

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

A beautiful home surrounded by nature in the hills of Verona, Italy.

THIS MONTH

20	ITALY	69	CALIFORNIA	125	VIRGINIA
41	FRANCE	96	OREGON	126	NORTH CAROLINA
57	PORTUGAL	112	WASHINGTON	127	AMERICA
59	SPAIN	122	IDAHO	127	ARGENTINA
63	GERMANY	122	MINNESOTA	127	AUSTRALIA
67	ENGLAND	123	MICHIGAN	129	NEW ZEALAND
68	HUNGARY	123	TEXAS	132	SPIRITS
68	BULGARIA	123	NEW YORK		
68	GEORGIA	125	NEW JERSEY		
69	LEBANON	125	MARYLAND		

BUYINGGUIDE

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Italy is the RuPaul of the wine world because it has as many grape varieties as Ru has outfits.

—Reggie Solomon

WE ASKED OUR TASTERS TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:

“Italy is the [person/noun] of the wine world because [short explanation].”

Italy is the Nonna of the wine world because the recipes are old school, the names are familiar even if you can't remember why and the wines themselves scream at you to eat more pasta.

—Thomas Capo

Italy is the Colman Domingo of the wine world because it never fails to inspire my heart to sing.

—Michael Alberty

Italy is the Barbara Streisand of the wine world: timeless, classic and stupendously dramatic; its diva status has been hard earned.

—Christina Pickard

Italy is the Cupid of the wine world—always looking to pair any of its incredibly diverse wines with the perfect culinary partner.

—Nils Bernstein

STAFF EDITORS

Anna-Christina Cabrales: Burgundy, Champagne, Rhône Valley
Cody Wexler: Provence, Bandol, Méditerranée

WRITERS AT LARGE

Michael Alberty: Oregon, Washington, Alaska, North & South Dakota, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, Wyoming & Canada

Brandon Borcoman: Northwest Spain
Elaine Chukan Brown: Napa & Northeast Spain

Danielle Callegari: Tuscany & Southern Italy

Tom R. Capo: Sonoma County, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas

Cheron Cowan: US States from Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi to the East Coast (excluding New York)

Matt Kettmann: Central Coast & Southern California, Languedoc-Roussillon

Kara Newman: Spirits & Ready-to-Drink

Christina Pickard: Australia, New Zealand, England, New York

Tonya Pitts: Northern California & California AVA, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Utah

Jeff Porter: Piedmont & Northern Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland

Emily Saladino: Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lebanon

Reggie Solomon: Beaujolais, Loire Valley, Southern Coastal Spain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Israel, Macedonia, Montenegro & Asia

Jessica Vargas: Latin America & Africa

Roger Voss: Bordeaux, Corsica, Southwest France & Portugal

Aleks Zecevic: Austria, Germany, Alsace, Jura/Savoie, Vin de France, Armenia, Czech Republic, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Moldova

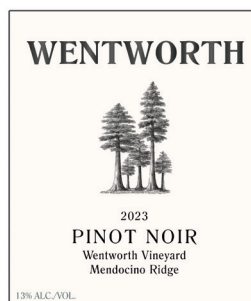


100 Roederer Estate 2019 L'Ermitage Brut Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).

If sunshine could be bottled, it would be this sparkler, with aromas of succulent stone fruit, slight yeast, citrus blossom and quince on the nose. The mousse is creamy and light, with baked red apple, blood orange zest, white grapefruit and sticky caramel, with layered saline and a mouthwatering finish. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$80



100 Wentworth 2023 Wentworth Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).

This vineyard sits high above the Anderson Valley, 14 minutes from the Pacific Ocean. The scent of the ocean permeates the air. Likewise, alpine aromas on the nose of this wine evoke cedar, pine, nettles, lingonberry, Bing cherry, white strawberry, citrus and sweet vanilla. Flavors on the palate reflect the tension of red fruit, dried herbs, baking spices and citrus all tethered together. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$125

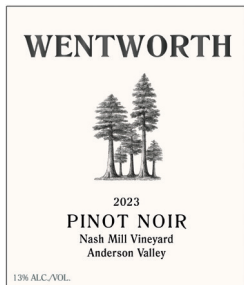


98 Brezza 2021 Sarmassa (Barolo).

The reserved initial profile unfolds like tea leaves steeped in blood-orange essence, revealing layers of complexity. Dried cherries seem to awaken spiced and rehydrated, while potpourri notes add ethereal lift. The palate moves with measured grace, each element in perfect alignment, revealing the true nobility of Nebbiolo. Here is power clothed in silk, depth without weight, a wine that speaks of place with crystalline clarity. Brezza Giacomo e Figli dal 1885. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$87



98 **Wentworth 2023 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This bottling is chock-full of aromas of cranberry, orange, sage and clove, with notes of marigold on the nose. The palate is filled with red currant, Bing cherry, white peach and rosemary sprigs, with an earthy, dry finish. While enjoyable now, this wine is built for years of drinking pleasure. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$78



97 **Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Rich and boisterous yet taut and refreshing on the nose, this single-vineyard expression immediately entertains with aromas of black cherry, boysenberry and turned loam. The palate is firm and tense in structure. Snappy acidity sails through flavors of black raspberry, rhubarb pie and spiced plum, finishing with a tightly wound hint of rose petal. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70



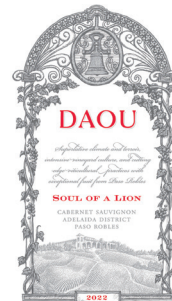
97 **Pio Cesare 2021 Mosconi (Barolo).** Aromas of dusty dried cherries lead a procession down a gravel path, with black tea leaves and whispers of cigarbox spice. Warmed plums and fruit compote ascend on the palate, lifted by blood orange zest and fresh herbs. The elegant tannins descend like royalty on a grand staircase—floating, not walking. The finish refuses to bid farewell, lingering like the last dance at a royal ball. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200



97 **Pio Cesare 2021 Ornato (Barolo).** Like an ancient tale told in hushed tones, this powerhouse unfolds with brooding dark fruits, while star anise and juniper berries weave their spicy narrative through waves of dried black currants. The wine commands attention, with mountainous structure and an earthy finale that echoes through time. This is Serralunga's muscular soul captured in a bottle, promising decades of storytelling ahead. Drink from 2028. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$180



97 **Roederer Estate 2019 L'Ermitage Brut Rosé Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Aromas of this wine are fresh, with notes of peach, kumquat, crème fraîche, tiny red berries and orange blossom. The midpalate is creamy Orange Julius with fine bubbles, delicious golden apple, raspberry, acacia flower and brioche, with a lip-smacking, laser focus on the finish. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$115



96 **Daou 2022 Soul of a Lion Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Very dark in the glass, this intensely complex bottling offers walnut, pecan, blackberry, black tea and raspberry leaf aromas on the nose. The palate is warm and inviting with flavors of toasty cocoa, rich red and black berries, and roasted hazelnut, retaining tension and fresh acidity even for such a dense wine. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$150



96 **Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Soberanes Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Hailing from what is always one of the most reliable regions for ageworthy Syrah, this single-vineyard expression begins with aromas of black plum, elderberry jam, lavender, tar and slightly dank herbs on the nose. The palate pops with acidity and a zesty white-pepper spice, as baked cherry and root beer flavors form the core. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

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TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

Products are blind 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.

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.
	Hidden Gems:	Are products which are not your typical regional finds, but should not be missed. These fun, esoteric wines are priced above \$20 and score above 87 points.
	Best Buys:	Are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. Wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$20 or less, and are designated Best Buys after surpassing 85 points and a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark.

SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW:

Products should be submitted as detailed in our FAQ, available online via [wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating](https://www.wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating). Address inquiries to tastings@wineenthusiast.com.

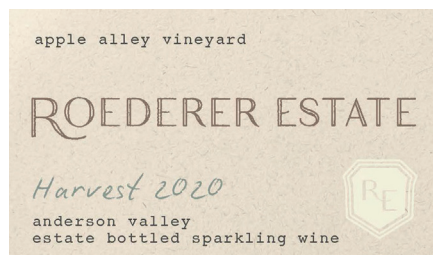
LABELS:

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; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.com.

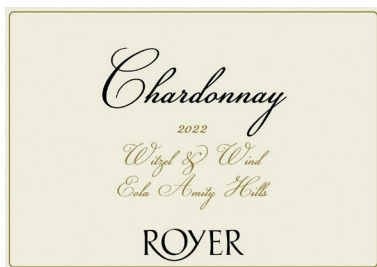
Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at [wineenthusiast.com/ratings](https://www.wineenthusiast.com/ratings)



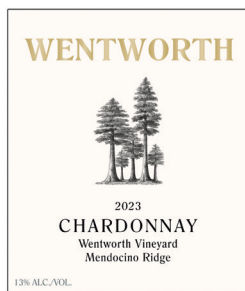
96 Mountain Terraces Winery & Vineyards 2021 Cabernet Franc (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This blockbuster Cabernet Franc brings aromas of spiced plum compote, mint and violets on the nose. The palate delivers flavors of fig, crushed blackberry, shattered stone and black pepper. Delicious now, this will improve with five years or more in the cellar. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$140



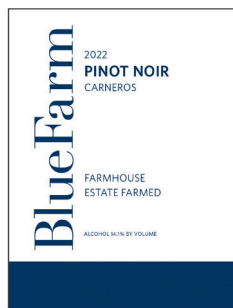
96 Roederer Estate 2020 Apple Alley Vineyard Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). The nose of this wine offers a mélange of splendid aromas, including Bosc pear, tangerine and wild-flower honey. The mousse is medium yet creamy, with flavors of green apple, spiced orange marmalade, Swedish Fish candy, dried apricot and minerals, with a dry, mouthwatering finish. **Editor's Choice.** —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$55



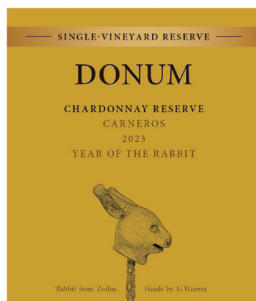
96 Royer 2022 Witzel & Wind Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This wine made me question my policy of resisting the temptation to compare Willamette Valley wines to Burgundy. I was geographically disoriented as I took in the wine's toasted filbert, white-peach and crab apple flower aromas. Witzel & Wind strikes with a heady mix of lemon, tangerine and white grapefruit, with flecks of rosemary and saline. I will have this wine chilled and ready when Dungeness crab season hits. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115



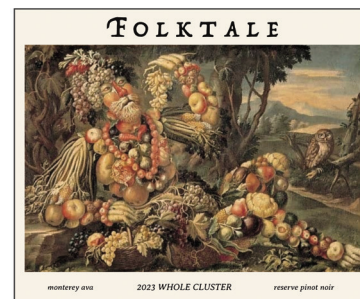
96 Wentworth 2023 Wentworth Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge). Aromas of crisp apple, Meyer lemon zest, nettle, white tea, alpine air and a kiss of vanilla waft on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate suggest Golden Delicious apple, grilled orange slice, cinnamon and orange pekoe tea intertwined with minerality, sweet spice and a supple finish. Drink now–2032. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$82



95 Blue Farm 2022 Farmhouse Pinot Noir (Carneros). Bright, energetic aromas of black cherry, fresh raspberry, anise and orange peel burst on the nose of this wine. The palate balances intense cherry, spiced plum, cola and black tea flavors that vibrate all along a finish that's loaded with rich tannin. Delicious now, this will blossom with a few years in the cellar. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$95



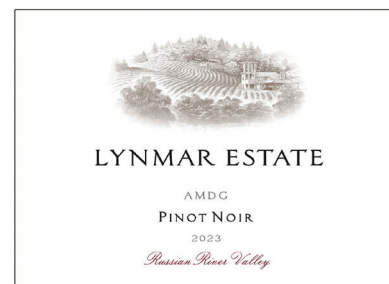
95 Donum Estate 2023 Single-Vineyard Reserve Year of the Rabbit Chardonnay (Carneros). Pure energy, this sunshine-driven Chardonnay has focused aromas of lemon, tart pineapple, green pear and shattered stone on the nose. The palate brings flavors of citrus curd, nectarine, pithy lemon peel and saline that vibrate with electric acidity along the finish. Delicious now, it will improve for five or more years in the cellar. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$125



95 Folktale 2023 Whole Cluster Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey). Sultry aromas of wild plum, rhubarb and rose petal potpourri draw the nose into this whole-cluster bottling. A blast of acidity on the palate is well integrated into waves of tart boysenberry jam and orange peel flavors that pick up a hint of woodspice on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



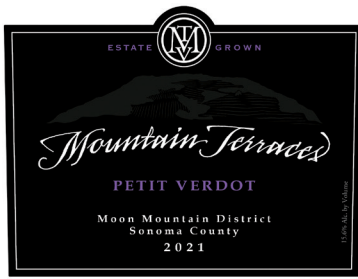
95 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dark and deep aromas of boysenberry meet with fresh hits of crisp pomegranate, floral hibiscus and a tinge of cinnamon on the nose of this complex bottling. The bold palate's blackberry and black currant flavors are cut by black pepper, lavender and violet flavors, all edged by an intense acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80



95 Lynmar Estate 2023 AMDG Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Complex and captivating, the nose of this wine displays layer upon layer of fresh cranberry, spiced cherry and rose petal aromas. The palate delivers waves of juicy raspberry-orange acidity, plush tannins and flavors of macerated cherry, cocoa powder and cinnamon. Yummy now, this will age seamlessly for a decade or more. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$85



95 Moon Tears 2023 Brisat Albariño (Lake County). This wine is opulent, with aromas of ripe peach, apricot, citrus and jasmine on the nose. The flavors on the palate are white nectarine, white tea, white grapefruit zest and dried sage, interlaced with orange blossom honey, honeycomb and a dry, supple finish. This bottling sees some oak and lees stirring. Pair with steamed seabream, orange slices and butter sauce. —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



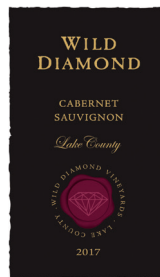
95 Mountain Terraces Winery & Vineyards 2021 Petit Verdot (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This opaque and forceful Petit Verdot delivers classic mountain character, with aromas of black plum, purple flowers and black pepper on the nose. The palate brings waves of blueberry and plum fruit, with rich tannin that begs for a decade or more in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$160



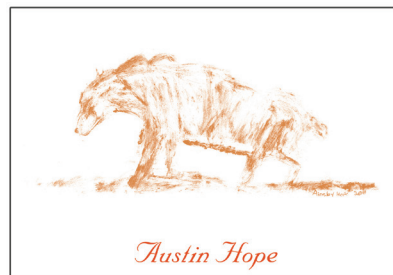
95 Saracina 2023 Lolonis Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino). This old-vine Sauvignon Blanc is lush, with aromatics of fennel, white peach, white grapefruit and white flowers on the nose. Flavors on the palate are kumquat, red apple skin and Meyer lemon, layered with mineral, citrus zest, spice and a dry, supple finish. Pair with roasted red snapper, Thai basil and coconut milk. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42



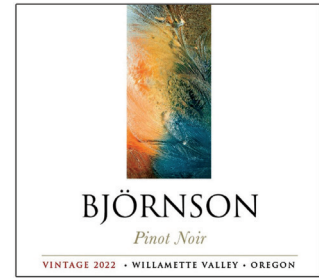
95 Vasse Felix 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Nearly always the best bargain in this top Margaret River producer's range, this middle "Premier" tier delivers all the iron-fist-in-velvet-glove beauty you could hope for from this famed West Aussie style. There's an evocative perfume of black-currant cordial, pencil tip, nori, dried herbs and florals. Cab's unmistakably powerful tannins sweep in on the palate, sculpting and tightening, but herby, succulent fruit and freshening acidity hold their own. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45



95 Wild Diamond 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). This wine is vibrant, with aromas of dark cherry, star anise, dried rose petal, sage and Tahitian vanilla on the nose. Flavors on the palate are bramble plum, cranberry-rhubarb and brandied cherry, interwoven with brûléed orange slices, allspice and supple tannins to finish. Decant and pair with beef bourguignon. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58



94 Austin Hope 2022 Mourvèdre (Templeton Gap District). Lush boysenberry, blueberry and caramelized oak aromas draw the nose deeply into this rich bottling. The palate is suave in texture with just the right amount of tension, offering blueberry pie, vanilla ice cream and sea-salt caramel flavors that work well together. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



94 Björnson 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A bright red aromatic combination of raspberries and pie cherries is raised to perfume status by bursts of dried rose petals and a warm, lemon-scented dryer sheet. This free-fall freshness continues on the palate, where a supernatural level of acidity powers the wine's blackcap raspberry, anise and chrysanthemum tea flavors. This juicy treat is one heck of a value. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29



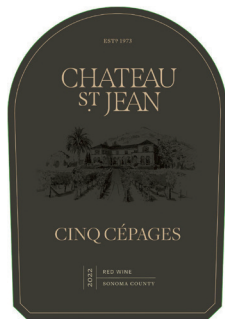
94 Carpineto 2019 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is an interplay between savory and saline, with aromas of crushed rocks, new leather, fresh-brewed coffee, wild strawberry and orange peel. The palate sweetens with cherries and more strawberries, but that flinty, citrusy element lingers for balance. Dusty, chewy tannins contrast well with a luxurious mouthfeel. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$138



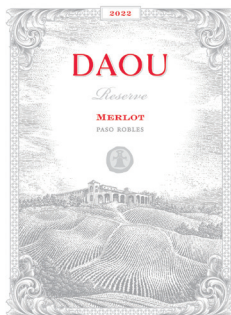
94 Carpineto 2020 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is sweet and comforting, with aromas of vanilla, cherry blossom, wild strawberry and orange peel. The palate brings the more playful sweetness of cherries, strawberries and chocolate vanilla swirl, but a hot streak of acid and a spiced finish provide balance. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72



94 Chalk Hill 2022 Estate Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Chalk Hill). Concentrated aromas of black cherry, plum and coffee lift the nose of this blend. The palate delivers a punchy wave of raspberry acidity, supple tannin, flavors of berry compote and flowers that blossom on the finish. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$75



