Orange Skin-Contact Wine of the Earth Grenache Blanc (Central Coast).** This is an orange wine blend, with 10% each Grenache and Orange Muscat, that's quite delicious. Golden in the glass, it offers dried citrus and apricot on the nose, leading into a palate that's full of textural intrigue. Flavors of orange sherbert and orange-rind tonic fill the sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$15

**92 Bonny Doon 2021 Picpoul (Central Coast).** The potential for Picpoul remains strong, thanks to bottlings like this. Fresh and clean aromas of white peach and lime sorbet show on the nose. The palate is broad with red-pear and nectarine flavors, as acid rises into the finish alongside a white-flower element. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**92 Scar of the Sea 2021 Lopez Vineyard Palomino (Cucamonga Valley).** This wine from 1918 vines gets better as it sits open for hours, even days. Aromas of nectarine and apricot jam are cut by sansho pepper and green herb on the slightly nutty nose. The palate's creamy texture delivers tart lemon-oil, pear-skin and blanched almond flavors that grow more in tune with time. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$32

**91 Ernest 2021 Edaphos Prie Vineyard Picpoul (Lodi).** This dry, tangy, light-bodied wine is laced with subtle mineral, walnut and apricot flavors that give it an enticing complexity. A sense of appetizing restraint is underlined by good acidity and a slight grip in the texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$28

**91 Mia Marie 2021 Muscat (San Diego County).** For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$35

**90 Halleck 2021 Calandrelli Vineyard Dry Gewürztraminer (Russian River Valley).** Floral and indeed dry, this vineyard-designate showcases the variety in a myriad of ways, from a creamy midpalate to sharp acidity to lasting notes of lychee and vanilla. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49

**90 Joseph Jewell 2021 Raymond Burr Vineyard Vermentino (Dry Creek Valley).** Fruity, textured and well integrated, this vineyard-designate shows a good grasp of acidity and lasting freshness, with just enough viscosity to keep it weighty and expansive on the palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$27

**90 Union Sacre 2021 Belle de Nuit Los Ositos Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Arroyo Seco).** A very golden hue in the bottle, this bottling is loaded with ripe cantaloupe and peach on the nose. The palate is quite viscous in texture and yet simultaneously chalky, with generous baked stone-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$38

**90 Union Sacre 2021 Nouvelle Rancho Sisquoc Vineyard Sylvaner (Santa Maria Valley).** This uncommon grape for California sings an interesting song in this bottling, starting with aromas of white melon and white spring blossoms. The palate offers lemon-sorbet and grapefruit-peel flavors, atop a smooth texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$38

**89 Acri Wine Company 2021 Fiano (Riverside County).** Kudos to this winery for finding Fiano grown in the Hemet region. This bottling shows wet cement, light grass and apple on the slightly vinous nose, while the palate delivers a ripe, almost sweet, touch of apple flesh. Lots of potential. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**89 Mauritsen 2021 Muscat Blanc (Big Valley District).** This bone-dry wine has the crisp apple appeal of a hard cider, showing lively acidity, light Pippin apple and white-peach flavors on a light body. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.57% **Price:** \$31

**89 Sequence 2021 Opacity Grenache Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dried apple slices, white flowers, lemongrass and makrut lime aromas show on the inviting nose of this bottling. The palate is richer than expected, offering baked apple and creamy peach flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 Amador Cellars 2019 Oleta Vineyard Vermentino (Amador County).** Very broad, rich and buttery, this full-bodied wine coats the palate with toast, butterscotch and baked walnut flavors. It is creamy in texture and lingers on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**88 Scotto Family Cellars 2021 Silvaspoons Vineyard Reserve Torrontés (Lodi).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Testa Vineyards 2019 Sweet Muscatel (Mendocino County).** This fruity, minty, sweet

wine is full of peaches, poached pears and apricots on a medium body and smooth texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$18

**86 Fasi Estate 2021 Malvasia Bianca (California).** This light-bodied but creamy-textured wine offers salty, toasted garlic and dried herb aromas juxtaposed with ripe honeydew melon flavors for an entertaining detour from the popular varietals track. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$25

**85 Terra d'Oro 2021 Moscato (California).** Sweet and fruity, this light-bodied and low-alcohol wine offers peach, pistachio and cotton candy flavors on a soft texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$17

## SPARKLING WINES

**94 Domaine Carneros 2018 Brut Rosé (Carneros).** For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 12.09% **Price:** \$45

**94 J Vineyards & Winery NV Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley).** for full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Domaine Carneros NV Cuveé de la Pompadour Brut Rosé (Carneros).** Yeasty and brimming in brioche and custard, this is a rich, generous and textured sparkling wine, made from blending 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay and given a minimum of two years of aging. Dried cherry and a hint of dried herb provide complementary contrast. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.09% **Price:** \$45

**92 Goat Bubbles 2018 Ampelos Vineyard Blanc de Noirs (Sta. Rita Hills).** Sharp aromas of lime peel and grapefruit kick off the nose on this single-vineyard expression of sparkling wine. The palate is focused on slicing flavors of underripe melon and caviar lime, enlivening the sip deep into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$65

**92 Goat Bubbles 2018 Sierra Madre Vineyard Crémant (Santa Maria Valley).** Aromas of lemon blossom, lime peel and ginger flower make for a somewhat exotic and unique nose to this bottling. The palate is generous and approachable with flavors of apple and citrus, as a wet rock undertone adds some mineral elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$44

**92 J Vineyards & Winery 2017 Vintage Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$70

**92 Scar of the Sea 2021 Methode Ancestrale Topotero Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** A hazy pink in the glass, this bottling goes down like a cold soda on a hot beach,

starting with generous aromas of cherry, baked pastry, chalk and cola. There's a hearty mousse to the palate, which is packed with strawberry flavors and a plaster of Paris minerality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$32

**92 Thacher 2021 Pét Nat (Paso Robles).** This is a fun and juicy sparkling blend of estate-grown Grenache and Cinsault, kicking off with aromas of strawberry sauce and fruit punch. A very foamy mousse carries an ashy, chalky minerality on the palate, providing a more serious touch to the strawberry-cream flavors that follow. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.74% **Price:** \$36

**91 Obsidian 2021 Poseidon Vineyard Pezsgo Pet Nat Sparkling Pinot Noir (Carneros).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$36

**91 Robert Hall 2020 Cavern Select Sparkling Grignache Blanc (Paso Robles).** A very stony nose of crushed chalk, baking soda and soft nectarine show on the nose of this bottling. Lime-peel and pith flavors meet with apple rind on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Brendel 2019 Young Leon Frizzante Rosé of Grignolino (St. Helena).** Made entirely from 100% organic Grignolino, this wine is fun, fruity and delightfully approachable. Cranberry, orange peel and cherry combine to keep it light, bright and brisk. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$38

**90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Sparkling Grüner Veltliner (Monterey County).** For full review see page 19. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**89 Goat Bubbles 2018 Brut Cuvée (Santa Barbara County).** Lemon-zest and light toast aromas show an angular, steely edge on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers the familiar citrus and mild yeast elements, with ample acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$48

**88 Marimar 2019 Dona Margarita Vineyard Blanc de Noirs (Sonoma Coast).** Rich, unctuous and dry, this is made entirely from estate-grown Pinot Noir. Black tea, lemon peel and strawberry are lifted by underlying acidity before a hint of brioche wraps on the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

**87 Cursive NV Brut Rosé (Sonoma County).** This is a simple, straightforward sparkler with a light color and flavors of apple, pear and cherry. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**86 Hungry Hawk 2021 Brut Rosé (San Diego County).** A dark plummy hue in the glass, this bubbly begins with extracted cherry soda and

cola aromas on the nose. There are tart plum and cherry-liqueur flavors on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**86 La Prenda 2021 Pét Nat (Carneros).** Under the imprimatur #winesforlunch, this is a funky, refreshing take on sparkling wine, with extreme flavors of tangerine and lemon candy and a finishing touch of corn nuts. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**80 La Prenda 2020 Brut Rosé (Sonoma Coast).** Dry, with a candied nose, this wine tastes a touch stale and stripped of fruit. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

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## PINOT NOIR ROSÉS

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**94 Red Car 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This is a lovely, light and bright wine that shows off the crisp coolness of the coast, interweaving elegant layers of grapefruit, orange and wild strawberry. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$30

**93 Alma Rosa 2021 Vin Gris of Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A very-pale pink in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with a tinge of watermelon, lemon zest, candied berry and wet rocks. The texture of the palate is ashy, chalky and very tightly wound, offering engaging and refreshing flavors of zebra lemon. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$35

**93 Calera 2021 Vin Gris of Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** Subtle aromas of light cherry meet with crushed rocks and wet clay on the dynamic nose of this rosé, which is offered by a legacy producer at a very fair price. The palate is all about texture, with a grippy structure delivering flavors of watermelon, cherry and more rocky influences. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**92 Joseph Jewell 2021 Slusser Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This is a stainless-steel fermented wine that is youthful and energetic, with a lovely balance. Rose petal, cherry, wet stone and citrus accent a focused and fresh experience of texture and fruit. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$27

**91 Ross Knoll Vineyard 2021 Cuvée Finn Rosé of 667 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Pretty aromatics of rose and herb lead to a core of juicy strawberry, blood orange and vanilla in this demure and moderately structured wine. The acidity is fresh yet unobtrusive, allowing the fruit to speak in textured waves. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Fort Ross Winery 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** This is a youthful, energetic and juicy wine, made entirely from estate grapes at high-elevation and in view of the coast. Cranberry, strawberry and rose combine effortlessly

around crisp acidity and a welcome texture brought by neutral oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90 Gaslighter 2020 Rosé of Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Keller Estate 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** This is an approachable, light and bright wine bursting in layers of orange and strawberry that showcases the cool-climate nature of the appellation. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$38

**90 Ryder Estate 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**89 Diora 2021 La Belle Fête Rosé of Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Very prominent aromas of bubblegum show on the nose of this bottling, which also offers wet rock as a balancing minerality. There's a touch of texture on the palate, where that bubblegum-element dominates. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**89 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (North Coast).** This medium-bodied wine offers plenty of watermelon and raspberry flavors on a juicy, mouthwatering texture that keeps inviting for more sips. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$33

**88 Matt Parish 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This light-colored and light-bodied wine offers mild watermelon and white-cherry flavors on a mostly soft texture. With a slight tang, it is direct in style and easy to swallow. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Toad Hollow 2021 Dry Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 22. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**85 J.C. Winemaker 2021 Seventh Day Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This bottling supports a great cause and an eye-catching, hilarious label, but the wine inside seems an afterthought. Aromas of smashed cherry, rust and potting soil lead into a palate of muddled earth, dried cherry and dried herb. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$22

**84 Matt Parish 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** This is a simple, stone-like wine that has a metallic edge to it. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$36

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## OTHER ROSÉS

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**94 Kenzo Estate 2021 Yui Rosé (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$80

**93 Détente 2021 Colburn Vineyard Field Blend Rosé (Adelaida District).** This field blend rosé, which features 65% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 15% Graciano, is utterly appealing, starting with aromas of soft strawberry, cotton candy and pink rose petals. That subtlety is shaken by a tense palate of ashy textures, with more strawberry as well as watermelon and pluot flavors riding waves of acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**93 Thacher 2021 Rosé of Cinsaut (Monterey).** This is a thoroughly engaging and refreshing rosé, starting with aromas of crisp white melon, tangerine peel and crushed chalk. It's very firm and taut on the palate, where that white-rock structure and taste cuts through the pale strawberry flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 10.2% **Price:** \$32

**92 Lady of the Sunshine 2021 Rosé (Edna Valley).** This is a fascinating and tradition-bucking rosé blend of 80% Pinot Noir and 20% Sauvignon Blanc. A slightly orangish pink in the glass, the wine begins with cherry, herb and wet cement on the nose. The subtle palate's light berry, sharp acidity and concrete-like minerality pick up a green edge by the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**92 Picayune 2021 Hay Penny Rosé (Sierra Foothills).** For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$22

**91 Covenant 2021 Red C Rosé (California).** A snappy texture and lively peach and apricot flavors light up this exceptional, medium-bodied, light-copper-colored wine. It offers both mouth-watering palate-cleansing acidity and fruit that is well concentrated. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Bonny Doon 2021 Vin Gris de Cigare Pink Wine of the Earth Rosé (Central Coast).** Crisp aromas of melon, peach and rose petal are doused in an engaging tinge of fresh lime on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very approachable with ripe peach and melon flavors that aren't shy. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**90 Future Perfect 2021 PRIDE Rosé of Grenache (Santa Barbara County).** This bottling, made as a benefit for LGBTQ+ advocacy, is subdued on the nose with rose-petal and melon aromas. There's a lemon-lime soda kick to the palate, with a touch of red fruit as well. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$38

**90 Gentleman Farmer 2021 Rosé (Napa Valley).** Made from 90% Pinot Noir, 7% Merlot and 3% Pinot Meunier, this is a dark, dry and brooding wine, thick and rich in raspberry and vanilla, that was fermented in stainless steel. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$35

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Marietta Cellars 2021 OVR Old Vine Rosé (California).** A lively texture and very fresh, light raspberry and strawberry flavors make this wine a standout. It shows great balance, a snappy mouthfeel and mouthwatering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Noble Vines 2021 515 Rosé (Central Coast).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**90 Simple Life 2021 Rosé (California).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Dark Horse 2021 Rosé (California).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

**89 LangeTwins 2021 Sand Point Rosé (California).** This well-balanced and nicely concentrated wine offers a medium-pink color and plenty of lively red-cherry, red-apple and black plum flavors. It also shows enough stuffing to be great on its own but it can pair its way into meaty dishes, too. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**89 Lapis Luna 2021 Rosé (Central Coast).** Strong aromas of watermelon, cantaloupe, cherry and bubblegum are cut by a clay minerality on the nose of this Grenache-based bottling. The palate is soft with peach-blossom and more bubblegum flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Ruby Hill Winery 2021 Grapeful Rosé (Livermore Valley).** Freshly picked red cherries and raspberries fill up this slightly tangy, full-bodied wine as an elegant texture carries it smoothly over the palate. For freshness, it's hard to beat. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**89 Tribeca 2021 Westside Rosé (Central Coast).** A yellowish-pink in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of Rainier cherry and wet rocks. There's a citrus blast of tangerine peel to the palate, wrapped in a lightly chalky texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Angel's Ink 2021 Rosé (Central Coast).** Pale pink in the glass, this rosé starts with aromas of cantaloupe, pink peach and a hint of geranium. The texture is soft on the palette, with peach and melon flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 Joel Gott 2021 Rosé (Central Coast).** Strawberry aromas meet with hints of steel and wood on the nose of this bottling. There's a chalky tone at first on the palate, followed by frozen strawberry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$16

**88 LangeTwins 2021 River Ranch Vineyard Rosé of Aglianico (Jahant).** A brilliant pink color gives way to leafy, herbaceous aromas and tangy

sour-cherry flavors in this medium-bodied, fresh and vivid wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**88 Minus Tide 2021 Feliz Creek Vineyard Rosé of Carignan (Mendocino County).** Warm peach and watermelon flavors show buttery, candied accents in this smooth and medium-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**88 Penrose Hill 2021 Wyethia Flame Rosé of Dolcetto (Lodi).** Spunky raspberry and red-cherry flavors give a lot of fruitiness and a touch of crispness to this light-bodied and rather soft-textured wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 11.9% **Price:** \$21

**88 Rubino Estates Winery 2021 Saluté Rosé (Livermore Valley).** A vivid hot-pink color and generous, full flavors of red cherries and sweet plums give this full-bodied wine plenty to appreciate. Made from 100% Sangiovese grapes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**88 Sol Rouge 2021 Rosé (Red Hills).** Vivid spices dominate this unusual, full-flavored yet light-bodied rosé made from 85% Grenache and 15% Cinsault. The spices show up as cinnamon, clove and mint that dominate the fruit and floral notes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**88 Sunny with a Chance of Flowers 2021 Rosé (Monterey County).** Subdued aromas of strawberry, light toast and a hint of earth show on the nose of this bottling. There's a hit of chalk on the palate, then the texture relents into light cherry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$17

**87 Penrose Hill 2021 Tailored Republic Rosé of Grenache (California).** A light amber-pink color leads to good, grapey flavors and decent acidity in this medium-bodied, straightforward wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**87 Theopolis 2021 Rosé of Petite Sirah (Yorkville Highlands).** Strong plummy, floral aromas and hefty red-fruit flavors are paired with good acidity and a touch of tannin to make this dry and medium-bodied wine spunky and grippy on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$28

**86 Halleck 2021 Not Your Mother's Dry White Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).** This is an indeed dry, structured and acid-driven version of white Zin, dancing in rich berry fruit and nuances of dried herb. The style is simple and approachable. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$34

**86 Ursa 2021 Silvaspoons Vineyards Rosé of Tannat (Alta Mesa).** Fruit-bowl aromatics and quite ripe banana and apple flavors come with

a soft, rounded texture in this light-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**86 Via Romano 2021 South Fork Vineyard Lileana Rosé Di Barbera (El Dorado County).** Subtle peach and watermelon flavors show an almost-sweet edge in this pale-colored, medium-bodied and soft-textured wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**86 Whatever 2020 Totally Rosé of Syrah (Malibu Coast).** A rusty hue in the glass, this bottling begins with dried cherry and plum aromas. There's a hint of dusty berry on the palate, with a rusty minerality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**84 Acorn 2021 Alegria Vineyards Rosato (Russian River Valley).** Made from a field blend of mostly Syrah, Zinfandel and Dolcetto, with additions of Sangiovese, Cinsault and various Muscats, this wine is simple and meaty, with subtle notes of pear, dried fruit and baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

## PINOT NOIR

**97 Handley 2019 RSM Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Possibly Handley's best Pinot Noir ever, this beauty offers an aroma of spearmint and fresh linens, flavors of black cherries and subtle oak spices that are intricate yet concentrated, on a creamy texture that's elegant and smooth. Moderate tannins and full body give it great structure for further aging. Best from 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$55

**97 Kosta Browne 2019 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Right in line with this brand's rich yet balanced style, as expressed in a great vintage, this bottling begins with aromas of black cherry, loamy earth and root-beer float with a mint leaf. The wine lands with a hefty power on the palate, layered in penetrating acidity and edgy tannins, as flavors of roasted black plum, sagebrush and toasted herb sail into a long finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$165

**97 Niner 2019 Jespersen Ranch Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**96 Handley 2019 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This intense wine from the cool "deep end" of Anderson Valley spills over with dark cherries, forest floor, subtle toasted oak and fruit concentration. It shows the classic Anderson Valley savory notes from rhubarb and bay leaf to black tea. Full bodied and moderately tannic, it will drink best from 2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$50

**96 Kosta Browne 2019 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** There's a fascinating combination of rich, dark-cherry intensity and earthy, rock-driven minerality on the nose of this single-vineyard expression from one of California's top vineyards. Fresh and juicy flavors of berry and cherry are spiced by mace and star anise on the palate, which is held together by a firm structure. —M.K.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$165

**96 Kosta Browne 2019 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Black-cherry-compote aromas are dazzled with ample brown and red spices, from mace to sumac to cardamom, on the very inviting nose of this rich while balanced bottling. The palate lands in elegantly ripe ways, showing mulberry, fig, plum and Turkish delight flavors, with those spice tones pumping into the complex, delicious finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$165

**95 Benovia 2019 Cohn Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$85

**95 Blue Farm 2019 Farmhouse Estate Farmed Pinot Noir (Carneros).** For full review see page 4.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

**95 Daou 2020 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 4.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$90

**95 FEL 2020 Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$75

**95 FEL 2020 Wendling Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Intense ripeness and fruitiness highlight this outstanding, full-bodied wine that is packed with blueberries, chocolate and baking spices like cinnamon and vanilla. It goes for the limits of richness while staying well braced by moderate tannins and persistent acidity. Best from 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$70

**95 Gainey 2020 Limited Selection Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 4.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

**95 Goldeneye 2019 Gowan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$88

**95 Goldeneye 2019 Ten Degrees Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 5.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$130

**95 Kosta Browne 2019 Mt. Carmel Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dark cherry and plum aromas are cut by intense spice scents of mace and star anise on the nose of this bottling from an iconic vineyard in the heart of this appellation. The palate is detailed in layers of rich black cherry, pan-toasted star anise and black cardamom, with waves of acidity, texture and spice undulating into a long finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$165

**95 Lincourt 2019 Willie Mae Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Aromas of dark plum crusted in thyme, marjoram and tea leaf kick off the complex nose of this bottling. There's a blast of piquant spice on the palate, from black and green peppercorn to bay and sage, with the cherry-berry flavors riding a fine edge of tannin. —M.K.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$62

**95 Native 9 2015 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Light and fresh on the nose, this bottling only shows hints of age despite its seven-year-old status. Aromas of muddled strawberry and sharp peppercorn lead into a savory palate of cracked pepper, blistered tomato and cranberry, with a zesty acidity pumping into a complex finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$64

**95 Three Sticks 2020 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 5.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$72

**95 Three Sticks 2020 Price Family Estates Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 6.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$72

**94 Anaba 2019 Westlands Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This is a best-of-the-best mingling of coastal sites, made in small quantities and given 20 months in French oak, only half of it new. Bright in blood orange, cherry and strawberry, it is balanced in body weight and length, with supple texture and lasting notes of tea and forest. —V.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

**94 Bargetto 2020 Mount Eden Clone Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Fresh raspberry and strawberry aromas follow focused lines on the nose of this bottling, yet there are extra layers of fennel pollen and dark soil adding intrigue. The palate's red-fruit core is enhanced with hibiscus, wild mints and sage oil, making for a bright while complex expression. —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$60

**94 Beauregard 2019 Coast Grade Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Singed sage, wild thyme and other chaparral spices meet with tart cranberry and red currant on the snappy nose of this single-vineyard expression. A lively acidity presents tart sumac, sour-cherry, rustic cranberry, cracked pepper and pine-needle flavors on the complex palate. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

**94 Boheme 2019 English Hill Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** A 25% whole-cluster-fermented wine from a cool, coastal site at moderate elevation, this is gorgeously floral and aromatic in rose, violet and forest. With crisp acidity at its core, the flavors delve into pomegranate, cranberry and cassis, with lingers of dried herb and tea. —V.B.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$59

**94 Calera 2019 Jensen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan).** For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$105

**94 Calera 2019 Reed Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan).** From vines growing at 2,200 feet that yielded less than one ton per acre, this bottling shows the typically feral aromas of dried bay and sagebrush that come from this terroir, yet there is also spicy star anise and fresh strawberry and cherry on the nose. The grip is pleasantly rugged on the palate, where mountain herb, black-raspberry and cranberry flavors ride a bright acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

**94 FEL 2020 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Showstopping fruit and complexity animate this full-bodied but creamily smooth, elegant wine. It's soft around the edges but deep in the middle, oozing raspberries, black cherries, basil and black tea. Although blended from different parts of the valley, this bottle competes well with FEL's vineyard designates. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$42

**94 Goldeneye 2019 Confluence Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This focused, well-structured and concentrated wine wraps abundant black fruits, mint and cloves in velvety tannins for a rich mouthfeel. It's bit subdued, and shows very good potential for improving even more from 2025. —J.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$88

**94 Handley 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This concentrated, smooth and beautifully balanced wine is packed with black-fruit flavors on an elegant texture backed by moderate tannins. It brings out savory, bay leaf and eucalyptus notes that give a dark, moody expression to the palate. —J.G.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$38

**94 Handley 2019 Roderick Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Rich, ripe and almost sweet, this gorgeous wine offers macerated strawberries, dark plums and black tea on a full body backed by a moderately tannic texture. It is lush and mouthfilling, flush with fruit. —J.G.  
abv: 13.6% Price: \$50

**94 Hanzell 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Valley).** Elegant, textured and delicate in style, this estate wine is funky in earthy compost, forest and black tea. The fruit is quiet and integrated, crisp and tangy, with a lift of citrus, pomegranate and wild strawberry. This wine is structured to age and



# BUYINGGUIDE

should open further in the cellar; enjoy best from 2024–2030. *Cellar Selection*. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$98

**94 Kosta Browne 2019 Rita's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Intense aromas of black cherry are layered in gritty earth, dried ginger, bloody meat and spice-cabinet aromas on the nose of this bottling. Hearty roasted cherry and berry flavors consume the palate, with mesquite and oak tones adding warmth. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$165

**94 Laetitia 2020 Whole Cluster Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice*.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$47

**94 LaRue 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** A blend of three single-vineyards—52% Rice-Spivak, 44% Thorn Ridge and 4% Emmaline Ann—this is a bright, effusive and beautifully structured wine that lingers in youthful tannin and grip. Wild strawberry, cherry and crushed rock combine effortlessly and with lasting intrigue. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$60

**94 LaRue 2019 Emmaline Ann Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** From a cold, foggy coastal site, this tiny-production wine is impressive in orange zest, cranberry and raspberry, while being lengthy and sublime on the palate. Forest floor, cardamom and clove and focused acidity complete the picture, making for a delicious and elegant expression of the grape. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$80

**94 LaRue 2019 Rice-Spivak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** From a coastal site littered in volcanic ashy soils, this beautifully crafted wine is crisp, lively and high-toned, with characteristics of cranberry, pomegranate and a touch of green tea. Made in an elegant, refined style, the oak and tannin are understated and integrated, adding structure and grace. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$80

**94 Red Car 2019 Heaven and Earth Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This ethereal red offers tension and texture in equal measure with grip and grit. The savory, earthiness is met by a nice sprinkling of baking spice and black tea, with a fruity landscape of strawberry and cherry that last through integrated oak and supple tannin. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**94 Rochioli 2020 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A block selection of some of the producer's most prized sites, this is made from 34% Little Hill, 28% Sweetwater, 19% Big Hill, 12% West Block and 7% East Block. Thick in bacon, grilled meat and brooding cherry fruit, it shows a chalky, gravelly texture in its structured, intense and tightly wound youth. Enjoy best from 2030–2040. *Cellar Selection*. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**94 Union Sacre 2020 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Quite light in the glass, this bottling is all about being fresh and vibrant, offering alpine-strawberry, red-plum, slate and white-pepper aromas. The palate is packed with peppery spices that cut right through the fresh raspberry and strawberry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$25

**93 Beauregard 2019 Beauregard Ranch Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Red-plum, carnation and rose-petal aromas make for a detailed, fresh nose on this bottling. There's a tight raspberry and cranberry combination on the palate, which is tightly wound, crisp and lively deep into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**93 Crū 2019 Sierra Madre Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 10.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$50

**93 Dutton-Goldfield 2019 Redwood Ridge Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** From the wilds of Annapolis, this cool-climate site gives a muscular frame to this savory wine, a ton of structure in the form of supple tannin. Lavender aromas invite one into a palate of crisp pomegranate, raspberry and blood orange, with lasting notes of cardamom and oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$72

**93 FEL 2020 Ferrington Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This rich and rounded wine offers intense ripeness and fruitiness on a full body, with an opulent texture and very soft tannins. Black-cherry syrup, strawberries and light oak spices flood the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$70

**93 Flying Goat Cellars 2018 2A Rio Vista Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Black-plum, boysenberry, anise and roasted and raw meat aromas show on the complex nose of this expression of both clone and single vineyard. The palate is ripe with juicy boysenberry flavors that are leveled by sagebrush, black-tea and eucalyptus-oil flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$48

**93 Flying Goat Cellars 2018 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Dried berry, black-tea, hibiscus and loam aromas invite the nose into this bottling from an iconic vineyard. The palate is quite complex, offering sour-cherry, mace, sumac and tea-leaf flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$65

**93 Handley 2019 Helluva Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Full flavors and judicious oak spices match well with a full body and moderate tannins in this well-crafted, well-balanced wine. Toast and cedar notes enhance the delicious black-cherry flavors in this aptly named vineyard designate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

**93 Jaffurs 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Black-cherry, melon and strawberry aromas are fresh and juicy on the nose of this bottling, which includes an herbal black-sage kick. The sip grabs hold with a tense hand, giving edge to the black-cherry, light herb and peppery spice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$36