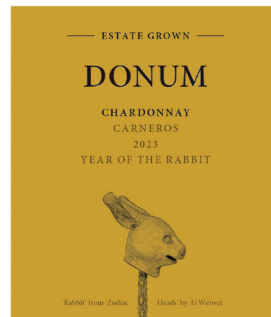
94 Chateau St. Jean 2022 Cinq Cépages Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). Aromas of cherry, black plum and bitter cocoa powder flow from the glass on the nose of this blend. The palate is punchy and weighty, with loads of gripping tannin, spice and crushed berry flavors. Best from 2030–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130



94 Daou 2022 Reserve Merlot (Paso Robles). Deep and dark aromas of charred walnut and caramel-drizzled baked fruits show on the nose of this seriously considered Merlot. The palate is viscous and toasty, offering mocha, pecan crumble and baked berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60



94 Domaine Serene MV Evenstad Reserve Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills). This multi-vintage blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and reserve wine is a wondrous aromatic mix of strawberries, hibiscus flowers, chalkboard dust and a trace of saline. Its rich texture and subtle acidity are the backdrop for ripe, bittersweet cranberries, pine needle tea, and orange-zest flavors. Pour this bubbly with sunsets, neap tides and a beach blanket. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$105



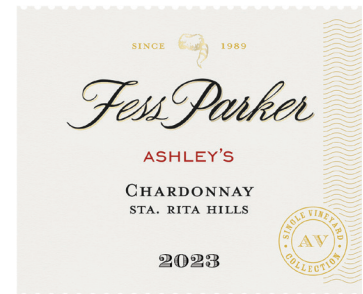
94 Donum Estate 2023 Estate Grown Year of the Rabbit Chardonnay (Carneros). Beautifully detailed aromas of Meyer lemon, river rock, nectarine and lemon balm flow on the nose of this wine. The palate brings a brace of pithy citrus acidity and flavors of green apple, fresh linen, chalk and salty lemon peel. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$75



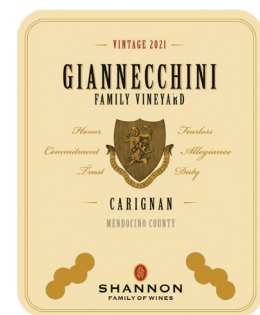
94 Dumb Luck 2017 GSM (Lake County). This wine is concentrated, with aromas of boysenberry, dark cherry, violets and incense on the nose. Flavors on the palate are black currant coulis and orange zest, interlaced with coriander, crushed bay leaf and a mouthwatering finish. Pair with grilled portobello mushrooms and polenta. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48



94 Echolands 2021 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Black fruit, leather and talc aromas burst from the glass before the pour is complete. Brawny tannins that tickle the roof of the mouth guide the wine's blueberry compote, black tea and horehound candy flavors. The wine's mouthfeel is lithe and elegant, with a surprising level of acidity bringing the juiciness. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42



94 Fess Parker 2023 Ashley's Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). A toasty touch of brioche arises on the nose of this wine, as baked lemon and lemon blossom aromas carry deeper. The palate shows a stony grip, as lemon granita and ginger flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48



94 Gianecchini 2021 Carignan (Mendocino). This selection of old-vine Carignan comes from highly acclaimed Gianecchini Family Vineyard. Rich and concentrated, it offers aromas of ripe blackberry, huckleberry, cardamom and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors are red plum, Bing cherry, black currant, black licorice and dried tobacco leaf, with dry, supple tannins on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50



94 Glassblower 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). An impressive Cabernet that brings together succulent dark fruits with a bright wash of acidity and an enticing integration of aromatic woods, baking spice and cocoa powder. The tannins persist while being powder fine, allowing the option to age or enjoy now. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



94 LucidWild 2022 Chosen LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The Chosen aroma of macerated strawberries laced with vanilla and cream is like breakfast at Wimbledon. With a little air time, the aromas shift to blackcap raspberries and oats. A sizzling acidity backhand launches Bing cherry, white peach and sage tea flavors. The tannins feel integrated already, making for an opulent texture. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$330



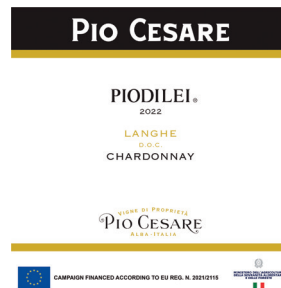
94 LucidWild 2022 Fusion LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Forget Pat Metheny and jazz—LucidWild Pinot Noir is where it's at for fusion these days. Dark blackberry fruit takes the aroma steering wheel, with earthy oregano and hanger steak notes coming along for the ride. Silky tannins and gentle acidity frame flavors like dark plum and blackberry, with a spicy/savory taste that will put you in the mood for prosciutto. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95



94 Lytle-Barnett 2018 Brut Rosé Pinot Noir-Charbonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Bubbles as persistent as an 8-year-old with a question help deliver aromas of dried rose petals, macerated strawberries and a touch of fresh hay and talc. This blend is packed with flavors of lemon zest, Honeycrisp apple slices drizzled in caramel and a dollop of raspberry. You can't help but feel elegant with this sparkler in your glass. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75



94 Pellegrini 2023 Olivet Lane Vineyard White Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This wildly aromatic White Pinot Noir explodes from the glass with aromas of white cherries, rose petals and orange pith. The palate is a beautiful wash of fresh acidity, nectarine and strawberry flavors, with a subtle grip of tannin that pulses along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40



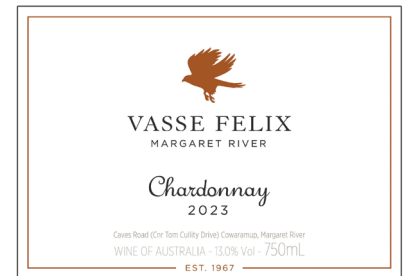
94 Pio Cesare 2022 Piodilei (Langhe). A graceful expression of Chardonnay from Piedmont showing both finesse and structure. The bouquet emerges with balletic precision: delicate white flowers, ripe golden apple, vanilla bean notes, all with remarkable restraint. The palate balances creamy texture against vibrant acidity. Like a skilled dancer, it maintains perfect poise between richness and elegance, building complexity with each sip. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60



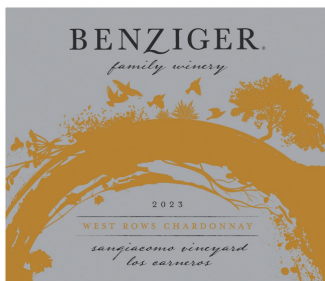
94 Roux Père et Fils 2022 Les Macherelles Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This wine opens with an energetic, layered nose where fresh white-rose blossoms lay atop a bowl of crisp pears and apples, enhanced by weavings of vanilla and citrus oil. On the palate, mouthwatering acidity keeps things focused, revealing a salty, stony mineral core. Subtle white peach, almond and light vanilla draw you in with every sip. Captivating. *Editor's Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA



94 Saracina 2023 Chardonnay (Mendocino). Lively aromatics of Pink Lady apple, pineapple, citrus, dried herbs, marigold and hints of vanilla cream arise on the nose of this wine. Fresh, crisp flavors dance across the palate, tinged by white peach, grapefruit and canned fruit cocktail. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23



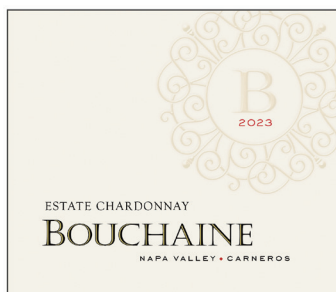
94 Vasse Felix 2023 Chardonnay (Margaret River). This gem of a wine opens with opulent aromas of crushed oyster shells, nuts, cantaloupe and lemon, with a flaky pastry-crust note at the back. There's a fabulous lift of mouthwatering acidity with textural interest and grilled citrus and melon flavors lingering long after you've swallowed. Superbly balanced and food friendly. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45



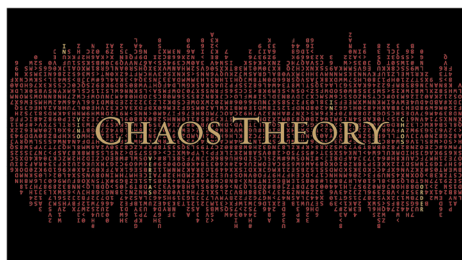
93 Benziger Family Winery 2023 West Rows Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Light, bright and enchanting, this Chard delivers aromas of white flowers, green apple and river rock on the nose. The palate brings waves of tangerine, lemon pith, spice and green herb mélange before an ethereal finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$48



93 Binè 2020 Vigna Gambarotta Riserva (Gavi). Aromas of freshly cooled baked pears mingle with roasted lemon and fading flower petals. The palate shows precise acidity weaving through layers of golden apple, ripe Bosc pear and quince paste, while a pronounced mineral character emerges. The texture builds to a distinctive chalky finish that leaves a lasting impression. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33



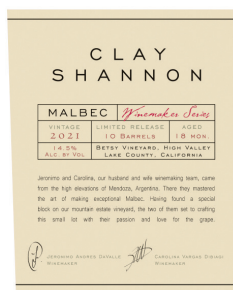
93 Bouchaine 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Sweet almond, lemon curd and spiced pink and white grapefruit are accented by a hint of flintiness and mineral lines through a mouthwatering finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45



93 Brown Estate 2022 Chaos Theory Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). This concentrated Merlot-Zinfandel-Petite Sirah blend brings waves of cherry gastrique, raspberry liqueur, violets and caramel on the nose. The palate leans into ripe blueberry, dark chocolate and raspberry coulis, with expansive texture and velvety tannin. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



93 Carlton Hill 2022 Tournament Reserve Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Don your whites, grab your mallets, open this wine and prepare for a rousing Sunday afternoon of croquet and Pinot Noir. The wine's lavender-water and boysenberry aromas seem well-fitted to the occasion, with flavors of tart red raspberries, white tea and orange zest. The Tournament Reserve holds no sticky wickets, as it is nicely balanced with an almost ethereal texture. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



93 Clay Shannon 2021 Winemaker Series Malbec (High Valley). The Argentinian husband-and-wife winemaking team at Clay Shannon showcases the best high-altitude-inspired wines through the Winemaker Series. Sink your teeth into lush blackberry, boysenberry, roasted sweet chiles, maple, bittersweet chocolate, earth and silky tannins on the finish. Aerate and enjoy. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



93 CRU Winery 2022 Sierra Madre Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Subtle pomegranate aromas pop with a touch of sharpness on the nose of this bottling. The palate is far more complex, pairing bright cherry flavors with peppery spices and menthol-like herb elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50



93 Domaine 524 2022 Lucky 13 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Lucky 13 is no gamble. It is a well-made, balanced Pinot Noir with a texture as elegant as Daniel Craig in a tuxedo playing baccarat. The wine's earthy aromas of freshly tilled soil and oregano are flanked by notes of blackberry and lavender. Blackberries also rule on the palate, joined by spicy flavors of cinnamon and rye bread. You can make banco with the Lucky 13, so let it ride. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$32



93 Echolands 2023 Rocksy Music Grenache (Walla Walla Valley). Brambleberries and burlap mixed with sweet and creamy gardenias form an aromatic package that do The Rocks proud. A tangy pie cherry flavor is joined by lesser amounts of saffra and warm phyllo dough pastry. The acidity is Bryan Ferry level, with enough tang to make you want to do the strand. Pour this wine to make new friends. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45



93 Falcone Family Vineyards 2023 Syrah (Paso Robles). Berry compote aromas are enhanced by hints of peppercorn and rosemary ash on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with zesty raspberry, cranberry and pomegranate flavors, as bay leaf and more peppery spices provide a savory edge. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32



93 Ferrari-Carano 2022 PreVail West Face Red Blend (Alexander Valley). Waves of concentrated raspberry, cherry and cinnamon jump from the glass on the nose of this blend of Cab and Syrah. The palate balances rich berry character with cedary spice, purple flowers and broad, gripping tannins. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$100



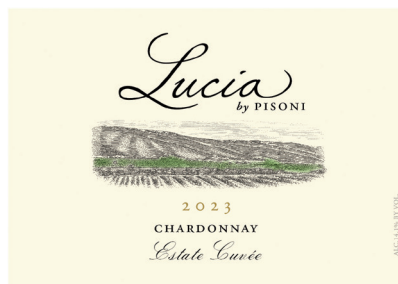
93 J Vineyards & Winery 2023 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This lively wine displays balanced aromas of Gala apple, lemon zest and white flowers on the nose. Flavors of pear, grilled pineapple, ginger and sage join well-integrated oak and a long, supple finish with echoes of lemon peel, saline and apple blossom. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



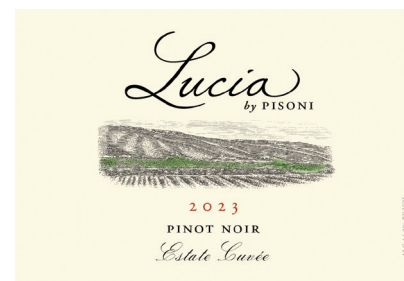
93 Jayson 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Lush, velvety and giving, this full-bodied Cabernet delivers a mouthful of flavor ushering to a long finish. Crisp red berries and cassis join with a fresh, woody lift followed by oak spices and a plush finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$110



93 Lava Cap 2022 Zinfandel (El Dorado). In this AVA, the highest peaks are at 2,700 feet, producing fruit with full flavors that are rich and concentrated, but not saturated. The grapes are ripe in this selection, with bramble raspberry, blackberry, clove and floral notes on the nose. Flavors on the palate are boysenberry, dark plum, grilled orange zest, chicory and dusty tannins to finish. Aerate and drink. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28



93 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Estate Cuvée Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Cleanly presented lines of lemon sorbet, white peach and apricot chunks pick up more density with air on the nose of this bottling. Citrusy acidity pops the palate atop seared apple and macadamia nut flavors that push into the long finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50



93 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Estate Cuvée Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A gamy kick to the nose of this bottling gives earthy richness to the berry and chaparral aromas. The palate shows even more chaparral spice and a zippy acidity, balancing the ripe cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55



93 Lytle-Barnett 2019 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Cue the Don Ho record because these tiny bubbles deliver aromas of pear, lemon verbena tea, and freshly cut grass that will make you want to sing. This crisp, fresh, acid-driven sparkling wine packs a lot of warm brioche, doughnut, peach and lime-zest flavors into every sip. Picture David Bowie and Catherine Deneuve adorned in white silk suits to get an idea of how elegant this wine feels. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75



93 Marchesi Alfieri 2021 Costa Quaglia (Terre Alfieri). Think of dried cherries getting a revival in a spiced spirit bath, all that clove and all-spice making things interesting. Give it some time and the wine starts showing off new moves when dried roses and earthy forest vibes join the party. When you take a sip, it's pure class, but not trying too hard—the flavors just spread out and do their thing. Drink now–2035. Marchesi Alfieri SRL Soc. Agr. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



93 Ovis 2020 Nero d'Avola (High Valley). In its native Sicily, Nero d'Avola usually presents as a high-acid, high-tannin grape with red fruit and earthiness. Grown in a warmer climate, it becomes robust, with concentrated red fruit, hoisin, dried herbs and florals on the nose. In this offering, the palate persists and grows in depth with rich red currant, black plum, coriander and citrus zest. Pair with grilled T-bone steak and salsa verde. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50



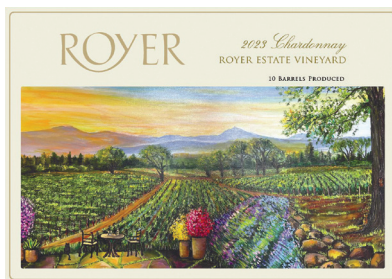
93 Quady North 2023 Pistoleta Rhône-style White Blend (Rogue Valley). One of my favorite white wines from Southern Oregon, the Pistoleta is a Rhône-inspired blend that showcases varieties such as Viognier, Marsanne, Roussanne and Grenache Blanc. The latest vintage is an aromatic whirlwind of lemon curd, fresh rosemary and hints of shaved coconut and wet rocks. A soothing acidity and plush texture float lemon gelato and green tea flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20



93 Rombauer 2019 Proprietor Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bold, plush and richly flavored, this wine displays balanced complexity and a full frame, with flavors of ripe, dark fruits, spices and pine. Mouthfilling tannins continue through a velvety finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$150



93 Roux Père et Fils 2022 Pot Bois (Chassagne-Montrachet). A fresh and classic nose, this wine opens with lemon verbena, Bosc pear and acacia honey, all lifted by a stony mineral edge. Bright acidity enhances its salty-mineral character, while ripe citrus and fresh almonds bring depth and harmony to the palate. A saline-stony finish lingers beautifully, adding depth and energy in every sip. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA



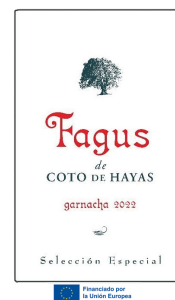
93 Royer 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). If an orchard exploded, it couldn't possibly smell any better than this enticing siren of a Chardonnay. The seduction begins with a tangy yellow-apple aroma counterpointed by the scent of a decadent lemon brioche. This scene repeats on the palate as Honeycrisp apple cider, orange zest and white tea flavors are escorted by a pleasingly plump texture and energetic acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$45



92 Andrew 2023 Syrah (Paso Robles). Deep aromas of cassis and lilac are elevated by hints of meat and pepper on the nose of this classically rich Syrah. Sturdy tannins and persistent acidity frame the palate's ripe flavors of purple fruit, lilac and cracked pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30



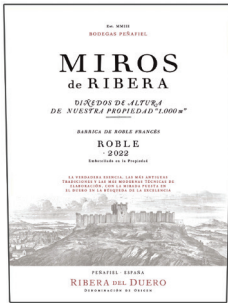
92 Banshee 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Aromas of roasted cherry, fresh herbs and toasty barrel spice waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers lively acidity with plush tannins and flavors of raspberry, plum, cinnamon and dark chocolate that rise and fall along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30