**93 Joseph Jewell 2019 Eel River Valley Pinot Noir (Humboldt County).** Enticing and complex, this medium-bodied wine interlaces cherries, cranberries, black-tea and rhubarb flavors on an elegant textured buoyed by light tannins and energizing acidity. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$39

**93 Kosta Browne 2019 Kanzler Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** With a supple mouthfeel and length and breadth, this vineyard-designate is brimming in fresh blueberry, cherry and baking spice, with a thread of black tea. The tannins are chalky and integrated, as is the oak, providing a balanced approach to a great vintage. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$165

**93 LaRue 2019 Thorn Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Bright and beguiling in pomegranate, strawberry and wet stone, this is a light, youthful and textured red from the coastal vineyard that shows lovely layers of forest and black tea. Light and fresh in enduring crispness, it offers length and breadth throughout. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$80

**93 Minus Tide 2019 Manchester Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** A relatively light color leads to haunting earth, toast and oak-spice aromas in this rather lean and nicely complex wine from a hilltop vineyard. Mint and basil add to black cherry and black tea on a tangy, appropriately tannic texture. Fermentation included 50% whole clusters and native yeast. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$48

**93 Native 9 2017 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** This slightly aged bottling is showing great right now, with bold aromas of dried cherry, blood sausage and thyme-spiked cranberry sauce showing on the nose. It's bold and rustic on the palate with charred meat, toasted wood and a dense core of dark, plummy fruits. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$64

**93 Native 9 2016 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** There's a charmingly rustic vibe to this bottling, with blistered tomato, smoked kelp and savory umami notes drawing in the nose. The palate is also very savory, with cherry tomato, soy sauce and dried herb flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$64

**93 Patz & Hall 2019 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Smoked jerky, raspberry-jam and cracked pepper aromas make for

a dynamic nose on this single-vineyard expression. There's a savory show on the sip, as cracked pepper, raw and charred meat and black-currant flavors make a powerful impression. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$115

**93 Sangiacomo 2019 Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** Reductive and robust in oak, this wine shows varietal notes of wet earth, forest and tea. Rich and luxurious layers of red berry and citrus are generous, supple and lengthy, with an intensity of freshness that complements the ripeness. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Scar of the Sea 2021 Vino de Los Ranchos Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Crisp aromas of raspberry, pomegranate and rose petal decorate the nose of this bottling. A lively texture introduces the tightly wound palate, where dewy tarragon and pomegranate flavors pair expertly. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**93 Siduri 2020 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This appellation blend is a very satisfying and delicious expression of the region, rivaling many single-vineyard bottlings. Snappy aromas of raspberry and pomegranate are clean and polished on the nose. The palate is juicy and bright with strawberry flavors that are cut by minty tarragon tones. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Tongue Dancer 2020 Foxtrot Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$39

**93 Valley to the Sea 2020 Zotovich Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$51

**92 Anaba 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** From a majority of coastal vines, this wine opens in a pretty array of blood orange and raspberry notes. With a bit of welcome funk and youthful tannin, it shows moderate acidity and an elegant style. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$48

**92 Anaba 2019 Sangiacomo Roberts Road Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** Varietally savory in forest floor and black tea, this wine is full of texture and tension, with a balance of acidity and tannin that allows the fruit to sneak in. Supple and yet crisp, the fruit is a mix of pomegranate, wild strawberry and raspberry. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$70

**92 Armida 2019 Chalone Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$55

**92 Baileyana 2020 Firepeak Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Calera 2019 de Villiers Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan).** This is a slightly more familiar style of Pinot Noir from this veteran producer of often rugged mountain wines, starting with fresh red-cherry, hibiscus and tar aromas. The palate picks up black tea, ripe boysenberry, dried herb and warm oak on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**92 Foley 2019 Bar Lazy S Ranch Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of smoked plum, dried berry, sesame oil and a lot of umami character. Tart cranberry flavors are dusted in toasted sage flavors on the palate, which will coalesce in even more intriguing ways with time. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$64

**92 Foley 2019 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's an earthy streak to the nose of this bottling, with smoked pine needles, iodine and wild-currant aromas. The palate picks up an umami angle, offering savory nori, seared beef, more iodine and dried cherry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$70

**92 Foley 2019 T Anchor Ranch Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lovely aromas of strawberry, carnation and hibiscus pop on the nose of this bottling, as tarragon and crushed rock scents add nuance. Oregano, marjoram and thyme flavors make for an herbal entry to the palate, as a dark plum element slowly settles into the core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**92 Fort Ross Winery 2019 Top of Land Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** An elegant, sinewy and textured wine, made from several of the lowest yielding blocks at the highest elevation on the estate, this wine is light and subtle in oak. Pomegranate, raspberry, dark cherry and black tea accent the supple tannins and lengthy spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**92 Fort Ross Winery 2018 Fort Ross Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$52

**92 Joseph Jewell 2019 Phelps Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County).** Generous fruit flavors and a fairly full body make this big, juicy wine easy to sip and enjoy. Black-cherry and red-cherry flavors taste fresh and tangy, but mouthfilling too, while moderate tannins keep it mouthwatering. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**92 Joyce 2021 Submarine Canyon Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** This is always one of the most reliable Pinot Noirs in California for the price. Aromas of ripe cherry, strawberry, plump herb

and oak on the nose lead into a complex palate of sandalwood, roasted cherry, marjoram and thyme. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Kosta Browne 2019 Gap's Crown Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Rich and ample in style, this vineyard-designate is layered in a density of dark cherry, baking spice and bouts of forest floor, clove and oak. Bright acidity helps to freshen and contrast against the intensity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$165

**92 Kosta Browne 2019 Keefer Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Pillowy tannins provide a welcoming roundness to this wine, which is soft and fleshy overall in texture. Caramel, toffee and coffee tones give it a dark, dense profile of savory intensity and lasting richness while varietal accents of forest and tea weigh in. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$165

**92 Sarah's Vineyard 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68

**92 Metz Road 2020 Riverview Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey).** For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Summerland 2020 Rancho La Vina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$65

**92 Wrath 2019 KW Ranch Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with an herbal bouquet of sage and incense as well as cranberry and blistered tomato. The palate's flavors are more rounded, with roasted cranberry and strawberry as well as oregano and marjoram. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49

**91 Blair 2017 Delfina's Vineyard The Reserve Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** Dried cherry and candied berry aromas are elevated by sagebrush and rugged pine needle on the nose of this bottling. Tart cranberry and red-plum-skin flavors are sharp on the palate yet balanced by the rustic earth and meat angles, as bay leaf lingers long into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**91 Bruliam 2019 Gap's Crown Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** Rich red fruit is supported by a good amount of acidity and tension in this vineyard-designate, from the cool, coastal site. Textured, it shows a length of forest floor and black tea, with supple yet present tannins and well-integrated oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$68

**91 Calera 2019 Muns Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** There's a mountainous funk

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to the nose of this bottling, where cranberry and muddled strawberry aromas are cut by potpourri, sandalwood and sansho pepper. The palate is complex and layered in wild and herbal flavors of sage, tart berry and lingering pepper spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Cuvaison 2019 Adda Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** Rich and decadent in style, this wine has an oak-driven intensity at first, followed by well-made layers of dark berry fruit that accent a lovely, lush texture. From an estate-grown site, it finishes in clove and dark chocolate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$80

**91 Flying Goat Cellars 2018 Rio Vista Vineyard Dijon Clone Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Blistered strawberry, sagebrush and incense aromas are prominent on the nose of this clone-focused bottling. The palate follows a similar line, with red fruit and minty sage-oil flavors, still clinging to a tactile texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55

**91 Gallo Signature Series 2019 Signature Series Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Roasted cherry, singed sagebrush and dusty earth aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich with black cherry on the satisfying palate, where ample acidity carries forth star anise and wild-herb flavors toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$57

**91 Goldeneye 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**91 Hanzell 2020 Sebella Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This wine overdelivers on its price point, showing an earthy funkiness that is inviting and impressive. Demure in style, it offers crisp red fruit, citrus and well-integrated tannin and oak, delivering a purity and elegance that will broadly appeal. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Lincourt 2018 Rancho Santa Rosa Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 16..  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$40

**91 MacRostie 2019 Rodgers Creek Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** Savory in tar, tree sap and pine, this wine opens on the midpalate to reveal bright, crisp notes of orange rind and strawberry. Full bodied and concentrated in supple tannin and spicy oak, it endures in intensity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$58

**91 Mira 2016 Hyde Vineyard Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$95

**91 Navarro 2020 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Rich plums and bright black cherries meld beautifully with a smooth texture and light tannins in this medium-bodied wine. Hints of forest floor

and mushroom add nice complexity while good balance keeps it fresh on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$25

**91 Tassajara 2020 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 The Crusher 2019 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**91 Tortoise Creek 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** This well-structured wine offers appealing roasted fruit and dried herb aromas backed by nicely tangy red cherries and spiced plums on the palate. It's moderately tannic and quite appetizing. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$14

**90 Anaba 2019 Las Brisas Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros).** A hint of minerality and funky earth highlight a focused, elegant and high-toned palate of great acidity in this vineyard-designate, that is subtle in cherry and pomegranate fruit. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**90 Artevino 2017 Reserve Pinot Noir (Yorkville Highlands).** An oaky, spicy maturity makes this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine warm and interesting. It offers mushroom, bay leaf, and beef jus notes backed by plummy fruit flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$62

**90 Bravium 2019 Signal Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** Tangy raspberries are accented by light toast and black-pepper notes in this medium-bodied, smooth and complex wine. Dried herbs and sunbaked earth give it a savory slant, and time is on its side. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

**90 Cycles Gladiator 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**90 Furthermore 2018 Gap's Crown Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** This is a lively, high-toned wine that shows a density of rich jammy fruit on the midpalate. Lush in texture, the richness continues in the form of cola, notes of oak and baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$60

**90 Hahn 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 J. Wilkes 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Kosta Browne 2019 Giusti Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This warm, fleshy and weighty wine from the longtime vineyard-designate, is rich and layered in baked fruit tones

and a note of cola. Generous oak cradles the fruit and helps to amplify the grip of tannin. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$165

**90 La Honda Winery 2020 Sequence Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Focused aromas of black-raspberry jam and orange peel are slightly tart on the pretty nose of this bottling. There's a pleasantly taut texture to the palate, where ripe red-fruit flavors are wrapped in mace, star anise and dried herb flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$28

**90 MacRostie 2019 Sangiacomo Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** Juicy in dark cherry, cola and toasted oak, this wine is big in style and generous in tannin, with a lush, lengthy texture and lasting notes of baking spice and vanilla. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$58

**90 Marimar 2018 Don Miguel Vineyard Earthquake Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Candied strawberry flavors lead to a contrast of forest in this lean, mineral-driven, earthy and ethereal wine from the producer's estate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$68

**90 Matt Taylor Wines 2018 Cuvée Kaela Komorba Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Made in a natural, non-interventionist style, this wine is light, crisp and funky, with delicate layers of strawberry and black tea that appeal. —V.B.  
**abv:** 11.59% **Price:** \$60

**90 Red Car 2019 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** This is a brawny, savory and earthy red from the coast—a study in forest floor, cardamom and black tea, with quiet, well-integrated oak. The tannins are soft and supple and the ripeness in check. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$75

**90 Siduri 2019 Lingenfelder Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Rich and ripe in style, this wine is layered in dark cherry, vanilla and bolts of tea, with underlying accents of forest and oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**90 Siduri 2019 Van Der Kamp Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain).** Thick and earthy in forest floor and black tea, this wine is spiced in integrated oak and ripe in rich, dark-cherry flavor, made in a full-bodied style that shows the site and vintage well. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**90 Summerland 2020 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$65

**90 Talisman 2017 Huckleberry's Pinot Noir (Green Valley).** The producer's 25th harvest of this site, this wine was native-fermented and 25% whole-cluster fermented, giving it an earthy freshness. Notes of baking spice, dark cherry, orange

and delicate structure belie a robust ripeness and heat from a warm year. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$70

**90 Tongue Dancer 2020 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Rich and brooding in style, this wine offers dense, lush layers of dark cherry, forest and clove. With substantial tannin structure, it delves into a world of spiced oak and cola on the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**89 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Rava Blackjack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Baked red plum, stewed strawberry, a pinch of earthy herbs and a dusting of baking spice make for a pleasing nose on this bottling. There's a crisp hit to the palate, where raspberry and pomegranate flavors are cut by lemon rind. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$50

**89 Europa Village 2019 C'est la Vie Winemaker's Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Tart strawberry aromas meet with darker boysenberry elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate grips firmly and shows game, sour-cherry, nutmeg and vanilla flavors, with a persistent tartness. —M.K.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$60

**89 Josh Cellars 2020 Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** Red-cherry and light smoke aromas are fresh and charming on the nose of this bottling. The palate hits with bright flashes of raspberry and cherry, as sumac and star anise add intrigue and the acidity lingers long. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$18

**89 Sadler's Well 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Dried cranberry aromas meet with hints of rose, tar and dried meat on the nose of this bottling. There's a charcuterie element to the palate, where dried currant and cranberry flavors thrive. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Bogle 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** This dark and velvety-textured wine tastes ripe and mouthfilling, as loads of fine-grained tannins cradle black-cherry, blueberry, dark-chocolate and cinnamon flavors. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**88 Brassfield 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (High Valley).** Mellow flavors and an equally mellow mouthfeel make this medium-bodied wine easy to sip and enjoy. It offers black plum, cedar and a touch of maple on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$28

**88 Calera 2019 Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** This is a rather subtle take on Pinot Noir, with light pomegranate, dried cranberry and smoke aromas. The palate is light in body, with cherry and more smoke, as well as a sanguine element. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**88 City Winery Chicago 2019 Bacigalupi Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** With a bright entry that takes on weight and texture on the midpalate, this wine from the famous Westside Road site is sizable in tannin and oak. Dark cherry, strawberry and a touch of herb accent the richer elements of cola and baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$42

**88 Crossbarn by Paul Hobbs 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** With a good depth of strawberry and orange peel, this robust wine is generous in tannin and oak, with a lasting richness of cola and baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$37

**88 Eric Kent 2019 Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Slaty red fruit and an intensity of acidity combine around a medium-bodied framework of earth black tea and forest in this grippy wine. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$28

**88 Furthermore 2019 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Fruity yet tannic, this is a light, fresh wine with strong layers of strawberry and orange. The oak shows notes of baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Furthermore 2018 Nevina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Sanguine in black olive and forest floor, this small-production vineyard-designate shows cool-climate acidity and a funky, lean and linear style. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$75

**88 Ironstone 2020 Pinot Noir (Lodi).** A prominent toasted oak aroma leads to good red- and black-cherry flavors and pretty strong woodsmoke, clove and cedar notes from oak aging. It's full bodied and relatively light in tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Siduri 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Dried cherry, cola and summer sausage aromas show on the nose of this county-wide blend. Ripe cherry and berry flavors are pleasant on the palate, balanced by a persistent acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Talisman 2017 Weir Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yorkville Highlands).** Very smooth and almost sweet, this luxurious, indulgent, full-bodied wine was aged in 65% new French barrels. It offers opulent raisin and black-plum flavors, low tannins and a rich texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$70

**88 Windemere 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Dark-plum, cherry and anise aromas make for a somewhat heavy nose on this bottling. The palate lands with a rich mouthfeel, offering light tar, loam and baked fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**87 Brassfield 2020 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (High Valley).** This full-bodied, moderately

tannic and straightforward wine has a good core of black cherries and black plums on an appetizing texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$65

**87 City Winery Chicago 2018 Griffin's Lair Reserve Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Funky in barnyard and forest, this wine is textured and medium bodied in weight and style. Notes of white pepper and baking spice season a core of dark cherry and cola. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$42

**87 Graziano 2018 Saint Gregory Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** Tangy red-cherry flavors mingle with earthy, herbal notes in this medium-bodied, smooth-textured wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**86 Belle Glos 2019 Eulenloch Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** This is a generously muscular and dense wine, rich and robust in oak and tannin. Dark, brooding fruit rides a voluptuous palate of intensity and lush style. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65

**86 Imagery 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** This wine smells like sweet vermouth, and offers vivid maraschino cherry and maple flavors, so it's a bit like drinking a Manhattan—not bad but very unusual. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 The Simple Grape 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** This firmly textured wine offers vivid black-tea and veggie flavors along with oaky baking-spice accents. It's certainly aromatic and flavorful. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**84 Bricoleur 2020 Founder's Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** High-toned red fruit is simple in style and approach in this wine, which finishes in dry tannin. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**82 Castle Rock 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This wine has a harshness to the palate and an overwhelming taste of char amidst its layers of rich cherry and cola. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**82 Frey 2021 Organic Wine Pinot Noir (Mendocino).** Simple red-fruit aromas lead to mostly veggie and earth flavors and an ashy finish in this medium-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**82 Frey 2021 Pacific Redwood Organic Pinot Noir (Mendocino).** This wine opens with decent red-cherry aromas and offers middle-weight plums and baking spices on the palate before an ashy-tasting finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$18

**82 One Brick Wines 2020 Limited Release Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** This wine is overripe

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and flat, with bitter tannins and aromas of potpourri. —V.B.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$29

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**98 Freemark Abbey 2018 Bosché Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Blended with 7% Merlot from the famous site, along the benchlands of the Mayacamas, this is a juicy, delicious and sophisticated wine, with impressive, complementary bolts of freshness and intensity that are fully in sync. Notes of gravel, black cherry, currant and herb ride along a structured and generous palate of memorable greatness. Enjoy best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$175

**97 Beaulieu Vineyard 2019 Georges de Latour Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Another stunning vintage of this classic wine, blended with 9% Petit Verdot, this wine is dark and brooding in black cherry, cassis and currant, with a rich nose of baking spice. Lengthy and generous in tannin, it shows a backbone of ageworthy structure and complexity, with a lasting thread of dark chocolate. Enjoy best from 2029–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$145

**96 Corison 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Savory and complicated in saline, woody notes of cedar and dry tannin, this old-school wine is dark and structured, aged 20 months in French oak, half of it new. Brooding black fruit and clove give it an edgy richness that is restrained and balanced by underlying acidity. Enjoy best 2029–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$110

**96 Turnbull 2019 Leopoldina Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Dark notes of oak, cigar and red and black cherry accent a thick, yet pliant core of integrated tannin and oak in this impressive vineyard-designate. With a backbone of structure, it delivers sophisticated complexity and undeniable balance within a context of strength and power. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$145

**95 Anthem Winery 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Structured, with grip and length, this wine is ripe and rich in style with tremendous tannins. Chalky in texture, it provides layers of cassis, vanilla and clove, with the mountain appellation's signature earthiness and herbal undertones. This will do well to cellar; enjoy best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$130

**95 Corison 2019 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Gamy, meaty and even flirting with *garrigue*, this is an earthy, sublime and highly structured wine, additionally tangy and dusty in tobacco and dried herb. Notes of black olive, red currant and cassis combine around silky

tannins and lovely oak. Enjoy best from 2029–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$225

**95 Daou 2019 Soul of a Lion Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** For full review see page 4.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$170

**95 Hamel Family 2018 Pamelita Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).** Incredibly impressive in tension, texture and tannin, this reserve-worthy wine is complex and structured, mineral-driven in crushed rock and dried herb. The red fruit leans savory and subtle, accenting a layered, velvety core of refinement and grace. Enjoy best from 2028–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$225

**95 Hanzell 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).** A rare bird from the esteemed Pinot and Chardonnay producer, this wine harks back to simpler times in its total display of elegance and restraint. Earthy compost layers a supple palate of high-toned acidity and ethereal layers of currant and cassis, blended with 7% Cabernet Franc, 7% Malbec and 3% Petit Verdot. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
abv: 13.6% Price: \$125

**95 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2019 Block 3 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$60

**95 Justin 2018 Isosceles Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 5.  
abv: 15% Price: \$85

**95 Sullivan 2019 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$130

**94 Bonterra 2020 The McNab Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County).** For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$60

**94 Faust 2019 The Pact Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville).** A 100% varietal wine is from the producer's estate vineyard, one of first planted in the region. Earthy sage, blueberry and blackberry contrast against mineral-flecked notes of crushed rock, black olive, tobacco and sage. The tannins present as velvety and lengthy, with a concentrated density and finishing note of clove. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$125

**94 GRO Wines 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** For full review see page 7.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$65

**94 Hard Six Cellars 2018 Meanmouth Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).** Inviting in dark berry, dark chocolate and cassis, this is a grippy wine still youthfully tannic and

tight, with secondary notes of graphite, chalk and herbal undertones. Complex, the wine offers structure within a concentrated body of weight and ripeness, and is rich yet refined. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$95

**94 Mauritson 2019 Clough Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 8.  
abv: 14.57% Price: \$95

**94 Ranchos de Ontiveros 2017 Canada de los Pinos Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** Lovely aromas of black cherry are layered in milk and dark chocolate, oregano and wood spice on the nose of this bottling. Fine-grained tannins frame the sip, where smoked berry and aged meat flavors meet with pencil shavings and dried herbs. It's very complex. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$64

**94 Robert Young 2018 Bob's Burn Pile Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** A 100% varietal wine, this shows notes of gravel, graphite and a deepness of rich red fruit. Expansive on the plate, it is concentrated and lengthy, with moderate structure and impressive length. —V.B.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$99

**94 Robert Young 2018 Silas Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Blended with 10% Petit Verdot, this deep, brooding, muscular red is textured, gravelly and generous in rich red berry. With hints of dried herb it shows complexity and structure, the tannins firm and substantial, with room to grow. Enjoy best from 2028–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$146

**94 Secret Door 2019 Sage Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** for full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$200

**94 Sky Devil 2018 Reisacher Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley).** For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 15.4% Price: \$135

**94 Stone The Crows 2019 Fallen Feather Three Twins Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This is a soft, lushly textured wine that shows herbal character and a crunch of crushed rock. Thick, full bodied and well-made, it shines in supple tannin, integrated oak and a depth of rich red fruit. —V.B.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$85

**94 Sullivan 2019 Coeur de Vigne Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$110

**94 Vina Robles 2018 Mountain Road Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$62



**93 Austin Hope 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Extremely dark in the glass, this is an extremely ripe expression of Cab, the result of years of dedication to concentration. Goopy aromas of cappuccino candy, baked fruits and caramel-cake consume the nose. The palate starts with a touch of tannic tension, but the flavors of gingerbread and stewed fruit dominate the experience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$130

**93 Brassfield 2017 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley).** For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65

**93 Brecon Estate 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$84

**93 Edna Valley Vineyard 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**93 Hertelendy 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$150

**93 Jayson 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 10.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$100

**93 Lincourt 2018 La Cuesta Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** Blackberry paste aromas are cut by damp forest woods and graphite on the nose of this bottling. Dried meat, dried berry and redwood-duff flavors meet with savory tones of iodine and soy on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**93 Louis M. Martini 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** For full review see page 10  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$150

**93 Modus Operandi 2019 Rocca Collinetta Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville).** Dried herb, tar and tobacco rise to the fore of this grippy, intense red that shows tremendous density and power. Blackberry and cherry jam meet a lasting thread of mocha and vanilla bean. —V.B.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Ram's Gate 2018 Cellar Note Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County).** Blended with 18% Malbec, this is a well-made red from the mountain appellation that shows plenty of power and intensity. Tannic and brooding, it delivers layers of lush red fruit, structure and underlying acidity to help keep it balanced and relatively fresh in the glass. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$68

**93 Ranchos de Ontiveros 2018 Canada de los Pinos Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** Fresh, lightly tart aromas of blackberry meet with rugged rust, earth and iodine on the nose of this bottling. Roasted meat and peat-smoked black-cherry flavors make for a unique and compelling palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$64

**93 Robert Young 2018 Scion Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Containing 13% Petit Verdot, 6% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc within, this wine offers chalky tannin and big bones of body and weight. Cassis, vanilla and leather accent toasted oak and spice notes that mingle on a lengthy finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$72

**93 Secret Door 2019 Hironnelle Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** This is a structured and velvety wine that is 100% varietal and polished in style. Full bodied, it shows a wealth of concentrated red- and black-berry, clove and toasted oak notes, with hints of dried herb, rose petal and rock. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$200

**93 Wood Family Vineyards 2019 Viva Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** This deeply fruity and rich 100% Cabernet Sauvignon wine is drenched in late-harvest plums and black cherries with hints of black pepper, cassis and cocoa. Indulgent and delicious, it offers layers of fruit and oak spices on a full body and with melted tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$40

**93 Wood Family Vineyards 2018 Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** Saturated with superripe and tasty black fruits, this full-bodied wine made from Ghielmetti Vineyard grapes is a gentle giant. It offers oodles of rich dark-chocolate and fruit flavors on a broad, mouthfilling texture laced with fine-grained tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**93 Wood Family Vineyards 2018 Especial Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** This wine represents a classic style of California Cab, emphasizing black-cherry and black-currant flavors along with savory black-olive and sage notes, all embraced with moderate, grippy tannins for an appetizing texture. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55

**92 Brander 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Olivos District).** Deep and dark cherry aromas are elevated by crumpled herbs and a hint of loam on the nose of this bottling. That ripe black-cherry flavor hits the palate right away before tighter tannins add a textural edge and fresh acidity washes into the earthy finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$28

**92 Freemark Abbey 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** High-toned red fruit encompasses the palate of this full-bodied wine, that is supple and

generous in tannin and flecks of black pepper and clove. A rounded texture gives it a welcome plushness and length. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**92 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** Beautiful, concentrated black-fruit flavors and great structure give this full-bodied wine so much to like. Fine-grained tannins support rich black-cherry and black-currant flavors, while accents of mint and dark chocolate add to its complexity. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$75

**92 Heitz 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Thick in black fruit, soy and leather, this is a concentrated and well-structured wine, showing plenty of ability to age. Sinewy and still tight, it shows the warmth of the vintage and underlying freshness that helps to balance and broaden. Enjoy best from 2027–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**92 Lamborn Family Vineyards 2018 XVI Proprietor Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** Tightly structured and herbal in nature, this wine is thick and layered in dark fruit, toasted oak and prominent tannin. Made by consultant Heidi Barrett, it is full bodied, rich and impressively put together. Enjoy best from 2028–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Louis M. Martini 2018 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 14. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 16.1% **Price:** \$200

**92 Parrish Family 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Smashed boysenberry, elderberry and purple-flower aromas make a strong showing on the nose of this bottling. There's a light pepper spice to the palate, adding nuance to the violet and boysenberry flavors, as tannins grab hold early and last long into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**92 Robert Young 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** With 8% Malbec and small amounts of Petit Verdot and Merlot, this wine offers rich layers of dark cherry, chocolate and supple, seamless tannin. Spiced oak provides a warmth on the medium-bodied palate, finishing in clove and dried herb. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$62

**92 Rockpile Winery 2019 Rockpile Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rockpile).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.57% **Price:** \$75

**92 Secret Door 2019 JML Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A blend of Hironnelle Vineyard and Sage Ridge grapes, this 100% varietal wine is approachable and layered, with well-integrated French oak, 100% of it new. Cassis, black cherry,

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clove and a hint of dried herb accent polished tannins that are balanced and supple. —V.B.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$65

**92 The Farm Winery 2018 Old Union Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Fresh, bright and juicy on the nose, this bottling begins with aromas of boysenberry that grow more complex with hints of mushroom and wood. There's a crisp line of boysenberry jam and pie crust on the palate, with tight tannins lingering long on the sip. —M.K.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$90

**91 Brassfield 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
abv: 15% Price: \$35

**91 Broken Earth 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**91 Burgess 2015 Sorenson's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Iron, tar and a note of char accent this wine, made from an historic vineyard and named for the brand's winemaker of 41 years. Brooding in black fruit, it is supple and soft, benefitting from its additional time in bottle. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$175

**91 Cavus 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** With dried fruit characteristics, this rich, ripe wine offers supple tannin and a lightness of baking spice amidst a robust approach to oak and black fruit. —V.B.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$115