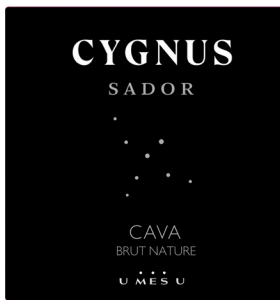
92 Bodegas Aragonesas 2022 Fagus de Coto de Hayas Garnacha (Campo de Borja). Harvested from vines that are around 70 years old, this Garnacha showcases the aromatic and flavor concentration of older vines. Red berries and plums and integrated oak spice are carried by almost-velvety tannins into a long finish. Marchetti Co. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39



92 Bodegas Muga 2022 Muga El Andén de la Estación Crianza (Rioja). With pleasing purity and expressive character, this Tempranillo-Garnacha blend brings together berries and bramble, anise and spice, and savory notes. Balanced structure keeps this layered wine approachable. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32



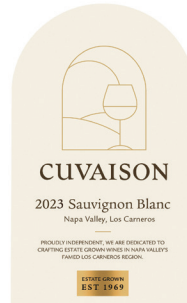
92 Bodegas Peñafiel 2022 Miros de Ribera Roble (Ribera del Duero). A tawny robe features an alluring and slightly oxidized nose, emphasizing a decadent and ripe style. Geared toward Cabernet Sauvignon lovers, as well as those drawn to a specific taste over a specific place. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22



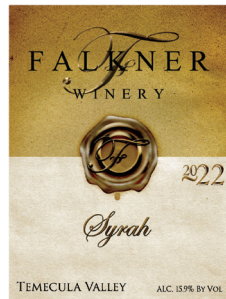
92 Bodegas U Mes U Fan Tres 2021 Cygnus Sador Brut Nature Reserva (Cava). Precise on the nose, crisp in the mouth yet full of flavor, this sparkling wine delivers at an impressive price. Spiced apple on toast with a squeeze of lemon and a sprinkle of salt emerges in the finish. Grapes of Spain. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24



92 BuonGuido 2023 Mezzogiorno White Blend (Sonoma). This refreshing and zesty blend of Pinot Grigio and Malvasia delivers aromas of mixed citrus and fresh flowers on the nose. A focused palate has loads of lemon, lime and pomelo, chalky minerality and a pithy, floral finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65



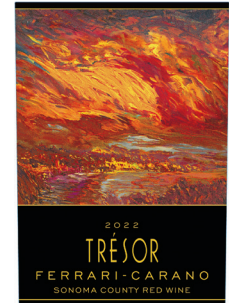
92 Cuvaison 2023 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Carneros). Honeysuckle and lemongrass spun through citrus zest, pith and juice carry into a mouthwatering finish on this wine that invites further sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28



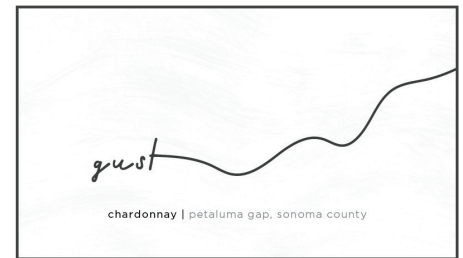
92 Falkner 2022 Syrah (Temecula Valley). Bloody meat and iodine aromas make for a savory entry to this bottling, which also shows more comforting touches of baked fruit and baking spice on the nose. The palate's chopped thyme and licorice flavors surround a rich core of baked dark fruits, with a hint of bitterness on the tannin-layered finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$70



92 Ferrari-Carano 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This earthy and structured Cabernet pops from the glass with aromas of spiced plum compote, raspberry liqueur and leather on the nose. The palate delivers a forceful wave of tannin and flavors of cocoa, black cherry and peppery spice. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$70



92 Ferrari-Carano 2022 Tresor Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). This rich and potent blend delivers aromas of spiced blackberry compote, tar and graphite on the nose, giving way to flavors of black plum, cocoa powder and rich tannin that intensifies across the finish. Give this a few years and grill up a ribeye. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65



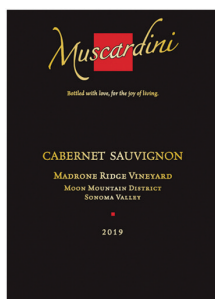
92 Gust 2023 Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This clean and focused Chard delivers aromas of white flowers, apple and chalk on the nose. The palate brings a whack of ripe nectarine and citrus flavors with a nice grip of salted lemon peel along the finish of the wine. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



92 J Vineyards 2023 Pinot Gris (California). This wine is zesty, with aromas of guava, cantaloupe, lime zest and white florals on the nose. Flavors on the palate are passionfruit, peach and grapefruit, sliding into lime-black-pepper cream and a dry, mineral finish. Pair with smoked oysters, Tuscan crackers and sunshine. —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$21



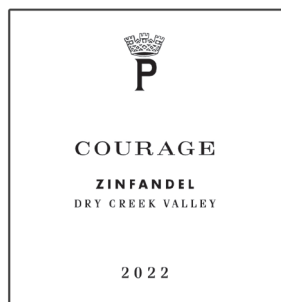
92 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). There's a compelling combination of stone, apple, lemon blossom and even yogurt on the nose of this bottling. The palate is sharp with a lime-driven acidity that cuts through the jicama and baked peach flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55



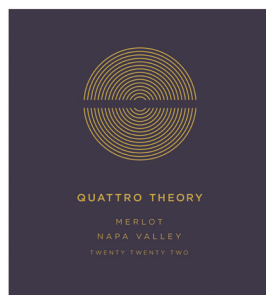
92 Muscardini Cellars 2019 Madrone Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). The nose of this wine is intense and focused, with aromas of crushed cherry, shattered stone, black pepper and purple flowers. The palate is grippy and weighty, with flavors of blackberry pie, cinnamon, pepper and cocoa that linger along the finish. Best from 2028. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85



92 Naveran 2022 Brut (Cava). Fresh pear and sweet spice aromatics lure into flavors of butter-toasted brioche, crisp nectarines and a light sprinkle of sea salt—a nice balance of rich flavor with mouthwatering length. Ole & Obrigado. —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23



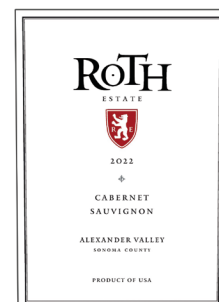
92 Pedroncelli Winery 2022 Courage Faloni Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Fresh cherry, sage and cracked pepper aromas dominate the nose of this Zin. The palate delivers rich tannin, zesty acidity and flavors of baked raspberry, caramel and cocoa powder. Drink this with roasted pork loin and cherries. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$56



92 Quattro Theory 2022 Merlot (Napa Valley). Displaying the plush pleasure of Merlot, this bottling offers flavors of red and black cherry and plum spun through with mountain herbs, espresso and savory verve. A wine of pleasing concentration that will serve a meal. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



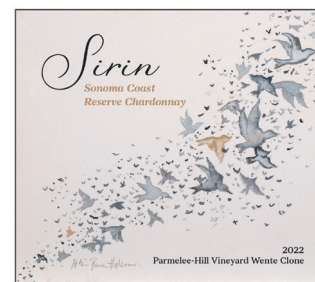
92 Rombauer 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Nectarine and sweet citrus top crème brûlée flavors. Mouthwatering acidity and a long finish balance this generous wine to invite further sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42



92 Roth Estate 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). The cranberry-plum-scented nose of this wine jumps from the glass, lifted by aromas of pencil shavings, black pepper and flowers. The palate is deftly balanced, with ripe cherry, caramel and licorice flavors expanding across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36



92 Roth Estate 2022 Heritage Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). The nose of this blend is redolent of crushed cherry, blackberry compote and cinnamon, with flavors of black plum, graphite and sour cherry emerging along the palate. The finish balances focused acidity and plush tannins with plenty of energy. A little time in the cellar should soften this wine nicely. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38



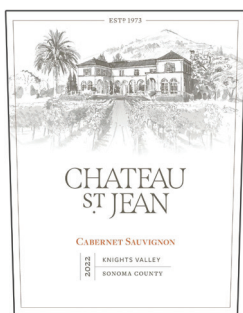
92 Sirin 2022 Parmelee-Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). There's a bright floral intensity to the nose of this softer-styled Chardonnay, with aromas of lemon peel, orange blossom and sage dominating. The palate brings a wave of tense acidity and focused flavors of tart pineapple, white flower mélange and spiced lemon peel. —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38



92 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2021 V Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Made entirely from Cabernet Sauvignon organically grown in the Chiles Valley of Napa, this bold, concentrated and textural red carries dark cherries and plums, cassis and ground coffee through a lengthy finish. Built to age. **Cellar Selection.** —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$125



91 Buck Shack 2022 Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is an excellent example of Cabernet Sauvignon matured in barrels previously used for aging bourbon. Nuances of bourbon-soaked cherry, plum, vanilla bean and orange zest perfume the glass. The palate delivers immense dark berry plus zesty flavors of strawberry, raspberry, creamy citrus spice and silky tannins. Serve slightly chilled around a table with friends. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



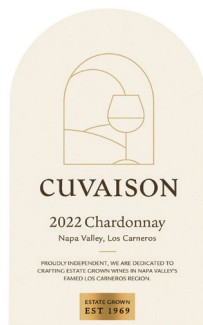
91 Chateau St. Jean 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Aromas of spicy plum, fig and blackberry dominate the nose of this Cab. The palate delivers flavors of juicy black cherry, pencil shavings, black pepper and purple flowers. Drink with braised short ribs with mushrooms. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



91 CRU Winery 2022 Regan Vineyards Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A savory herbal edge to the nose of this wine offers bay leaf and peppercorn elements against the brisk black-raspberry base. The palate shows rustic and tart plum flavors, with a gamy element arising on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60



91 CRU Winery 2022 SLH Smith & Lindley Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Light aromas of yellow pear, toasted almond and lemon-splashed chamomile show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more dense and rich, offering pineapple and generous lemon balm flavors that are splashed in persistent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25



91 Cuvaison 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Spiced and baked tropical fruits fill the mouth with flavor, carrying through a persistent finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35



91 Falkner 2022 Amante Red Blend (Temecula Valley). Light, clean and delicately juicy red-fruit aromas come through on the nose of this blend of 55% Sangiovese, 25% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. The palate lands with a leathery texture and peppery spice that enlivens the red currant and strawberry flavors, as the finish offers a smoked-meat touch. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$80



91 Falkner 2022 Meritage (Temecula Valley). Elderberry and lavender aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The palate is rich with creamy baked-berry flavors dusted in fennel pollen and savory dried-meat tones. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$80



91 Ferrari-Carano 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Concentrated aromas of roasted cherry, cocoa powder and black pepper dominate the nose of this Cab. The palate is rich and broad, with flavors of blackberry, licorice and toasty barrel spices that linger along the neatly balanced finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45



91 **Hearst Ranch Winery 2024 Julia Rosé (Paso Robles).** A very pale hue of pink in the glass, this dynamic and versatile rosé is fit for beach days as well as to pair with opening courses of elegant dinners. Aromas of stone fruit, melon and blood orange peel lead from the nose into a tense palate where stone fruit and riverstone flavors are splashed with energetic citrus. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32



91 **Heath Sparkling 2021 Adoration Sparkling Blend (America).** The nose of this clean and fresh sparkling rosé brings aromas of white flowers, lemon pith and strawberry, while the palate shows bright, fresh cherry, lemon-lime and orange blossom flavors with an energetic mouthfeel. —T.R.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$61



91 **J Vineyards & Winery 2023 Estate Pinot Gris (Russian River Valley).** The nose of this wine jumps from the glass with aromas of pithy lemon and lime, ripe pear and white flowers. On the palate, ripe acidity, fresh apple and waxy stone-fruit flavors come with generous plushness that lingers for a minute or so. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36



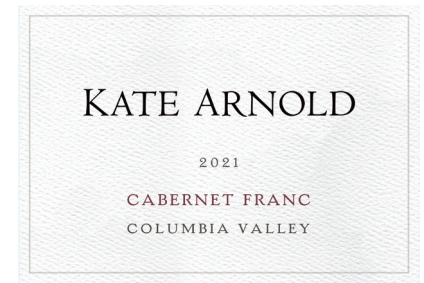
91 **J Vineyards 2022 Chardonnay (California).** Rich, ripe pear, dried apricot and guava aromas arise on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate suggest white nectarine, yellow apple, crushed walnut, white tea and dried savory spice, with a dry finish. Pair with grilled seabass and fiddlehead ferns. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$26



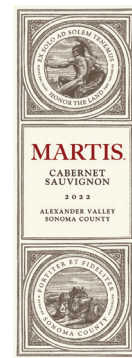
91 **J Vineyards NV California Cuvée Sparkling Blend (California).** The nose of this wine offers welcoming aromas of fresh citrus, yellow plum, guava and papaya. Midpalate flavors include tropical notes of pineapple, passionfruit, peach, white grapefruit zest and pistachios. The finish is gentle and dry. Pair with brioche French toast, baked nectarine slices and crème fraîche. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27



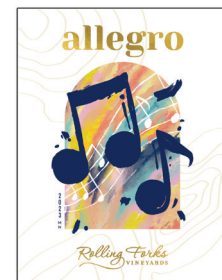
91 **Jayson 2022 Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Energetic yet lush, this wine offers red berries and dark plums muddled with white sage, hints of mint and aromas of cracked pine. Powder-fine abundant tannins run smoothly through the palate into a moderate finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90



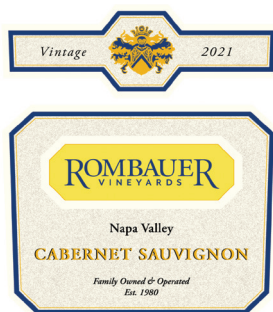
91 **Kate Arnold Wines 2021 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley).** It all starts with jammy blackberry aromas that are complemented by leather and violets. Blackberry compote and blueberry flavors then astound the palate while a ginger note spices things up. There is mildly elevated acidity to temper the fruit, while fine-grain tannins offer support. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$34



91 **Martis 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** The nose of this wine is redolent of cassis, cinnamon and fresh mint leaves. The palate delivers energetic flavors of black cherry, raspberry and spice, before a finish that eases along with echoes of toasty barrel spice. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45



91 **Rolling Forks 2023 Allegro Brianna (Minnesota).** This is my first Brianna wine, and after a few sips, I'm inclined to seek out more. This is light-bodied fare with just enough acidity to balance its primary lemon drop hard candy flavor. The king of the show is a set of aromas of papaya and the seductively sweet plumeria flowers you find in Hawaiian leis. Pair with grilled mahi-mahi.
Hidden Gem. —M.A.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$23



91 Rombauer 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Aromas of ripe fruits and cedar lead into flavors of cassis, mountain herbs and earthy accents. Powder-fine tannins and a smooth mouth-feel complete this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80



91 Smith & Hook 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Always a satisfyingly rich expression, this bottling is lavish on the nose with black cherry and licorice aromas. The palate is hefty in body and viscous in mouthfeel, showing black-berry jam, violet and light coffee flavors atop a creamy structure. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22



90 Banshee 2023 Rosé (Sonoma County). This charming rosé brings aromas of fresh Meyer lemon, strawberry and orange blossom on the nose. The palate delivers a brace of lively acidity with flavors of melon, peach and lime, finishing with just enough tannin to provide some grip. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$28



90 Bodegas Aragonesas 2023 Coto de Hayas Centenaria (Campo de Borja). Floral aromas with a hint of sandalwood carry into flavors of dark fruits and spice. It's juicy and flavorful, approachable and pleasing. Marchetti Co. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29



90 Chalk Hill 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This Chard brings aromas of roasted pear, pineapple, cinnamon and flaky pastry on the nose, giving way to green apple, pie spice and white flowers on the palate. The finish lingers with vibrations of toasty spice and pithy lemon. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$26



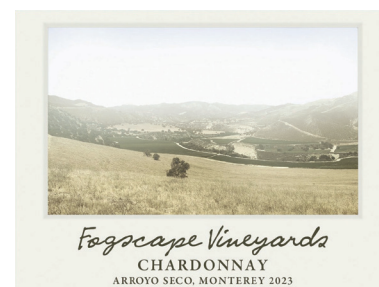
90 Chateau St. Jean 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros). Aromas of baked apple, sweet cinnamon and white flowers dominate the nose of this wine. The palate is fleshy and well rounded, with flavors of roasted pear, lemon peel, cinnamon and caramel that resonate along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45



90 Cline Family Cellars 2023 Hat Strap Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Aromas of Golden Delicious apple, beeswax and brioche waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers rounded pear, sweet cinnamon and fresh apple flavors, with a lengthy finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



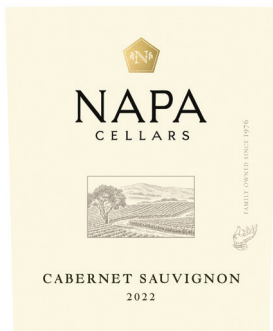
90 Ferrari-Carano 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This decadent-style Chardonnay brings rich aromas of barrel spice, roasted apple and white flowers on the nose. The palate is concentrated and weighty, with flavors of nectarine, pear, cinnamon and orange blossom that soften over the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27



90 Fogscape Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Tart apple and lime-skin aromas pick up the warmth of honeysuckle on the nose of this wine. A stony grip to the palate, with brisk but bold lime and tangerine flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25



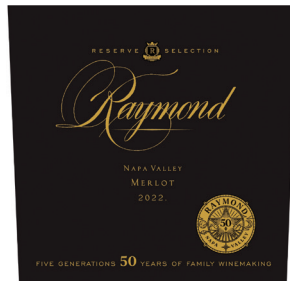
90 Holland America NV Brut Sparkling Wine White Blend (Columbia Valley). This traditional method sparkling wine is a joint venture between Holland America cruise lines and Four Feathers Wine Services. The wine's languid bubbles help to deliver aromas of apple, saline and a burst of lemon zest. A crisp, clean mouthfeel and zippy acidity frames the sparkling wine's white peach, lime zest and rosemary flavors. Come aboard—this bubbly has been expecting you. —M.A.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$40