**91 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Clone 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay).** This rich, creamy, full-bodied, chocolaty wine piles ripe red and black fruit on a velvety texture of melted tannins. It's a pure indulgence packed with raspberries, dark cherries, mint and cocoa. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**91 Modus Operandi 2019 Vicarious Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Richly layered in an intense, hearty style, this wine presents dense layers of molasses and graham cracker along with a depth of black cherry and berry fruit. —V.B.  
abv: 15% Price: \$65

**91 The Farm Winery 2018 LPF Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Baked boysenberry, toasted wood and loamy earth aromas invite the nose into this bottling, which includes 1% Petit Verdot. Layers of berry, cherry, earthy and roasted herbs ride waves of tannin into the long finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$75

**91 Turnbull 2019 Amoenus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga).** Savory in style, this full-bodied red is mineral-driven in graphite and crushed rock, with a touch of dried herb and cassis. The vineyard is estate, from a warm appellation,

and shows plenty of girth and weight on the palate. —V.B.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$145

**91 Valley to the Sea 2020 Vogelzang Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Strawberry sorbet, light mint and anise aromas are light and easy on the nose of this bottling. The palate is juicy and fresh with just enough structure, delivering strawberry, more mint and light cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$40

**91 Wood Family Vineyards 2019 Woody's Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** This generous, well-rounded and yet firm-textured wine shows wonderful, ripe, black-fruit flavors accompanied by chocolate and mint accents. Moderate tannins and good acidity keep it lively on the palate. Best through 2027. —J.G.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$32

**90 Black Stallion 2018 Collectors Edition Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Made in a big, giving and generous style, this red is crunchy in red and black currant and dense in spicy oak. Dark chocolate, leather and a hint of tobacco combine around concentrated layers of lush texture that finish in clove. —V.B.  
abv: 15% Price: \$90

**90 Clos du Val 2019 Hironnelle Vineyard Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** A 100% varietal wine given 15 months in 100% new French oak, this wine offers thick tannins and prominent oak, with herbal earthiness and dark black fruit. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$125

**90 Davies 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Thick and brawny in style, this wine offers jammy layers of black fruit dusted in leather saddle, tobacco and dried herb. Approachable and supple in rounded tannin, it finishes in a rich flourish of mocha. —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$70

**90 Donati Family Vineyard 2018 Ezio Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Pleasant aromas of red cherry and oak are familiar on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up hints of licorice and darker berry, with a firm structure and engaging acidity rounding out the experience. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

**90 Freemark Abbey 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Blended with small amounts of Merlot, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, this is an approachable, well-made appellation wine that shows a backbone of structure and power. Supple tannins wrap around a thick midpalate of black and red currant, cassis and toasted oak, finishing in clove and cedar. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

**90 Hall 2018 Craig's Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** High-octane in style, this likable

powerhouse offers smooth layers of red berry and black berry alongside brooding tannin and oak. Well integrated, it finishes in savory clove, tobacco and earthy herb. —V.B.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$50

**90 J. Wilkes 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Highlands District).** For full review see page 19.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**90 Jordan 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$60

**90 Lava Cap 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (El Dorado).** For full review see page 20.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

**90 Really Good Boxed Wine 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** This is indeed "Really Good Boxed Wine." Aromas of cherry, strawberry, caramel and leather are simple but pleasant. The palate's light tannins give just enough bite to the roasted strawberry and milk-chocolate flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65/3 L

**90 Sequence 2020 Rough Cut Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** Tart berry, anise and tarragon aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a rustic character to the sip, with smashed boysenberry and caramelized fennel-bulb flavors most prominent. —M.K.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$45

**90 Stone The Crows 2019 Three Twins Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This is a dark, rich and complex red from an estate vineyard, earthy in cedar, clove and tobacco elements, along with a sturdy structure of pronounced tannin and caramel oak. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$110

**90 The Farm Winery 2018 Cardinal Old Bailey Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Tart black-plum and cracked pepper aromas show on the nose of this bottling from an older vineyard. Elderberry and crumpled flowers appear on the palate, which is delicate in structure and style. —M.K.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$100

**90 Tribe and Arrow 2017 Reserve Diamond Dao Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).** Blended with 20% Merlot and aged 22 months in 80% new French oak, this wine shows its mountain provenance in burly body concentration and weight. Black olive, clove and tobacco build momentum and density with layers of currant, cassis and toasted oak structured and powerful on the palate. —V.B.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$85

**90 Vigilance 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** This appealing and well-balanced wine blends black-currant and black-pepper fla-

vors on a medium body backed by light tannins. It's delicious and mouthfilling without being too heavy. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**90 Wellsley Farms 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 24.

**Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$8

**89 Brassfield 2019 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley).** Firm tannins and brisk acidity lift red-cherry, cranberry and blackberry flavors in this full-bodied but nervy wine. It has somewhat restrained fruit flavors and the structure for aging, so best after 2025. —J.G.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$65

**89 Josh Cellars 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Damp and toasted wood aromas meet with dark fruit and mushroom on the nose of this bottling. There's a complex savory note to the palate, with mushroom and soy, and then the ripe cassis flavors rush in as tannins rise on the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**89 Porterhouse Winery 2018 Blackridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** There's a strong oak aroma to the nose of this bottling, along with baked cherry and strawberry scents. The palate is easygoing, with red-fruit and oak flavors, satisfying basic expectations. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68

**89 Sextant 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Heavy aromas of black plum, blackberry paste and caramelized fig show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is dark and brooding with more roasted fig and blackberry-puree flavors, as nutmeg and cardamom add some nuance. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Shannon Ridge 2020 High Elevation Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This medium-bodied wine offers nicely fresh and focused black-cherry and blackberry flavors wrapped in light tannins. It's light for a Cabernet, and easy to like. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$23

**89 Tribeca 2019 Ocean Ave Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Herbal aromas meet with bitter cocoa, dark wood and dried fruits on the nose of this bottling. There's a strong anise element on the palate, with baked fruit and richer licorice toward the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$56

**89 Tribute 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This hearty, full-bodied and moderately tannic wine has the grippy, punchy feel of a good Cabernet along with tasty dark-plum and black-cherry flavors. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Barrel Burner 2020 Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dark strawberry, red-flower and crushed rock aromas are layered in toasty oak and caramel on the nose of this bottling. There's strawberry and cappuccino combination on the medium-bodied palate, which is easy to enjoy. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Castoro Cellars 2018 Whale Rock Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Blackberry and black plum aromas show on the slightly tart and earthy nose of this bottling. The palate pairs black-plum and elderberry flavors with violet florals and sticky tannins that carry into the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$30

**88 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Firepit Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay).** Tempting floral and cedar aromas meet fresh, fruity raspberry and blackberry flavors in this full-bodied but easy-drinking wine. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Bing's Barn Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay).** This pleasant, true-to-type Cabernet offers mint and black-currant aromas, nicely ripe black-cherry flavors and light tannins on a medium to full body. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Tesla Neighbors Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** Plump blackberry and blueberry flavors and tangy raspberry accents give this full-bodied wine a lively expression. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 Edna Valley Vineyard 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast).** Candied red-cherry aromas are cut by loam, woodsmoke and dried herb on the nose of this bottling. Firm tannins frame rich and dark cherry and caramelized berry flavors on the palate, with a hint of milk chocolate on the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$16

**88 Genera 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Tannic and robust in style, this wine shows an herbal earthiness of clove, bell pepper and crushed herb. It is big in style and ripeness. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$125

**88 Locke 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Calaveras County).** Woody aromas and flavors dominate this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine as impressions of cedar and oak dust cover dried-fruit and leather notes. —J.G.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**88 Clockwise 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** With a lush richness of jammy plum and cherry, this is an approachable red with soft,

supple tannin and spiced oak. Vanilla, cola and black licorice provide additional decadence. —V.B.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$76

**88 Michael David 2020 Freakshow Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** For full review see page 22.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Robert Young 2018 Thomas Meek Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Made in small amounts, this bold, boisterous red is well-structured and layered in menthol and red fruit, with additional accents of clove, cedar and tobacco. The texture is plush. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$99

**87 Clos du Bois 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 25. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

**87 Imagery 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This easy-drinking, fruity and medium-bodied wine features black-cherry and raspberry flavors on a smooth texture. It is tasty and well balanced. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Louis M. Martini 2018 Mountain No. 254 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Reductive, with strong layers of oak and tannin, this wine is dense and concentrated, with a generous ripeness. Red fruit, dried herb and tobacco accent the powerful structure. —V.B.

**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$100

**87 Porterhouse Winery 2016 Creekside Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Extracted and slightly tart black-plum aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also quite sour, with peppery spice adding some life. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**87 Sadler's Well 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dried fennel-frond, black cherry and dried herb aromas make for pleasant nose on this bottling. There's a nutty, woody flavor to the sip, where a fresh blackberry-jam flavor serves as the base. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$18

**87 Testa Vineyards 2016 Hillside Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County).** Supertripe flavors and a very full body give this wine a massive, heavy expression. Blackberry jam, blueberry jam and vanilla dominate the flavors. —J.G.

**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$40

**86 Cycles Gladiator 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A toasty, vanillin aroma leads to indulgent grapey, jammy flavors in this full-bodied and mostly soft-textured wine. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Sculpterra 2019 Héroe Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Fennel-pollen and minty mouthwash aromas make for a very herbal nose on

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this bottling, which also offers a touch of berry. The palate is a tad sweet and full of those minty flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**86 Sebastopol Oaks 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This minty, chocolaty wine is medium bodied, rather soft and almost sweet in mouthfeel. Good blackberry flavors come out on the palate. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$18

**85 7 Deadly 2019 Cab Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Heavy clove, cedar and dried plum aromas lead to a rich, almost-sweet feel on the palate, spreading blackberry-jam and vanilla notes. —J.G.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**85 Crooked Path 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Extracted aromas of tart plum and reedy herbs show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with herb, anise and plum-sauce flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**85 Decoy 2019 Limited Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Herbaceous with a taste of black olive and spiced oak, this is a dense, tannic and ripe red blended with 8% Merlot. Approachable, it's built to enjoy in its youth. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**85 Oblivion 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dark-plum aromas are layered in herbal tones of anise and oregano on the nose of this bottling. That prominent herbal line grows bolder on the palate, with marjoram, mint and fennel bulb, as red fruit lingers in the background. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**85 The Lost Chapters 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Coast).** Reductive, this wine has notes of dried herb, clove and baking spice, with bitter tannins that linger on the full-bodied finish. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**84 Clos de Napa Cellars 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A 100% varietal wine, this is reductive and tight, showing a simplicity of dark fruit and generous oak. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**84 Starmont 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** This full-bodied wine offers a flinty, peppery aroma before good red cherries and black plums hit the palate. Moderate tannins add a light grip. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

**82 Bread & Butter 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Earth-black fruit and compost highlight a thick, tannic and uneventful palate of concentration and ripeness that falls flat on the finish. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$60

**82 Canyon Oaks 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Exaggerated oak flavors of ginger, chocolate and wood char take over this otherwise soft and jammy, medium-bodied wine. —J.G.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

## CABERNET FRANC

**94 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Franc (Red Hills).** For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*

**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$65

**92 Broken Earth 2019 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 12.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Paradise Springs 2019 Cabernet Franc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Candied strawberry, light pepper and a hint of spearmint aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm structure at the tip of the sip, which holds up those rich strawberry-compote flavors as white-pepper and oregano elements add engaging nuance. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$45

**91 Brander 2019 Cabernet Franc (Los Olivos District).** Juicy aromas of dark strawberry, black raspberry and even boysenberry are fresh on the playful nose of this bottling. The palate is generous in berry-jam flavors that are spiced with light licorice, spearmint and a tiny punch of pepper. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$38

**91 Brecon Estate 2019 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Adelaida District).** Cranberry-jam aromas are cut by light green-peppercorn and leather aromas on the nose of this bottling. Dried cranberry and salted plum flavors show on the well-structured palate, with oregano and marjoram adding intrigue. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$84

**91 Firestone 2019 Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Woody aromas of dark cherry, mushroom and light tobacco make for a compelling combination on the nose of this bottling. A mahogany note also frames the palate, where baked blueberry, soy and shiitake notes align. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$44

**90 Broken Earth 2018 CV Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 18.

**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$40

**90 Lorenzi Estate 2018 Block Three Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley).** Toasted wood, new leather and rustic currant aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There is an extremely firm structure on the palette, where tobacco and mahogany flavors frame the dark blackberry fruit. This will mellow and integrate with patience. Drink 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$65

**89 Jamshid 2018 Maddahi Estate Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Los Olivos District).** Tart black-plum and dried herb aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The herbal character is center stage on the palate, with a bit more plum flesh and skin to round out the sip. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$69

**88 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Stone Patch Cabernet Franc (San Francisco Bay).** This full-bodied and well-balanced wine keeps to the middle of the road, offering good black-cherry and black-olive flavors and moderate tannins. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**86 Ironstone 2020 Cabernet Franc (Lodi).** Charred oak aromas and smoky, cedary flavors dominate this firmly tannic and slightly tangy wine. It emphasizes dried herbs and raspberries for restrained fruitiness on a grippy structure. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

## MERLOT

**92 Wood Family Vineyards 2019 One Oak Vineyard Estate Grown Merlot (Livermore Valley).** Rich, almost sweet cherries, plums and strawberries flood this wine with fruitiness, while a smooth, silky texture and fine-grained tannins give a supple structure to support them. It is mouthfilling, lush and flavorful. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$32

**91 Pahlmeyer 2017 Merlot (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 17. *Cellar Selection.*

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$105

**90 Carlson 2019 Merlot (Santa Barbara County).** Blackberry, dark-herb, light wood and smoky cocoa aromas show on the ripe nose of this bottling. There's a woody tension to the sip, which frames the blackberry jam, leather and cedar flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$25

**90 Estancia 2020 Merlot (Central Coast).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$13

**90 Paradise Springs 2019 F'ing Merlot Merlot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** This is joyful take on Merlot, with juicy and ripe black-currant-candy aromas that make for a fresh and fun introduction. There are just enough tannins to showcase the blackberry and cracked pepper flavors on the palate. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$45

**90 Silverado 2018 Mt. George Vineyard Merlot (Coombsville).** For full review see page 21.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$48

**89 Josh Cellars 2020 Merlot (California).** This is a hearty, fruity, slightly peppery wine, not complicated but offering a great, appetizing blast of

black cherries, black pepper and grilled plums on a moderately tannic texture. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

**89 Wente 2020 Sandstone Merlot (Central Coast).** Aromas of strawberry and dried mint are pleasantly smooth and integrated on the nose of this bottling. There's a fresh sense of red fruits and light oregano to the medium-bodied palate, which is wrapped in waxy tannins. It's a great everyday table wine. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**88 Benziger 2019 Merlot (Monterey County).** Herb and wood-spice aromas meet with baked red currant and light rocks on the nose of this bottling. Waxy tannins frame the palate, where charred cherry and char flavors converge. —M.K.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

**88 Donati Family Vineyard 2019 Merlot (Paso Robles).** Fresh boysenberry and strawberry-jam aromas are dusted in black pepper on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe with red-fruit-punch and strawberry flavors, topped with a tinge of tartness. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$19

**88 Donati Family Vineyard 2017 The Immigrant Merlot (Paicines).** Smoky peat, dried cranberry and leather aromas show on the slightly aged nose of this bottling. Leathery tannins carry the palate through flavors of smoked fruit and still-fresh berry flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$32

**88 Trefethen 2019 Estate Grown Merlot (Oak Knoll District).** Blended with 11% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Malbec, this red was given 18 months in oak, 46% of it new. Mint, bay leaf and cedar highlight a lean, lengthy palate of integrated tannin. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$50

**87 Europa Village 2018 C'est La Vie Merlot (California).** Brown-sugar and black-cherry aromas show a slightly sour side on the nose of this bottling. Dried cherry and caramel-syrup flavors come through on the palate. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$39

**86 Frey 2020 Organic Merlot (North Coast).** Smoky, charred aromas and flavors dominate the blackberry and veggie flavors of this medium-bodied and moderately tannic wine. It's hearty and rustic in style. No added sulfites. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

**84 Kendall-Jackson 2019 Vintner's Reserve Merlot (Sonoma County).** Floral aromatics provide an earthiness of compost and violet to this wine, thick in tannin and robustly layered in clove, cedar and plum. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

**84 Kunde 2019 Merlot (Sonoma Valley).** Herbal and thick on the palate, this estate-grown

wine has 7% Petite Sirah and 1% Malbec, adding color and lasting intensity. —V.B.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$22

## MALBEC

**92 Brassfield 2017 Volcano Ridge Vineyard Estate Malbec (High Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$40

**91 Brecon Estate 2019 Malbec (Adelaida District).** This rich bottling offers blackberry, black currant and violet on the dense nose. There's a hefty thrust to the palate, where those purple-flower and black-fruit flavors pick up pepper dust and zesty acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$67

**89 Lorimar 2018 Malbec (California).** This lively and well-concentrated wine combines bright red cherries and richer black cherries on moderate tannins and a full body. Good acidity gives it a tangy, refreshing texture and great balance. —J.G.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$59

**89 The Farm Winery 2018 Old Pro Malbec (Adelaida District).** Raw meat, dried red-flower and dried cranberry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite light, with raspberry, cranberry and rose-petal flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$70

**89 Wood Family Vineyards 2019 Malbec (Livermore Valley).** Deep blackberry and blueberry flavors drive this full-bodied wine, backed by lots of fruit acidity and light to moderate tannins. It tastes focused, feels lively and has a tangy finish. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$34

**87 Mia Marie 2020 Malbec (San Diego County).** Dried beef, raw meat and tart fruit aromas make for a slightly reductive and funky nose on this bottling. Dried black-plum flavors show on the palate alongside dusty charcuterie. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

## PETIT VERDOT

**94 Brassfield 2019 Estate Petit Verdot (High Valley).** For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$50

**93 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2019 Petit Verdot (Red Hills).** A striking aroma of blackberry jam leads to big, concentrated and deep black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate in this full-bodied and handsomely tannic wine. It is rich, mouthcoating and delicious. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$65

**93 Wood Family Vineyards 2019 Petit Verdot (Livermore Valley).** This rich, dense and powerful wine holds its lush blackberry and black-cherry flavors in warm, fine-grained tannins. Its generous black-fruit flavors are complemented by toasted oak, cedar and dark-chocolate notes for a mouthfilling and palate-coating expression that bodes well for further aging. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$34

**92 Brecon Estate 2019 Petit Verdot (Adelaida District).** Intensely focused blackberry and blueberry aromas meet with violet on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite ripe and nearly sweet at first, but then firm tannins add balance, giving form to the rich blueberry and vanilla-pastry flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$69

**91 Four Lanterns 2019 Petit Verdot (Templeton Gap District).** Dark, rugged, intense aromas of elderberry paste and charred meat call out for attention on the nose of this bottling, which shows the inky side of Petit Verdot. That intensity carries into the palate, where black-plum and violet-extract flavors will benefit from patience. Drink 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$54

**91 Paradise Springs 2019 Petit Verdot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Plummy aromas lead into cranberry, strawberry and licorice on the nose of this bottling. There's a chalky edge to the palate, giving balance to the blueberry, baking-spice and cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15.3% Price: \$47

**91 Shale Oak 2019 Petit Verdot (Paso Robles).** Dark, jammy fruit aromas meet with smoked and salted meats on the ripe yet savory nose of this bottling. Creamy tannins frame the thick sip, where ripe cassis, anise and pepper flavors make quite an impression. —M.K.  
abv: 15.7% Price: \$42

**89 Donati Family Vineyard 2019 Family Reserve Petit Verdot (El Pomar District).** Dried elderberry aromas meet with leathery animal scents on the nose of this bottling. There's a leathery tone to the palate as well, with dark-fruit and dried meat flavors as well. —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$53

## SYRAH

**94 Sextant 2019 Portolan Syrah (Paso Robles).** Bold aromas of blackberry, charred violets, warm oak and vanilla hint at a more rugged and savory side on the nose of this bottling, which includes 3% Viognier. The barrel spices are even more evident on the palate in delicious ways, with vanilla, cardamom and smoke swirling around the ripe core of blackberry pie. —M.K.  
abv: 15.3% Price: \$125



**93 Covenant 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** Focused aromas of boysenberry are lifted by toasted wood and roasted meat on the nose of this bottling. Sandy, somewhat gritty tannins frame the acid-driven sip, where rich berry flavors meet with peppery spices, savory seared meat and fennel-pollen elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**93 Valley to the Sea 2020 Alban Block Rancho Boa Vista Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** This is a zesty and fresh style of Syrah, kicking off with black raspberry and freshly plucked flower aromas on the bright nose. The lightly colored wine lands with vivid boysenberry-juice, violet and lavender flavors on the palate, as a pinch of white pepper enlivens the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$40

**92 Bouchaine 2019 Hyde Vineyard Syrah (Carneros).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$85

**92 Brassfield 2017 Perspective Vineyard Estate Syrah (High Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65

**92 Jaffurs 2019 Thompson Vineyard Syrah (Alisos Canyon).** Cassis and candied boysenberry aromas meet with lively lilac on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is vibrant with red cherry and strawberry, as chalk tannins rein in the juicy core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

**92 Lava Cap 2018 Estate Bottled Syrah (El Dorado).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$28

**92 Lorimar 2018 Syrah (Temecula Valley).** This bottling, which includes some Petite Sirah, offers a very rugged edge of leather, roasted meat and peppery gravy on the nose, along with a caramel-covered toast note. The palate is leathery in texture and loaded with cracked pepper, smoked meat and stewed berry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$52

**92 Shale Oak 2019 Syrah (Paso Robles).** Crisp blackberry and elderberry aromas meet with lavender on the penetrating nose of this bottling. Pure cassis flavors ride into violet and blueberry on the palate, which is focused and not overly heavy in weight. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$42

**92 The Farm Winery 2018 The Red Zone Syrah (Adelaida District).** Strong peppery aromas meet with violet and elderberry on the spicy nose of this bottling. The palate picks up crumpled flower, wild-herb and pepper-dust flavors as a light plum-juice element dominates the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

**92 Thirty-Seven 2019 Syrah (Petaluma Gap).** Brawny, gamy and fruity in equal measure,

this cool-climate wine shows tremendous richness and generous tannin, but remains integrated and well balanced. Juicy blueberry, blackberry and smoked meat accent it around an undertow of lavender. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$28

**91 Blair Fox 2019 Kimsey Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Dark-plum, berry and violet aromas show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. There's a vibrant sense of purple fruit and flower on the palate, where a lively acidity keeps the sensation pumping into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Jamshid 2018 Maddahi Family Estate Vineyard Syrah (Los Olivos District).** Black plum, purple flowers, cardamom and iodine show on the nose of this bottling from a newer brand. There's a tight weave on the palate, giving structure to the caramel, lilac, chai and milk-chocolate flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$69

**90 Brander 2020 Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** Baked berry and light smoke aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite ripe, with boysenberry-jam flavors that gain intrigue from fennel-pollen and grilled meat elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$30

**90 Ernest 2020 Edaphos Broken Leg Vineyard Syrah (Anderson Valley).** Showing the lean, peppery side of Syrah, this light-bodied wine is energized by good acidity and light tannins that support nervy rhubarb, sour-cherry and black-pepper flavors. It's nicely done in a rather spare style. —J.G.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$42

**90 Lasseret 2019 Trinity Ridge Estate Vineyards Syrah (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County).** This is a thick, tannic and leathery wine, 100% varietal and grown at high-elevation. A richness of sweet plum dominates with viscosity and intensity while accents of dried herb, rock and wild game swirl through the full-bodied ripeness. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$125

**90 Michael David 2020 Sixth Sense Syrah (Lodi).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18

**90 Sequum 2019 Kidd Ranch Syrah (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$54

**88 Ankor 2020 Syrah (Santa Clara Valley).** Crushed grape seeds and dark plummy fruit aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Dark-fruit flavors meet with a nutty tone on the palate, which is a bit flat in texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$30

**88 Europa Village 2018 C'est la Vie Private Reserve Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Charred berry and anise aromas show on the nose of this bottling. That fennel element is strong on the pal-

ate, where dried berry flavors get a savory side of smoke. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$66

**86 Acorn 2018 Axiom Alegria Vineyard Syrah (Russian River Valley).** Dry, tannic and savory, this is a field blend (with some Viognier within), that has a woody, gamy character and leathery texture. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**84 Kunde 2019 Syrah (Sonoma Valley).** This wine is herbal and earthy, with an acidic intensity. A slate-like texture is met by ripe red and black berry, tobacco and game. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$35

## GRENACHE

**95 Rhonedonnée 2021 Destination: Love Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Rich layers of dark strawberry, baked plum, mace and star anise are bold but beautifully balanced on the nose of this bottling. Creamy tannins frame the palate, where endless waves of baked berry, dried ginger and sprinkled baking spices cruise into a tensely wound palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 ALLBAER 2019 Le Retour Grenache (California).** This is a big and bold wine from the young but experienced winemaker Alex Baer, proving superrich but with all the right edges. Dense aromas of black plum, fig, gingerbread and star anise invite the nose, while the palate starts with a tannic edge that unfurls into spice cake and roasted fig flavors. That tension holds into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$75

**93 Blair Fox 2019 Fox Family Vineyard Grenache (Los Olivos District).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$60

**93 Destinata 2021 Carbonic Grenache (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$30

**93 Jaffurs 2020 Grenache (Ballard Canyon).** A light shade in the glass, this appellation blend is snappy on the nose with crisp raspberry and pomegranate aromas, as white pepper, rose petal and ash add mineral tones to the vibrant frame. It's very fresh on the palate, with a chalky texture and taut red-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**93 La Lief 2020 Alamo Creek Ranch Grenache (San Luis Obispo County).** Rich red-cherry and dried strawberry aromas are layered in mace and earth elements on the nose of this bottling, which was made by Kaena Wines co-owner Sally Sigouin. Dark and heavy baked fruit flavors form the

core of the well-structured palate, which is decorated in mace and nutmeg spices. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$37

**92 Rhône**donnée 2021 Dawn Patrol Nouveau Grenache Nouveau (Templeton Gap District). Crisp and light aromas of pomegranate, wet rocks and dust show a slightly carbonic edge to them on the nose of this bottling. The palate is chalky in texture and bright, with raspberry and hibiscus flavors proving fresh and fun. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

**91 Shale Oak 2019 Grenache (Paso Robles).** Baked black-raspberry and caramelized boysenberry aromas meet with barrel spice and milk chocolate on the brooding nose of this bottling. It's thick and juicy on the palate in a typical Paso style, offering satisfyingly unctuous flavors of black cherry and caramel-filled chocolate. —M.K.  
abv: 16.4% Price: \$42

**90 The Farm Winery 2018 The Dish Grenache (Adelaida District).** Very light in the glass, this rustic style of Grenache starts with aromas of cranberry, orange peel and tomato leaf. The palate takes the baked cranberry and pairs it with orange peel and mulling spices. —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$65

**88 Cavaletti 2019 Kelley Vineyard Grenache (Ventura County).** Fairly extracted aromas of hard spice and dried flowers show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with cola, smashed plum and tea-leaf flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15.7% Price: \$49

## MOURVÈDRE

**94 Peter Franus 2019 Mourvèdre (Red Hills).** Distinctive black pepper and grilled plum flavors give this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine a distinctive smoky, savory expression that Rhône wine lovers will love. Grilled meat, anise and singed rosemary notes blend with tangy blackberries for a veritable feast. This was grown at 3,000 feet elevation by the Fore family. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

**92 Rhône**donnée 2019 Trail Secret Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). This bottling is perfectly named, as it begins with rugged aromas of bramble berry, crushed rock, dusty soil and forest-floor duff, much like a hike through the woods. The palate is rich and hefty with roasted strawberry, boysenberry and nutmeg flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$50

**88 Shale Oak 2019 Mourvèdre (Paso Robles).** Tart plum, dried herbs and roasted pork aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a sour side to the palate, with plum skins most dominant and a fistful of herbs as well. —M.K.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$42

## CARIGNAN

**93 Robert Hall 2019 Cavern Select Carignane (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** This is yet another argument as to Carignan's potential for long-term quality viability in California. Impressive aromas of boysenberry, salted meat and caramel lead the nose into a palate full of creamy tannins that combine power with finesse. Rich berry, cola and cardamom-spice flavors pump into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

**92 Graziano 2017 Carignane (Mendocino County).** Serious, deep, black-fruit flavors and velvety tannins give this full-bodied wine a mouth-filling, generous and broad expression. Delicious black-cherry flavors are accented by subtle cinnamon, vanilla and toast notes from oak aging. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

**90 Testa Vineyards 2016 Carignane (Mendocino County).** This easy-breezy wine gushes fresh red- and black-cherry aromas followed by juicy cherry, and raspberry flavors on a medium body with nicely tangy acidity and light tannins. It's uncomplicated and fun to drink. —J.G.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$30

**87 Ernest 2020 Edaphos Trimble Vineyard Carignane (Mendocino County).** Black-raspberry and black-cherry flavors dominate this light-bodied, lean wine that carries moderate tannins and tangy acidity. It's grippy in texture and on the austere side in flavors. —J.G.  
abv: 12% Price: \$28

## PETITE SIRAH

**94 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2019 Petite Sirah (Red Hills).** For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$65

**93 Carlson 2019 Petite Sirah (Santa Barbara County).** Petite Sirah is not a popular grape in the relatively cool region of Santa Barbara, but Chuck Carlson does it well in this bottling from a sunny, south-facing slope. Aromas of black currant are rich and intense yet focused on the nose, while the palate combines thick, stiff tannins with charred berry flavors. The structure allows this ripe wine to sail across the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$25

**93 Wood Family Vineyards 2019 Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley).** Big but balanced, this moderately tannic and full-bodied wine offers delicious blueberry and blackberry flavors with hints of mint, vanilla and dark chocolate. It is complex, deep and concentrated. Best from 2024–2030. —J.G.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$32

**92 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Madden Ranch Ghost Vines Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley).** For full review see page 13. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**92 Ironstone 2020 Petite Sirah (Lodi).** For full review see page 14.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

**92 Peachy Canyon 2020 Petite Sirah (Adelaida District).** Fresh elderberry and acai aromas meet with crumpled lilac and asphalt on the purple-driven nose of this bottling. Leathery tannins frame the sip, where charred blueberry and roasted meat flavors align. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$45

**91 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Madden Big Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley).** Ripe, rich, jammy blackberry and blueberry flavors are nicely balanced by firm tannins in this full-bodied wine. It offers oodles of fruit and a generous mouthfeel despite significant grip in the texture. —J.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$50

**91 Robert Hall 2019 Cavern Select Petite Sirah (Templeton Gap District).** Roasted meats, smoked cassis, beef jerky and dried herbs aromas show on the dense nose of this bottling. Soy meets with violet and smashed blueberry on the palate, which is layered in peppery spices. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$50

**90 Bogle 2019 Petite Sirah (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$11

**90 Fasi Estate 2020 Private Reserve Estate Petite Sirah (Madera).** This full-bodied and richly tannic wine blends salty, beefy aromas with lush blueberry and dark-chocolate flavors. It is big and bold, but also well balanced. —J.G.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$38

**89 Locke 2018 Petite Sirah (Calaveras County).** Quite smooth for the grape variety, this medium- to full-bodied wine offers good acid balance, moderate tannins and a lot of fresh black-cherry and blackberry flavors. —J.G.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$38

**88 Testa Vineyards 2015 Petite Sirah (Mendocino County).** This massive, tannic and concentrated wine needs time to be truly enjoyable. It packs in dark-chocolate, blackberry-jam, wood-smoke and char flavors on a very dry, firm and grippy texture. Best from 2028. —J.G.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$30

**87 St. Eva Hill 2019 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** Wild-thyme, pepper-tree and bay leaf aromas are herbal on the nose of this bottle. Stewed red-fruit flavors are ripe on the palate, with anise and wild mint as well. It's much lighter than most Petite Sirahs. —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$60

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Plein Air 2018 Petite Syrah (Amador County).** Though quite smoky and peppery, this wine shows a generous side, too, in its mouthfilling, rich texture and ample blackberry and blueberry flavors. It is tannic, of course, but the mouthfeel remains velvety. Aged in 40% new American and Hungarian barrels. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$32

## BARBERA

**91 Las Positas 2017 Estate Barbera (Livermore Valley).** This laser-focused, black-cherry and tart cranberry wine offers concentrated fruit flavors, lively acidity and moderate tannins. Its structure will cleanse the palate when paired with the richest risotto or lasagna. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$38

**90 Due Vigne 2019 Shaker Ridge Vineyard Barbera (El Dorado County).** Very generous black-fruit flavors are carried on a velvety, lightly tannic texture in this powerful, full-bodied wine. It's very ripe and high-octane, but stays balanced. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.32% **Price:** \$38

**89 Europa Village 2018 Vienza Reserve Barbera (Temecula Valley).** Tart black-plum aromas on the nose lead into a much richer, satisfying palate. In addition to the plummy core, there are cigar-box and anise elements adding depth. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$74

## SANGIOVESE

**92 ALLBAER 2019 Le Retour Sangiovese (California).** Fresh and clean aromas of strawberry and pine are rich and spicy on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very hefty and powerful, offering roasted strawberry and creamy caramel flavors. But it's the acidity and firm tannins that hold the ripe showcase together. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$75

**92 Cornicello 2020 Luna Matta Vineyard Sangiovese (Paso Robles).** Dark-berry and cherry aromas range from fresh to more caramelized on the nose of this bottling. The palate kicks off with a fresh splash of tart red fruit, then moves into dried fruit while picking up star anise spice toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Due Vigne 2019 Lyman Vineyard Sangiovese (Amador County).** This smooth, layered wine tastes mellow and inviting. It features red-cherry and sour-cherry aromas, a rich palate of mulled plums, clove and cinnamon and a broad and velvety texture that helps the flavors linger on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.36% **Price:** \$34

**88 Europa Village 2018 Vienza Private Reserve Sangiovese (Temecula Valley).** Tart berry

and light wood aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a likable rustic angle to the palate, where roasted tomato, tart cherry and plenty of wood-spice flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$63

**88 Lorimar 2018 Sangiovese (California).** This tightly structured wine is not a sipper, but needs food to accompany it. Firm tannins support ample black-plum and sour-cherry flavors that are accented with mineral and wild-sage notes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$46

## DOLCETTO

**93 Bargetto 2019 Regan Vineyards Dolcetto (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Stewed strawberry, rose-oil and crushed asphalt aromas make for a memorable nose on this bottling of a grape that's very uncommon for the area. It's hefty on the palate, where layers of firm tannins reveal black-plum-sauce and violet flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Graziano 2016 Enotria Dolcetto (Mendocino County).** Handsome oak spices like cinnamon, nutmeg and toast dress up this solidly made, ripe and concentrated wine. Good black-cherry and blackberry flavors glide on a velvety, moderately tannic texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Due Vigne 2018 Cinnamon Hill Vineyard Dolcetto (El Dorado County).** This fresh-tasting wine overflows with vivid cherries and berries, backing them with a tangy and lightly tannic texture that will help it pair well with rich food. It's light bodied and charming. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$35

## ZINFANDEL

**94 Bella 2019 Dupratt Vineyard Zinfandel (Mendocino Ridge).** For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$55

**93 Brassfield 2019 Estate Zinfandel (High Valley).** For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 16.1% **Price:** \$35

**93 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Field Blend Zinfandel (San Francisco Bay).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50

**92 Peachy Canyon 2020 Bailey Zinfandel (Adelaida District).** Juicy strawberry and minty licorice aromas pull the nose into this appealing wine. The palate takes those lovely strawberry flavors and tosses in tobacco, toast and salted caramel notes on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Ruby Hill Winery 2019 Jewel Collection Series Estate Reserve Zinfandel (Livermore Valley).** Lavish oak spices surround succulent, ripe blackberry and strawberry flavors in this big, full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. Cinnamon, black pepper and clove emerge in the aromas and last through the lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$52

**92 Scar of the Sea 2021 Lopez Vineyard Zinfandel (Cucamonga Valley).** From dry-farmed vines that date back to 1918, this is a very unique Zinfandel, starting with aromas of Fernet-Branca, myrtle liqueur and sharply spiced fig jam. There's a tense angle to the palate, giving a backdrop to the amaro-like flavors that float atop a strawberry-cream component. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**92 Shannon 2019 Giannecchini Family Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Mendocino County).** Pure, focused and concentrated, this full-bodied wine shows a laser beam of wild-berry flavors that are nicely shaped by moderate tannins and a slightly tangy balance. Delicious now through at least 2029. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**91 Peachy Canyon 2020 Vortex Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Black plum juice, dried berries and licorice make for a concentrated showcase of darkness on the nose of this bottling, which is bolstered by 15% Petite Sirah, 6% Syrah and 3% Grenache. The palate is thick with attention-grabbing stewed fruit, gingerbread and fruit-cake flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$46

**91 Robert Hall 2019 Dusi Vineyard Cavern Select Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Stewed strawberry and boysenberry as well as caramel and gingerbread aromas are rich and ripe on the nose of this bottling, which includes 4% Petite Sirah. The palate is also loaded with blackberry, black-currant and cardamom flavors, proving bold and impressive. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 St. Eva Hill 2019 Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** This is a lighter, zesty style of Zinfandel. Fresh aromas of red currant, dark raspberry, white pepper and crumpled flowers lead into a tightly wound palate full of raspberry-jam, thyme and oregano flavors. It's not complex, but refreshing and quaffable. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90 Concrete 2018 Tank No. 209 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** A superdark color and super-ripe flavors of blackberries and milk chocolate give this wine a big, broad and rich expression. It's full bodied, not very tannic, and finishes with maple, vanilla and chocolate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$20

**90 Klinker Brick 2019 Marisa Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$28

**90 Klinker Brick 2019 Old Ghost Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 19.  
abv: 15.9% Price: \$40

**90 Pack String 2020 Zinfandel (El Dorado).** Full of fresh black-fruit flavors, this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine taste generous and feels broad and mouthfilling. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$23

**90 Peachy Canyon 2020 Especial Zinfandel (Adelaida District).** Bolstered by 4% Carignan, 2% Grenache and 2% Petite Sirah, this Zin hits the nose with aromas of boysenberry compote, fennel and a hint of leather. That leathery tone slides through the palate, where berry jam and licorice flavors complete the experience. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$45

**90 Peachy Canyon 2020 Nancy's View Zinfandel (Adelaida District).** Creamy aromas of dark berry and fresh strawberry are rich and jammy on the nose of this bottling, which includes 2% Petite Sirah. It's classically rich and unctuous on the palate, where smooth tannins retain just enough edge to balance the thick, jammy flavors that are cut by baking spices. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$46

**90 Sextant 2020 Wheelhouse Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Roasted strawberry aromas meet with a bit of mint on the nose of this widely available bottling. There's a ripe landing on the palate of strawberry jam, yet fresh acidity, anise and more mint flavors make it quite quaffable. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$40

**90 Ursa 2018 Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills).** This smooth and generous wine blends ripe blackberry and black-plum flavors with light cinnamon and clove notes from oak. It's rather soft in balance, letting the comforting fruitiness take center stage. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

**89 Covenant 2021 Mensch Zinfandel (Lodi).** This rich, smooth and mouthfilling wine packs in blackberries, strawberries and dark plums for a very fruity, ripe expression, backed by full body and light tannins. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$22

**89 Lorimar 2018 Zinfandel (California).** Tangy raspberry and plump blackberry flavors give this full-bodied wine a concentrated fruit core while hints of milk chocolate, toasted oak and black pepper create some appealing complexity. It's high in alcohol and rather light in tannin. —J.G.  
abv: 15.7% Price: \$56

**89 Michael David 2019 Lodi Zin Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 22.  
abv: 15% Price: \$15

**88 Midnight 2019 Crescent Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling offers red-plum, marjoram and minty herb

aromas on the nose. The palate picks up wild sagebrush and continues with the plummy red-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$55

**88 Shale Oak 2019 Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Aromas of blackberry, blueberry jam, loamy earth and sweet licorice show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite ripe, even slightly sweet, with baked strawberry and earthy herb flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15.8% Price: \$32

**88 Tortoise Creek 2019 Zinfandel (Lodi).** Earthy, flinty aromas lead to generous dried plum and black-raisin flavors in this full-bodied but soft-textured wine. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$14

**87 J.C. Winemaker 2019 Everybody Zins Poor Ranch Vineyards Old Vine Zinfandel (Mendocino County).** This unusually light-colored wine has a nervy, tannic texture and light flavors that are mature and complex, with dried cherry, tea, cola and leather notes dominating. —J.G.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$27

**87 Locke 2018 Zinfandel (Calaveras County).** Ripe and overripe fruit flavors show a light balsamic edge in this full-bodied, moderately tannic, full-bore Zin. Powerful raisin and blackberry-jam flavors dominate. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$36

**86 Minassian-Young 2020 Beyond the Pale Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Roasted plum and blackberry aromas are leveled by wood spice and graphite on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very juicy and downright sweet, with roasted strawberry flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$12

**85 Crooked Path 2018 Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Anise and roasted fennel-bulb aromas meet with tart fruit and rustic herbs on the nose of this bottling. Stewed cranberry flavors lead the palate through oregano and marjoram flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$30

## RED BLENDS

**95 Bonterra 2020 The Butler, Butler Ranch Vineyard (Mendocino County).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**95 Continuum 2019 Sage Mountain Vineyard (Napa Valley).** From the mighty estate site on Pritchard Hill, this robustly muscular wine consists of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Cabernet Franc (the highest amount ever), 7% Petit Verdot and 6% Merlot. Herbal, it shows notes of violet, graphite and tobacco alongside layers of rich red and black currant. The tannins are substantial and grippy, not quite ready to play nice on the palate.

Lay this one down and enjoy it best 2029–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$300

**94 Hamel Family 2019 Isthmus (Sonoma Valley).** With earthy notes of bay leaf, dried herb and crushed rock, this wine is made from estate sites from a variety of Bordeaux grapes. Youthfully grippy and intense, it shows great complexity and length, with firm tannin and plenty of room for aging; enjoy best from 2029–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

**94 Justin 2019 Justification (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 7.  
abv: 16.1% Price: \$65

**94 Mount Peak 2019 Gravity (California).** For full review see page 8.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$58

**94 Scar of the Sea 2021 Bassi Vineyard Co-Ferment Pinot Gris-Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** This is a fascinating fermented blend of 66% Pinot Gris and 34% Pinot Noir, showing a purple-ish Pinot color in the glass and hitting the nose with snappy raspberry, pomegranate and herb aromas. The palate is extremely textural, with white pepper, dried herb and more bright red-fruit flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 12.2% Price: \$32

**94 Shafer 2018 Relentless Syrah-Petite Sirah (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 8.  
abv: 15.8% Price: \$90

**93 Blair Fox 2019 Linger Fox Family Vineyard Syrah-Petite Sirah (Santa Barbara County).** This two-barrel, half-and-half blend of Syrah and Petite Sirah makes for an elegantly powerful wine. Juicy aromas of black cherry, baked plum, dark strawberry and pie spice lead into a concentrated but still fresh palate of currant and blueberry, with a light touch of anise to finish it off. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$75

**93 Bodega de Edgar 2019 La Milla Paper Street Vineyard (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** A deft use of Mourvèdre as the star, this blend, which also includes 13% each of Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc, offers boysenberry, purple-flower and seared wood aromas on the nose. The wood spice is prominent on the palate, where sandy tannins frame baked berry and white-pepper flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$58

**93 Crocker & Starr 2019 Casali 12th Edition Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** This darkly fruity, oaky, meaty wine is full bodied, packed with flavor and wrapped in a velvety coat of soft tannins. It's robust, deep and concentrated, with baking spices dressing up black cherries and dried plums. —J.G.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$100

**93 Hamel Family 2018 Nun's Canyon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County).** From an estate site at high elevation, this wine is rich and supple in brawny leather, crushed rock and perfumed violet and lavender. Balanced and complex in concentrated waves of great structure and grace, it will coalesce further in the cellar. Enjoy best from 2028–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$160

**93 Jaffurs 2020 High Tide (Santa Barbara County).** This blend of 60% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache and 20% Syrah reveals itself over the hours, showcasing a fresh while funky character. It begins with aromas of baked cherry, wet concrete and singed tobacco on the nose. The palate is tight at first, then opens toward strawberry-sorbet and charcuterie touches. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$46

**93 Lady of the Sunshine 2021 Red Blend (California).** With 50% each Pinot Noir from the Central Coast and Nero d'Avola from the Sierra Foothills, this is not the typical California blend. Fresh raspberry-sorbet and ripe cherry aromas lead into a tightly tannic palate, where the structure holds bright red-fruit, dark dried fruit and forest-herb flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**93 Lorimar 2018 Mourvèdre-Petit Verdot (California).** Sophisticated oak spices and lush, generous, ripe black-fruit flavors make a great combination in this full-bodied, gently tannic wine. Toasted wood, cinnamon and nutmeg complement the black-cherry and black-currant core, while a velvety texture makes it a pleasure to sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$52

**93 Marietta Cellars 2019 Christo (North Coast).** This bold and nicely oaked red wine offers deep, dark-fruit flavors and attractive accents of vanilla, cinnamon and dark chocolate on a full-body backed by moderate tannins. It is tasty, rich and mouthfilling. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$26

**93 Paradise Springs 2020 K III (California).** This blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre is very energetic and thoroughly refreshing. Aromas of black raspberry, crushed chalk, hibiscus and lavender make for a bright nose and lead into a tightly wound sip, full of fresh raspberry, pomegranate and more floral tones. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$35

**93 Shale Oak 2019 Chi (Paso Robles).** Rich and spicy aromas of roasted boysenberry, violet, star anise and mace pop on the nose of this blend of 40% Mourvèdre, 40% Syrah and 20% Grenache. It's bold on the palate as well, with caramelized berry, violet and roasted fennel-bulb flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$65

**93 The Farm Winery 2018 The Big Game (Adelaida District).** Polished yet juicy aro-

mas of pure blackberry, cocoa, licorice and wood show on the nose of this blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Syrah, 5% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot. Firm tannins introduce the palate, where red fruit emerges from behind the wooden veil, given enough patience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$75

**93 Viader 2019 Proprietary Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 11. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$195

**92 Brassfield 2019 Eruption Volcano Ridge Vineyard Estate (High Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$28

**92 Brutocao 2018 Coro Mendocino (Mendocino County).** Mellow in flavor but well structured and balanced, this full-bodied blend of mostly Zinfandel and Carignan features light wood smoke, beef tartare and grilled plums on a smooth, slightly tannic texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$55

**92 Chappellet 2019 Las Piedras (Napa Valley).** Leading with 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, the remainder of the blend consists of 15% Malbec, 11% Petit Verdot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 6% Merlot. Cedar, tobacco and leather give way to a sinewy, dense texture of power and lushness that lingers on the palate and shows great cohesion. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**92 Daou 2020 Unbound Reserve (Paso Robles).** Rich and rugged aromas of black fruit and toasted walnut show strongly on the nose of this blend of 40% Petite Sirah, 34% Tempranillo and 26% Tannat. The palate lands with rich and ripe flavors of baked strawberry and black plum, with that nutty note carrying through scorched earth and brown-sugar elements on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$59

**92 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Choreography (Livermore Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$75

**92 Edna Valley Vineyard 2019 Winemaker Series Meritage (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 13. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Hamel Family 2018 Hamel Family Ranch (Sonoma Valley).** Juicy and supple in red fruit, this wine is well integrated and full bodied in style, with impressive elements of crushed rock, clove and cedar. Oak supports and expands the palate to new places, finishing in additional spice. Let this cellar and enjoy best from 2028–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$160

**92 Hayes Valley 2020 Meritage (Central Coast).** This twist-top wine performs extremely well against much more expensive Bordeaux blends.

Aromas of black cherry and toasted oak lead into a powerful palate of black currant, tobacco leaf and blackberry compote, with polished tannins and fine acidity carrying through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**92 Lorenzi Estate 2018 The Phantom Reserve (Temecula Valley).** Powerful aromas of smoked black cherry and dried meat kick off the nose to this bold proprietary blend. Very firm tannins frame the palate, where cassis and black-cherry-cordial flavors are cut by cardamom and pepper, with just enough acidity to age well. Drink now through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$65

**92 Marietta Cellars 2019 Gibson Block Estate (McDowell Valley).** Extra ripe and deep blueberry and blackberry flavors meet dark chocolate, mint and graphite in this fully tannic and robust blend based on Syrah and Grenache. It's a palate bruiser that ideally needs time to mellow in texture. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$42

**92 Murrieta's Well 2019 The Spur (Livermore Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Peachy Canyon 2020 G-S-M (Adelaida District).** Strong floral aromas of violet, lilac and wisteria play against dark-raspberry and star anise scents on the nose of this blend of 44% Grenache, 39% Syrah and 17% Mourvèdre. It's rich on the palate with black-plum, pie-crust, mace and nutmeg flavors, proving quite powerful. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$50

**92 Shale Oak 2019 Ka (Paso Robles).** This blend of 25% each Petite Sirah, Petit Verdot, Syrah and Zinfandel hits the red-blend mark for satisfying richness. Aromas of cassis, blackberry sorbet and vanilla ice cream lead into a creamy palate of blueberry sauce, violet, nutmeg and gingerbread. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$65

**92 The Farm Winery 2018 Pura Vida (Adelaida District).** This blend of 60% Petit Verdot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon offers warm aromas of baked strawberry in pastry crust, making for an approachably juicy nose. Freshness sails through the playful sip, with juicy red-fruit flavors proving easy to quaff. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$80

**92 The Farm Winery 2018 Primal Scream (Adelaida District).** Smoked meat, smashed plums and iodine aromas show on the nose of this blend of 62% Syrah and 38% Grenache. The wine lands with a thick presence, full of roasted fruit, licorice and baking-spice flavors—perfect for a grilling afternoon. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65



**92 Viader 2019 Black Label Limited Edition Estate (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 15. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$150

**91 Calluna 2018 Calluna Vineyards Cuvée (Chalk Hill).** This wine overdelivers on its price point, blending 41% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 9% Malbec and 6% Petit Verdot. With a minimal amount of new French oak (20%), it offers light layers of tobacco leaf, earth, currant and pepper, elegant in style with length and complexity. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

**91 Dorcich 2020 Crveno (Santa Clara Valley).** This is an exciting blend for this warmer region, opting for stylish freshness over traditional ripeness. Fresh aromas of candied pomegranate and white pepper lead into a spry palate of red fruit, bay leaf, oregano, pepper and incense. This is a perfect pizza or light pasta wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$46

**91 Longboard 2019 Point Break (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

**91 Opolo 2019 Maestro (Paso Robles).** This is always a satisfying bottling in that rich Paso Robles vein. Aromas of dark plum, dried berry, hibiscus and violet on the nose lead into baked strawberry, plum, nutmeg and gingerbread on the palate. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$34

**91 Peachy Canyon 2020 The Odd One (Adelaida District).** This kitchen-sink blend of 41% Zinfandel, 15% Counoise, 15% Carignan, 9% Syrah, 9% Petite Sirah, 7% Mourvèdre and 4% Grenache is fresh and pleasant on the nose with strawberry, raspberry and light mint aromas. The palate picks up a dark boysenberry flavor as well as anise and crumpled herb flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$45

**91 The Farm Winery 2018 Touchy-Feely (Adelaida District).** Rustic aromas of cranberry, strawberry, carnation and cinnamon converge for a unique nose on this blend of 75% Grenache and 25% Syrah. The palate snaps, with raspberry and crisp rose-petal flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

**91 Viader 2019 V Petit Verdot-Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 18. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$210

**90 Banshee 2019 Mordecai (California).** This big, focused and nicely concentrated wine offers potent blueberries and blackberries, with hints of dark chocolate and mint. Moderate tannins and good balance keep it appetizing in texture. Best through 2026. —J.G.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$25

**90 Brecon Estate 2019 Feral Underclass (Adelaida District).** There's a slight petrol aroma to the nose of this blend of 74% Petite Sirah and 26% Zinfandel, with fresher hints of violet and acai as well. Black-currant and dried blueberry flavors meet with a floral element on the palate, which is wrapped in stiff tannins. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$76

**90 Brecon Estate 2019 Meritage (Adelaida District).** Wild forest herbs and tart violet aromas meet with a sour blackberry element on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with richer flavors of lilac and baked boysenberry, wrapped in ashy tannins. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$68

**90 Clos du Val 2019 Yettail (Stags Leap District).** Tangy and dry in cranberry and blackberry, this structured, ageworthy wine combines a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Given 16 months in a majority of new French oak, it is full bodied and dense, with strong notes of toasted oak and grippy tannin. Enjoy best 2029–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$175

**90 Crooked Path 2019 The Wanderer (Paso Robles).** Generous aromas of spicy strawberry jam on French toast (with extra cinnamon) show on the nose of this blend. The palate is lightly bodied, but loaded with red fruit, baking spices and refreshing acidity. —M.K.  
abv: NA Price: \$30

**90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2018 Firepit (San Francisco Bay).** This delicious blend offers light woodsmoke and clove aromas, ample, deep, black-fruit flavors, a touch of red cherries, and a soothing, lightly tannic texture that helps extend the black cherries for a lingering finish. —J.G.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$40

**90 Graziano 2018 Coro Mendocino (Mendocino).** Very focused black-cherry flavors and hints of mint give this moderately tannic and full-bodied wine a bright, fruity quality. Blended from Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Carignan and Barbera, it is tangy in texture and powerful in flavor. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
abv: 15% Price: \$40

**90 Hahn 2020 G-S-M (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

**90 Hungry Hawk 2019 Queue Rouge (San Diego County).** Roasted strawberry aromas are dusted in cocoa on the nose of this blend of 56% Cabernet Franc, 39% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Rich red-fruit flavors are lifted by clipped oregano and bay leaf on the flavorful palate, which ends with a lingering vanilla touch. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$56

**90 Jamshid 2018 Maddahi Family Estate Vineyard (Los Olivos District).** This blend of

60% Syrah and 40% Cabernet Franc, which can both convey dark-fruit and peppery spice elements, shows lots of intriguing potential. Aromas of ripe red fruit, smoke and tart plum skins lead into a palate of black cherry, dried herb and that cracked pepper touch. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$69

**90 Josh Cellars 2020 Legacy (California).** Rich fruit flavors and abundant accents of vanilla and chocolate make this full-bodied wine difficult to resist. Moderate tannins add a little grip to the texture, balancing the rich, jammy flavors. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$15

**90 Kanpai 2018 Hikari No Hana (Napa Valley).** This is made from a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon, with 10% Cabernet Franc and 7% Merlot. Elegant and light in style, it offers high acidity and tangy red fruit amidst a backdrop of dried herb and chalky tannin. —V.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$85

**90 Lasseter 2019 Chemin De Fer G-S-M (Sonoma Valley).** From an estate vineyard, this is made from 81% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre and 9% Syrah, aged 14 months in oak. Thick, tannic and leathery in texture, it is robustly ripe and dense, with flavors of strawberry pie, baking spice and oak. —V.B.  
abv: 15.7% Price: \$56

**90 Lorimar 2018 Meritage (California).** This suave and velvety wine offers attractive toast, leather and sunbaked earth aromas followed by nicely mature flavors of mulled cherries and balsam. It is full bodied and moderately tannic. —J.G.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$59

**90 Louis M. Martini 2018 Monte Rosso Vineyard Mountain (Sonoma Valley).** For full review see page 20.  
abv: 15.4% Price: \$65

**90 Lucas & Lewellen 2018 Hidden Asset (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 20.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$34

**90 Marietta Cellars 2019 Armé Estate (North Coast).** Smooth and mouthfilling, this full-bodied wine blended from Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot is loaded with rich blackberry and blueberry flavors on a soothing, velvety texture with a light touch of tannin. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$32

**90 Midnight 2020 Full Moon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$25

**90 Puppione Family Wines 2020 Soren Cuvée Fiore Estate Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Alexander Valley).** Plush in tannin, with a floral rose-petal nose, this 50-50 blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah displays each wine's finer qualities, from cassis and currant to a touch of *garrigue*