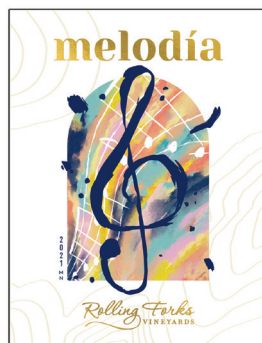
90 Napa Cellars 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). Sweet black fruits, both spiced and dripping ripe, join with textural tannin in this ample Cabernet Sauvignon. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30



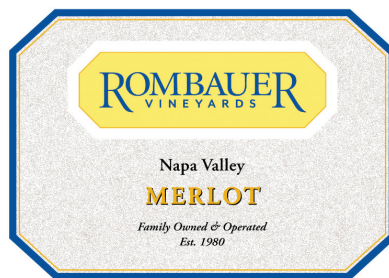
90 Raymond Vineyards 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Full of spiced chocolate drizzled over mixed fruits, this lusciously textured, full-bodied Cabernet offers approachable pleasure, with the ability to age. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



90 Raymond Vineyards 2022 Reserve Merlot (Napa Valley). Full bodied and flavorful, this deep-colored, brooding Merlot captures rich fruits with spiced cocoa, offering approachable pleasure. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



90 Rolling Forks Vineyards 2021 Melodia Marquette (Minnesota). This Minnesota blend features the jammiest cherry aroma this side of Smucker's to go along with the scent of orange-flavored pipe tobacco. Melodia's dark plum, blackcap raspberry and orange zest flavors are flanked by a touch of green tea. Lively acidity and a crisp texture will tempt you to open a second bottle for all your friends. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26



90 Rombauer 2022 Merlot (Napa Valley). The plush beauty of Merlot finds additional depth with a friendly blend of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon included. Forward fruits are layered with oak spices for a generous, lengthy red wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60



90 Sextant 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dark strawberry, mint and fennel pollen aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate's dark berry fruit flavor is decorated with licorice and toasted herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



89 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2024 Twinkles Sparkling Rosé (North Carolina). The finish here is elongated and does not yield. Jolo Twinkles Rosé reveals pithy apricot and white peach. A florality emanates, numbing the pithy quality. The acidity is vibrant. Pair with fresh summer vegetables—summer squash, tomato and basil salad and fresh greens. —C.G.C.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$47



87 Boyd Cru Wines 2023 Sparkling Vidal Blanc (Maryland). Vidal Blanc revealed in true expression, Boyd Cru Wines takes one on a journey of unanticipated revelations. The palate is an amalgam of lemon zest and herbs. Rosemary and sage persist on the palate, while green apple embraces a pungent spiciness. There is a delectable playfulness of flavors. The finish punches with that hybrid "foxy" aspect unique to Vidal Blanc. An enticing exploration of a hybrid grape. —C.G.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40



85 **Second Cheapest Wine 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This light-bodied Pinot Noir features acidity as soft as a cotton ball, unobtrusive tannins and a thin texture. Its ripe strawberry aroma is on its own, joined by a wee bit of wet modeling clay. The wine's cherry Life Saver flavor competes with a balsam note for palate supremacy. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

BEST BUYS



93 **Bogle 2019 Port Petite Sirah (Clarksburg).** Opulent and concentrated, this wine offers aromas of blackberry, cassis, dried orange peel, cardamom and sweet vanilla on the nose. The flavors on the palate are boysenberry, allspice, bittersweet chocolate and maple, with a long, warm and lingering finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$20/500 ml

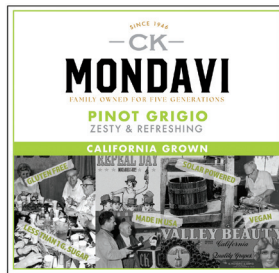


93 **Cline Family Cellars 2023 Ancient Vines Mourvèdre (Contra Costa County).** The Ancient Vines series spotlights heritage vineyards in Contra Costa County. From a dry-farmed and organic site, this Mourvèdre is deep, with savory aromas of mulberry, huckleberry, clove, dried florals and toasted oak on the nose. The palate brings juicy raspberry, pomegranate, grilled tangerine, white pepper, star anise and supple tannins to finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

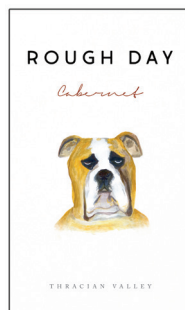
BEST BUYS



92 **Bogle Family Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (California).** Captivating aromas of fresh-baked brioche on the nose of this wine give way to yellow plum, brûléed orange slices and elderflower honey. Flavors on the palate suggest sugared lemon rind, baked pear and Pink Lady apple, with yeasty medium mousse, mineral and a dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

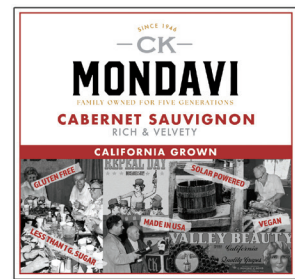


92 **CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Pinot Grigio (California).** This wine is fresh and delicate, with aromas of honeydew melon, cantaloupe, white peach and orange blossom on the nose. The flavors on the palate are Moroccan lemon, white grapefruit and spice, intertwined with minerality, acidity and a long, dry finish. Pair with shrimp hot-and-sour soup. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

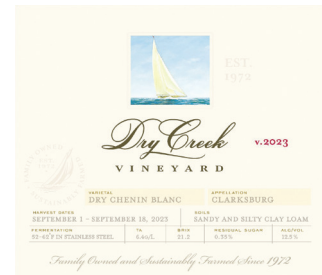


92 **Rough Day 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley).** This wine soothes the palate. Playful black plum and chocolate aromas are elevated by boysenberry and cassis on the joyful nose. The silky palate reveals slightly grippy tannins that hug black fruit and spiced blackberry. Bulgariana. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



91 **CK Mondavi and Family 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This bottling is labeled rich and velvety, aptly informing the drinker about the texture of the wine. Aromas suggest blackberry, cherry and spice, while the rich and velvety mouthfeel ends on a supple, dry finish. Pair with a grilled Wagyu burger with grilled mushrooms and Swiss cheese. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$8



91 **Dry Creek Vineyard 2023 Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg).** Aromas of honeydew melon, citrus, yellow apple, sedimentary rock and mineral on the nose make this a classic benchmark for Chenin Blanc from this region for a legendary producer. The flavors on the palate are fresh and lively, with electrifying acidity and mouthwatering fruit. This wine should be in your picnic basket. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

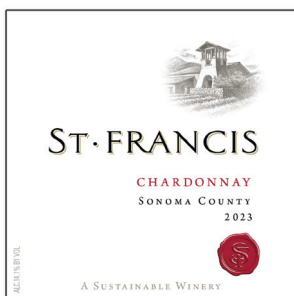


91 **Gen5 2023 Chardonnay (Lodi).** Aromas of stone fruit, white flowers, honeysuckle, toasted oak and clove are lively and supple on the nose of this wine. The palate is more concentrated, with baked apple, peach cobbler, cinnamon and candied orange rind on the finish. Pair with duck confit salad, roasted peaches and argula greens. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$11

BEST BUYS



91 **Nine North Wine Company 2022 The Bomb Red Blend (North Coast).** The bottle's name is perfect, and the aromatics are concentrated red berries, ripe plums and vanilla-cream soda, topped with pulsating minerals that cut through the baking spice and richness of the fruit. Add this one as an aperitif leading into any meal. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18



91 **St. Francis 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** This lighter-styled and nimble Chard brings aromas of lemon peel, white flowers and tangerine on the nose. These give way to flavors of pear, river rock, spice and orange blossom on the palate and finish. **Best Buy.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$17



91 **Viticcio 2022 (Morellino di Scansano).** The nose invites you in with aromas of hot tar, top soil, rose petals, violets and dark-chocolate-covered cherries. On the palate, snappy, crisp fruit notes of red plum skin and pomegranate seeds contrast with earth and bitter dark chocolate. Electric acid and athletic tannins. Viticcio. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

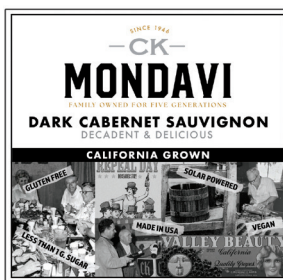
BEST BUYS



91 **Wrath Wines 2024 EX Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey).** Superpale in the glass, almost like water, this bottling explodes on the nose with intense aromas of honeydew, pomelo and green apple, with hints of peppercorn and cut grass arising as well. The palate is grippy and vivid with Granny Smith apple, lime peel and grass flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

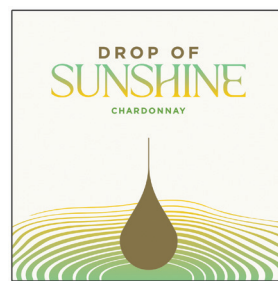


90 **Ant Moore 2024 Signature Series Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This leans more on the summer veg garden notes (think: bell pepper, snap pea and jalapeños) than citrus and passion fruit, but those greener, more pungent notes don't entirely dominate. It's appealingly pithy and crisp all at once, and would be happy bedfellows with-grilled asparagus. AMCB Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

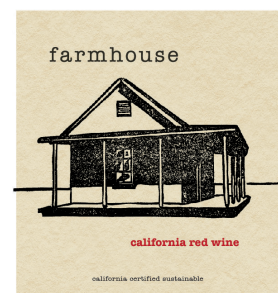


90 **CK Mondavi and Family 2022 Dark Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Deeply hued in color, this wine has aromas of dried black currant, black licorice, mushroom, leather and bay leaf on the nose. It wafts into dense dark-fruit flavors on the palate, including blackberry, boysenberry, fenel and allspice, with cola on the finish. Pair with grilled sirloin steak. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$8

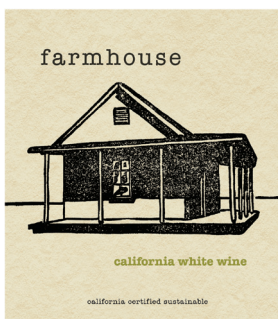
BEST BUYS



90 **Drop of Sunshine 2022 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** Brisk Asian pear and tightly wound melon rind aromas are austere on the nose of this bottling. There's an electric acidity to the palate, where cherimoya and riper pear flavors align. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20



90 **Farmhouse 2022 Red Blend (California).** In this wine, lush aromas of blackberry, black olive and coffee glide into a palate layered with youthful plum, citrus zest, cinnamon, supple tannins and a mouthwatering finish. Pair with peppered steak. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13



90 **Farmhouse 2023 White Blend (California).** Vibrant aromas of key lime, tangerine and green papaya are sprinkled with herbs, white flowers and minerals on the nose of this wine. The palate carries refreshing lime zest, kiwi, pineapple, dried apricot and salty salinity, with a dry, mouthwatering finish. Pair with tinned fish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

BEST BUYS



90 For Better Or Worse 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). Restrained black raspberry, black plum and field grass aromas open on the nose. The palate leads with red fruit that forms the core of the taste, supported by slightly smoky, grippy tannins that ultimately reign in the fruit. This still-youthful wine needs time to age and mature. Decant and drink now, and best from 2028–2040. Bulgariana. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

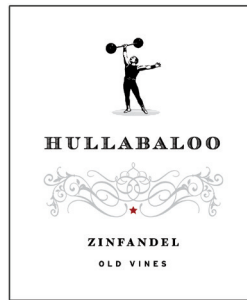


90 IDE 2023 Alcalde Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). Aromas of tart raspberry, spiced plum and dusty cherry dominate the nose of this wine. The palate delivers earthy flavors of roasted mushroom, dried sage and crushed berries, with crunchy tannin and juicy Bing cherry–lemon peel acidity along the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

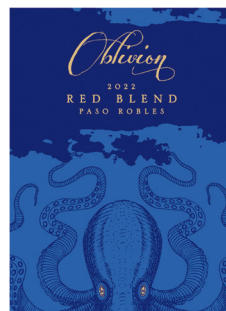


90 Isaac Fernandez Seleccion NV Biutiful Brut Nature (Cava). Crisp apple, sweet citrus and grapefruit pith sprinkled with celery salt create an energetic sparkling wine with a lengthy, dry, pleasing finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

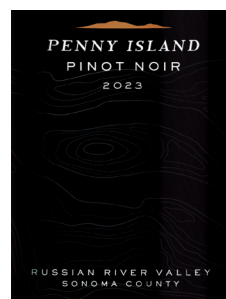
BEST BUYS



90 Nine North Wine Company 2022 Hullabaloo Old Vines Zinfandel (North Coast). A fresh style of old vine Zinfandel, this wine has aromatics of plum, raspberry jam, baking spices, florals and toasted oak on the nose. The palate offers wild strawberry, jellied cranberry and citrus zest, with white pepper sprinkled throughout the finish. Pair with a turkey sandwich and cranberry relish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17



90 Oblivion 2022 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Strawberry paste aromas are dusted in dried thyme and baking spice on the nose of this wine. Firm tannins and toasted wood spice enhance the red fruit core of the palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

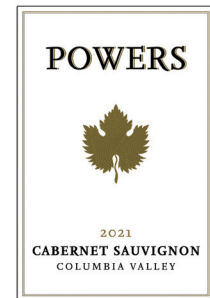


90 Penny Island 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This ripe and easy Pinot delivers a pop of roasted cherry and raspberry on the nose, followed by spiced berry compote, saffras and cinnamon flavors on the palate. It finishes with just a bit of grip from the tannins. **Best Buy.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

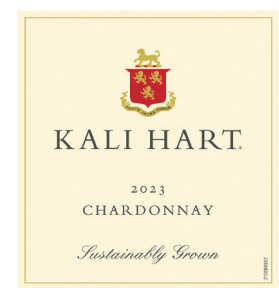
BEST BUYS



90 Penny Island 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Zesty aromas of salty lime, grass and jalapeño waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers ripe lemon acidity with loads of white flowers, ginger and tart pineapple flavors before a silky, textured finish. **Best Buy.** —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

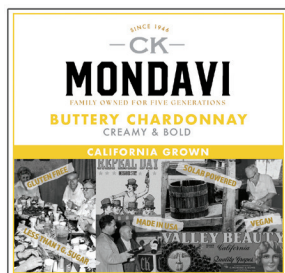


90 Powers Winery 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A nicely balanced Cabernet Sauvignon like this represents excellent value. Its fresh boysenberry and blueberry aromas accompany a mildly sweet note dangerously close to maple bar territory. Boysenberries hold court on the palate, with a hint of horehound candy and balsa. The wine's velvety mouthfeel is the cherry on top. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

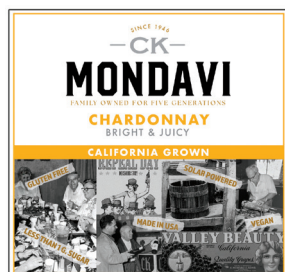


90 Tali Hart 2023 Kali Hart Chardonnay (Monterey). There's a vivid tropical approach to the nose of this bottling, which is layered in jasmine, plumeria and ripe star fruit aromas. The palate is clean and balanced, offering vanilla, peach and guava flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

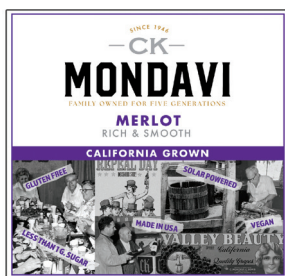
BEST BUYS



89 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Buttery Chardonnay (California). Rich and buttery, this wine offers aromas of baked yellow apple, apricot, white tea, cinnamon and marigold. The palate is heavy with canned peach, cardamom and buttercream, with a dry, supple finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

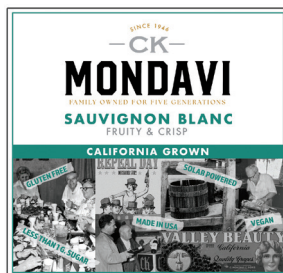


89 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Chardonnay (California). Clean and bright, the nose of this wine offers aromas of white peach and pear. Flavors are crisp apple, orange marmalade, clove and mineral in the midpalate for more texture, with dried herbs on the finish. Pair with grilled white fish and lemon butter sauce. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8



89 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Merlot (California). This selection offers aromas of dried red currant, cranberry, savory herbs, chicory, bittersweet chocolate and potpourri on the nose. The palate shifts to sweet Bing cherry, raspberry, citrus zest, vanilla bean and dusty tannins to finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

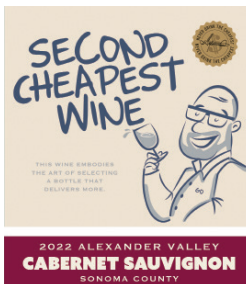
BEST BUYS



89 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This legacy producer lists precisely what's on the label. Called "crisp and refreshing," this wine offers citrus, melon and green herbs on the nose. The palate conveys peach, lemon, green apple and black pepper, with a dry, juicy finish. Pair with crab Benedict. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8



89 Curry Favour NV White Blend (Columbia Valley). Curry Favour's supergrassy aroma is flanked by peach, guava and nutmeg notes. A decent bit of acidity accompanies the flavors of pineapple, lychee and honey. This stainless steel fermented blend of Riesling, Pinot Gris and Sauvignon Blanc is designed to pair with Indian cuisine. That's too easy. Drink outside the box and pair it with lamb burgers and a side of Jo Jo potatoes. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$17



89 Second Cheapest Wine 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This supple and quaffable wine displays classic aromas of cassis, cherry and black pepper on the nose. The palate offers generous texture and ripe berry fruit flavors, with hints of barrel spice and licorice along the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

BEST BUYS



88 Second Cheapest Wine 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This fresh and classic Chard displays aromas of roasted pear, apple tart, cinnamon and granite on the nose. The palate delivers flavors of nectarine and lemon peel with white flowers. **Best Buy.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10



88 Second Cheapest Wine 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). This whimsically packaged wine displays classic grapefruit and grassy aromas. Bright acidity and a bit of waxiness fill out the citrus-dominated midpalate before a zippy finish with lifted floral tones. **Best Buy.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