# BUYINGGUIDE

and meat. Balanced and light on the palate, it offers subtle oak and integrated tannin. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**90 Tiger Lily 2019 1855 Reserve (El Dorado).** This nicely balanced and medium-bodied blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc grapes offers rich, black plummy flavors on a very smooth and not very tannic texture. Hints of fresh herbs and spicy oak complement black cherries and black plums. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Trefethen 2018 Dragon's Tooth (Oak Knoll District).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

**90 Viader 2019 Homenaje Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$150

**89 Beauregard 2018 Meritage (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Tart boysenberry aromas are met with earthy hints of dried wild herb and dust on the nose of this bottling. The palate is pleasantly piquant, with underripe berry flavors that are lifted by wild thyme and a sharp acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**89 D'Elissagaray 2018 Basque (California).** Mouthfilling and bold, this focused and full-bodied wine piles blackberries and black cherries on moderate tannins for a grippy mouthfeel and plenty of concentration. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Klinker Brick 2019 1850 Degrees (Lodi).** Dark and rich, this full-bodied and plush-textured wine blends deep-black-fruit and vivid oak-spice flavors like cinnamon and vanilla on a generous texture of soft tannins. It is made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah and Zinfandel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$28

**89 Lorenzi Estate 2018 The Catalyst IX (Temecula Valley).** Rich blackberry aromas are soaked in toasted oak and damp cedar on the woody nose of this proprietary blend. Dark-berry, incense and smoked cedar flavors show on the palate, where sticky tannins will soften and better integrate with time. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$75

**89 Lorimar 2018 Tempranillo-Barbera (California).** An earthy, leathery, smoky aroma gives a spicy twist to this full-bodied and velvety-textured wine. Broad in mouthfeel and backed by lots of gentle tannins, it tastes generous and nicely oaky. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.7% **Price:** \$56

**89 Marietta Cellars NV OVR Lot Number 73 (California).** Nicely fruity and rich, this medium-bodied Zinfandel-based wine is also well balanced,

as a touch of raspberry-like tanginess counterpoints the soft tannins and gentle mouthfeel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 Michael David 2020 Freakshow (Lodi).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**89 Modus Operandi 2019 Vicarious (Napa Valley).** This blend is supple, simple and approachable, with fruity red berry and cherry and richer undertones of cola and baking spice. The ripeness is high and intense on the palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55

**89 Niner 2019 Bootjack Red (Paso Robles).** Ripe, extracted aromas of tart red plum and herb show on the nose of this blend of 34% Cabernet Franc, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Malbec, 5% Grenache, 4% Petit Verdot and 4% Merlot. Tight tannins frame woody flavors that convey dark spice and very dry fruits. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**88 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Firepit (San Francisco Bay).** This big, flavorful blend offers plenty of ripe plums and cherries on a full body and rather soft texture with light tannins. It simply gushes with fruit. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40

**88 Gundlach Bundschu 2019 Mountain Cuvée (Sonoma County).** Leading with 41% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, along with handfuls of Petit Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc, this hearty red is lush in texture and style. Bell pepper, dried herb and currant accent a plush, likable palate of approachability and supple tannin. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 La Prenda 2018 Pickberry Vineyard (Sonoma Mountain).** Supple tannins support a full-bodied layering of blueberry, smoky char and barbecue meat in this mountain wine. The oak is supportive and adds baking spice and clove. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 St. Eva Hill 2019 Bio Fusion (Paso Robles).** Dried tarragon and oregano meet with wild plum on the nose of this bottling. There's a fresh raspberry kick to the palate, accented by strong herbal flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$54

**88 Testa Vineyards 2016 Coro Mendocino Testa Vineyard Estate (Mendocino County).** Complex flavors of black pepper, grilled plums and wood smoke have a well-aged feel, giving this full-bodied wine blended from Zinfandel and five other grape varieties a savory, earthy aspect. Drink up. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**88 Tiger Lily 2019 Red Rock Ridge (El Dorado).** This mellow, rich and velvet-textured wine offers ample blackberries, blueberries and milk-

chocolate accents. It's very flavorful and yet light in tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$20

**88 Trefethen 2020 Eshcol Eshcol (Oak Knoll District).** Dried herb and bell pepper highlight an old-school approach in this blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Structured, bright and approachable, it is elegant crafted and subtle in oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$30

**88 Upshot 2019 Red Blend (Sonoma County).** This is a likable, friendly blend of 32% Malbec, 32% Zinfandel, 25% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 5% Riesling that is bright and simple in style. Red fruit, citrus and a hint of molasses provide a contrast of intensity within moderation, the tannins moderate as well. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Locke 2018 Sequoia Zinfandel-Cabernet Sauvignon (Calaveras County).** Superripe, pruny, earthy aromas and palate-drenching black-fruit flavors give this full-bodied wine a lot of weight and richness. A mature aspect of leather and cooked plums in this Zinfandel-Cabernet Sauvignon blend means it's ready to drink up. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**87 Paradox 2018 Corktree (Napa Valley).** A blend of 55% Malbec and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine opens in fruity, floral aromatics of sweet plum and dark cherry, with a backbone of molasses. Robust, it has heat and full-bodied intensity, finishing in dried herb. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**87 Ursa NV Major (Sierra Foothills).** This friendly, fruity, uncomplicated wine is packed with ripe cherries and raspberries on a smooth, easy texture. A medium body and low tannins keep it light on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 7 Deadly 2019 Red (Lodi).** Chocolate and vanilla flavors give a sweet impression to this smooth, soft-textured wine, while blackberry jam and blueberries add a good fruity element. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**86 AJA Vineyards 2018 Five (Malibu Coast).** Roasted plum and berry aromas meet with incense and cigar box on the nose of this blend. The palate is heavily extracted in dried dark-fruit flavors, with a touch of sourness. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$50

**86 Apothic 2020 Winemaker's Blend (California).** This sweet-tasting wine offers lots of chocolate, cherry and vanilla flavors on a soft, thick texture. It's aimed at sweet-wine lovers. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 Lorimar 2018 G-S-M (California).** This hearty, rustic wine shows a strong flinty,

earthy aroma followed by decent black-plum and cherry flavors on a slightly tannic texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$48

**86 Paraduxx 2018 Red Blend (Howell Mountain).** Blending 51% Cabernet Sauvignon and 49% Syrah, this bold, velvety red is about power and intensity, with notes of compost, black licorice and dried herb. Soft on the palate, it shows vanilla and clove from the oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**86 Roth 2019 Heritage (Sonoma County).** This dense, full-bodied wine combines near-equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot, and a smidgen of Merlot. Robust red- and black-berry fruit is met by a lushness of dark chocolate, vanilla and toasted oak, with generous ripeness. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$30

**85 Dark Horse NV Big Red Blend (California).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$8

**84 Acorn 2018 Medley Alegria Vineyards (Russian River Valley).** This is an estate field blend of nearly equal parts Syrah, Zinfandel and Cinsault, with small amounts of Dolcetto, Cabernet Franc and Sangiovese. With a sweet nose of blueberry, it is leathery and tannic, with notes of oak and dried herb. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$50

**84 Europa Village 2018 Vienza Vendetta (California).** Extracted aromas of black-plum juice and anise show on the nose of this blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Sangiovese. It's tart with balsamic-like flavors on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$46

**82 The Vice 2015 Batch 42 Extra Anejo (Mount Veeder).** Blending 61% Cabernet Franc with 37% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Merlot, then aging it five years in oak, this wine is showing its age, as evidenced by dry, thick tannin, with a touch of reduction and odd flavors of coconut. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$99

## OTHER RED WINES

**94 Joyce 2021 Russell Joyce Gamay Noir (San Benito).** This is a serious, Cru-like take on Gamay, starting with tight raspberry, crushed rock, dried rose-petal and damp cave aromas on the nose, emerging from a beautifully colored hue in the glass. The soil and rock aspects shine on the palate as well, with crisp currant and mossy flavors proving both delicious and tantalizing. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**94 Soquel Vineyards 2020 Lago Lomita Vineyard Partners' Reserve Nebbiolo (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This is a very appealing and classically familiar Nebbiolo, yet one that's also already primed for enjoyment so soon after harvest. Aromas

of baked cherry, sweet woods, toasted sage and light game on the nose lead into an elegant, well-rounded palate, full of cherry, strawberry, vanilla and, on the finish, long-lingering buttered cinnamon flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Robert Hall 2019 Cavern Select Tempranillo (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Very dark in the glass, this bottling booms with boysenberry and cola on the nose alongside anise, pepper and caramel. The palate is a pure expression of boysenberry sauce, with purple-flower and light caramel flavors making for a delicious experience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**92 Testa Vineyards 2016 Charbono (Mendocino County).** This firm-textured and appropriately tannic wine blends bold black-cherry and blackberry flavors with tangy acidity and enticing notes of new leather, toast and black pepper. With a rich entrée, this energized wine, made from 60-year-old vines, will be in its element. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$60

**92 Vöcal 2019 Enz Vineyard Cabernet Pfeffer (Lime Kiln Valley).** Very light in the glass, this expression of a much-buzzed-about grape is fresh and tart, with currant, marjoram and raw meat aromas. The palate is delicate yet intriguing, with light cranberry and dusty herb flavors, proving quite thirst-quenching. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Cavaletti 2019 Tempranillo (California).** Smashed-up black plums are dusted with dark-cocoa spice on the nose of this bottling, which includes 5% Alicante Bouschet. Warm cocoa and coffee flavors lead into fruity boysenberry notes on the palate, as chalky tannins carry into a caramelized finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$40

**91 Lorimar 2018 Montepulciano (Temecula Valley).** Rich and extracted aromas of black-berry sauce, black-plum skin, loamy soil and smoky leather manage to make a pleasing impact on the nose of this bottling, which includes small amounts of Petite Sirah and Zinfandel. The palate is thick and hefty, loaded with more berry-sauce, black-pepper and cigar-box flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$64

**89 Brecon Estate 2019 Tannat (Adelaida District).** Dark-plum aromas meet with lots of crushed herbs and fennel pollen on the nose of this bottling. Charred plum flavors on the palate also gain some intrigue from anise-like elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$68

## IDAHO ALBARIÑO

**88 Williamson Vineyard 2020 Albariño (Snake River Valley (ID)).** The aromas bring notes of struck flint, Nestea Iced Tea, lime, diesel and touches of other tropical fruit that seem more reminiscent of Riesling. Dry, bright full-bodied flavors follow. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

## SPARKLING WINE

**86 Holesinsky 2020 Unicorn Sparkling Rosé Wine (Snake River Valley (ID)).** The aromas are reduced out of the gate, with notes of rubber band that make the wine hard to access. Medium sweet flavors follow. If the reduction clears, it could move up. —S.S.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

## ROSÉ

**89 Sawtooth 2021 Classic Fly Series Pinot Noir Rosé (Snake River Valley (ID)).** Watermelon pink, bright cantaloupe, kiwi and strawberry aromas lead to a medium-plus bodied, dry, flavorful palate. Kiwi notes linger on the finish. It's tasty. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

## MALBEC

**90 Huston 2019 Malbec (Snake River Valley (ID)).** Huston Vineyards consistently shines with Malbec. This is another example. The aromas are effusive, with notes of orange rind and essence, celery salt and plum. Plump, fruit filled flavors follow. There's grace to it all. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$33

**88 Kerry Hill 2018 Migration Private Reserve Malbec (Snake River Valley (ID)).** The aromas offer quiet notes of purple fruit, flower and herb. The flavors are medium-bodied, fresh and bright. It shows promise for the variety in the state. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$45

**88 Williamson Vineyard 2019 Malbec (Snake River Valley (ID)).** The aromas provide appeal, with bright notes of savory green herb, freshly peeled satsuma rind and plum. The palate paints around the edges, with lighter flavors in the middle. The tannins bring some grip and tart acids enliven it. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$31

## SYRAH

**89 Telaya 2018 Syrah (Snake River Valley (ID)).** Blue and black fruit aromas lead to ripe, full bodied flavors. It's made in a thick, ripe style, with textural appeal. The finish brings a medicinal note that causes some distraction, and the tannins seem gritty. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$34

**87 Holesinsky 2018 CH Syrah (Snake River Valley (ID)).** Bright aromas of green herb, whole orange, wintergreen, metal and purple fruit lead to medium-plus bodied flavors that deliver more of the same. There's a brightness that intrigues, with lightly smoky notes on the finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Holesinsky 2018 JH Syrah (Snake River Valley (ID)).** The aromas bring notes of freshly peeled satsuma, flower and plum. Front loaded blue fruit flavors follow. There are interesting pieces, but overall the fruit seems underripe. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

## NEW YORK

### RIESLING

**94 Red Newt Cellars 2017 The Knoll Lahoma Vineyards Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Streamlined, heady and compact, this dry Riesling delivers a most compelling package of crushed white cherry, lime peel, wet slate and sliced fennel bulb. It's pure, pristine and powerful on the medium-bodied palate, showing great cohesion between the tangy lime and stone elements, the fleshy white cherry and quince flavors and the cool, refreshing accents of fennel and cucumber. It's a true delight that has the drive to hold well through 2027 at least. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$43

**94 Weis 2020 Winzer Select A Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Heady aromas of grapefruit, lemon oil, honey, peach preserves and iced tea deliver so much intensity on the nose. The full-bodied, unctuous palate brings loads of juicy orchard-fruit flavors, with a twang of lemon oil and a gentle white tea grip lending support. It's incredibly rich yet properly honed by vibrant acidity that lasts. Drink through 2032. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$27

**93 Hermann J. Wiemer 2020 Reserve Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake).** This blend of estate vineyards is consistently a favorite year over year. The 2020 delivers intense aromas of fennel pollen, lemon oil, yellow apple, tangerine and sliced ginger, making it utterly compelling. Ample apple and stone fruit flavors blend with earthy, spicy elements on the dry palate, with well placed acidity and a pithy texture lending support. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$29

**93 Red Newt Cellars 2017 Tango Oaks Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This pristine dry Riesling delivers aromas of fresh yellow apple, Meyer lemon and quince wrapped lime and a hint of marshmallow. The medium-bodied palate shows an ethereal lift, offering bright apple and citrus peel flavors pushed along by a twang of wet stone and persistent yet honed acidity. It ends perky and lifted, enlivened by a mouthwatering salt-and-lime combo. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$43

**93 Sheldrake Point 2019 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Intense aromas of tangerine, lemon oil, peach preserves and fresh pineapple offer so much depth and drive on the nose. It's rich on the sweet palate, yet expertly honed. Luscious flavors of peach jam, mango and pineapple meet a waxy honeycomb accent, with loads of lemony lift lending support. It's one to sip and savor alongside cheese, or hold through 2029 to enjoy it with age. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$35

**92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2020 Josef Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake).** Kerosene and lemongrass aromas delicate waft over peach and apple in this semidry Riesling. It's light and ethereal in feel, driven by zesty acidity on the palate that propels along flavors of peach, pineapple and fresh herbs. —A.P.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$39

**92 Heron Hill 2020 Mothership Single Block Series Ingle Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Bright aromas of juiced apple, sliced pear and tangerine meet crushed thyme on the nose. It's lifted and well-concentrated on the dry palate, delivering juicy orchard fruit flavors wrapped in a grip of black iced tea laced with lemon. A peach fuzz texture lingers on the close. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$40

**92 Keuka Lake Vineyards 2020 20 Rows Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Thyme, kerosene and lime peel aromas kick off this powerful Riesling. The dry, zesty palate delivers streamlined flavors of green apple, lime and white flowers all propelled along by a flowing river of acidity. It remains solid and focused from start to finish, with great vitality and lift as it ends. Hold for best enjoyment and drink from 2024. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$35

**92 Keuka Lake Vineyards 2020 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This compact, tense dry Riesling delivers intense aromas of wet slate and sliced fennel bulb shot through with vibrant lime juice. Tense flavors of white cherry, crushed stone and lime are propelled along by driven acidity, showing great cohesion and depth between it all. The dry, lime-driven finish leaves you begging for the next sip. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**92 Lamoreaux Landing 2019 Reserve Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$35

**91 Anthony Road 2016 Art Series Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Bright aromas of peach, apple, lemon thyme and sun-soaked field flowers show cohesion and depth on the nose. There's a gentle waxiness to the off-dry palate, which strikes a fine balance against the honed, persistent acidity. This is showing great integration and is drinking beautifully now. —A.P.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$28

**91 Atwater 2020 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Refreshing and bright on the nose, this shows pleasantly plump aromas of canned peach balanced by fresh lemon and sliced apple. It's lively and juicy on the semidry palate, displaying a luscious mix of apple, peach and pineapple framed by loads of lemony acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 10.8% **Price:** \$21

**91 Boundary Breaks 2020 No. 239 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This bright and intense Riesling delivers juicy tangelo and peach tones against pithy lemon peel and crushed thyme. The fruit flavors we well matched by bracing acidity and gentle white tea, making this a delicious dry offering that destined to be enjoyed with food. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**91 Fox Run 2020 Silvan Riesling (Seneca Lake).** This barrel-fermented Riesling shows tightly coiled aromas and flavors of apple, lemon, lemongrass and wet stone. The bright acidity brings ample lift and energy to the rounded palate, lending balance to it all and longevity to the finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Heron Hill 2020 11 Rows Single Block Series Ingle Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes).** There's power to the aromas of juiced apple and steeped black tea on the nose, enlivened by a streak of orange peel for good measure. The bold, fruit-laden yet dry palate explodes with ripe pear, apple and perfumed grapefruit flavors, all honed by a pithy texture and bright acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$40

**91 Heron Hill 2020 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Ripe aromas of yellow apple, white cherry and lime peel are lifted and bright in this well-balanced Riesling. The fruit flavors are defined and driven on the palate, pushed along by refreshing acidity that keeps the experience dry, streamlined and lengthy. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**91 Lamoreaux Landing 2020 Semi-Dry Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Ripe aromas of pineapple juice, tangerine and grapefruit show impeccable lift and concentration on the nose. The medium-bodied palate explodes with juicy mixed fruit flavors all honed by a grip of lemon pith and well placed acidity. It remains steady and flow-

ing from start to lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$16

**91 Red Newt Cellars 2016 Tango Oaks Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of brûléed lemon and dried quince blend with chamomile and lemon zest on the broad nose. The dry palate is rounded and muscular, filled out well by lemon, apple and blanched almond flavors. Vibrant acidity lends ample lift, integrating well into all that weight and offering plenty of length to the chamomile finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$24

**91 Snowshell 2020 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Bright aromas of candied grapefruit, ripe yellow apple and thyme show delightful intensity on the nose. The semidry palate delivers more of the same, with ample acidity to balance all that luscious fruit. A mild honey drizzle lends depth, with mixed citrus flavors ringing clear as a bell on the refreshing finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**91 Standing Stone 2020 Riesling (Seneca Lake).** Boisterous apple, peach and a hint of guava lead this plush Riesling. It's semidry on the palate, filled out by rich apple and peach flavors that meet a river of juicy, zesty acidity. There's a delicate drizzle of honey and lends more richness, but it's all within good measure. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Standing Stone 2020 Timeline Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake).** Fleshy, rounded aromas of Mandarin, lemon oil and yellow apple are met with a brisk crushed stone element on the nose. This dry Riesling is juicy in feel, driven by a mix of pome and citrus flavors balanced by a gentle grip of white tea. Pert, refreshing acidity lends all the lift needed to make this a great choice as an aperitif. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**91 Wagner 2020 Semi Dry Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Perfumed aromas of lemon thyme, citrus peels, crushed stone and pink grapefruit show incredible lift on the nose. Loads of upfront acidity propel a river of fruit and earth flavors on the semidry palate, with a gentle peach fuzz texture giving it even more appeal. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 680 Cellars 2020 Clayver Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This clayver-aged Riesling delivers intriguing aromas of lemon curd, apple blossom, lavender and smoked sea salt on the nose. The dry, medium-bodied palate shows rounded apple and peach flavors met with lifted accents of flowers and salt, as well as plenty of fresh acidity for balance. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$32

**90 Anthony Road 2020 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This perky dry Riesling shows bright aromas of peach and tangelo honed by zesty wet stone on the nose. It's juicy and mouthwater-

ing in delicious apple and peach flavors, with a grip of citrus pith and refreshing acidity lending a fine counterbalance. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.9% **Price:** \$20

**90 Anthony Road 2020 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Cohesive aromas of apple, peach, lemon and sea spray give this sermidry Riesling a strong start. The palate offers a playful mix of apple and peach flavors honed by zesty elements of lemon and salt. Bright acidity lends lift while a gentle tactile pithiness brings a gentle grip to the close. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.9% **Price:** \$20

**90 Benmarl 2020 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Loads of intense fruit drive this Riesling: mango, apricot preserves, apple and pineapple. It's light in feel yet driven and bright thanks to zesty, fresh acidity that propels the fruity explosion along. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.6% **Price:** \$15

**90 Buttonwood Grove 2020 Skaneateles Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This off-dry Riesling shows pleasantly plump aromas of peach, pineapple and candied lemon peels on the nose. It's juicy and fruity on the palate yet honed by zesty acidity and a pithy lemon note. It ends refreshing and lifted. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**90 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2020 Eugenia Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This Keuka Lake-sourced wine delivers intense aromas of crushed rock, candied lime peel and juicy yellow apple. It's brisk and zesty on the dry palate, showing more apple and lime flavors that meet a lingering, quinine finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**90 Fox Run 2020 Semi-Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake).** Rounded aromas of yellow apple and white peach meet dried field flowers and sun-baked clay in this semidry Riesling that deftly balanced fruit and earth elements. The palate shows a pleasing textural creaminess that is further filled out by ripe apple and peach flavors, with plenty of fresh acidity to lend ample balance. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.6% **Price:** \$15

**90 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2020 Homestead Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of rock salt and lime zest give this Riesling margarita vibes, with ripe peach and apple at its core. The dry, medium-bodied palate brings more of the same all framed by a gentle peach-fuzz texture. The fruity finish extends nicely, remaining bright and lifted. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Hector Wine Company 2020 Riesling (Seneca Lake).** This semidry Riesling delivers a beautiful mix of grapefruit, pineapple and peach on the nose. It's mouthwatering and juicy on the palate, showing ample fruit expression against plenty

of vital acidity. It's a well-balanced sweeter version that will please many. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.3% **Price:** \$17

**90 Hector Wine Company 2019 Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake).** White peach and quince aromas are initially quiet on the nose, but with more swirling they reveal their charms alongside accents of crushed limestone and lemon thyme. The rounded palate shows juicy orchard fruit flavors honed by a delicate grip of white tea. It lingers on a fleshy apple note on the dry finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$19

**90 Hermann J. Wiemer 2020 HJW Bio Riesling (Seneca Lake).** Aromas of apple, under-ripe peach and white blossoms carry the nose of this Riesling made from biodynamic estate-grown grapes. It's slow to kick off on the palate, but eventually reveals pert apple and peach flavors matched with sun-dried field flowers and refreshing acidity. It ends dry and lifted, filled out by a gentle, creamy texture. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Hermann J. Wiemer 2020 Late Harvest Riesling (Seneca Lake).** Sourced from a blend of estate sites, this late-harvest Riesling offers aromas of pithy grapefruit, pineapple and peach on the nose. The rounded palate displays bright tropical and stone fruit flavors matched by lemon and honey. It ends bright, lifted and juicy thank to refreshing acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Heron Hill 2020 Ingle Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Juiced peach and guava aromas meet bright lemon iced tea on the nose. It's perky and zesty on the semidry palate, with a string of lemon honey lingering over juicy peach and apple flavors. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Heron Hill 2020 Tasting Room Single Block Series Ingle Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Enticing aromas of lime zest, lemon verbena and lemongrass give this a delightfully fresh vibe on the nose. The dry palate is taut and streamlined, full of tense citrus, stone and lemongrass flavors that linger on the finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$40

**90 Lamoreaux Landing 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Sheldrake Point 2019 Wild Ferment Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of peach and apple ring true and clear on the vibrant nose, with dashes of lemon and white grapefruit lending ample lift. The palate shows a pleasant plumpness to the flavors of fleshy peach, apple and even a hint of pineapple, yet all the while zingy acidity provides ample counterbalance. —A.P.  
**abv:** 10.9% **Price:** \$35



**89 680 Cellars 2020 Estate Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of lemongrass and thyme vie for the top note in this semidry Riesling, with luscious apple and peach compote riding beneath. More compote flavors drive the palate, with well-balanced acidity and a gently pithy texture lending support. —A.P.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$28

**89 Buttonwood Grove 2020 Riemer Block Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Bright aromas of candied pineapple and canned peach are lifted by a heady white grapefruit accent on the nose. The palate presents as off dry, showing fruit cocktail flavors matched by plenty of citrus zing for balance. A tonic-like finish marks the refreshing close. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**89 Freedom Run 2020 Estate Riesling (Niagara Escarpment).** Kicking off with fresh, herbal aromas of fennel frond and licorice root, this Riesling from New York's western reaches also dives into lime peel and crushed rock on the nose. It presents as slightly off dry on the palate, showing flavors of lime candy and peach gummies, yet it's all perked up by bright acidity and a lingering green apple crispness. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**89 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2020 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Quiet aromas of sliced fennel and peach mix with a zestier quince tone on the nose. Slightly off-dry in feel, this shows juicy apple and peach flavors wrapped in a gentle lemon pith zing. It ends refreshing and bright on a wet stone note. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**89 Lamoreaux Landing 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of sugar snap pea, white grapefruit and peach show bright intensity on the nose. The semidry palate shows delightful cohesion between the luscious peach and apple flavors and the lifted lemony zing. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.6% **Price:** \$16

**89 Red Newt Cellars 2018 The Knoll Lahoma Vineyards Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Perfumed aromas of dried lemon and orange peels blend with chamomile and dried lemon thyme on the nose, with wet slate riding underneath. The flavors of fleshy yellow apple and juiced lemon remain pure and bright on the medium-bodied palate, with a mineral twang lifting them up. From a trying vintage, this lack the cohesion and persistence of previous iterations, yet still provides great drinking appeal in the near term. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$43

**89 Treleven 2021 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Fennel pollen mixes with ripe yellow apple and lemon in this bright Riesling. The medium-bodied palate presents as slightly off dry, with firm apricot and apple flavors matched by plenty of lemony lift. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.4% **Price:** \$18

**89 Treleven 2020 Semi-Sweet Riesling (Cayuga Lake).** Aromas of lemon shortbread, thyme and ripe peach carry to the luscious, sweet palate. There's ripeness for sure, yet it's all balanced by ample acidity that gives a gentle twang on the finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$17

**89 Trestle Thirty One 2020 Demi Sec Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Intense lemongrass, lemon peel, pineapple and thyme aromas carry to the cohesive, rounded palate. Perky citrus lends a lifted backdrop to all the riper fruit flavors, giving this a well-balanced yet slightly short expression. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**88 680 Cellars 2020 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Kerosene and thyme are front and center on the nose, with juiced apple at the core. This fully semidry Riesling offers boisterous flavors of apple, peach and pineapple met with well balanced, refreshing acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$19

**88 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2020 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This sweeter Riesling delivers all the luscious apple, peach and pineapple flavors drinkers love in this style, yet it's all balanced by loads of tangy white cherry and zesty citrus accents. A gentle, creamy palate gives a nice counterweight to the driven acidity. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 10.6% **Price:** \$13

**88 Hosmer 2020 Dry Riesling (Cayuga Lake).** Aromas of wet slate and lime peel ride high over hints of quince and apple on the nose. This is light and zesty on the palate, showing flavors of tonic and lime that are gently filled out by a juicier quince accent. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$18

**88 Red Newt Cellars 2018 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of seared lemon, slate and blanched almond meet a bouquet of dried chamomile on the nose. The palate shows more fruit expressions by way of pressed yellow apple and quince, all wrapped in a slightly savory edge. There's delightful balance to the texture, with bright acidity matching the weight and intensity of the flavors. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$20