VENETO SPARKLING WINES PROSECCO

93 Bisol 2024 Rive di Guia (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). A cool mountain stream flows over smooth stones, that's this wine in a glass. It starts quietly, whispering with jasmine blossoms and white tea while a hint of pear floats by. Take a sip and you'll find those elegant, tiny bubbles dancing through pure minerality. This isn't a loud, showy sparkler. It's more like nature bottled up in refined form. Bisol. **Editor's Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$44

91 Bisol 2024 Crede (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This Prosecco brings the party without losing its elegance. Jasmine, honeysuckle, and pink ginger float up from the glass with a twist of candied lemon peel. The bubbles play it cool, soft and gentle rather than showy, while green apple and

pear flavors mingle with citrus zest for a finish that makes you smile. This is what happens when easy drinking meets well made. Bisol. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Fiol 2021 Rosé Extra Dry (Prosecco). Forest berries and wild thyme create an untamed aromatic escape. Tart red currants and woodland strawberries race across the palate with surprising vibrancy, while light, persistent bubbles and mouthwatering acidity make this feel like biting into fresh-picked berries on a hiking trail. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

88 Fiol NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Fresh-squeezed Meyer lemon and subtle honeysuckle notes float above the glass with pristine clarity. The palate sparkles with lean citrus precision, riding a wave of refreshing acidity that ends in a splash of grapefruit zest. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

GAVI

95 La Raia 2022 Riserva Vigna La Madonnina (Gavi). Fascinating savory depth emerges with delicate herbal undertones, framed by precise minerality. The lean, crisp structure showcases tart citrus pith and green apple while maintaining remarkable tension. Like a spirited young pony ready to bolt, this wine is holding its power in check, there's so much potential coiled within. The taut, nervous energy suggests this will evolve beautifully with time. Drink from 2027. Tenimenti Rossi Cairo srl. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

94 Broglia 2021 Bruno Broglia (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Ethereal aromatics of honeysuckle and jasmine float like a gentle breeze across hillsides, accompanied by delicate white-tea notes. The palate surprises with unexpected breadth, where brown-tinged orchard pears unfold against a cool marble-like minerality. The structure maintains elegant poise while delivering subtle power. Broglia Società Semplice Agricola. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Ghio Vini 2023 Riserva Vigna Le Zucche (Gavi). Deep roasted lemon and baked orchard fruits create an opulent aromatic display that makes you want to dive right in. The full-bodied palate reveals the beauty of bottle age as layers of concentrated fruit roll across the tongue with a luxurious manner while maintaining surprising lift. Each sip unfolds new dimensions, showcasing remarkable finesse and sophistication. Drink now–2040. Ghio Roberto - Vigneti Piemontemare. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 La Ghibellina 2024 Mainin (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Roasted lemon and ripe apples unfold like a brilliant story that keeps you turning the pages well past midnight. The layered palate reveals new plot twists with each sip. The wine has layers of orchard and citrus fruits, pleasant bitterness, and endless mineral depth, building chapter after chapter, while bright acidity drives the narrative to a thrilling finish. This is a wine you must buy in multiples of three. One for now, one for later and one to forget and find years from now. Drink now—who knows. La Ghibellina. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

94 La Ghibellina 2022 Altius (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Orange blossom, gardenia and sweet acacia join the honeysuckle and jasmine in an intoxicating floral display. Wild herbs and lemon balm provide an aromatic foundation, while salted lemons and crisp Fuji apples add bright complexity. The elegant palate reveals itself slowly, building with mesmerizing persistence. Like a ghost story that stays with you, this haunting wine unfolds gradually, suggesting its true character will continue to emerge with patience. Drink now–2040. La Ghibellina. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

94 La Mesma 2020 Riserva Vigna della Rovere Verde (Gavi). A serious, contemplative wine that reveals Cortese's profound aging potential. Golden-hued roasted orchard fruits and Meyer lemon meld with pressed yellow- and white-flower aromatics, all anchored by intense minerality. The palate unfolds like a baroque symphony, each sip cycles through waves of concentrated fruit, then delicate herbs, saline minerality and subtle honey notes, only to begin the mesmerizing sequence again. The layered complexity shows remarkable sophistication and depth. La Mesma. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 Alvio Pestarino 2024 Girossa (Gavi). Classic aromas of fresh lemon peel, green apple and wet stones leap with extraordinary precision from the glass. The electric palate delivers everything Gavi promises—crisp orchard fruits, pine forest freshness, saline minerality, but with an amplified vibrancy that awakens the senses and reveals why this wine commands attention. Alvio Pestarino. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Binè 2020 Vigna Gambarotta Riserva (Gavi). For full review see page 8. Binè.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

93 Giordano Lombardo 2024 San Martino (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Aromas unfold like gentle waves, each bringing new dimensions of rosemary, thyme and crushed stone, while subtle beeswax adds quiet sophistication. The rich palate rolls forward with savory complexity and layered texture, balanced by bright acidity that keeps this wine both

profound and refreshing. Drink now–2035. Giordano Lombardo. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

93 La Bollina Winery 2024 (Gavi). Inspiring Chenin-like aromas of honeyed pear and limestone minerality intertwine with fresh pine needles in an aromatic dance. The fascinating palate unfolds with layers of orchard fruits and stony depth, while brilliant acidity suggests this distinctive wine will evolve beautifully through 2035. Società Agricola La Bollina srl. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

93 La Bollina Winery 2023 Ventola (Gavi). Golden aromas of honeyed pear and roasted orchard fruits mingle with dried meadow flowers in a distinctly Vouvray-like expression. The mature palate unfolds with rich complexity and waxy texture, while maintaining remarkable freshness through its mineral-driven finish. Società Agricola La Bollina srl. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 La Raia 2024 Pleo (Gavi). A stunning wine from a vastly underrated region, this wine opens with vibrant orchard fruits and cascading spring blossoms, creating a seductive aromatic cloud that pulls you into the glass. The dynamic palate dazzles with tart fruit, almond skin and peach stone complexity, while fresh herbs add layers of intrigue. This brilliant Gavi captures both immediate pleasure and serious aging potential. Drink now–2035. Tenimenti Rossi Cairo srl. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

93 Marchese Luca Spinola 2022 Massimiliano (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Classic Gavi aromas of stone and citrus emerge with refined elegance, testament to patient cellaring. The textured palate weaves concentrated orchard fruits through precise mineral notes, while bottle age has polished every element to a sophisticated sheen, proving Cortese's remarkable potential for evolution. Marchese Luca Spinola. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Molinetto 2022 (Gavi). Enchanting aromatics dance from jasmine tea and fresh ginger to fragrant Thai basil, each swirl revealing a new facet like a kaleidoscope in motion. The steely backbone provides elegant structure, while the perfume continues to evolve in the glass. This is a wine that reminds us why we all fall madly in love with this ancient product. Molinetto Azienda Agricola di Diego Carrea. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

92 Bersano 2024 MIRAGE (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Crisp apple aromas mingle with subtle hints of fresh parsley stems and sea salt. The energetic palate delivers generous orchard-fruit flavors leading to an elegant bitter note that adds com-

BUYINGGUIDE

plexity, while bright acidity draws out the mouth-watering finish. Bersano. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Enrico Serafino 2022 (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Enticing aromas of citrus blossom, yellow pear and fresh orchard fruits mingle with an herbaceous bouquet of lemon verbena, thyme and fresh bay leaf. This vibrant and untamed expression bursts with crushed stone minerality. The palate crackles with electric acidity, where tart quince, green apple gelée and preserved lemon create beautiful tension. Enrico Serafino. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 La Toledana 2023 (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Concentrated aromas showcase the rewards of patience, revealing rich layers of stone fruit and mineral complexity. The lush palate delivers impressive depth, while maintaining Gavi's hallmark stony character, demonstrating how bottle age transforms this wine from refreshing to remarkable. Fratelli Martini Secondo Luigi SPA. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Villa Giada 2023 (Gavi). Rain-washed stones and citrus pith create a taut, nervous aromatic profile above crisp apple and lemon notes. The precise palate quivers with energy, driven by bright acidity that carries the mineral-laden flavors through to a mouthwatering finish. Villa Giada Agricola S.S. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Binè 2024 Binè BIO (Gavi). Crisp Fuji apple aromas mingle with subtle almond skin and fresh garden herbs. The palate delivers the real excitement, where delicate florals and dried lemon peel interweave with crisp orchard fruits, all energized by precise acidity that drives the wine's personality. Binè. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Enrico Serafino 2024 Grifo del Quartaro (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Steely aromas of lemon peel intertwine with whispers of jasmine blossoms, revealing a reserved yet precise character. The palate brightens with concentrated citrus flavors that dance across the tongue, driven by energetic acidity and finishing with an appealing saline kick. Enrico Serafino. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

91 La Chiara 2024 Etichetta Nera (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Reserved aromas of citrus pith and fresh pine needles mingle with stony mineral notes. The palate shows surprising depth, with a textured mouthfeel that gains momentum, the bright acidity crescendos through the finish, leaving a trail of salty minerality in its wake. La Chiara. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 La Giustiniana 2024 (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Rounded aromas of ripe pear, golden apple, and sun-warmed Meyer lemon rise generously from the glass. The energetic palate delivers a

solid core of juicy nectarine and orchard fruits, balanced perfectly by vibrant acidity, while slate and wet gravel notes emerge on the mineral-driven finish. Tenuta La Giustiniana Srl Soc. Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 La Mesma 2024 INDI (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Crushed stones mingle with ripe red and green apples while sun-warmed flowers float above in the glass. The vibrant palate crackles with tart lemon peel and pithy crunch, while bright acidity drives through to a mouthwatering, saline-tinged finish. La Mesma. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

91 Pio Cesare 2024 (Cortese di Gavi). Elegant aromas of crushed stones and lemon peel rise with delicate precision from the glass. The energetic palate snaps with tart citrus and stony mineral notes, while zippy acidity propels everything forward to a refreshingly saline finish. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Sansilvestro 2024 Fossili (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Crushed stones, fresh herbs and green apple aromas create a classic, nuanced profile. The weighted palate shows sophisticated depth from lees contact, while saline minerality and orchard fruits interweave beautifully, creating a wine of substance and poise. Sansilvestro. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Aresca 2024 (Gavi). Pure, lifted aromas of fresh citrus sparkle with youthful energy. The light, playful palate dances with vibrant notes of salty lemonade and crisp minerals, while zippy acidity keeps everything refreshingly bright and carefree through the finish. Aresca. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Azienda Agricola Piona 2024 (Gavi). Ripe brown pear and crisp green apple mingle with flaky sea salt and wet stone aromas. The rounded palate shows generous orchard-fruit character while maintaining its mineral backbone, creating a plush yet focused expression that speaks clearly of place. Azienda Agricola Piona. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Broglia La Meirana 2024 (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Roasted golden apples and ripe orchard fruits create a rich, generous aromatic display. The lush palate delivers waves of concentrated fruit, showing impressive depth and breadth, while a saline mineral edge keeps everything focused and fresh. Broglia Società Semplice Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Cascina delle Monache 2024 Sorì della Monaca (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Bright citrus and fresh spring blossoms lift effortlessly from the glass with vibrant energy. The tart, zippy palate dances with lemon zest and crisp mineral notes, delivering pure refreshment through its

energetic finish. Cascina delle Monache Viticoltori in Gavi. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Coppo 2024 (Gavi). Fresh pine forest and sea-salted air weave through delicate floral notes in an unmistakably classic profile. The crisp palate delivers green-apple skin and freshly grated lemon zest, leading to a mineral-driven finish that echoes with crushed stone purity. Coppo S.I.V.A.S. S.R.L. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 La Battistina 2024 (Gavi). Bruised pear and freshly cut orchard-fruit aromas reveal a contemplative character. The palate intrigues with layers of stony minerality and sophisticated texture, while pleasant bitterness adds complexity to this thoughtful wine. Araldica Castelvero S.C.A.. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Molinetto 2024 (Gavi). Cool gravel pathway aromas mingle with fresh pine needles and crisp apple in an understated introduction. The palate opens to broader orchard-fruit notes, showing surprising textural depth, while a distinctive saline minerality weaves through to a mouthwatering finish. Molinetto Azienda Agricola di Diego Carrea. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Villa Sparina 2024 (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Fresh floral aromas dance with sweet apple and bright lemon notes in a graceful display. The juicy palate bursts with mixed orchard fruits and ripe Meyer lemon, all perfectly centered around a core of crunchy sea salt and vibrant acidity that propels the wine forward. Villa Sparina. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Castello di Tassarolo 2024 (Gavi). Delicate confectionery notes and sweet spring blossoms drift alongside fresh white-flower petals. The initially playful palate settles into classic Cortese character as it opens, revealing crisp green apple and subtle mineral notes, all carried by lively acidity that keeps the experience bright and refreshing. Castello di Tassarolo. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Fontanassa 2024 Cà Adua (Cortese di Gavi). Reserved mineral notes whisper alongside subtle citrus aromas in a quiet introduction. The modest palate offers bright lemon and lime flavors that, while dilute, maintain their focus through a clean, stony finish driven by refreshing acidity. Fontanassa. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Marchese Luca Spinola 2024 Carlo (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Fresh citrus and orchard fruit aromas leap from the glass with youthful energy. The light-footed palate delivers classic Cortese character with bright fruit and crisp mineral notes, creating an easygoing wine that's pure

refreshment and enjoyment. Marchese Luca Spinola. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

89 Salvano 2024 (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Reserved at first, the wine slowly unfolds with soft, rounded aromas of ripe pear and golden apple. The gentle palate reveals classic Cortese orchard fruits, backed by a whisper of Gavi's characteristic minerality, while moderate acidity carries through to a straightforward, clean finish. Salvano SRL. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

89 Terre Massone 2024 (Gavi). Ripe golden delicious apples, Bartlett pears, and sweet Meyer lemon create a lush, fruit-forward profile. The concentrated palate bursts with layers of mixed apples and bright citrus, showing impressive depth while maintaining classic Gavi character through its mouthwatering, saline finish. Azienda Agricola Massone Stefano. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

88 Azienda Agricola Il Poggio di Francesca Federica Poggio 2024 NUVOLE SUL POGGIO (Gavi). Lifted aromas of pear drops and fresh citrus pith float ethereally from the glass. The gentle, feather-light palate offers clean fruit flavors that mirror the aromatics, carried by vibrant acidity that keeps everything delightfully buoyant through the finish. Azienda Agricola Il Poggio di Francesca Federica Poggio. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$24

88 Banfi 2024 Principessa Gavi (Cortese di Gavi). Fresh, lifted aromas of wet gravel and morning dew rise delicately from the glass. Light-footed and ethereal, the palate skips along with tart citrus and green-apple flavors, leading to a crisp, mineral-driven finish that whispers rather than shouts. Banfi. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

88 Monchiero Carbone 2024 (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Pretty citrus blossom and spring flower aromas drift with gentle fruitiness from the glass. The forward palate offers ripe citrus and subtle orchard fruits in an accessible style, while soft acidity keeps the expression bright and easy-drinking. Monchiero Carbone. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

87 La Zerba 2024 Il Galletto (Gavi). Delicate confectionery sweetness mingles with subtle white-flower aromas in a gentle introduction. The light-footed palate shows a more serious side, where fresh herbs and pleasant bitterness add interest, while maintaining a refreshing character throughout. Azienda Vitivinicola La Zerba SRL Società Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

87 Luca Bosio 2024 (Gavi). Elegant aromas of white flowers and subtle orchard fruits waft delicately from the glass. The palate presents a lighter expression of Cortese, with soft fruit notes

and gentle minerality leading to a clean, straightforward finish. Bosio Family Estates. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

87 Roberto Sarotto 2024 Manenti (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Sweet pear gummies and delicate white-flower essence mingle in a playful aromatic dance. The palate delivers clean, fresh fruit flavors with just enough texture to hold interest, while bright acidity keeps everything light and breezy through the finish. Roberto Sarotto. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

LANGHE

94 Pio Cesare 2022 Piodilei (Langhe). For full review see page 7. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. **Editor's Choice.**
abv: 14% Price: \$60

91 Gianni Gagliardo 2023 Fallegro Favorita (Langhe). This lively white jumps from the glass with Meyer lemon peel, honeysuckle and lemongrass doing a happy dance together. The palate zips with bright citrus notes, while a salty kick and crisp acidity keep things refreshingly playful. It's the kind of pure sunshine in a bottle wine that makes you smile. Gianni Gagliardo srl. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

91 Marrone 2024 Arneis Tre Fie (Langhe). Here's a zippy little number that's as fresh as a morning in Piedmont. Bright citrus oils and stone fruits such as peach and nectarine bounce around with the energy of a kid on a Vespa. The finish brings crunchy minerals and a neat almond snap, while subtle herbs play hide-and-seek. The acidity's got pop but plays nice, like a perfect summer afternoon that just won't quit. Marrone. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 Diego Morra 2024 Chardonnay (Langhe). This Langhe Chardonnay captures pineapple at that perfect moment just before peak ripeness, while fresh peach notes add to its refreshing character. The glass brims with pure fruit expression, while delicate floral notes enhance the experience. Here's a wine that showcases what the Langhe can achieve with Chardonnay—pure, direct and thoroughly delicious. Diego Morra. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

89 Tenuta Carretta 2022 Riesling Campofranco (Langhe). Here's a delightful plot twist in the Langhe story: a Riesling that dances to its own rhythm among the region's red-wine royalty. Bright citrus leads the performance, sending zingy notes across the palate like sunlight through crystal. There's just a whisper of petrol, a subtle wink to its Germanic heritage. Tenuta Carretta. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

88 Fontanabianca 2024 (Langhe). Lifted floral aromatics lead gracefully into fresh white pear, jasmine blossoms and delicate almond notes.

This Arneis captures the ethereal side of the variety, showing a light, bright character with subtle mineral undertones. Fontanabianca. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

ROERO ARNEIS

91 Giovanni Rosso 2024 (Roero Arneis). Fresh white flowers and sun-warmed peaches burst from the glass with a whisper of exotic Asian fruit. Bright citrus races across the tongue like a summer lightning storm, bringing a playful energy that begs for a sunset, good friends and your favorite playlist. Perfect for crushing poolside until the stars come out. Giovanni Rosso Az. Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

90 Monchiero Carbone 2020 Renesio Incisa - Riserva (Roero Arneis). A generous and opulent expression of Arneis that leans into its riper side. The palate unfolds with lush tropical density featuring soft hints of banana and the warmth of baked pears. The wine's focus is clearly on its plush fruit core and welcoming richness rather than complexity. A crowd-pleasing style that showcases Arneis's potential for more indulgent interpretations. Monchiero Carbone. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$38

89 Monchiero Carbone 2024 Cecu d'la Biunda (Roero Arneis). A textbook expression of Roero Arneis that delivers exactly what the variety promises. Fresh white peach leads the way with delicate white-flower aromatics and characteristic almond notes trailing behind. A subtle saline mineral touch adds interest without overcomplicating the profile. The finish is straightforward and clean, it offers a pure and honest interpretation of this Piedmontese classic. Monchiero Carbone. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

87 Tenuta Carretta 2020 Riserva Alteno della Fontana (Roero Arneis). This Roero Arneis performs its classic role with practiced precision, like a seasoned actor who knows every line perfectly. Fresh pear and white flowers drift gracefully across the stage, while hints of almonds and stone fruits add familiar depth. The texture brings welcome weight to the middle, a polished performance that hits every mark. Tenuta Carretta. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$37

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Tenuta Carretta 2022 Extra Brut Rosé Metodo Classico Cuvée San Rocco (Nebbiolo d'Alba). This sparkling rosé bursts with the joy of freshly crushed wild strawberries on a summer morning. It dances across the palate with effervescent energy, each bubble carrying bright citrus notes that spark and fizz with playful enthusiasm. Here's a wine that doesn't just refresh, it celebrates, bringing pure, unbridled happiness to every glass. Tenuta Carretta. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

90 Hic et Nunc 2022 Felem (Piemonte). From its pale-orange depths, this skin-macerated charmer plays a delightful game of hide and seek. Late-season magnolia blossoms mingle with dried orange peel and aromatic citrus oils, while the palate takes an unexpected turn toward the savory. Here, dried flowers and herbs dance with bergamot's bitter elegance, its gentle tannic grip offering just enough edge to tame sweet-and-sour cuisine such as sticky glazed ribs. Hic et Nunc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

88 Diego Pressenda La Torricella 2021 (Alta Langa). Opening with forward, fluffy and ethereal aromatics of candied peach preserve sitting a bowl of summer berries. The palate steps lightly, with citrus freshness and lemon balm offering a clean, cooling breath. Delicate wild-strawberry notes whisper beneath toasted brioche on the easy finish. Diego Pressenda SSA. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Hic et Nunc 2022 Monolite (Monferrato Bianco). Like a sun-drenched island getaway in your glass, this opulent Cortese bursts with tropical abundance and candied-peach sweetness, wrapped in heady floral perfume. The palate mirrors this luxurious character, but just when you think it might become too indulgent, a bright zip of acidity and gentle bitter-almond notes sweep in for balance. Hic et Nunc. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

PIEDMONT RED WINES

BAROLO

99 Giovanni Rosso 2021 Vignarionda Ester Canale Rosso (Barolo). Some wines are born of soil and sun, others of history and heart. When these precious 0.85 hectares returned to Ester Canale's family in 2011, it wasn't just land coming home, but destiny fulfilled. From these halloved slopes of Serralunga, blackberry and Damson plum weave through waves of mixed spice incense and sweet baking notes in a mesmerizing symphony. The wine moves with such ethereal grace, it nearly brings tears to the eyes. This profound beauty, from vines planted in 1946, doesn't just demand attention but commands silence, contemplation and ultimately surrender to its sublime elegance. A masterpiece that reminds us why Vignarionda stands among Barolo's greatest sites. Giovanni Rosso Az. Agricola. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$400

98 Brezza 2021 Cannubi (Barolo). From Barolo's most revered vineyard comes a profound testament to Nebbiolo's nobility. The nose reveals sun-warmed strawberries and perfectly baked cherry tart, woven through with dried herbs and subtle earthen tones. The palate unfolds with vibrant rhubarb tang and freshly made mixed berry preserves, while precise acidity courses through like

a silver thread. Already showing glimpses of evolution, the wine balances primary fruit with emerging secondary complexity. The palate is pure aristocracy, structured yet seamless, showcasing why Cannubi has been treasured for centuries. Here is completeness in a glass, a wine that carries both power and finesse with equal measure. Brezza Giacomo e Figli dal 1885. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

98 Brezza 2021 Sarmassa (Barolo). For full review see page 2. Brezza Giacomo e Figli dal 1885. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$87

98 Trediberri 2021 Rocche dell'Annunziata (Barolo). From Trediberri's prized La Morra cru, this Rocche dell'Annunziata presents a profound and serious expression. The wine leads with classic tertiary aromatics rather than fruit: sun-warmed earth, Piemontese tar, dried rose petals and an intriguing oolong tea complexity. Behind these noble aromatics lies a foundation of dark cherries and woodland berries, patiently waiting their turn to emerge. The palate is powerfully structured with chewy, architectural tannins that speak to its long aging potential. This is a wine built for time, showing the deeper, more contemplative side of La Morra, with layers of forest floor, dried herbs and subtle spice notes complementing its restrained fruit core. The depth and sophistication here clearly demonstrate why Rocche dell'Annunziata is considered one of Barolo's great terroirs. Drink from 2027 Società Agricola Trediberri di Nicola Oberto & C.S.S. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$99

97 Fratelli Alessandria 2021 Monvigliero (Barolo). Like following a winding trail through the forest, this Monvigliero unfolds with purpose and precision. Fresh-crushed cherries and strawberry preserves lead the way, while wild violets and roses scatter their petals across a well-worn hiking path dotted with alpine herbs. The structure speaks of generations of knowledge, with firm tannins and bright acidity working in harmony like trail markers guiding you home. Here's proof that when passion meets tradition, something truly timeless emerges from the cellar. Drink now–2050. Fratelli Alessandria. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$140

97 Pio Cesare 2021 Mosconi (Barolo). For full review see page 3. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

97 Pio Cesare 2021 Ornato (Barolo). For full review see page 3. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$180

97 Trediberri 2021 Berri (Barolo). A contemplative Barolo that unfolds with poise, gradually revealing layers of mixed spices that weave through the aromatics with subtle persuasion rather than force. The palate demonstrates Trediberri's master-

ful balance of structure and generosity—firm Nebbiolo tannins frame a pure, focused core of classic Piemontese red fruits: fresh cherry, wild strawberry and bright red currants. Delicate floral notes and savory undertones add sophisticated detail to this finesse-driven expression. While already displaying admirable elegance and harmony, additional time in bottle will allow its components to further integrate. This is a refined, precise Barolo that speaks clearly of its place and soul. Drink from 2026 Società Agricola Trediberri di Nicola Oberto & C.S.S. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

96 Giovanni Rosso 2021 Cerretta (Barolo). Ripe blackberries and black plums wait patiently in their bowl, their sweetness mingling with wild mint, bay leaf and allspice's peppery warmth. This wine carries itself like a five-star prospect in Triple-A baseball: all the raw talent is there—structured with fine-grained tannins and pure fruit—just waiting for its moment. Give it time in your cellar's minor leagues and watch this rookie develop into a perennial all-star, delivering greatness for decades to come. Drink from 2027. Giovanni Rosso Az. Agricola. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$160

95 Brezza 2019 Riserva Sarmassa Vigna Bricco (Barolo). A dark-fruit spectrum unfolds in layers: oven-roasted black plums, grilled black figs, and slow-baked blackberries mingle with allspice and star anise. Black roses, dried and ready for pressing, lend an exotic perfume. The savory soul emerges on the palate, suggesting freshly unearthed porcini mushrooms and Piemontese tar, though these elements are still coiled, waiting patiently for cellar time. This is a wine of profound depth and structure that promises decades of evolution. The inherent power is unmistakable, yet an underlying elegance speaks to this remarkable terroir's timeless heritage. Drink from 2026. Brezza Giacomo e Figli dal 1885. *Cellar Selection.* —
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

95 Davide Fregonese 2021 Prapò (Barolo). Dark plums and blackberries unfold with remarkable depth and purity. The wine reveals layers of violets and morning glories, softly floating above savory notes of white pepper and crushed fennel seed. A distinctive saline mineral character weaves throughout, adding complexity and intrigue. Here is Prapò showing its signature gentle side of Serralunga—immediately appealing, yet built for the long haul. The tannins embrace like silk but maintain just enough structure to promise longevity, while bright acidity provides lift and energy through the finish. A masterful expression that offers both immediate pleasure and the promise of graceful aging. Drink now–2040. Bugia Nen. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

95 Diego Morra 2019 Monvigliero (Barolo). Jump into a glass where black cherries and wild plums meet woodland spices and star anise. The aromatics keep building: fresh blackberries

dusted with cardamom forest floor and sweet pipe tobacco creating a fascinating complexity. The flavors surge forward with impressive concentration, where toasted oak currently frames the wine, but needs time to fully harmonize with the abundant fruit. Each element speaks of finesse rather than raw power, bringing energy and vibrancy to every sip. This is a serious wine showing both immediate appeal and future promise through its purity and thoughtful craftsmanship. Drink now–2045. Diego Morra. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$113

95 Fratelli Alessandria 2021 Gramolere (Barolo). Wafting out of the glass, this wine is like walking through a cherry orchard just as the fruit reaches perfect ripeness—that moment when everything aligns. This refined Barolo captures that same sweet spot, where crushed cherries mingle with cracked pepper and sun-warmed herbs in the air. The palate continues the story with precise balance, as refined tannins frame deep red fruits like perfectly placed stones in a garden path. A tremendous effort of a wine. Drink from 2027. Fratelli Alessandria. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$115

94 Broccardo 2021 Ravera (Barolo). There is class, then there is this wine, flowing from the glass with such ease and presence. Aromas of a bowl of macerating cherries dusted with spices and cutting fresh basil and tarragon, while a perfect bouquet of roses, just about to open, sits in the window, warm air moving the scents across the room. The fruit darkens on the palate to black currants with hints of licorice, cola and savory porcini mushroom notes. Tannins are taut, but bend while the acidity washes the palate. It is tasty now, but it is a time capsule. Broccardo SSA. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Broccardo 2021 San Giovanni (Barolo). Late summer underbrush mingles with drying herbs and sun-warmed berries still clinging to their vines. The afternoon light seems to awaken this wine, coaxing out subtle threads of savory spice. Rich and persistent, dark cherries melt into freshly cracked cinnamon stick and crushed cloves before settling into notes of steeped oolong tea. The tannins stand at attention, while bright acidity keeps everything in perfect harmony, balancing fruit and savory elements like a well-rehearsed orchestra. Drink from 2027. Broccardo SSA. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

94 Broccardo 2019 San Giovanni Riserva (Barolo). This wine unfolds like an epic story, its aromas rolling from the glass in waves that captivate both senses and spirit. Warm cherries emerge wrapped in spice and incense, dancing with freshly cut roses, while underbrush and dried herbs provide a grounding foundation. The palate mirrors these noble aromatics with remarkable depth and structure, promising decades of graceful evolution.

Drink from 2027. Broccardo SSA. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Davide Fregonese 2021 Cerretta (Barolo). A wildly expressive and untamed Cerretta that dances between savory depth and bright vitality. Ancient incense and mixed spices weave through memories of sacred spaces, while a vibrant core of wild cherry bursts forth with electric energy. The tannins are precisely crafted, present but refined, providing elegant structure without overwhelming. Brilliant acidity drives the wine forward, creating a thrilling tension between tart fruit and those deeper, contemplative elements. This is Cerretta speaking its truth, both sacred and spirited, traditional yet thoroughly alive. Drink now–2040. Bugia Nen. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

94 Diego Morra 2021 Zinzasco (Barolo). This is a serious wine that reveals itself slowly. Initially reserved, the beauty and elegance emerge, showing ripe red cherries crushed strawberries and wild raspberries alongside fresh garden herbs, black tea and rosewood notes. The palate demonstrates refinement through fine tannins and mouthwatering acidity, which create a wine of depth and persistence. The harmony between structure and flavor makes each sip compelling, as layers of fruit herbs and savory elements unfold. A wine of remarkable presence and purity. Drink from 2026. Diego Morra. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$63

94 Fratelli Alessandria 2021 San Lorenzo di Verduno (Barolo). Ripe wild strawberries and black cherries soar from the glass, chased by dried black tea, sweet anise and a garden's worth of thyme and marjoram. Pure class runs through this thoroughbred. The fruit and fine tannins play off each other like old friends, rolling into a savory finish that'll make you wish you bought more. Drink from 2027. Fratelli Alessandria. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$115

94 Giovanni Rosso 2021 (Barolo). Sweet dark cherries and crushed spices mingle with hints of vanilla root and licorice, expressing a nostalgic soda shop vibe. The palate flows with generous waves of ripe fruit, while fine-grained tannins provide enough structure to keep things interesting without getting in the way of pure drinking pleasure. A Barolo that exemplifies the vintage, drinks well now but will age gracefully. Drink now–2040 Giovanni Rosso Az. Agricola. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

94 Giovanni Rosso 2021 Del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo). Sweet dark cherries and fresh garden mint intertwine with cinnamon sticks and star anise, while threads of tar and earth provide the deep bass notes that make Serralunga famous. The palate reveals why this village earned its powerhouse reputation: Waves of pure fruit roll across crushed chalk minerality, building to a finale of spent tea leaves and bitter chocolate. A wine that

flexes its muscles, while wearing its finest silk suit, showing why Serralunga remains Barolo's center of gravitational force. Drink now–2045. Giovanni Rosso Az. Agricola. *Hidden Gem*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

94 Giovanni Rosso 2021 Serra (Barolo). Reserved at first, like something mysterious brewing in a forest glen. Wild blackberries and blueberries emerge with nutmeg and bay leaf, riding an undercurrent of umami richness. The palate expands with cosmic energy, dark fruits spiral outward, while fine-grained tannins and bright acidity keep everything in orbit, trailing hints of wild herbs in their wake. Drink now–2045. Giovanni Rosso Az. Agricola. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$160

94 Pio Cesare 2021 Pio (Barolo). Piedmont's stage opens with an elegant pas de deux of blueberries and cherries, pirouetting into a garden scene of just-harvested herbs and violet petals. The performance continues, as delicate spices weave through the air. Fine but commanding tannins conduct a symphony where fruit takes center stage, framed by earth and saline-mineral notes in perfect harmony. A masterful composition that will enchant audiences for years to come. Drink now–2040 Pio Cesare Soc. SEMPL. Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Broccardo 2021 Bricco San Pietro (Barolo). Like a shy guest finding their voice, this Barolo opens to reveal dark and tart cherries wrapped in velvet. Pine needles, blooming roses, and incense float above, while the palate moves with rich yet vibrant energy. The wine shifts from lush fruit to earthy depths, calling for hearty fare at the table. Drink now–2040. Broccardo SSA. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Broccardo 2021 I Tre Pais (Barolo). This is a Barolo that brings together three villages like a perfectly planned dinner party, each guest bringing their best dish to the table. This blend from Barolo, Novello and Monforte d'Alba floats from the glass with the delicacy of vintage lace: dried cherries sharing gossip with cola and incense, while herbs dry by the window. The palate arrives fashionably on time with pomegranate and red currants making their entrance, those fine tannins and bright acidity working the room like seasoned hosts. As the evening progresses, earth and savory notes take center stage like good conversation hitting its stride. Broccardo SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Broccardo 2021 Paiagallo (Barolo). Like a lazy Sunday, the wine unfolds leisurely with warmed cherries and blood orange sharing space with fresh oregano and cola—no need to rush these aromatics. The palate centers around a plush cushion of red fruits, while fine tannins, savory spices and crunchy acidity work the edges like a well-coordinated ensemble. It's a wine that reminds you sometimes the best approach is to slow down and

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savor. Drink now–2040. Broccardo SSA. **Editor's Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Carlo Revello & Figli 2021 Giachini (Barolo). A seductive and graceful Barolo that leads with finesse over force. The delicate aromatics offer wild strawberry and red currants laced with subtle white pepper and dried herbs. The palate unfolds with tart cranberry, pomegranate and red cherry wrapped in silky tannins. Though structured, the grip is precise and elegant, a testament to Giachini's ability to deliver power through subtlety. Drink now–2045. Carlo Revello & Figli. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

93 Carlo Revello & Figli 2019 Riserva Rocche dell'Annunziata (Barolo). A magnificent expression of Rocche dell'Annunziata that balances power and grace. The nose weaves dried cranberry, pomegranate and strawberry with Mediterranean herbs such as sage and thyme. Fresh church incense drifts through, mingling with dried earth and porcini umami. The palate is architecturally framed by defined tannins, as preserved cherries flood forward, carried by vibrant acidity. The finish lengthens with savory touches of rosemary and white pepper, showcasing the cru's renowned ability to deliver both muscle and elegance. Drink from 2027. Carlo Revello & Figli. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$155

93 Cascina Chicco 2021 Rocche di Castelletto (Barolo). This Barolo combines immediate appeal with aging potential. The palate shows candied cherries layered with sweet tea notes, while fine-grained tannins provide elegant, yet firm structure. It's delicious now, but has the balance for extended cellaring—exactly what top Barolo should deliver. Drink now–2045. Cascina Chicco SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Cascina Chicco 2018 Riserva Ginestra (Barolo). From Ginestra's hallowed slopes, this Barolo Riserva defies its challenging vintage with remarkable poise. The wine shows vibrant energy, lifted with pure red fruits and fresh herbs. Floral notes dance through a bright, accessible structure. It's a testament to careful winemaking, delivering a ready-to-drink Riserva that's both fresh and complex. Cascina Chicco SSA. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