**88 Silver Thread 2021 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** A luscious mix of pineapple, tangerine and white melon gives this Riesling delicious fruity appeal on the nose. It's juicy and bright on the palate, with all that fruit intensity balanced by brisk lemony brightness. —A.P.  
**abv:** 9.9% **Price:** \$19

**88 Three Brothers 2020 Off Dry First Degree Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Candied lemon, apple blossom and jasmine hand soap aromas show intently on the nose. The off-dry palate shows more of the same, yet bright apple and peach flavors push through. It ends well balanced and lifted. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**88 Treleven 2020 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This sunny, refreshing Riesling offers freshly sliced Gala apple accented by pink grapefruit and tangerine. It's rounded and juicy on the palate, perked up by zesty acidity to keep it balanced and mouthwatering. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$17

**88 Trestle Thirty One 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** A savory note of yeast is at the fore, yet with more swirling pretty notes of zesty lemon, apple and white peach arise. The dry palate is rounded and silky in feel, with delicate flavors of apple and melon wrapped in a savory accent. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**88 Weis 2020 Winzer Select Riesling S Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Mild aromas of lemon oil and tonic meet a ripe white melon aspect on the nose. The broad palate displays rich flavors of peach and melon balanced by mild acidity. The semidry nature is well balanced come the lemony finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**87 Airy Acres 2020 Riesling (Cayuga Lake).** Intense aromas of candied citrus peels meet white bean and white cherry on the nose. The semidry palate shows more candied citrus flavors filled out by juiced apple and tangy acidity. In the end, this balances to the sweet side, but still pleasingly so. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.3% **Price:** \$18

**87 Heron Hill 2020 Arctic Clone Single Block Series Ingle Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Ripe yellow apple and pear aromas meet brisk white cherry on the nose. Presenting as off dry on the palate, this shows juicy pear and apple flavors perked up by lemony acidity. It ends short but comes off as well balanced. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.3% **Price:** \$40

**87 Hunt Country Vineyards 2020 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Focused aromas of lemon and apple meet a hint of peach on the nose. The palate is mild in flavors of pear drop and lime peel, with well matched acidity for balance. It ends dry and brisk. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$18

**87 Lamoreaux Landing 2020 Dry Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Dried yellow apple meets a savory oatmeal note on the nose of this dry Riesling. The palate shows more of the same, with a fresher apricot tone lending lift. Bright acidity brings vitality to it all, ending crisp and clean on the finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$17

**87 Snowshell 2020 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Yellow apple and Bosc pear aromas are mild on the nose, with a gentle lemony tone lending some lift. The medium-bodied palate is rounded in feel, showing quiet orchard fruit flavors perked up by latent acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**87 Wagner 2020 Select Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This luscious Riesling offers boisterous aromas of canned pineapple met with sunny accents of lemon and sliced apple. It's balanced to the softer, sweeter side on the palate, yet it still ends balanced and bright. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Weis 2019 Terroir Slate Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Ripe aromas of pineapple rind and yellow apple blend with sharp white grapefruit on the nose. It's fleshy and round on the palate, filled out by pert orchard fruit flavors that are held in check by mild lemony lift. A dry finish meets a hint of alcohol burn, but it still remains a delightfully quaffable wine. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**86 Hunt Country Vineyards 2020 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Quiet aromas of fennel and citrus don't show a whole lot of depth on the nose, but they remain fresh and enticing. The semidry palate bring apple and peach flavors that converge on a slightly astringent finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$16

**86 Red Newt Cellars 2020 Circle Riesling (Seneca Lake).** Aromas of canned pear and apple are met with candied white grapefruit and fennel pollen on the nose. Apple and pineapple flavors are jolted up by a kick of tonic on the palate. This sweet Riesling ends brisk and clean on the quick finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$14

**86 Silver Thread 2021 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Rather delicate aromas of underripe peach and apple meet a whisper of lime zest on the nose. The light-bodied palate echos the nose, with mild acidity to back it all up. —A.P.  
**abv:** 10.8% **Price:** \$20

**86 Trestle Thirty One 2020 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Delicate aromas of white flowers and muddled stone fruit are met with a quiet lemon note on the nose. It's gentle and rounded on the palate, offering easy apple and peach flavors framed in a pithy, grippy texture. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**85 680 Cellars 2020 Lightly Skin Fermented Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Intense aromas of lemon verbena and citronella meld with quieter accents of apple and quince in this Riesling that saw four days on its skins. The palate is all about the rounded, grippy texture, yet the fruit doesn't show much definition due to mild acidity. A bite of tannins marks the close. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$30

**85 680 Cellars 2019 Barrel Aged Riesling (Finger Lakes).** A sheen of coconut rides over slightly seared lemon and ripe white cherry in this barrel-aged Riesling. The palate is light in profile, showing demure lemon and coconut flavors framed by very mild acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**85 Lamoreaux Landing 2020 Yellow Dog Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Intense aromas of white grape juice, tangelo and mixed gummy candies kicks things off. The juicy, fruity palate is driven by white grape flavors, with sharp acidity and a brisk green apple flavor providing lift. It doesn't seem to find its footing and doesn't end up cohesive on the finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$26

**84 Damiani 2019 Rhysling Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of yellow flowers and lemon blend with apparent oak on the nose. The dry palate comes off as taut and tart, showing sour lemon alongside an astringent grip. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$29

**84 Lamoreaux Landing 2020 Red Oak Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** The nose delivers funky aromas of wash-rind cheese and muddled stone fruit. It's light in profile on the palate, showing off-dry flavors of lemon and peach framed by sharp acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.7% **Price:** \$26

**84 Lamoreaux Landing 2020 Round Rock Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of spent black tea bags, snap pea and canned peach seem thick on the nose. The semidry palate is rather demure, with flavors of canned peach syrup and dried pineapple meeting a mild vein of acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 11.9% **Price:** \$26

**82 Whitecliff Vineyard 2020 Dry Riesling (Hudson River Region).** Bright aromas of candied lemons, marshmallow and sugar-dusted flowers come off as too confected on the nose. This is light in profile, with more candied flavors met with mild acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

## CABERNET FRANC

**92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2020 Magdalena Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake).** This densely packed Cabernet Franc shows intense aromas of lavender and sage on the nose. The grippy palate is filled out by rich flavors of blackberry and black cherry, with herbs and crushed granite adding nuance. There's drive and power here that would benefit from aging. Best to drink from 2024–2030. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**91 Freedom Run 2018 Estate Cabernet Franc (Niagara Escarpment).** Heady aromas of cigar wrapper, fresh mixed herbs and a hint of soy lend depth to the currant and cranberry aromas in this red. It's smooth and glossy on the medium-bodied palate, with juicy berry and red plum flavors matched by poised acidity that propels this effortlessly along. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**91 Hermann J. Wiemer 2020 Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake).** Cohesive aromas of black cherry, black plum and tilled earth are lifted by savory accents of dewy herbs and crushed red pepper flakes in this well balanced Cabernet Franc. It shows smooth tannins on the palate that support the juicy berry and plum flavors, with a polish and poise to it all that makes it a delight to drink. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90 Bedell 2019 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island).** Basil and thyme are front and center in this herbal red, with a nicely compact core of blackberry and red plum giving it more life. It's four-square in nature, holding firm tannins and bright acidity in equal measure, which makes this a delightfully balanced Cabernet Franc. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Benmarl 2020 Estate Grown Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region).** This brooding red starts off with densely packed aromas of ground coffee, dark cocoa, pencil shavings and singed sage. It's juicy and rounded on the medium-bodied palate, filled out by rich cherry and blackberry flavors that play nicely alongside the toasted baking spice accents. Smoothed tannins and bright acidity lend the structure for a balanced outcome. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$35

**90 Hector Wine Company 2019 Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake).** Dense aromas of black cherry and blackberry meet fresh dill and sage on the nose. The medium-bodied palate is juicy and pleasantly broad in texture, with cherry and black plum flavors held in check by a gentle clench of medium-grained tannins. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$23

**90 Millbrook 2020 Proprietor's Special Reserve Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region).** Cranberry and strawberry aromas of bright and lifted on the nose, with accents of thyme and crushed black pepper giving extra vitality. It's glossy and supple on the palate yet driven by tangy red-berry flavors. The texture sets this apart—everything glides effortlessly from start to finish. Drink with a slight chill. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**89 Fjord 2020 Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region).** This herbal red shows heady aromas of lemon thyme and rosemary on the nose, with a core of freshly pressed blackberry. It's light in feel yet nicely filled out by tart mixed berry flavors. The glossy tannins provide a gentle grip while tangy acidity drives it all to a herb-laced finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$30

**88 Airy Acres 2020 Cabernet Franc (Cayuga Lake).** Fresh thyme and sage blend with tilled gravelly soil on the nose, with fresh black cherry riding beneath. This is medium in weight, with a polished feel that is filled out by juicy black cherry and red currant flavors. A twang of granite marks the savory close. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$24

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88 Millbrook 2020 Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Cabernet Franc (New York).** Mild aromas of cranberry and cherry meet pencil shavings and peppery herbs on the nose. The palate is rather light in feel, yet tart berry flavors present as a fine match to the gentle cinch of tannins. Acidity is the main driver here, which lends freshness from start to finish. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**88 Red Newt Cellars 2019 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** Bright cranberry and red currant aromas meet dried red chile flake, crushed black pepper and rosemary on the nose. The medium-bodied palate shows tense, compact tannins that meet a smooth berry flavor accented by peppery spices. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Bedell 2020 Small Batch Series Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island).** Aromas of cranberry and strawberry are delicate on the nose, with accents of tilled earth and oyster shell chiming in. It's light and savory on the palate, honed by gentle, glossy tannins. Bright acidity lifts it all up, with a cinch of tannins firming up the close. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$35

**87 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** Aromas of grilled cherry, toasted sage and coconut lean a little heavy on the oak, but the pretty fruit is still apparent. Flavors of tart black cherry and red plum are wrapped in toasted oak and sweet spice accents, with a glossy texture giving a pleasing frame. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**87 City Winery Hudson Valley 2020 Au Naturel Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** This fresh Cabernet Franc delivers zesty aromas of cranberry and red cherry alongside dried chile, chipotle and dewy herbs. It's medium in weight, with a juicy, easy appeal that makes this a delight to drink. Bright acidity and polished tannins are matched by the tasty brambly blackberry and tangy cherry flavors. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$32

**86 680 Cellars 2020 Semi-Carbonic Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** This red leans on simplistic aromas and flavors of black cherry Jell-O and peppery herbs. Light tannins and a mild grip are balanced by mellow acidity, making this easy to glug. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$28

**86 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2018 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** Blackberry and pastry crust aromas and flavors blend with a heady dose of dill in this red. The tannins are mildly grippy, with fresh acidity to balance it all. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$26

**86 Rosina's Winery 2020 Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region).** Aromas of tar, roasted cinnamon and grilled red plum carry this purple-rimmed red. It's broad in feel, with grippy plum and

blackberry flavors perked up by bright acidity. It ends on a dash of mixed baking spices. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**86 Wagner 2019 Estate Bottled Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** This savory red showcases dried red chile, cranberry, strawberry and a hint of chipotle on the nose. It's ultralight on the palate, showing thin tannins that frame the tart red berry flavor. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$17

**85 Lamoreaux Landing 2020 T23 Unoaked Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** This unoaked Cabernet Franc shows aromas of tar, crushed blackberry and dried chile, along with a delicate hint of cinnamon on the nose. It's light and juicy on the palate, showing a mild grip of tannins and refreshing acidity that frame the tart berry flavors. Drink with a chill. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$20

**84 Buttonwood Grove 2017 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** Vanilla and coconut are at the fore, with mild cherry and strawberry riding beneath. This is light and racy in feel, with thin tannins and mild acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40

**83 Treleven 2021 Cabernet Franc (Cayuga Lake).** This delicate red offers aromas of peanut shells and pressed cranberries on the nose. It's ultralight in feel, showing tart red berries against thin tannins and bright acidity. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## OREGON

### PINOT GRIS

**88 Cardwell Hill 2021 Estate Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** The aromas are bright, with notes of freshly cut pear and apple, with whiffs of tropical fruit in the background. Medium bodied flavors follow. There's a brightness to it that appeals. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$25

**87 Brandborg 2021 Oregon Pinot Gris (Elkton Oregon).** Fermented in stainless steel, aromas of wheat, slightly browned pear and apple are followed by bone dry drinking, medium bodied flavors. Tart acids on the finish up the interest. The aromas and flavors aren't fully connected, though there are interesting pieces. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$18

**86 Duck Pond Cellars 2021 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** There's some reduction out of the gate, along with notes of graham cracker, pear and medicine. Medium-bodied, juicy flavors follow, with the concentration wavering through the middle. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$15

**86 Rock Point 2020 Pinot Gris (Oregon).** The aromas are subdued, with notes of honeycomb, green gummy and flower. The palate boasts ripe, full-feeling kiwi and pineapple flavors with an apparent touch of sugar. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$15

## CHARDONNAY

**90 DAnu 2019 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Aromas of toast and almond are at the front, along with struck flint. Fresh, somewhat lighter framed, lemon and apple flavors follow. It impresses but needs time. Best after 2022. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$25

**90 Hamilton Russell Oregon 2020 Maple Grove Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Style is at the forefront on the aromas, with notes of clarified butter, peach and candle wax. Medium bodied white peach and lemony flavors follow, with bright acid around it all. It needs time to fully integrate but has impressive stuffing. Give it time or decant. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Coelho 2019 Coelho Vineyard Chardonnay (Van Duzer Corridor).** The aromas bring notes of barrel spice, crayon, citrus and herb. Light, zippy, lemon-driven flavors follow. It's a very stylistic offering of the variety that shows best with time open. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$39

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Weisinger 2021 Lakeside Vineyard Viognier (Rogue Valley).** Fruit for this wine comes from a site at 1,650 feet above sea level. Fermented and aged in neutral French oak, bright aromas of cantaloupe, stone fruit and flower lead to full-bodied peach and floral flavors. Bright, lemony acidity enlivens it all. Apricot flavors persist on the finish. It's impressive. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**90 Cayuse 2020 Cailloux Vineyard Viognier (Walla Walla Valley).** Bright aromas of peach gummy rings, flower and mineral lead to a full bodied, nectarous palate. A warm finish follows. It shows the warmth of the vintage. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$75

**90 Love & Squalor 2016 Sunnyside Vineyard Riesling (Willamette Valley).** This wine is over five years and is showing evolution. Diesel aromas are at the forefront, followed by notes of lime, honey, flower and lime leaf. Broad feeling, bone dry flavors follow. Lees notes linger on the finish. It's a stylistic, thoroughly fascinating offering of this variety. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$38

**90 Troon 2021 Kubli Bench Amber Biodynamic Wine White Blend (Applegate Valley).** This

is half Vermentino, 40% Riesling and 10% Roussanne. A pretty amber color with cloudiness, the aromas show notes of ginger, fresh flower, mineral, grapefruit and tangerine rind. It's flavorful and broad feeling—a versatile wine that could be enjoyed by itself straight up or with as a mixer with seltzer water. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$35

**89 Goldback 2021 Chenin Blanc (Rogue Valley).** Fruit for this wine comes from Paradox Vineyard, raised in stainless steel and oak barrels. Light aromas of cut apple and pear lead to fleshy feeling, well-balanced flavors with a touch of sugar and tart acids behind it. There are lots of good pieces. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Norris 2020 Dry Norris McKinley Vineyard Riesling (Ribbon Ridge).** With fruit coming from a vineyard planted in 2007, this wine was barrel aged on lees for 12 months. The aromas lack clarity, with notes of herb, a spring field, wheat and lime. Bone dry, almost austere flavors follow. There are interesting pieces but they don't quite make a whole. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Styring 2019 Fearless Estate White Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** Showing enough color to be a rosé, aromas of green gummy candy lead to a textured feeling, full bodied palate. It's interesting, but the aromas and palate don't sync. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40

**88 Weisinger 2020 Fortmiller Vineyard Roussanne (Rogue Valley).** Coming from a vineyard at nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, the aromas show notes of canned peach, almond, herb and whiff of smoke. Full feeling flavors follow, with lemony acidity that ups the interest. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Weisinger 2021 Panner-Hanson Sauvignon Blanc (Rogue Valley).** Bright aromas of freshly rubbed mint and other herbs are followed by full, fleshly feeling, citrus driven flavors. Pair it with watermelon mint feta salad. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**87 J Wrigley NV Nana's Cuvée White Blend (McMinnville).** Vibrant aromas of pear, yellow apple and whiffs of kiwi lead to a medium-sweet drinking, fuller feeling palate. It's flavorful, though it needs more acid to fully stand it up. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$29

## SPARKLING WINES

**93 Soléna 2018 Oregon Grown Blanc de Blancs (McMinnville).** This is all Chardonnay from Hyland Estate. The aromas provide immediate appeal, with notes of baked bread, lemon and herb. Toasty flavors follow, with plentiful texture and

impressive acidity. It's shockingly good—a statement of a wine. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$68

**92 Dion 2018 Brut Wedding Tree Cuvée Méthode Traditionelle (Laurelwood District).** Pinot Noir comprises 95% of this wine, with the rest Chardonnay. Asian pear, lemon balm and autolytic aromas lead to bright, crisp, focused flavors. Racy acidity frames it all beautifully. It hangs on the finish. It's flat out gorgeous. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$60

**89 Delfino 2020 Oregon Bubbles Schaumwein (Umpqua Valley).** 100% Mueller Thurgau, aromas of whole lime, herb and citrus are out front. A quite dry, taut palate follows. It's almost austere in style. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$35

## ROSÉS

**93 Cayuse 2020 Edith Grenache Armada Vineyard Rosé (Walla Walla Valley).** This is one of an extremely small number of rosés to come out of the Rocks District and is a consistent standout. A very visually appealing pale salmon color, the aromas offer notes of wet stone, strawberry, orange rind and herb. A hyper-flavorful, rich, exquisitely balanced, textural palate follows. It hangs on the finish—a complete stunner. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$50

**90 The Four Graces 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$21

**90 Troon 2021 Kubli Bench Biodynamic Wine Rosé (Applegate Valley).** Malbec makes up 55% of this wine, with the rest Tinta Roriz (35%) and Counoise. A very appealing pale salmon color, the aromas show notes of watermelon, rhubarb and orange oil. There's textural appeal and richness to the juicy, medium bodied palate. A long finish caps it off. It's delicious. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Dion 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** Medium salmon colored, the aromas show notes of strawberry and melon. A flavorful, medium bodied palate follows, with kiwi and strawberry flavors and cleansing acidity. It's a surefire crowdpleaser, with the emphasis on bold flavors. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**89 Goldback 2021 Rosé of Grenache (Rogue Valley).** Showing just a touch of color, the aromas offer notes of wet clay, watermelon rind and rhubarb. The flavors are light, juicy and pleasing, dipping slightly in the middle. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$20

**89 Pacific Rim 2021 Rainstorm Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).** Electric pink, the aromas show notes of cherry and watermelon. Pleasing,

medium bodied flavors follow, with a string of acidity tying it all together. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$20

**88 Scenic Valley Farms 2021 Rosé (Willamette Valley).** This is a carbonic maceration blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay, more Beaujolais-style than a true rosé. Electric pink with a touch of bricking, it's aromatic, with fruit-forward notes of orange rind, strawberry and candied raspberry. Medium-plus bodied flavors follow. As a carbonic style it succeeds. As a rosé, it's mislabeled. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$15

**87 Rex Hill 2021 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).** Aromas of cherry and herb lead to broad feeling flavors. It gets bogged down. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**87 Soléna 2021 Shallow Seas Rosé (Willamette Valley).** Pale salmon colored, watermelon rind, tangerine and medicine aromas lead to off-dry, broad feeling, fleshy flavors. Acid pulls it all together. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**86 Brandborg 2021 Scarlet Cuvée Rosé of Pinot Noir (Umpqua Valley).** This wine was made in a saignée style, and it shows. Electric pink, the aromas show some reduction that distract. Beyond that are notes of cherry Jolly Rancher and herb. Fat feeling flavors follow, without the acid to support it all. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$18

**86 Coelho 2021 Estates Reserve Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).** Reduced at first, this watermelon pink wine subsequently shows aromas of bubblegum, lees and strawberry. Broad feeling flavors follow. There's pleasing balance and length to the flavors, but not enough to make up for its aromatic shortcomings. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**85 Rock Point 2021 Pinot Noir Rosé (Oregon).** An electric pink color that causes some distraction, the aromas bring notes of cherry Jolly Rancher. Fat feeling, dry flavors follow, without the acid to support them. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$15

## PINOT NOIR

**93 Coelho 2019 Coelho Vineyard Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor).** This wine is still in its shell. The aromas offer notes of wet stone, raspberry, black tea and rose hips. Medium bodied, juicy black tea flavors follow. There's plenty of tannic structure to support it all. Give it time in bottle or decant. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$49

**93 Dobbles Family Estate 2019 Grand Assemblage Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

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**92 Coelho 2019 Estates Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The aromas are immediately intriguing, with vibrant notes of orange rind, black tea leaves, cherry and sarsaparilla. The flavors show depth, intensity and freshness, along with plenty of structure around it all. A lingering finish caps it off. It's a complete standout. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$39

**92 Coelho 2019 Zeitoun Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The aromas are enchanting but still tightly wound up, with notes of flower petal, raspberry, cedar, mesquite, charcoal and soil. The palate is intense and flavorful, showing lovely balance. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$49

**92 Dobbles Family Estate 2019 Patricia's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Dobbles Family Estate 2019 Symonette Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$68

**90 Dobbles Family Estate 2019 Eola-Amity Hills Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 J Wrigley 2019 Estate Single-Clone 828 Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** This is a throw-back wine, coming in at a cool 12.7% listed alcohol. The aromas boast a delicate fragrance of red fruit, cinnamon, citrus and herb. Tart, tangy medium-bodied flavors follow. It's quite racy on its own. Put it on the dinner table for best results. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$74

**89 Lenné Estate 2019 LeNez Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** The aromas offer notes of fresh and dried cherry, cranberry and herb. The flavors meanwhile show a mixture of fresh and dried flavors. There's a bitterness on the finish that causes some distraction. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**89 Lenné Estate 2019 South Slope Select Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** The aromas bring subdued notes of flower, cranberry, raspberry, cinnamon and clove. Cranberry tart, medium bodied, acid-driven flavors follow. It's bunched up at present. Give it time in bottle or decant to see it shine. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**89 Norris 2020 Estate Norris McKinley Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** Fruit for this wine comes from a site planted in 2007. The aromas are quite restrained, almost difficult to tease out, with notes of lilac, cherry, herb and a whiff of smoke. They lead to similarly subdued dark fruit

flavors, that seem a bit bunched up, with a slightly gritty feel. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**88 Areté 2018 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The aromas bring notes of barrel char, red fruit, black tea and citrus. Full bodied dark fruit flavors follow. There are good pieces but they don't fully form a whole at present, with the fruit and oak not integrated. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 Brandborg 2019 Bench Lands Pinot Noir (Umpqua Valley).** The aromas are subdued, with notes of cinnamon, char, herb and flower. A lighter styled, juicy palate follows. There are interesting pieces. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$25

**88 Dois Irmãos 2020 Two Brothers' Private Collection Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Aromas of black tea, cinnamon stick, mesquite smoke and dark fruit lead to a full flavored palate followed, with a gritty feel and smoky flavors. There's surely some smoke influence, but there is still some enjoyment to be had. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$30

**88 Iris Vineyards 2020 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Reduced aromas of tire rubber, pencil eraser and smoke are out front, followed by notes of red fruit and cedar. Fresh, light, lively flavors follow. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**88 J Wrigley 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** The emphasis here is almost entirely on acid, though there is flavor too. The aromas are not revealing, except for wisps of dark cherry. Full-feeling, quite tart flavors follow. Put it on the dinner table to see it at its best. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$49

**88 J Wrigley 2019 Estate Proposal Block Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** There's not much to glean from the aromas initially, save for whiffs of flower and cranberry. Tart, juicy cranberry flavors follow. It's part interesting, part successful, with the acid driving it. Put it on the dinner table to see it at its best. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$67

**88 Lenné Estate 2019 Sad Jack 777 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** The aromas offer notes of cranberry, wilted flower, old cinnamon stick and herb, seeming somewhat evolved for its age. Full feeling cherry flavors follow. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**88 Norris 2020 Reserve Norris McKinley Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** Barrel spice, smoke and mushroom aromas lead to medium bodied flavors with a sandy feel. It's interesting but not fully successful. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**88 The Great Oregon Wine Company 2021 Ras-cal Pinot Noir (Oregon).** This is an early look at the most recent vintage. Very primary aromas of freshly peeled satsuma, grapefruit, dried herb and flower are followed by plentiful orange rind flavors. The tannins give a light grip. *Best Buy.*—S.S.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$13

**87 Coelho 2020 Paciência Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine is reduced out of the gate, causing distraction. Beyond that are notes of mesquite smoke and cherry. Full feeling flavors follow, showing some grittiness. It shows smoke impact, but there are pleasing pieces too. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$40

**87 Iris Vineyards 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A light electric pink and showing some bricking that distracts the eye, the aromas show notes of cherry and herb. Thick feeling flavors follow, getting quite bogged down. —S.S.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Cardwell Hill 2018 Estate Bottled Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Aged for 30 months in French oak, the aromas offer notes of cedar, cigar stub, tire rubber, wintergreen and raspberry, appearing to show heavy stem influence. The cranberry flavors are light, tart and juicy. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$40

**86 Coelho 2021 Bunny Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Salmon colored with a pink tinge that doesn't entirely catch the eye, this wine shows significant reduction out of the gate that distracts. Bone dry, medium bodied red fruit flavors follow. If the reduction clears, it moves up a couple of notches. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Coelho 2020 Atracção Estate Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Subdued aromas of raspberry and mesquite smoke lead to medium bodied, smoky flavors with a lightly gritty feel. The smoke causes significant distraction. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Wine by Joe 2019 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** The aromas bring notes of rose petal, raspberry and mesquite smoke. Smoky flavors follow, with a gritty feel. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**85 Rocky Point 2020 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** The aromas show notes of tin, smoke, herb, peppermint and cherry. A quite smoky palate follows, showing some grit. Smoke notes persist on the finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$NA

**81 Scenic Valley Farms 2020 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The aromas and flavors are full of mesquite smoke that almost completely

overwhelm the wine. The smoke impact is intense. —S.S.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$20

## GRENACHE

**95 Horsepower 2019 Sur Echallas Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** Fruit for this wine was grown on stakes with the cobblestone soils plowed by horse. The aromas are gifted with notes of potpourri, raspberry, black olive, white pepper and herb. Pillowy soft red fruit follows, flavorful but reserved ramping up in intensity significantly with time open. Savory notes emerge. There's an impressive, minute-plus long finish. It's outrageously good—one of the standouts of the vintage. It only gets better the longer its open. Best after 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$122

**93 Horsepower 2019 Fiddleneck Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** Appealing aromas of funk, white pepper, potpourri, herb, sea salt, orange rind and red fruit lead to a deft, flavorful palate, loaded with spice, olive and potpourri flavors. The finish is 60-plus seconds. It's all about restraint, delicacy and expression. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$122

**93 No Girls 2019 La Pacioncia Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** The aromas are downright salty, along with notes of crushed flower, plum, raspberry and olive—with the aromas most expressive without swirling. A lithe, textured, flavorful palate follows. The length is impressive. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$77

**89 Goldback 2019 Grenache (Rogue Valley).** Fruit for this wine comes from Jaxson Vineyard and was fermented 14% whole cluster. Quite pale in color, the aromas offer notes of raspberry gummy candy, white grapefruit rind, flower, orange rind, white pepper and herb. There's a pretty elegance to the palate, with tart acids backing it up. It's fascinating. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$32

**87 Goldback 2021 Carbonic Grenache (Rogue Valley).** This wine was all whole cluster pressed and put in neutral barrels. The aromas are all about primary fruit, with muted notes of gummy candy, herb and grapefruit. Light bodied flavors follow, showing some grit. —S.S.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$24

## SYRAH

**96 Hors Categorie 2019 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine comes from a new area of the valley, the Nork Fork, that this producer pioneered. Planted on steeply angled slopes, the aromas explode from the glass, with notes of crushed rock, stargazer lily, black pepper, charcuterie plate,

black olive, firepit and medicine. The hyper-flavorful palate delivers on all that promise and more, with outrageous intensity and balance to the black olive brine flavors. There's sneaking tannic structure behind it all. The finish goes on for literally minutes. It's stunning—the wine of the vintage. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$270

**94 Horsepower 2019 High Contrast Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This site sits at the edge where the cobblestone riverbed that defines this area ends. Unlike most of its counterparts from this vintage, the aromas are downright funky and considerably more expressive out of the gate, with notes of soot, ember, gravel, coffee and charcuterie. Full feeling flavors follow, with intensity and depth. There's a minute long savory finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$122

**94 Horsepower 2019 Sur Echallas Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Fruit for this wine is grown on stakes and the site plowed by horse. Initially reserved aromas of olive brine, cigar box, crushed flower, firepit, medicine and a whiff of pepper lead to soft, lighter styled savory flavors that pack a briny punch, filling in over time. There's less midpalate density than recent vintages, still with a lot of intensity of flavor. A crazy-long finish caps it off. Give it additional time in bottle or decant. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$122

**93 Cayuse 2019 En Chamberlin Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a classic En Chamberlain profile, with the aromas offering notes of soot and Kalamata olive. The plum, cherry and savory flavors are plush and palate coating—more fruit forward than many vintages of this wine. It shows intensity and depth, hanging on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$92

**93 Horsepower 2019 The Tribe Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** All of the fruit for this wine is grown biodynamically, with the vineyard plowed by draft horse. The aromas offer notes of funk, ember, peat, licorice and a whiff of medicine. A lighter styled through the middle, quite flavorful, savory palate follows. There's a long of hangtime on the finish. It's all about delicacy and intensity. —S.S.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$122

**92 Cayuse 2019 Armada Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** The aromas are fruit forward for this area and producer, with notes of plum and red fruit, along with olive, peat, sea salt and spice. Medium-bodied, textured flavors follow, with spice notes lifting the finish. —S.S.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$104

**92 Cayuse 2019 Bionic Frog Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Unlike many offerings from this section of the valley, the aromas here are as much fruit as savory, with notes of plum, peat, herb and ash.