93 Diego Morra 2021 del Comune di Verduno (Barolo). Purity rings through this Barolo from its first moments. The wine sings out of the glass with crystalline clarity: strawberry and raspberry notes float alongside dried leaves, while gentle hints of herbs and mushrooms add complexity. The palate carries a positive energy, where fine tannins create a framework for crunchy fruit leading to a lifted and saline finish. This is a stunning wine. The "del Comune" designation truly captures Verduno's identity through its beautiful, elegant plushness,

balanced with structure built for longevity. Drink now–2040+. Diego Morra. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Diego Morra 2021 Monvigliero (Barolo). This Monvigliero Barolo opens with a sophisticated interplay of savory elements and tart red fruits alongside sandalwood and tea-wood aromatics. The experience feels like entering a perfectly curated space where every element serves a purpose. The palate offers tart berries that bridge between red- and blue-fruit character, while fresh tea leaves and wild mint add layers of complexity. The wine carries itself with refined confidence. Drink now–2045. Diego Morra. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$113

93 Gian Luca Colombo 2021 (Barolo). Meet a Barolo that practices the art of elegant minimalism. This biodynamic beauty dances out of the glass with rosebuds and tart berries doing their best ballet moves, while herbs and warm earth provide the stage. The palate strikes that rare balance between "drink me now" temptation and "wait til you see me later" promise, with tannins playing nice and acidity bringing enough voltage to keep the lights on past 2038. Gian Luca Colombo. **Editor's Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90/075 ml

93 Josetta Saffirio 2021 Ravera (Barolo). The nose unfolds in waves of black-cherry preserves, dried rose petals and Asian spice box, with subtle hints of truffle and fresh tobacco emerging with air. The limestone-rich soils translate to a palate of impressive breadth, where macerated wild berries and plum compote are framed by sophisticated, mouthcoating tannins. The finish reveals layers of dried violet, iron, and sweet herbs, all carried by vibrant Nebbiolo acidity. Saffirio SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$54

93 Josetta Saffirio 2018 Riserva Castelletto Millenovecento48t (Barolo). A historic and profound Barolo from 1948–planted vines that commands attention. The nose unfolds with waves of wild blackberry, dried mulberry and forest strawberry preserves, intertwined with woodland herbs and fresh truffle. The southeast-facing Castelletto vineyard's signature shows in the palate's remarkable tension between rich, dark-fruit concentration and vibrant acidity. Sophisticated tannins support layers of macerated cherry, Damson plum and black raspberry compote. The finish persists with notes of dried rose petal, star anise and ferrous minerality, a testament to both the historic site and the thoughtful winemaking approach. Drink now–2040. Saffirio SSA. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Marrone 2021 Bussia (Barolo). Time slows when you encounter Marrone's 2021 Bussia. Opening with aromas of saffras and star anise that weave through sweet vanilla, drawing you deeper into the glass. As the wine develops, waves of dried Morello cherries and black plums mingle with forest floor, while the palate unfolds into dark-

fruit preserves. Beneath lurks something more profound, whispers of tobacco and earth that remind you this is serious Nebbiolo. Drink now–2045. Marrone. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Poderi Fogliati 2021 Bussia (Barolo). Here's a savory and sweet dance of sour cherries mingling with sage and rosemary, while wild mint adds an untamed freshness to the air. The wine unfolds like velvet across the palate, where cherry cola and cocoa create a plush, inviting start. It's immediately generous, offering its pleasures without hesitation. The finish brings a sprinkle of sweet baking spices while bright acidity lifts everything, readying for the next sip. Poderi Fogliati SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Réva 2021 Cannubi (Barolo). From Cannubi (Barolo's original Grand Cru vineyard since 1752) comes a wine that struts out with baking cherries getting cozy with cinnamon, nutmeg, and star anise, while wildflowers and fresh-picked herbs do their morning stretches in the background. On the palate, tannins make a weighty entrance, while sour cherries and red currants keep the party lively. The acidity's got that "just one more bite" energy that's begging for a plate of osso buco or wild boar ragu. But, this bottle's playing the long game. Drink from 2027. Salvatore Delle Donne. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

92 Diego Pressenda La Torricella 2021 Le Coste di Monforte (Barolo). From Le Coste di Monforte comes a wine that opens like summer fruit at peak ripeness, where cherries and strawberries stain the fingers with their abundance. Garden herbs weave through the experience as thyme mingles with rosemary and bay leaf, while rose buds wait in the wings. The tannins show fine craftsmanship though they speak clearly of youth, structured but needing time to fully harmonize. This is a composition that calls for patience. Drink from 2027. Diego Pressenda SSA. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Abrigo Fratelli 2021 Ravera (Barolo). Like a gathering storm, this Barolo announces itself with raw power rather than nuance. Muscular and dense, it fills the palate with impressive weight but speaks more in bold declarations than subtle secrets. Here is a wine that wears its strength like armor, flexing its dark, concentrated fruit with each sip, yet leaving one wondering what lies beneath all that brawn. Abrigo Fratelli . —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Camparo 2020 (Barolo). Think cherries taking a flavorful dip in spiced spirits, while firm tea-like tannins keep everything in check. There's that classic Barolo backbone of tar and singed herbs, with roasted notes adding depth. Traditional and straightforward, like a vintage Fiat "Cinquecento" that gets you where you need to go with pure Italian charm. Drink now–2035. Camparo. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Carlo Revello & Figli 2021 (Barolo). A beautifully composed Barolo that gradually reveals its depth. The core of black cherries emerges alongside the classic rose petal and tar signatures. Fine, firm tannins provide elegant structure, framing the fruit with precision and poise. A refined expression that showcases Barolo's graceful restraint without sacrificing depth. Drink now–2040. Carlo Revello & Figli. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

92 Carlo Revello & Figli 2021 Boiolo (Barolo). A deeply structured Barolo that embodies the classic La Morra style. The nose unfolds with tar, dried roses and wild cherries, while the palate delivers a chewy texture balanced by refinement. The flavors expand with air, revealing layers of red plum, tobacco leaf and forest floor. Though already showing elegance, this wine promises even more rewards with cellar time. Drink now–2045. Carlo Revello & Figli. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$56

92 Marrone 2021 Castellero (Barolo). From Castellero's sun-blessed slopes in the heart of Barolo comes a wine of innate grace. Mixed sweet spices float above macerated cherries and freshly cut flowers, hinting at the unique sandy marl soils below. While the core shows classic Nebbiolo power, the wine remains light on its feet with crystalline precision through the finish. The structure suggests patience will be handsomely rewarded. Drink now–2045. Marrone. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Pelassa 2021 San Lorenzo di Verduno (Barolo). This wine expresses wild strawberries caught in that perfect moment before jam-making, their juicy freshness preserved, mingled with dashes of clove, cinnamon, allspice and subtle underbrush. Each sniff reveals new layers, keeping the senses engaged. Dark cherries dominate the palate, accompanied by touches of cola, cardamom and star anise, while a deep earthy quality emerges, all wrapped in elegant, fine-grained tannins. Drink now–2038. Pelassa. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

92 Réva 2021 (Barolo). Here's a Barolo that's teaching a masterclass in Nebbiolo without making you sit through a boring lecture. The nose opens like a perfectly orchestrated band with ripe cherries taking the lead, fresh-ground spices and orange peel handling backup vocals, while rose petals and herbs add their acoustic unplugged vibe. The palate keeps the show rolling with cranberry and pomegranate bringing the crunch factor, while that earthy undertone drops the bass like a well-behaved DJ. The tannins are like that friend who knows exactly when to give you a firm handshake and when to fist bump—present but never pushy. Drink now–2040. Salvatore Delle Donne. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Castello di Perno 2021 (Barolo). A distinctly aromatic expression leads with fascinating

herbal complexity. The interplay between medicinal herbs recalls both the sweet cooling of Luden's throat drops and Ricola's alpine botanicals, while remaining uniquely Barolo. On the palate, this herbaceous character persists and defines, weaving through layers of juicy fruit. The structure shows careful craftsmanship, with tannins that are refined yet purposeful. That green herbal signature remains a constant companion, creating an intriguing and refreshingly different expression of Monforte terroir. Castello di Perno. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

91 Demarie 2016 Riserva (Barolo). Deep aromas rise from the glass like aged tea leaves and fresh espresso, mingling with forest floor and dried figs. The lush palate unfolds with dark plums and black cherries wrapped in sage, rosemary and bay leaf, flowing into a finish that speaks more of earth than fruit. Az. Agricola Demarie Giovanni di Demarie Aldo. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

91 Diego Pressenda La Torricella 2021 Bricco San Pietro (Barolo). This wine reveals itself first through cherries steeped in warming spices with cracked pepper floating above, then time in the glass coaxes out tarter red fruits alongside herbs that seem freshly gathered from the garden. The palate commands attention with firm structural lines, while juicy fruit works to match its stride. In the background, like whispers from the forest floor, savory mushroom notes and earthy tar suggestions hint at complexities still to come. Here's a wine that shows its cards for today, while holding a few tricks for tomorrow. Diego Pressenda SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Dosio 2021 Fossat (Barolo). This shows textbook Nebbiolo aromatics with rose petals, tar and pristine cherry notes. The palate opens with firm, assertive tannins and bright acidity framing a pure core of red cherries. The finish shows impressive length, while maintaining that classic structure. A well-crafted expression that speaks clearly of its varietal character, delivering pristine flavors without embellishment. Drink now. Dosio. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Francone 2021 (Barolo). Give this one a minute to open up and show its true colors. When it does, you're in classic Barolo territory with bright red fruits playing nice with savory herbs and earth notes. This is definitely for folks who dig wines with a savory edge. Pure Nebbiolo goodness here: sour cherries wrapped in rose candy and incense spices. Tannins are refined, not rough, and that mouth-watering acidity keeps you coming back for more. Drink from 2027. Francone. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Gianni Gagliardo 2021 Gianni Gagliardo (Barolo). Macerating raspberry aromas mingle with fresh bay leaf, while hints of blood-orange peel, cherry pit and incense weave through the glass. The palate pops with crushed red berries, perfectly balanced by elegant tannins and bright acidity.

Savory herbs and earthy notes round out the finish in a wine that shows its sophisticated charm from the start. Drink now–2035. Gianni Gagliardo SRL. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

91 Marrone 2021 (Barolo). Here's a Barolo that's honest and straightforward. The nose opens with violets and red geraniums mingling with fresh oregano and thyme. Tannins arrive with refinement rather than force, while flavors of red cherries and wild strawberries keep the palate bright. It's not trying to reinvent Barolo, but delivers a reliable, well-crafted expression. Like a local tailor's blazer sewn with care and traditional skill, straightforward but showing clear attention to detail. Marrone. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Marrone 2021 Pichemej (Barolo). From a "little peak" (Pichemej in Piedmontese) in La Morra's Annunziata zone comes this brooding Barolo. The south-facing hillside vineyard yields a wine showing warm asphalt after rain mingling with mountain peonies, while dark cherries and damp earth provide depth. A savory thread of cured tobacco and worn leather suggests this needs cellar time to fully express itself. Drink from 2026. Marrone. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Monchiero Carbone 2021 (Barolo). A poised and classically structured Barolo that's still finding its voice. The initially reserved aromatics gradually reveal a lovely interplay of mixed berries spanning both blue- and red-fruit tones, while delicate floral notes add subtle lift. The palate shows textbook structure with chewy tannins that frame rather than dominate. A focused core of fruit provides substance and depth through the center, while maintaining traditional proportions. This is a well-crafted example of classic Barolo that should reward patience as it continues to unfold. Drink from 2026. Monchiero Carbone. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Pelassa 2020 SAN LORENZO DI VERDUNO (Barolo). Bursting with joy, this wine leaps from the glass with a cascade of red berries—fresh, macerated and candied—while subtle savory notes weave in and out. The palate offers an accessible journey through Barolo, centered on a bowl of cherries and cinnamon, lifted by zippy acidity and finishing with a whisper of porcini. A perfect introduction to Barolo that's drinking beautifully now. Pelassa. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

91 Stroppiana 2019 Bussia Riserva (Barolo). A commanding presence, this Barolo is muscular and profound. Saturated black fruits dominate, woven with sun-baked Mediterranean herbs and spices. The palate unfolds with remarkable density and richness, showing waves of dark-berry compote and warming spices. The texture is initially lush and mouthcoating before the tannins build to a powerful crescendo. A formidable expression that show-

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cases concentration and depth, where each element is dialed up to create an intense, full-throttle Barolo that demands attention. Drink from 2027. Cantina Stroppiana SSA. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 Virna Borgogno 2021 Sarmassa (Barolo). A powerhouse from the Sarmassa cru, this Barolo broods with concentrated black cherry, star anise, fresh roasted coffee and turned earth. Lush and full bodied, it marries grilled strawberries with muscular tannins, powering through a savory, earth-driven finish punctuated by a salty, mouth-watering kick. Still tightly wound, patience will be rewarded. Drink from 2027. Virna Borgogno. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Castello di Perno 2019 Perno Riserva (Barolo). This Riserva leads with intense herbal aromatics and a distinctive savory character that speaks to its unique personality. The structure is deliberately austere, showing a lean muscularity through its firm tannic framework. While the tannins make a bold statement, they suggest potential for those who appreciate a more assertive, traditionally styled Barolo. The green herbal notes persist throughout, offering an intellectual counterpoint to the usual fruit-forward expressions. This is a wine that demands time and understanding to reveal its full character. Drink from 2027. Castello di Perno. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$200

90 Dosio 2021 del Comune di La Morra (Barolo). This reserved Barolo reveals itself gradually, offering delicate red cherry aromas that quietly emerge from the glass. Violet and iris petals add an elegant floral complexity to the aromatic profile. The palate mirrors this restraint, delivering precise red fruits that dance with savory herbs on a composed finish. A straightforward, honest expression of La Morra. Dosio. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

90 Pelassa 2020 (Barolo). Warmed cherries and wild berries steeped in their juices mingle with allspice and quinine-rich cinchona bark. Round and plush on the palate, this Barolo shows opulent, juicy fruit wrapped in sweet tannins, like a spirited young pony reined in by zippy acidity on the finish. Pelassa. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

90 Stroppiana 2021 Leonardo (Barolo). An expressive nose leads with enticing dark cherries, shifting between dried and candied variations that draw you in. Sweet baking spices mingle with delicate rosewood aromatics. The palate unfolds towards earthier territory, revealing forest floor and black-tea notes that complement its fruit core. A generous Barolo that favors immediate charm over restraint. Cantina Stroppiana SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Stroppiana 2020 Bricco Cogni (Barolo). Initially reserved, this Barolo gradually reveals a deep, concentrated core of dark fruits with intriguing cola and exotic spice notes. The palate shows more immediacy and polish, offering layers of blackberry and warming spices. A wine that suggests patience will be rewarded, as its elements continue to harmonize and develop. The density and structure point to good aging potential. Drink from 2026. Cantina stroppiana SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

90 Virna Borgogno 2021 Cannubi (Barolo). Fresh strawberry preserves mingle with warm spices of clove and cinnamon, lifted by savory herbs and pepper. The palate showcases Cannubi's trademark richness through dark cherry flavors, with subtle porcini and forest-floor complexity. Rounded tannins and bright acidity create tension on the finish. Virna Borgogno. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Virna Borgogno 21 Noi (Barolo). A Barolo that means business, leading with candied cherries and red licorice before revealing subtle layers of bay leaf and forest floor. The palate dives deeper with dark fruits, anise and coffee notes. Fine tannins and that signature Barolo acidity provide the backbone. Noi ("us" in Italian) lives up to its name and is a wine you can really sink your teeth into. Virna Borgogno. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Cantine Povero 2021 Priore (Barolo). This wild-hearted Barolo plays a game of hide and seek, with aromas that dance and evolve with each approach. Dried violets and lavender mingle with herbs, while sun-dried raspberries rest on warm stones. The palate stands at attention, where firm tannins frame a bright burst of red berries that crackle with vibrant acidity. Just when you think you understand its path, the wine pivots dramatically toward a forest floor finish, rich with autumn mushrooms and earth. Cantine Povero SRL. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

89 Cascina Maria 2021 (Barolo). Maritime minerals and dried rose petals weave through tart red currants and wild raspberries, suggesting patience will be rewarded. The palate shows refined breeding with bright cranberry and pomegranate notes carried by firm tannins that flow into a remarkably fresh, saline finish. Drink now–2040. Az. Agricola Demarie Giovanni di Demarie Aldo. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Demarie 2021 (Barolo). Sweet red fruits drift up from the glass like a morning in a wild berry patch, woven through with garden sage and fresh tobacco above subtle forest-floor aromas. The palate delivers everything Barolo promises, with its signature grip and poise wrapping around pure red fruits, while firm tannins carry a long, nuanced finish that will refine with time in the cel-

lar. Drink from 2027. Az. Agricola Demarie Giovanni di Demarie Aldo. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Diego Pressenda La Torricella 2020 Barbadelchi (Barolo). This Barolo unfolds with an array of spices usually reserved for the spice merchant's shelf, while dark earth grounds the experience. The structure reveals itself thoughtfully as sun-warmed plums find company with fresh-dug licorice root and garden sage touched by flame. The tannins feel like brushed silk against the palate. While many of its neighbors ask for cellar time this wine offers its pleasures today without reservation. Diego Pressenda SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Dosio 2021 Serradenari (Barolo). Refined aromas of red cherries and dried roses unfold with a touch of sweet tobacco and cedar. The palate shows composure and grace, with bright red fruits framed by a more pronounced tannic structure that adds gravitas. Fresh mint and crushed stone notes emerge on the finish, while its polished nature maintains sophistication from start to finish. Dosio. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Stroppiana 2020 Bussia (Barolo). This wine opens with mineral-iodine tones leading to a generous array of warmed wild berries. The palate presents a substantial structure with firm, chewy tannins framing those strawberry notes. A robust expression that shows both power and warmth, with a firm tannic frame that carries through the finish. Cantina Stroppiana SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