Medium bodied plum flavors follow with a lingering finish. It's an understated offering of the Frog that picks up intensity as it opens. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$120

**92 Cayuse 2019 Cailloux Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Fruit for this wine comes from the oldest vineyard in the Rocks District—which the winery refers to as the Stones—planted in 1997. Co-fermented with Viognier, the aromas bring notes of orange oil, black pepper, olive and firepit that are somewhat subdued for the producer and region. The palate is svelte and flavorful, mixing fruit and savory. Soot notes linger on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$92

**92 Cayuse 2019 En Cerise Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Like many of the producer's offerings from this vintage, the aromas are subdued, with notes of ember, plum and red fruit. Lighter styled flavors follow, showing pleasing intensity, with floral accents. True to the other wines, the finish impresses. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$92

**91 No Girls 2019 La Pacioncia Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Subdued aromas of olive brine, wet stone, blue fruit and dried herb lead to a lighter styled palate that brings plenty of savory flavors. It's all about elegance. —S.S.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$77

**90 Laterus 2019 Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** This is a rare bottle to be appellationed from this region—most are not due to restrictive labeling laws. The aromas are brooding, with notes of black pepper, smoked meat, dark fruit and spice. Ripe, full bodied dark fruit flavors follow. It's all about hedonism. The appellation isn't as expressive as it normally is, but it's delicious all the same. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$45

**87 Dobbles Family Estate 2019 Sundown Vineyard Syrah (Rogue Valley).** The aromas offer notes of vanilla, cream and plentiful barrel notes, along with whiffs of char. Full bodied, creamy feeling, oak driven flavors follow. The wood gets very far in front of the fruit. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$52

**87 Goldback 2019 Meadowlark Vineyard Syrah (Rogue Valley).** Aromas of café au lait, barrel spice and tire rubber are followed by somewhat lighter styled flavors that paint around the edges. Fruit and barrel tussle at times. —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$38

## TEMPRANILLO

**94 Cayuse 2019 Impulsivo En Chamberlain Vineyard Tempranillo (Walla Walla Valley).** This is always a singular wine, and this vintage does not disappoint. The aromas intrigue, with notes of ember, peat, flower and rain soaked herb. Plump, palate coating, intense currant and herb flavors



# BUYINGGUIDE

follow, showing depth and verticality. It's got an outrageously long, 30-plus second finish. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$102

**92 No Girls 2019 Tempranillo (Walla Walla Valley).** Tempranillo is a rarity in this appellation, but it clearly can excel based on this wine and many others from this producer. Aromas of sliced kalamata olive, licorice and red fruit lead to medium bodied red fruit flavors that show nuance and detail. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$77

**88 Weisinger 2019 Weisinger Estate Vineyard Tempranillo (Rogue Valley).** Coming from a vineyard located at 2,200 feet above sea level with north facing aspects, the aromas offer notes of spice, plum and currant. The palate is expansive on the ends, lighter in the middle. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

## RED BLENDS

**93 Cayuse 2019 The Lovers (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Syrah. The aromas are brooding, with notes of dried herb, raspberry, cigar box and red cherry. The flavors are vibrant and juicy but equally restrained, with the space between the lines as interesting as what's written on them. There's a persistent minerality on the finish that ups the interest. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$104

**92 Cayuse 2019 Camaspelo (Walla Walla Valley).** Aromas of dried herb are out front, followed by crushed flower, chocolate, whole green pepper and currant. Pillowy soft flavors follow. There's plenty of sophistication and detail. An extended finish caps it off. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$92

**92 La Rata 2019 Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a blend of 60% Grenache, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Syrah. Crafted by Cayuse resident vigneronne Elizabeth Bourcier, the aromas are subdued for the area and producer and more overtly fruit forward, with notes of raspberry, crushed rock, currant and herb. The palate meanwhile is medium bodied and focused on red fruit, with kisses of firepit and other savory notes. It's a very pretty wine that ramps up in intensity as it opens. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$80

**92 No Girls 2018 Double Lucky #8 (Walla Walla Valley).** This is the inaugural vintage of this wine, designed as entry-level look into the Bionic Wines family. The aromas pull you into the glass, with notes of firepit, olive and peat—a classic profile of the Rocks District. A plush feeling, layered palate follows, with orange peel accents. A very long finish ups the interest. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$44

**91 Cayuse 2019 Flying Pig (Walla Walla Valley).** Cabernet Franc (45%) takes the lead on this wine, followed by Merlot (44%) and a healthy dash of Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromas fascinate, with notes of ember, coffee bean, green pepper, licorice and green flower, showing detail and complexity. Soft, sumptuous flavors follow, displaying elegance. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$102

**91 Cayuse 2019 God Only Knows (Walla Walla Valley).** Grenache dominates this wine. The rest? God only knows. Subdued aromas of red fruit, potpourri, pepper and dried herb lead to lighter styled floral flavors. It lingers on the finish. It's a more fruit forward offering than most vintages. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$104

**91 No Girls 2019 Double Lucky #8 (Walla Walla Valley).** Double Lucky is a new offering from this producer, designed as an entry level wine that is a peak into what the estate offers. This second vintage is aromatically restrained, with notes of red fruit, olive, dried flower, orange peel and gravel. Lighter styled red fruit flavors follow, with a hyper-flavorful finish. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$44

## OTHER RED WINES

**88 DAnu 2018 Seven Hills Vineyard Sangiovese (Walla Walla Valley).** This variety is a rarity at this esteemed vineyard and in the valley in general. The aromas bring notes of dried rose petal, cherry, wet herb, dust and Red Vines. The palate is all about light, brisk red fruit and tart acids that impress. Pair it with pizza or red sauce pasta. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**86 Weisinger 2019 Fortmiller Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Rogue Valley).** Aromas of mesquite smoke and tire rubber lead to quite smoky seeming flavors. The palate shows a lot of grit. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**86 Weisinger 2019 Peter William Vineyard Malbec (Rogue Valley).** The aromas offer notes of pipe tobacco, dried orange rind and herb. Lighter styled flavors follow, trailing toward the finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$38

## WASHINGTON

### SAUVIGNON BLANC

**92 Goose Ridge 2021 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Goose Gap).** For full review see page 13 **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**91 Avennia 2020 Oliane Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley).** 100% varietal, this is a blend of fruit from Boushey (70%) and Red Willow

vineyards. The aromas intrigue, with notes of nut oil, Meyer lemon zest, herb and spice. Creamy feeling, medium bodied flavors follow, mixing fruit and barrel. Time in bottle will serve it well. Best after 2024. **Cellar Selection.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$28

**91 Matthews 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** This wine was fermented and aged in stainless steel, with fruit coming from Coventry Vale—a change in site. Bright aromas of citrus peel, kiwi, herb and melon lead to a rich, flavorful palate, filled with tropical fruit, leading to a touch of warmth on the finish. The appeals is as much about feel as flavor. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$24

**86 Washington Hills 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** The aromas are light, with a touch of herb and citrus. The concentration of the tropical fruit flavors is light, the tart acid quite nice. Enjoy it as accent rather than main event. **Best Buy.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.36% **Price:** \$10

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Avennia 2020 La Perle (Columbia Valley).** This is a blend of 65% Roussanne (Sagemoor and WeatherEye) and 35% Marsanne (Boushey). Aged in a quarter new French oak and concrete egg, the aromas bring notes of almond paste, straw, apricot and pear. A textured, full-bodied palate follows, leading to a warm finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$40

**91 Goose Ridge 91 Estate Bottled Riesling (Columbia Valley).** Coming from the recently approved Goose Gap appellation, the aromas pop, with notes of kaffir lime, tangerine, eucalyptus, pepper and Nestea Iced Tea. Dry lime and white peach flavors follow, showing richness and impressively bright acidity. A long finish separates it. It's a complete standout. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**91 Syncline 2021 Estate Grown Grüner Veltliner (Columbia Gorge).** The aromas bring notes of almond, pear, apricot and clarified butter, reminiscent of a Marsanne. The full bodied, impressively flavorful palate shows exquisite balance, with a finish that won't quit. It's flat out delicious. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$28

**90 Hoquetus 2021 Les Collines Vineyard Riesling (Walla Walla Valley).** Walla Walla Riesling is an extreme rarity. Aromas of honeysuckle, lavender and dried tangerine rind are followed by light, just off-dry flavors. There's a vibrancy and verve to it that keeps the interest high. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Moonbase Cellars 2021 Les Collines Vineyard Viognier (Walla Walla Valley).** Fruit here comes from Block 4 of this vineyard nestled in

the foothills of the Blue Mountains. The aromas are bright, with notes of melon, Bosc pear, peach and starfruit. Full bodied flavors follow with a rounded, textured feel. There's a lot of enjoyment to be had. —S.S.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$30

**90 Syncline 2021 Boushey Vineyard Picpoul (Yakima Valley).** This is a considerably less racy and fuller feeling offering than recent vintages though no less delicious. The aromas are arresting, with notes citrus peel, almond and wet stone. Fuller feeling flavors follow, with a spine of citric acidity standing it up straight. It's tasty. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 11.9%

Price: \$28

**89 Eight Bells 2021 Red Willow Vineyard Viognier (Yakima Valley).** Barrel fermented, the fruit for this wine comes from old vines in the Chapel Block of this vineyard. The aromas are subdued, with notes of apricot, honeysuckle and peach. Medium-bodied stone fruit flavors follow, leading to a surprisingly tart finish that ups the interest. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$32

**88 Cavatappi 2021 Pinot Grigio (Columbia Valley).** Aromas of melon, banana, kiwi and star fruit lead to medium-bodied, textured flavors. It's a pleasing quaffer. —S.S.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$16

**88 Côte Bonneville 2019 Estate Bottled DuBrul Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley).** This is a very stylistic offering of this variety, with aromas of crayon, candle wax and barrel spice. The palate is surprisingly more medium-bodied than the aromas would suggest, dipping in the middle. Toasty notes linger on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$54

**88 Domaine Pouillon 2019 Blanc du Moulin (Columbia Gorge).** This is a blend of 58% Viognier and 42% Roussanne, coming from a cooler appellation in eastern Washington. The aromas offer interesting notes of lees, candied ginger, candle wax, cinnamon and dried flower. Medium-bodied flavors follow, with cinnamon notes on the finish. It's part interesting, part successful. —S.S.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$45

**88 Goose Ridge 2021 Estate Bottled Pinot Gris (Goose Gap).** There's a touch of reduction out of the gate that causes some distraction. Beyond that are pear, apple and stone fruit aromas. Broad, bone dry flavors follow. —S.S.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$22

**86 Prohibition 2020 Reserve Stillwater Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Royal Slope).** Fermented and aged in Hungarian oak for nine months, the aromas offer notes of pear, cream and apple. Full bodied flavors follow, with bitter notes on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$42

## SPARKLING WINES

**89 Aquilini 2021 Già Bella Cabernet Sauvignon Brut Rosé Methode Traditionelle (Red Mountain).** What's this? A first ever traditional method sparkling wine from the hottest appellation in Washington made from Cabernet Sauvignon? A pretty pale peach color, the aromas bring appeal, with notes of pear, brioche and apple. Medium bodied, brisk flavors follow, showing some textural richness. It takes everything you know about Red Mountain and turns it on its head. Oh, and it's tasty. —S.S.

abv: 12%

Price: \$NA

**89 Pét Project 2021 Pét-Nat Orange Cuvée (Washington).** This is a blend of Muscat Ottonel (nearly two thirds), Pinot Gris (33.5%) and a splash of Riesling. Vibrant, varied aromas of satsuma, pear, grapefruit, lime and ginger lead to a dry, lithe, lightly fizzy palate. Put some more bubbles on it and it moves up. As is, it offers undeniable appeal. —S.S.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$32

**88 SMAK 2021 Bubbly Rosé (Columbia Valley).** To date, this producer has been entirely dedicated to still rosé, with this its first sparkler. Aromas of pear and herb lead to a bright, effusive palate with a broad, at times almost thick, feel. It's a strong start. —S.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

**86 Domaine Pouillon 2021 Pét-Nat Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge).** Quite cloudy, the aromas seem muddled, with notes of yeast, milk and citrus. The flavors meanwhile are light, brisk and pleasing. It's interesting but doesn't all sync up. —S.S.

abv: 12.1%

Price: \$32

**86 Domaine Pouillon 2021 Piquette (Columbia Gorge).** This is almost the color of an unfiltered cider. It leads with strong aromas of potpourri, dried ginger and red fruit. The flavors meanwhile are light—a strong contrast to the aromas—and bone dry. The mousse is very light, close to being a still wine. It's interesting, not standing on its own but would be interesting as a mixer. —S.S.

abv: 8.6%

Price: \$22

**86 Pét Project 2021 Chenin Blanc Pétillant Naturel Arette Vineyard (Columbia Valley).** Certified organic, this wine is quite reductive out of the gate, with notes of tire rubber and elastic band in front of citrus and baked bread. Light, bone dry flavors follow, with racy acid around it. The mousse is light. —S.S.

abv: 9%

Price: \$32

**82 Pét Project 2021 Field Blend Pétillant Naturel Acadia Vineyard (Columbia Gorge).** A blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the aromas get right to it, with notes of brioche, pear and mesquite smoke. Quite smoky flavors follow, with the smoke

taking over on the finish. It would work best with food from the grill. —S.S.

abv: 11%

Price: \$32

**82 Pét Project 2021 Pétillant Naturel Syrah-Coley Vineyard (Columbia Valley).** This is one of a handful of sparkling offerings of this variety in the state. Purple in color with a red tinge, the aromas offer notes of plum, raspberry, smoke and herb. It drinks dry, with smoky flavors. The mousse is so light it almost drinks as a still wine. —S.S.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$32

## ROSÉS

**91 SMAK 2021 Spring Sangiovese Rosé (Walla Walla Valley).** Not a lot of rosé comes out of the valley, and this one is a big-time winner. Very pale peach with a gold hue, this is a visually appealing wine. Aromas of yellow strawberry, citrus peel and fresh herbs lead to medium bodied, fresh, lively flavors with a dry finish. It's delicious, with impressive acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$20

**90 Hoquetus 2021 Seven Hills Vineyard Cabernet Franc Rosé (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine is a visually appealing pale peach color, showing a bit of cloudiness as it's unfiltered. The aromas offer notes of green pepper, strawberry and citrus. Bright, light, focused flavors follow. The green pepper aromas might not be for all tastes, though they move into the background with time open. —S.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$28

**90 Syncline 2021 Rosé (Horse Heaven Hills).** Carignan makes up 52% of this wine, with the rest Mourvèdre. There's plenty of appeal to its pale peach color. The aromas offer notes of stone fruit, strawberry and rhubarb. Medium bodied, quite dry, well-balanced flavors follow. It draws out on the finish—completely lovely. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$28

**89 Charles & Charles 2021 Rosé (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*

abv: NA

Price: \$13

**89 Moonbase Cellars 2021 Seven Hills Vineyard Rosé (Walla Walla Valley).** I have never seen a rosé designated from this highly regarded vineyard before. 100% Cabernet Franc, it's a very pretty pale color. The aromas are not particularly revealing initially, with notes of fresh herb and citrus. Lighter weight flavors follow. It wants a bit more acid to fully stand it up, but it's very enjoyable. —S.S.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$25

**89 SMAK 2021 Autumn Syrah Rosé (Columbia Valley).** The aromas are bright, with notes of fresh herb, cut apple and melon rind. Medium bodied flavors follow, showing texture and richness. —S.S.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$20

**89 SMAK 2021 Summer Rosé of Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley).** This producer is wholly dedicated to the production of rosé. A pretty bronze color with a touch of pink, the aromas are bright and generous, with notes of melon and herb. The palate is broad and textured in feel. A touch of medicine pokes through on the finish, causing some distraction that lingers. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Avennia 2021 L'Egerie Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Grenache makes up three-quarters of this wine and Mourvèdre one quarter, with fruit coming from Upland and Heart of the Hill respectively. The color is a bit darker than in recent vintages. Aromas of strawberry, peppercorn and herb lead to thick feeling, full bodied flavors. There's a lot of richness of flavor, with more acid needed to fully stand it up. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**88 Kiona 2021 Estate Grown Rosé of Sangiovese (Red Mountain).** Not many pink wines come out of this blazing hot appellation, giving this one additional interest. Pale bronze color, the aromas bring notes of yellow strawberry, bubble gum and herb. Off-dry, leaning a touch sweeter flavors follow. There's plenty of acid to offset the sweetness. It will win a lot of fans. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Pursued by Bear 2021 Blushing Bear Rosé (Columbia Valley).** This is just over two-thirds Grenache with the rest Mourvèdre. With fruit coming from Los Odios and Yellowbird in Walla Walla Valley, it's pale peach colored. Aromas of strawberry, white peach and spice lead to full bodied, creamy feeling flavors. There are a lot of good pieces, but it needs more acid to fully make them into a whole. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**87 Brian Carter 2021 Abracadabra Rosé (Yakima Valley).** A pleasing pale salmon color, the aromas are bright, with notes of cherry Jolly Rancher, melon, strawberry rhubarb and tangerine. Full-feeling, off-dry seeming flavors follow. It's a straightforward quaffer. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$24

**87 Laterus 2020 Candy Stripe Rosé Rosé (White Bluffs).** The aromas display notes of cherry, dried orange rind and wilted flower. Thick feeling flavors follow. It seems tired. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**87 SMAK 2021 Abstract No. 1 Cabernet Franc Rosé (Columbia Valley).** A visually appealing color, the aromas bring notes of melon, mineral and a kiss of tangerine. Medium-plus bodied flavors follow. It shows some medicinal notes on the finish that distract. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Browne Family Vineyards 2021 Bitner Estate Grenache Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Pale salmon colored, the aromas bring notes of mesquite

smoke, medicine and strawberry. Tart, quite lightly styled orange-flavored children's aspirin flavors follow. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.35% **Price:** \$17

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**91 Amavi 2019 Estate Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Pepper Bridge (39%) and Summit View (28%) fruit make up the majority of this wine, with the rest near equal parts Octave, Seven Hills and Goff. Dark fruit, spice, flower, pink peppercorn and herb aromas lead to a lush, structured palate full of dark fruit flavors. It's a one wine charm offensive—a perfect introduction to what Walla Walla Valley Cabernet is all about. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Balboa 2018 Artist Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Laterus 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This is a blend of Cabernet from two top sites: Discovery Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills and Boushey in Yakima Valley. Aromas of orange rind, pipe tobacco, dried tobacco and plum lead to quite ripe, soft, supple blue and red fruit flavors. It brings a lot of textural appeal. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$45

**90 Frichette 2019 Shaw 32 Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** The aromas offer notes of clove, vanilla and other barrel spices. Plump, creamy feeling dark fruit flavors follow. Fruit and barrel play equal parts in the show. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**89 Eight Bells 2017 Red Willow Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley).** This is made from 12 clones of Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromas show some pencil eraser reduction out of the gate that causes distraction. Beyond that are notes of dried herb and cherry. Svelte, well-balanced chocolate and cherry flavors follow, with soft tannins backing them up. Decant to clear the reduction. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$42

**89 Frichette 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Black licorice and dark fruit aromas lead to focused black fruit flavors that are svelte and focused through the middle, lighter around the edges. There's a lovely balance to what's there. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

**88 Kirkland Signature 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$9

**88 Moonbase Cellars 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** 100% varietal coming

from Seven Hills and Cockburn Ranch vineyards, red apple skin aromas are out front, followed by notes of barrel spice, cocoa and cherry. The flavors are lighter styled and creamy feeling, needing a bit more of a hook to hang the hat on. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**86 Headturner 2019 The Nerve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** The aromas are unusual, with notes of green tannin, vanilla and cherry. Gripping, astringent tannins follow, speckled with vanilla and butterscotch flavors. The tannins soften a bit with significant time open but remain quite bitter. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**86 Prohibition 2019 Heart of the Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Aromas of licorice, green wood, spice and cherry lead to light, creamy feeling, oak driven flavors. It's ripe but doesn't have the fruit intensity to stand up to the wood. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$60

**86 Wilridge 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Naches Heights).** Aromas of cherry roll-up, smoke, allspice and licorice lead to medium bodied, lightly smoky fruit flavors. There's a freshness to the palate. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**85 Calchas 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This wine is 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot and 6% Petite Sirah. The aromas show notes of barnyard, dried cherry and herb. Light, tart flavors follow. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$28

**85 Longitude 120 West 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rattlesnake Hills).** The aromas are high pitched, with notes of red fruit and barnyard. Tart, tangy, medium-bodied flavors follow. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

## MERLOT

**91 Laterus 2019 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** 100% varietal, the fruit is a mix of a cool site (Boushey) and a hot one (Quintessence). The aromas are brooding, with notes of barrel spice, ripe plum and cigar box. The plum flavors are plump and ripe. Give it time to open up. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$40

**90 Frichette 2019 Merlot (Red Mountain).** Coming from a hot appellation in a cooler vintage, fruit and oak intermingle on the aromas, with notes of cocoa, dark cherry and vanilla. Creamy feeling flavors follow. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45

**89 Columbia Winery 2019 Single Vineyard Collection Weinbau Merlot (Wahluke Slope).** Coming from a warm site, this is a full-bodied, no holds barred expression of this variety. The aromas are brooding, with notes of dark fruit, plum and

sweet barrel spice. Quite ripe, deep, saturated flavors follow, with plentiful oak accents. It's made in a rich, cocktail style. —S.S.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$45

## CABERNET FRANC

**91 Hoquetus 2021 Amphora Blue Mountain Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a one-of-a-kind wine for the state: amphora aged, early release Franc. The aromas intrigue, with notes of mineral, raspberry and fresh herb. The flavors are light, bright and fresh. Pair it with grilled lamb chops. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$38

**87 Long Cellars 2019 Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley).** This is 100% varietal coming from Boushey Vineyard. The aromas offer high pitched notes of red cherry, herb and woodspice. Creamy, vanilla-laden flavors follow, with the oak getting far in front of the fruit. —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$40

**85 Cameron Hughes 2018 Lot 846 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley).** Aromas of prune, dried cherry and vanilla lead to medium bodied flavors. It all seems quite dried out. It finishes hot. —S.S.

abv: 15.6%

Price: \$18

## SYRAH

**93 Amavi 2019 Estate Vineyards Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$42

**91 Laterus 2018 Syrah (Red Mountain).** This is all clone 383 from esteemed Ciel du Cheval Vineyard. Aged 20 months in French oak (33% new), the aromas bring notes of ripe blue and red fruit, flower and herb. Ripe but svelte fruit flavors follow. It shows pleasing intensity. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$45

**90 Amavi 2019 Estate Vineyards Stone Valley Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This is the first time the winery has designated a wine from this vineyard. The aromas pop, with notes of tangerine peel and potpourri, followed by blue fruit, herb, gravel and olive. Light, somewhat linear flavors follow. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

**88 Côte Bonneville 2019 DuBrul Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley).** Café au lait, vanilla, green herb and barrel spice aromas lead to light, lean flavors. A tart finish caps it off. It's an odd mix. —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$70

**88 Domaine Pouillon 2018 Estate Syrah (Columbia Gorge).** Coming from a cooler region of eastern Washington in a warm vintage, the aromas offer notes of dark fruit that seems a touch

dried out along with cinnamon. The palate is on the fuller side of medium-bodied, with gritty tannins and a tart finish. There are a lot of interesting pieces. —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$50

**88 Hoquetus 2020 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Fruit for this wine comes from Seven Hills Vineyard. Fermented 50% whole cluster in amphora and neutral French oak, aromas of freshly peeled orange, cigar box, mineral and medicine are followed by fanciful, lighter styled flavors. There's a freshness to it that ups the interest. It's more accent than main event. —S.S.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$50

**87 Prohibition 2019 Scarface Les Collines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Somewhat muddled seeming plum, blue fruit and tar aromas lead to pasty feeling blue fruit flavors that drop off on the finish. The fruit seems simultaneously over-ripe and strangely thin. This vineyard is usually very expressive; it seems lost here. —S.S.

abv: 16.1%

Price: \$65

## RED BLENDS

**93 Côte Bonneville 2018 DuBrul Vineyard (Yakima Valley).** The aromas grab you out of the gate, with notes mocha powder, graphite, toast, carob and dried herb. Polished, classy licorice and black cherry flavors follow, supported by the velvety soft tannins that have made this vineyard famous. A long finish caps it off. It's all about sophistication and detail. It's best days are in front of it. Enjoy after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$125

**91 Brian Carter 2019 Abracadabra (Columbia Valley).** Fruit and barrel intertwine on the aromas, with notes of vanilla, black cherry, raspberry and black licorice. Pleasingly plump dark fruit flavors, with a lush feel and a lingering finish. There's a lot of value and enjoyment to be had. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$24

**91 Côte Bonneville 2019 Estate Bottled Carriage House Du Brul Vineyard (Yakima Valley).** This is a very classy blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The aromas bring notes of raspberry, chocolate, anise and black cherry. Well-balanced, reserved flavors follow. There's a brightness to it that ups the appeal. It's beautiful now but time in the cellar will also serve it well. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$54

**91 Goose Ridge 2019 Estate Bottled Cellar Select Artist Series "Great Smoky Mountains" Reserve (Goose Gap).** Cabernet Sauvignon comprises nearly two thirds of this wine, Merlot one third and the rest Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Aged 22 months in French oak (55% new), the aromas draw you into the glass, with notes of black licorice, black currant and dark as night other fruits. The fla-

vors are more reserved than the aromas would suggest, bright, tart and lively, broadening over time. Firm tannins back it all up. It's terrific, with a long finish upping the interest. Best after 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$54

**91 Laterus 2019 Megalith (Red Mountain).** Cabernet Sauvignon makes up 80% of this wine, with the rest Merlot. Coming from Shaw and Quintessence vineyards and aged in 72% new French oak, the aromas enchant, with notes of black fruit, licorice, dried herb, vanilla and barrel spice. Full-bodied, supple, creamy feeling red and black fruit flavors follow, showing polish and balance. Barrel spice notes are threaded throughout and linger on the finish. The tannic structure that Red Mountain is famous for provides the support. —S.S.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$45

**91 Laterus 2019 The Hallows (Columbia Valley).** This wine is a blend of Grenache (31%) and Mourvèdre (25%) from Sugarloaf Vineyard along with Syrah (44%) from Ancient Stones. The aromas are a tour de force, with notes of dark raspberry, blue fruit, herb and flower. The blue and red fruit flavors are polished to a fine sheen, undulating across the palate. The appeal is as much about feel as flavor. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$45

**90 Balboa 2016 Mith (Walla Walla Valley).** Almost a full six years in from a warm vintage, this wine is in full bloom. Aromas of dark fruit and herb lead to plush, velvety, palate coating black fruit flavors that are not as full-bodied as the aromas might suggest. It's in a perfect spot right now. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$55

**90 Brian Carter 2018 Byzance (Columbia Valley).** Grenache (52%) and Syrah (25%) make up the majority of this wine, with the rest bits of Mourvèdre, Cunoise and Cinsault. The aromas are not particularly revealing out of the gate, with quiet notes of dark raspberry and herb. The full-feeling dark fruit capture the imagination. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$35

**90 Goose Ridge 2019 Estate Bottled Cellar Select Artist Series "Grand Canyon" Reserve (Goose Gap).** Merlot makes up 61% of this wine, with the rest Cabernet Sauvignon (35%) and bits of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. Raised 22 months in 70% new oak (French with a smidge of American), the aromas bring notes of cinnamon, tar, clove, herb, vanilla and black fruit. Tart black fruit flavors follow, backed by burly tannins. It has a pleasingly brighter acid profile than seen in recent years on many of the state's wines. Enjoy after 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$54

**90 Grosgrain 2020 Rojo Phillips Vineyard (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a field blend of 60% Tempranillo and 40% Grenache, coming in at an outrageously low alcohol for a modern day Wash-

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ington red. The aromas and flavors boast notes of pepper, cherry gummy bear, raspberry and plentiful herbs. File under chill lightly, chuggable reds. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$36

**90 Laterus 2019 The Big Dark (Columbia Valley).** This is a blend of equal parts Syrah from Gamache Vineyard in the White Bluffs and Cabernet Sauvignon from Shaw Vineyard on Red Mountain. Aged 23 months in half new French oak, the aromas are subdued, with notes of black fruit, tar, cherry and spice. Ripe, center focused fruit flavors follow. A warm finish caps it off. The focus is on hedonism. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 10,000 Hours 2019 Red Blend (Red Mountain).** Cabernet Sauvignon makes up 53% of this wine, with the rest Merlot (26%) and bits of Petit Verdot, Malbec, and Cabernet Franc. Aromas of tar, soil, dark cherry, black plum, hyper-ripe fruit and barrel spice lead to full-bodied, pitch black flavors. The ripeness gets over the top at times. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**88 Brian Carter 2018 Le Coursier Bordeaux-style Red Wine (Columbia Valley).** Merlot makes up 58% of this wine, Cabernet Sauvignon 21%, and Cabernet Franc 14%, with the rest bits of Malbec and Petit Verdot. The aromas bring notes of wheat, ripe, dark fruit and spice. Plump, pleasing flavors follow, wanting more acid and/or or tannic structure to fully support them. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35

**88 Brian Carter 2018 Tutturosso Super Tuscan Style Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** Sangiovese makes up 68% of this wine, with the rest Cabernet Sauvignon (17%) and Syrah. It's ripe, with aromas of dried black currant, cherry, licorice and barrel spice. Full bodied dark fruit flavors follow. The pieces don't entirely fit. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$35

**88 Frichette 2019 Punctual (Red Mountain).** Barrel aromas are at the fore, with vanilla and spice, followed by fruit notes of green pepper and dark cherry. Creamy feeling flavors follow, showing the brightness of the vintage. There's great fruit, but the oak somewhat gets in the way. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45

**88 Moonbase Cellars 2020 Moonlapse (Walla Walla Valley).** The aromas show notes of plum, smoke and herb. Plum and orange rind flavors follow, fuller around the edges, lighter in the middle. There's some grittiness on the finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$22

**88 Syncline 2020 Subduction Red (Columbia Valley).** Mourvèdre makes up 51% of this wine, Carignan 30%, Syrah 10% and the rest Grenache. The aromas intrigue, with notes of white pepper, grapefruit rind and fresh herb. The flavors are quite light but expressive, with a touch of smoke

that causes distraction, though some might not notice. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**85 Pacific Rim 2021 Wicked Good Semi-sweet Red (Columbia Valley).** The aromas belie this wine's sweetness, with notes of sugared plum, orange rind, flower and green herb. Medium-sweet flavors follow. For those looking for a sweet red, look no further. —S.S.  
**abv:** 9.1% **Price:** \$13

## OTHER RED WINES

**92 Syncline 2020 Estate Gamay Noir (Columbia Gorge).** This is a niche variety in the state, with this producer leading with way and showing its potential in the right areas. The aromas bring notes of crunchy red fruit, flower and herb. The flavors are full feeling, fresh and direct, bringing the acidity of the variety. The balance impresses, with laser focused purity. It's flat out delicious. Give it time to open up. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$45

**91 Eight Bells 2019 Red Willow Vineyard Sangiovese (Yakima Valley).** All of the fruit for this wine comes from a single block, planted in the 1990s to a mixture of Piccolo and Grosso clones. The aromas immediately pull you in, with notes of cranberry, red cherry and herb. Medium bodied flavors follow, all about elegance and purity. It's dazzling. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Frichette 2019 Malbec (Red Mountain).** Generous aromas of blue fruit, dried herb and spice lead to plump feeling, silky soft fruit flavors. Like many wines from this cooler vintage, it's lighter through the middle though still pleases. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

**89 Wilridge 2018 Estate Mourvèdre (Naches Heights).** The aromas offer notes of boysenberry, thistle, black pepper and red fruit. Exuberant, tart flavors follow. A pleasingly tart finish caps it off. There are fascinating pieces. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**88 Domaine Pouillon 2019 Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge).** Pinot Noir is a relative rarity in Washington, with the Gorge one of the area's that shows the most promise for the variety. Aged in neutral French oak for 26 months, aromas of candy, cherry and herb lead to fuller feeling flavors. Tart acids cap it off. It's equal parts interesting and successful. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$50

**88 Long Cellars 2020 Carménère (Yakima Valley).** All of the fruit for this wine comes from Glacier Vineyard. The aromas bring notes of green pepper, jalapeño pepper and black cherry.

Plush feeling but light, peppery flavors follow. It's a very enjoyable, very varietal offering. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$40

**87 Columbia Winery 2019 Malbec (Red Mountain).** The aromas bring notes of extremely ripe dried cherry, vanilla dried herb and spice. The flavors are full bodied, showing a mix of dark fruit and vanilla barrel notes. It seems evolved for its age and the variety hard to find. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$40

**86 Wilridge 2018 Estate Nebbiolo (Naches Heights).** This variety is nearly non-existent in Washington except for a few spots. Aromas of dried celery, red cherry and Red Vines lead to light red fruit flavors with impressive acid. The tannins give a squeeze. It's interesting, though the aromas and palate don't fully match. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

# SPIRITS

Young cognac deserves some love, too

In Cognac, the longest-aged (and often fanciest-looking and most expensive) expressions tend to get the most attention. Yet, the youngest versions of France's signature brandy deserve some love, too.

VS Cognac—aka “Very Special” Cognac—must be aged for a minimum of two years, according to the Bureau National Interprofessionnel du Cognac (BNIC), which represents the Cognac appellation. The label may also say “Selection,” “De Luxe,” or may simply have three stars (\*\*\*) to designate the VS category. Specifically, that means the youngest eau-de-vie (distillate) used to create the blend was aged in oak barrels for at least two years. Older eau-de-vie may be part of the blend too; Cognac producers typically blend together eau-de-vie of various ages.

For reference, VSOP is aged a minimum of 4 years; XO a minimum of 10 years; XXO a minimum of 12 years; and Reserve a minimum of 25 years.

It's affordable, it's mixable, and it can be a great starting point if you want to work your way through to the older expressions.

So what makes VS worth a look? It's affordable, it's mixable, and it can be a great starting point if you want to work your way through to the older expressions of a particular brand.

To be clear, VS Cognacs can be a little on the fiery side compared to longer-aged counterparts that have had significant time to mel-

low. But they can also show a lively framework of fruit and spice, not yet cloaked in too much vanilla and caramel from accumulated barrel time. It can be like a glimpse of a gawky colt before it ages into a thoroughbred.

And as the well-preserved French of “a certain age” demonstrate that age can be just a number, this month's reviews

also include a selection of non-age statement (NAS) Cognacs. NAS has become a staple in the world of single malt whiskeys—a trend that began when demand spiked and older whiskeys were harder to source—but it's not often seen in Cognac. —Kara Newman

**95 Larsen Aqua Ignis Cognac (France; Marussia Beverages USA, Cedar Knolls, NJ).** This Cognac is aged in barrels that are “steam-toasted,” meaning it's immersed in water, then toasted. The end result is a deep amber hue and pleasing hazelnut, cocoa and vanilla on nose and palate. Hints of dried cherry and date lead into a nutmeg and cinnamon-flecked finish. Enjoy alongside a dessert pairing or mix into cocktails. No age statement.  
abv: 42.3% Price: \$50

**94 Pierre Ferrand 1840 Original Formula Cognac (France; W.J. Deutsch & Sons, Stamford, CT).** For full review see page 26.  
abv: 45% Price: \$47

**93 Jean-Luc Pasquet L'Organic 04 Cognac (France; Skurnik Wines & Spirits, New York, NY).** Look for a bright golden hue and dried apricot and white flower aromas. The soft palate echoes that floral note, layering it with mouthwatering hints of pear, golden raisin and apricot, leading to

lively ginger and white pepper sparks on the finish. Made with a blend of four- and five-year-old eau de vie.  
abv: 40% Price: \$59

**93 Tycoon VS Cognac (France; Interactions & Transactions, Napa, CA).** For full review see page 26.  
abv: 40% Price: \$45

**92 Courvoisier VS Cognac (France; Beam Suntory, Chicago, IL).** Mild oak and almond aromas lead the nose. Dried fig, raisin and baked apple sit beneath a light blanket of vanilla, exiting with brisk baking spice and a flicker of alcohol heat. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 40% Price: \$35

**91 Naud VS Cognac (France; M.S. Walker, Norwood, MA).** Delicate stone fruit aromas lead into vanilla and oak on the silky, mouthwatering

palate, tapering off with plenty of cinnamon and allspice, plus a mentholated hint.  
abv: 40% Price: \$50

**90 Vaudon VS Cognac (France; Ivy Imports, Staten Island, NY).** The aroma mingles oak with hints of baked apple and almond. The lively palate opens with allspice and dried apricot, plus a mild floral exhale. The finish is warmed with plenty of brisk baking spice. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 40% Price: \$31

**89 Cognac Park VS Carte Blanche (France; Skurnik Wines & Spirits).** Mellow almond and cinnamon aromas, plus a hint of carnation tease the nose. Delicate sparks of allspice and white pepper open the first sips. Nuanced almond and dried cherry tones are nearly overshadowed by the fiery, mouthwatering finish. Recommended to mix. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 40% Price: \$35

## OTHER COGNAC

**97 Cognac Park XO Limited Edition (Lunar New Year) (France; Skurnik Wines & Spirits, New York, NY).** A limited-edition Cognac in honor of Lunar New Year, look for concentrated caramel aromas and an expressive palate that opens with cocoa laced with clove and cayenne piquancy. The long, complex finish unfurls dried cherry, toffee, allspice and a hint of orange peel, leading to a final leathery exhale. Aged a minimum of 10 years.  
abv: 40% Price: \$117

**96 Remy Martin 1738 Accord Royal (France; Remy Cointreau, New York, NY).** This Cognac has a deep amber hue and bold allspice and caramel aromas. The palate opens with concentrated caramel and toffee, winding into a deep, warming finish dusted with espresso, black pepper and clove.  
abv: 40% Price: \$77

**94 Delamain Ancestral (France; Kobrand, Purchase, NY).** This single cask Cognac has a tawny hue and aromas of oak and cocoa powder. The palate opens with perky baking spice and mouthwatering lemon peel astringency, layered with touches of honey, coconut and almond. The long, drying finish is touched with leather and dusty nutmeg.  
abv: 43% Price: \$217

**94 Maison Dudognon Vieille Reserve Cognac (France; Skurnik Wines & Spirits, New York, NY).** Look for a burnished gold hue and mild floral aromas. The palate is relatively dry, alternating cigar wrapper and espresso with chamomile and honey, finishing long with ginger and clove heat. Pair with a slice of honey cake. Made with eau-de-vie a minimum of 20 years old.  
abv: 40% Price: \$87

**94 Remy Martin Tercet (France; Remy Cointreau, New York, NY).** Bold caramel and oak



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aromas introduce this Cognac. The palate shows plenty of caramel, toffee, and earthy spice, finishing long with hints of sarsaparilla, dried fig, orange peel, allspice and ginger. “Tercet” refers to three lines of poetry; here’s it’s meant to reference the “three masters” who oversee the vineyard, distillery and aging cellars.

**abv:** 42% **Price:** \$150

**94 Remy Martin XO (France; Remy Cointreau, New York, NY).** With a deep amber hue and mellow vanilla aroma, this lush Cognac opens with cocoa powder, vanilla and dried cherry and fig. Hints of violet and clove dry to a walnut finish.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$258

**94 Vaudon VSOP Cognac (France; Ivy Imports, Staten Island, NY).** Mild coconut and baked apple aromas reveal a palate lightly accented with violet and almond. The robust, warming palate brings clove, cayenne, and ginger glow, glossed with a bit of vanilla. 10 years old.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$60

**93 Remy Martin VSOP Cognac (France; Remy Cointreau, New York, NY).** Delicate vanilla and baking spice aromas lead into a butterscotch-tinged palate. Soft mocha fades into ginger and black pepper heat, plus a mouthwatering hint of salinity.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$64

**93 Tycoon VSOP Cognac (France, Interactions & Transactions, Napa, CA).** For full review see page 26.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$65

**92 Delamain Le Tres Venere Cognac (France; Kobrand, Purchase, NY).** A topaz hue and mild baked apple and dried fig aromas signal what’s to come. The complex, drying palate opens with cigar wrapper and walnut, framed by fleeting grapefruit peel, almond and dried apricot. Cinnamon and clove enliven the long, warming finish.

**Abv:** 40% **Price:** \$511

**91 Maison Dudognon Reserve Cognac (France; Skurnik Wines & Spirits, New York, NY).** This Cognac offers a golden hue and mild honey and white flower aromas. The subtle palate opens with a mild smoky note, then gives over to honey, sandalwood, and a nutmeg and ginger exhale. Made with eau-de-vie a minimum of 10 years old. Best Buy.

**Abv:** 40% **Price:** \$47

**91 Naud VSOP Cognac (France; M.S. Walker, Norwood, MA).** Sprightly stone fruit and almond aromas entice the nose. The soft palate opens with lush hints of black cherry, toasted almond, and hazelnut, winding into a finish laced with cayenne sting.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$60

## OTHER BRANDIES

**96 El Maestro Sierra Solera Brandy Reserva (Spain; De Maison Selections, Chapel Hill, NC).** Founded by a maker of sherry barrels, this brandy is aged in ex-oloroso sherry casks. In solera fashion, the liquid mixes brandies aged 20 to 100 years old -- though likely just a trace of the oldest brandies makes it into the blend. It’s a pleasing, more-ish sipper, with its nut brown hue and dried fig, date and raisin aromas. The heavily sherried palate tends toward fruitcake and cocoa. Syrupy raisin notes flow into the finish enlivened by hints of lemon peel and clove.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$83

**95 Argonaut Speculator Brandy (USA; E&J Gallo, Sanger, CA).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*

**abv:** 43% **Price:** \$38

**94 Navazos Palazzi Pedro Ximenez Single Cask Brandy (Spain; PM Spirits, Wilmington, DE).**

This is a brandy de Jerez aged in oloroso casks, then finished three years in very old sweet Pedro Ximenez casks. The end result is an extraordinarily complex sipper that almost reads like a cocktail. The deep brown hue and bold dried fig aromas signal richness. While the first sips mingle toffee, maple, dried fruit, the finish is surprisingly dry and brisk, showing walnut skin, a hint of grapefruit peel, and cinnamon and cayenne glow. Bottled at cask strength, plan to add water or ice to mellow the appropriately fiery edge. Limited edition: 720 bottles produced.

**abv:** 43% **Price:** \$121 for 375 ml

**93 BrandyLab California Brandy (USA; O’Neill Vintners & Distillers, Parlier, CA).** For full review see page 26.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$35 for 375 ml

**91 Seven Tails XO Brandy (France; Shaw Ross International, Miramar, FL).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*

**abv:** 41.8% **Price:** \$40

**90 Tamworth Garden VSOP Apple Brandy (USA; Tamworth Distilling, Tamworth, NH).** Made with heirloom New Hampshire apples in the style of France’s Calvados and aged four years, this brandy has a tawny hue with orange highlights and rich caramel aromas. The palate opens big and spiced, with cinnamon and clove leading into a juicy midpalate tinged with orange peel. Each warming sip finishes with a burst of cayenne heat.

**abv:** 50% **Price:** \$85

## LIQUEUR (COGNAC-BASED)

**92 Villon (France; Sovereign Brands, New York, NY).** VSOP Cognac and a French wheat spirit form the base of this liqueur. Distinctly sweet raisin, vanilla, and spiced orange aromas waft from the glass. The syrupy palate offers maple, candied

orange peel and candied ginger, leading to a smooth vanilla finish accented with cinnamon and clove.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$45

# BEER

## Don't be afraid of the dark lager revival

While it might be too soon to call it a renaissance, there is definitely renewed interest in dark lagers. Brewers, who have long enjoyed the various styles in the general category—Schwarzbier and bocks—are offering them in taprooms and in package, and consumers are slowly adding them to their drinking repertoire, some even becoming devoted fans.

Traditional lagers are often referred to as refreshing. With moderate abv and often bright golden in color their appearance and flavors are like sunshine and quench thirst on the warmest of days and lend to good times at sporting events or the outdoors.

When darker malts are added to the recipe, the perception can change, but shouldn't.

Darker malts can add toasty or nutty flavors and aromas to these styles while still retaining an overall crispness and refreshing character. Their addition also greatly enhances its relationship with food. From grilled items to raw seafood and fresh fruits, the touch of toasted bread and sometimes slight sweet chocolate or light coffee

Often designed for colder nights, there is a certain pleasure in enjoying them with grilled summer and autumn foods.

notes, greatly expand their depth.

Bocks are also becoming more popular among brewers and drinkers. Typically of moderate strength and malt-forward, these are rich, and a style of beer that often evoke the thought of "liquid bread." Nutty and satisfying, stronger versions are known as doppelbocks and are well suited for big roasts starchy dishes.

Then there are Baltic porters, these are often big boozy beers that offer higher abv and a bit of oomph with each sip. Often designed for colder nights, there is a certain pleasure in enjoying them with grilled summer and autumn foods, or around a campfire after a long day of activity. Some brewers are even barrel-aging this style, boosting up the booze content and adding layers of whisky and other spirits to an already complex beer.

Give the category a try and experiment with the different styles, chances are you'll find one that speaks to your palate and slides into any situation you might find yourself in.

—John Holl

**95 Wayfinder Gravity Drop (Baltic Porter; Wayfinder Beer, OR).** Smooth and full bodied with a touch of prickly carbonation and a bit of dark chocolate fudge atop espresso, this baltic porter brings on herbal, slightly citrusy hop flavors mid-palate. It has a robustness that stands up to assertive cheeses on a charcuterie plate, but also works as a post-shift pint to bring some calm to the day.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$18/16oz 4 pack

**95 Bend Black Diamond (Schwarzbier; Bend Brewing, OR).** This is a light and refreshing dark ale that focuses on toasted malts that have a slightly nutty and woody aroma and flavor. Crisp like the lightest beers on the palate, this session lager is appropriate for long afternoons at the pub surrounded by friends and good conversation.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

**94 Old Irving Lifesblood (Bock; Old Irving Brewing, IL).** An herbal cola with spicy hops com-

bined with some nuttiness and dark bread, this is crisp and hearty with a slightly dry finish. It wants to be paired with grilled sausages at a football game in November.

**abv:** 6% **Price:** \$11/16oz 4 pack

**94 Rockwell Foeder Bock (Doppelbock; Rockwell Beer Co., MO).** After spending a solid amount of time resting in wood, this strong bock has undertones of oak, vanilla, and a little spice. Toasted bread and a nuttiness are present and bring a heartiness to an already strong beer. Enjoy on autumn days when the last of the leaf bags is filled, but more are still falling.  
**abv:** 7.6% **Price:** \$12/16oz 4 pack

**94 Wibby Moondoor Dunkel (Dunkel; Wibby Brewing Co., CO).** Pours a clear dark brown with a fluffy eggshell white head that laces the glass as it empties. With a silky mouthfeel and semi-dry finish, this is an easy drinking dark lager that never

weighs down the palate, offers a kiss of herbal hops and slightly roasted dark malts, and is the perfect drinking companion for any time of year.

**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$11/12oz 6 pack

**91 Rockwell Kazimierz (Baltic Porter; Rockwell Beer Co., MO).** With a mouthfeel that is verging on thick and syrupy but still retains some lightness, this is a sneaky sipper. Roasted chocolate and espresso undertones with a slightly fruity undertone. This has character and gumption and is a beer to soothe the ache of a long, hard day.

**abv:** 9.2% **Price:** \$12/16oz 4 pack

**90 Bissell Brothers One Little Stone (Dark Lager; Bissell Brothers, ME).** Bubbling with herbal hops, this is a rustic minty, flinty, lightly roast-forward easy sipping dark lager. With enough body to make it substantial on the palate without being heavy, this finishes with a hint of light roast coffee. Pair with fresh oysters.

**abv:** 5.8% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

**90 Good Word Past is Prologue (Dark Lager; Good Word Brewing, GA).** The brewery calls this a "half-dark" lager and it pours a lovely dark amber with a slightly off white head that laces the glass. Slightly nutty, with soft floral herbal hops, and a touch of sweetness on the finish. This is a collaboration with Threes Brewing.

**abv:** 4.6% **Price:** TK/16oz 4 pack

**90 Von Trapp Dunkel (Dunkel; Von Trapp Brewing, VT).** Pours a chestnut color with low head and aft aromas of light chocolate and cola, a nuttiness comes on mid palate and continues to a dry finish. This is an appropriate pub beer for a rainy afternoon.

**abv:** 5.7% **Price:** \$21/12oz 6 pack

**89 Enegren Dunkel (Dunkel; Enegren Brewing, CA).** An easy-drinking and refreshing dark lager with aromas of lightly toasted nut and bread crust, and a slight herbal hop aromas that appears on the finish as pleasing bitterness. Crisp throughout with a pleasant disposition, this pairs perfectly with a comfortable chair that is aligned with warm summer breezes.

**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$12/16oz 4 pack

**89 New Image Lenny (dark lager; New Image Brewing, CO).** A collaboration between New Image and Cohesion Brewing, this dark amber lager has sweet toasted marshmallow aromas with a soft mouthfeel, and nutty bread character near the finish. A companion of roast chicken dinners and other light fare.

**abv:** 3.5% **Price:** TK/16oz 4 pack

**89 Wibby Schwarzbier (Schwarzbier; Wibby Brewing, CO).** Light and refreshing with simple notes of fruity coffee and chocolate. A warm weather sipper, perfect with just about anything pulled from the grill.

**abv:** 5.4% **Price:** 12/12oz 6 pack

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**88 Good Word Only Memories Remain (Dark lager; Good Word Brewing, GA).** A delicate light sipper that has a touch of toasted nuttiness and whiffs of grilled dark bread. Refreshing and easy going, this is perfect to early afternoon tailgates with friends.  
**abv:** 4.4% **Price:** TK/16oz 4 pack

**88 Great Raft Old Man Joy (Barrel-aged lager; Great Raft Brewing, LA).** Bursting with boozy wood and vanilla, this barrel-aged Baltic porter brings on the whiskey in the first sip and an alcohol, assertive way. It's hearty and thick and makes an impression long after the last sip is consumed. Proceed with caution and a smile.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** TK/16oz 4 pack

**88 Montclair Black Mamba (Schwarzbier; Montclair Brewing, NJ).** With light roast and herbal hops, this is an easy-going any time of the year Schwarzbier that well balances ingredients into an enjoyable pint.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$20/16oz 4 pack

**88 Old Irving Ursa Major (Baltic Porter; Old Irving Brewing, IL).** A lively medium bodied sipper with strong coffee roast and a bit of herbal hops on the mid-palate. With moderate alcohol and a slight cola syrup aroma on the backend, this would be an ideal companion to a roast dinner.  
**abv:** 6.6% **Price:** \$11/16oz 4 pack

**87 Wibby Double Dunkel (Dunkel; Wibby Brewing Co., CO).** A cocoa-forward dark lager with a touch of earthy sugar in the middle that finishes slightly sweet. This is brewed with both chocolate and vanilla beans, but it is never cloying. Just right for evenings when a little bit of a treat will do.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$12/12oz 6 pack

**86 Rockwell Static (Schwarzbier; Rockwell Beer Co., MO).** A combination of cola and copper-twined hops come forth from this mineral and slightly nutty Schwarzbier. A bit of road and faint coffee, this cuts through the noise of a busy afternoon and allows for a quiet moment at the pub.  
**abv:** 4.6% **Price:** \$10/16oz 4 pack

**86 Wibby Störbock (Bock; Wibby Brewing, CO).** With an assertive roast and herbal hop character this ruddy dark brown lager retains some crispness and lightness through the sip. Appropriate for cooler months, this is like a light sweater for your palate.  
**abv:** 8.3% **Price:** \$12/12oz 6 pack

**85 New Image Schooley (Black lager; New Image Brewing, CO).** This collaboration with fellow Colorado brewer Cohesion, is a mineral forward black lager that has some toasted dark sourdough bread notes along with hay-accented hops. A pub beer for sure, especially on a hot and rainy day where this will add atmosphere and refreshment.  
**abv:** TK **Price:** TK/16oz 4 pack

**85 Nod Hill Wanderstar (Dunkel; Nod Hill Brewery, CT).** Nutty and rustic with flashes of

sweet fudge and dark cola on the aroma and palate. With a light body and medium carbonation this is a refresher for sunset pints on a hot summer afternoon.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$16/16oz 4 pack

**85 Revision Nocturnal Visions (Schwarzbier; Revision Brewing, NV).** Undertones of sweet cola with a minerality, and soft body. This Schwarzbier offers up easy refreshment and a low abv for days when taking it easy extends by a few hours.  
**abv:** 4.7% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

**85 Sapporo Black (Schwarzbier; Sapporo, Vietnam).** With aromas of cola, generic red fruit, and whiffs of metallic malt, this sweet-ish lager is medium bodied with rounded carbonation. A touch of roast malt flavor comes on mid-palate before herbal hops arrive on the finish.  
**abv:** 4% **Price:** \$4/22oz

**84 Lakefront Baltic Fire (Baltic Porter; Lakefront Brewing, WI).** A strong dark lager brewed with vanilla, that gives it a sweet and familiar disposition. Undertones of fudge and light coffee roast combine to create an after dinner sipper.  
**abv:** 6.8% **Price:** TK/12oz 6 pack

**83 Crafthaus Cuckoo (Dunkel; Crafthaus Brewing, NV).** Undertones of wet toasted malt and aged coffee beans, with a touch of grassy hay-forward hops and a slightly bitter finish.  
**abv:** 5.4% **Price:** \$15/16oz 4 pack