89 Virna Borgogno 2021 del Comune di Barolo (Barolo). Opening gently with almost-ripe strawberry and fresh herbs, this Barolo from the commune itself builds like an avalanche. What starts as a whisper of bay leaf and savory spices gains momentum, rolling into tart cherry, sweet tobacco and black tea. Fine but firm tannins carry it through to a savory finish. Virna Borgogno. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Francesco Moretti 2019 Brunate (Barolo). A classically framed Barolo from Brunate shows the expected tar, roses and red cherries. The palate delivers traditional notes of tobacco leaf and forest floor with moderate depth. While it carries the hallmark structure and fruit concentration typical of this renowned cru, the finish softens earlier than expected, making this a proper but not profound expression of Brunate. Poderi Moretti. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

88 Stroppiana 2021 San Giacomo (Barolo). The nose delivers traditional Nebbiolo markers with aromas of rose petals and cherry notes. The palate takes a lighter approach, with subtle red fruits giving way to prominent herbal tones. While the aromatics speak to tradition, the palate presents a more delicate interpretation, perhaps best suited

for near-term drinking. Cantina Stroppiana SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

88 Tenuta Carretta 2020 Cannubi (Barolo). From Cannubi's storied slopes comes a wine that's more artisan than artist. Honest rose petals and forest floor notes mingle with straight-forward cocoa and citrus touches and while the calcareous soils lend their typical signature, this vintage speaks in measured tones rather than grand gestures. A solid craftsman's Barolo that delivers reliability over revelation. Tenuta Carretta. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$91

88 Virna Borgogno 2021 Preda (Barolo). A less harmonious offering showing purple plum, violets, cherry candy and sweet-spice aromas. While the palate opens with ripe, juicy fruit, the tannins intrude rather than integrate, creating an angular, somewhat disjointed experience. The firmness and lack of flow suggest this wine is still finding its footing. Virna Borgogno. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

BARBARESCO

96 Pio Cesare 2021 Il Bricco (Barbaresco). Perched in Treiso's loftiest heights, where cool breezes whisper to Nebbiolo vines, Il Bricco crafts liquid poetry. Dark marasca cherries play a duet, some fresh from the branch, others transformed into candied jewels, while incense smoke and flower petals dance through the air. The palate performs a high-wire act, balancing graceful power with aristocratic tannins from its 30-month slumber in French and Slavonian oak. A wine that's dressed for tonight's gala. Drink now–2045. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$180

95 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Grésy 2020 Riserva Camp Gros Martinenga (Barbaresco). Wild rose petals and crushed limestone burst from the glass, followed by hints of dried strawberries and fresh thyme. Pure class meets raw energy in this Camp Gros Riserva. The wine's crystalline minerality channels the distinctive white soils of this amphitheater vineyard with chalky dust and saline notes lifting each sip. Vibrant red fruits bring crunchy precision, while an ethereal purity runs through the wine's core. The wine radiates sophistication, while remaining utterly delicious and engaging. This is Barbaresco speaking its truth through pristine terroir expression. Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Grésy. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$140

94 Cantina del Pino 2021 Gallina (Barbaresco). Opening with aromas of dark berries and black plums, accented by sweet spices and wild herbs, this wine pours from the glass. The wine's identity shines through with distinctive mineral notes of crushed rock as more generous wild berries define the palate. It maintains the appellation's character while offering a fruit-forward expression

that celebrates the site's generous nature. Drink now–2040. Cantina del Pino. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Cantina del Pino 2021 Ovello (Barbaresco). From the historic Ovello vineyard comes a Barbaresco that bridges tradition and pure drinking pleasure. The wine leads with vibrant red fruits ranging from tart pomegranate to wild plums before diving into a deeper pool of mixed berries. Mint, rosemary and violets add complexity without overwhelming the fruit. The texture is pure silk, making this seriously enjoyable now, while the finish of bay leaf and sandalwood reminds us of its noble origins. Drink now–2045. Cantina del Pino. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Fontanabianca 2022 Serraboella (Barbaresco). This Barbaresco means business, opening with notes of dark cherries and black fruits that swagger across the glass and palate, while dried herbs, tea leaves and classic tar and roses remind you where you are. The wine fills your mouth corner to corner, with a richness that's both generous and structured. Think of it as the broad-shouldered cousin who knows how to dress for dinner. Serious stuff, but with charm to spare. Drink from 2027. Fontanabianca. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

93 Cantina del Pino 2021 Albesani (Barbaresco). This Barbaresco balances accessibility with sophistication. Red cherries and wild strawberries mingle with dried roses and forest herbs, while hints of leather and earth add savory depth. Fine tannins provide subtle grip, while a tart raspberry finish adds freshness and tension. It's approachable now but has the structure and balance to evolve beautifully in the cellar. Drink Now–2045. Cantina del Pino. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Fontanabianca 2022 (Barbaresco). Cascading layers of red cherry and Damson plum weave through classic rose petal and forest floor, while subtle hints of licorice and warm spice add intrigue. The palate unfolds with graceful power, think a silk scarf caught in a breeze. Those classic Barbaresco tannins are present but polished, suggesting a beautiful future ahead. A wine that whispers of old-school charm. Drink now–2045. Fontanabianca. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 Fontanabianca 2022 BORDINI (Barbaresco). Deep red cherries and wild strawberries dance with dried roses and sweet tobacco, while threads of orange peel and forest herbs weave through the background. The palate shows impressive concentration, with tannins that grip with purpose, like velvet brushed the wrong way. This is a Barbaresco that flexes its muscles, while maintaining poise, offering both power and finesse in its long, spice-tinged finish. Drink from 2026. Fontanabianca. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

93 Pio Cesare 2021 Pio (Barbaresco). This first whiff of this wine expresses layers of red and black berries stretching endlessly, growing deeper with each inhale. Every swirl reveals new depths of sweet tobacco and woodland spices that tease the senses. Pure Nebbiolo power shows its true colors on the palate, where firm tannins and ripe fruit cascade through infinite layers, never hitting bottom. Drink now–2040. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Grésy 2020 Riserva Gaiun Martinenga (Barbaresco). Fragrant waves of orange zest and rosewood lead an intensely aromatic profile layered with mixed spices that bridge sweet and savory. Fresh dried strawberries and tart cherries energize each sip. The wine flows with polished grace showing refined tannins that speak to elegance and composure. This Gaiun Martinenga delivers immediate pleasure, while maintaining the sophistication expected from this prestigious site. A beautifully composed Barbaresco that's drinking wonderfully now. Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Grésy. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$140

92 Cantina del Pino 2021 (Barbaresco). A wine that shines with warmth and elegance. Opening with aromas of hard cherry candy and tight rosebuds with subtle palo santo and fresh herbal hints. The palate balances lift with depth, showing plush red fruits that speak to the warm vintage, while maintaining classic refinement as fine tannins shape the palate with a savory finish. Drink Now–2040. Cantina del Pino. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Cascina Chicco 2022 Noce Grande (Barbaresco). From Ovello's morning-lit slopes at 250–280 meters, this Barbaresco captures pure elegance. The nose lifts with fresh flowers and bright strawberries, showing the gentle influence of cool Tanaro valley breezes. This wine showcases how Ovello's special microclimate shapes wines of harmony and grace. Cascina Chicco SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Quarantadue42 / Rattalino Massimo 2022 (Barbaresco). This Barbaresco plays a subtle game. It opens quietly with delicate red fruits and just-blooming roses, making you lean in for more. But don't be fooled by its gentle start, the wine keeps unfurling in the glass, growing in presence and complexity with each sip. It's like a great conversation that starts with pleasantries but leads somewhere fascinating. Pure elegance that rewards your patience. Drink from 2026. Rattalino Massimo. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

91 Cantine Povero 2022 Batù (Barbaresco). This Barbaresco dances between exuberance and delicacy as if walking through a garden where raspberry bushes meet a wall of climbing roses. The perfume is almost intoxicating, with rose water floating in the air, yet it never loses its poise. Each sip

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brings a surge of bright, lip-smacking red fruits that wake up the palate, while fresh currants add a playful tartness. The abundant florals weave through it all like silk ribbons, creating an enchanting tension between power and grace. It's a wine that speaks with youthful confidence but never forgets its noble roots. Drink now–2040. Cantine Povero SRL. **Editor's Choice.** —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Demarie 2022 (Barbaresco). Delicate rose petals and red cherries float above hints of warm spice and fresh herbs in the glass. The wine speaks of classic Barbaresco elegance, where firm, refined tannins and bright acidity create a graceful frame around layers of red fruits, leading to a persistent, silky finish. Drink now–2035. Az. Agricola Demarie Giovanni di Demarie Aldo. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Francone 2019 Riserva (Barbaresco). Here's an attention grabber with orange peel, macerated strawberries and sweet spices floating up from the glass. But don't let that delicate nose fool you, this wine brings the bass on the palate. Serious tannins flex from start to finish, while wild berries and dried herbs do their thing. That classic acidity wraps it up, but be patient. This one needs a few years to really strut its stuff. Drink from 2028. Francone. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Tenuta Ronzano 2021 Bricco di Neive (Barbaresco). Invigorating perfume leaps from the glass with wild-cherry jam carrying a tart edge, mingling with dried blood-orange peel, a bouquet of violets, and fresh cinnamon sticks. The palate mirrors these lifted, pure aromatics with graceful precision. This Barbaresco delivers classic character and craftsmanship at a compelling price point. Tenuta Ronzano di Ronzano Marco. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

90 Virna Borgogno 2022 Montersino (Barbaresco). Light on its feet, but never lacking substance, this Barbaresco from the Montersino vineyard shows the elegant side of Nebbiolo. Wild red berries and mixed spices dance above the glass, while candied cherries and currants glide across the palate. A graceful expression that captures the finesse Barbaresco is known for. Virna Borgogno. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

89 Dosio 2021 Montersino (Barbaresco). Oak spice commands attention, with generous doses of vanilla and clove making the first impression. A medley of red cherries, ripe raspberries and wild strawberries fills the glass with familiar comfort. The palate stays approachable with rounded, cushy tannins that make this an effortlessly enjoyable daily companion. A plush, crowd-pleasing Barbaresco. Dosio. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

88 Tenuta Carretta 2020 Riserva Cascina Bordino (Barbaresco). This Barbaresco Riserva

emerges like a wild rose blooming in a mountain garden, where delicate violets mingle with sun-ripened red fruits. The vineyard's steep eastern slopes speak through silken, fine-grained tannins that wrap around the palate with aristocratic poise. It's a wine of quiet confidence, balancing intensity with grace, power with finesse. Tenuta Carretta. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

LANGHE

97 Giovanni Rosso 2022 Ester Canale Rosso (Langhe). Pure seductive cherries float from the glass with an allure impossible to resist. The old vines of Vigna Rionda sing through waves of silken texture and profound depth. Though labeled Langhe Nebbiolo, this wine carries all the nobility and grace of fine Barolo, but with an irresistible youthful energy. Tannins float soft as morning light while layers of pleasure unfold with each sip. A wine of such immediate joy, it refuses to wait in the cellar. A testament to eight decades of faithful vines and generations of careful hands. Drink now until who knows when. Giovanni Rosso Az. Agricola. **Editor's Choice.** —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$170

94 Diego Morra 2023 NEBBIOLO IL SARTO (Langhe). This Langhe Nebbiolo seduces from the start, with a bouquet of roses leading the way. The aromas draw you into a world of cranberry and white-cherry flavors, as the palate unfolds with a plush inviting texture that makes everything accessible. Here's a bottle that shows why people fall in love with wine in the first place: pure joy in a glass and a perfect gateway into the wonderful world of Nebbiolo. Diego Morra. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Broccardo 2023 Nebbiolo Il GiòPi (Langhe). Think of the moment when fresh raspberries tumble into your basket at the farmers' market and that's this wine's opening act. The supporting cast includes dried roses doing their best potpourri impression. And the palate? It's Nebbiolo with its fancy shoes kicked off, ready to hang with whatever's or whomever is at your table. Simply scrumptious! Broccardo SSA. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.

abv: NA **Price:** \$24

93 Giovanni Rosso 2023 (Langhe). Delicate rose petals and wild berries float above warm earth notes, while threads of dried herbs weave through the background. A bright core of strawberry and sour cherry delivers a perfect 10 performance, balancing the warm vintage's plumpness with the kind of poise and precision that would make an Olympic gymnast jealous. Giovanni Rosso Az. Agricola. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Trediberri 2024 (Langhe). A joyful and approachable expression of Nebbiolo. Bright red-cherry candy notes mingle with fresh herbs in an openly charming fashion. The palate reveals more generous plummy fruit character, while main-

taining varietal authenticity. This is Nebbiolo in its most immediately appealing form, showing lovely primary fruit purity. The wine finishes with a savory flourish and beautifully refined tannins that remind you of its noble origins. A wonderful gateway into the variety, while still speaking clearly of its Langhe roots. Società Agricola Trediberri di Nicola Oberto & C.S.S. **Editor's Choice.** —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 Diego Morra 2022 Nebbiolo Il Sarto (Langhe). This Langhe Nebbiolo reveals itself first through lifted aromas of crushed red fruits intertwined with fresh flowers, creating an immediately captivating presence. Then, the palate broadens and warms, showing elegant purity, while citrus notes of blood orange add a bright complexity to the experience. A wine that combines grace with quiet depth. Diego Morra. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Ventisei26 / Rattalino Massimo 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). The nose opens with aged black tea and rosewood before showcasing bright raspberry and pomegranate, with wild strawberry adding juicy freshness on the palate. The tannins play nice, making this rounded and approachable. It's the kind of wine that's perfect for summer afternoons with a slight chill, sophisticated enough to make you think but fun enough to keep pouring. Rattalino Massimo. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

90 Dosio 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). A playful wine that revels in its youth, leading with plush strawberries at their ripest moment. Fresh herbs float through this carefree expression, while vibrant acidity keeps the party going. Each sip brings a tart freshness that beckons another, making this an irresistible fun companion for the table. Dosio. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Gianni Gagliardo 2022 Da Batiè Nebbiolo (Langhe). This playful Nebbiolo offers sun-warmed cherries and wafts of licorice and cinnamon stick dancing across the glass. The whimsical nose leads to a vibrant palate, where savory herbs meet crunchy acidity. Give it a slight chill and pair with aperitivo bites or your favorite pizza. Gianni Gagliardo SRL. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Limited Edition / Rattalino Massimo 2022 Nebbiolo (Langhe). This Langhe Nebbiolo makes a bold statement. Cinnamon and nutmeg weave through juicy ripe cherries, while orange peel adds a bright accent. It starts lush and fruit-forward, almost seducing you into thinking it's all about immediacy. Then the tannins kick in, making it chewy and structured—a reminder that even in this riper style, Nebbiolo can't help but show its muscle. It's a wine that bridges the gap between modern fruit and traditional grip. Rattalino Massimo. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Marrone 2023 Nebbiolo Chevale (Langhe). Light as a summer breeze, this Nebbiolo plays in the delicate range. The color's barely there—like catching the sunset through rose-tinted glasses. Bright, lifted notes dance with tart fruits and a whisper of herbs. Give it a quick chill, and it becomes the perfect afternoon refresher. Think of it as rosé's more sophisticated Italian cousin who shows up to lunch in cool linen. Marrone. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tenuta Ronzano 2022 Nebbiolo (Langhe). This Nebbiolo brings the charm! Lifted aromatics dance from the glass as desiccated cherries mingle with dried herbs and roses, all floating above that tell-tale dusty earth character. The palate zips along with bright bursts of cranberry and raspberry, sliding into savory spices and herbs. Fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity keep everything in motion. Here's a Langhe Nebbiolo that brings both classical character and pure drinking joy. Tenuta Ronzano di Ronzano Marco. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

89 Pio Cesare 2022 (Langhe). Shy at first, this Nebbiolo plays hide-and-seek with wild woodland berries and fresh herbs, like a morning walk through Langhe's misty hillsides. The game continues on the palate, where bright red fruits dodge and weave through herbal notes and china bark, all wrapped in those classic fine-grained tannins that keep you coming back for more. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

NEBBIOLO D'ALBA

91 Cascina Val del Prete 2023 (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Pretty, aromatic Nebbiolo that balances the warmth of 2023 with surprising finesse. The nose opens with sandalwood and rosewood, leading to a garden of dried rose petals and violets. The palate shows succulent dried cherries, red currants, and subtle notes of orange peel and star anise. While juicy and approachable, it maintains Nebbiolo's hallmark grace with fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity—an impressive feat given the vintage's challenges. Cascina Val del Prete. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

90 Diego Pressenda La Torricella 2022 il Donato (Nebbiolo d'Alba). A welcoming Nebbiolo that opens with hard cherry-candy sweetness, finding harmony with whole cinnamon sticks and star anise pods. It follows the traditional script with confidence, delivering familiar pleasures rather than plot twists. Like a well-rehearsed performance, it shares its story with comfortable grace. Diego Pressenda SSA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Francesco Moretti 2019 Vadonia (Nebbiolo d'Alba). A graceful Nebbiolo that leads with vibrant, juicy red fruits and remarkable drinkability. The wine evolves in the glass, revealing fine-

grained tannins that caress rather than grip. The finish carries subtle complexities of aged oolong tea leaves and fresh earth. This wine demonstrates how Nebbiolo can deliver both immediate pleasure and thoughtful nuance without carrying the name of Barolo. Poderi Moretti. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

88 Cascina Maria 2022 (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Fresh roses and wild strawberries float above a hint of mint and young herbs, suggesting this Nebbiolo's youthful energy. The structure flexes its muscles with firm, chewy tannins and bright acidity, while red fruits dance nimbly across the palate, a wine that speaks clearly of its alpine roots and promising future. Az. Agricola Demarie Giovanni di Demarie Aldo. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

BARBERA D'ALBA

92 Pio Cesare 2023 (Barbera d'Alba). Purple fruit bursts from the glass like a summer berry pie cooling on the windowsill, with sweet spices and violet candies playing backup singers. This is classic Barbera doing its favorite dance move: zesty red fruits and flowery notes zip across the palate with that trademark lightning bolt of acidity keeping everything fresh and fun. Pio Cesare Soc. Sempl. Agricola. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Broccardo 2023 La Martinella (Barbera d'Alba). Wild flowers drift from the glass alongside sun-warmed raspberries, fresh thyme and garden sage, creating a perfect summer afternoon in Piedmont. The fleshy palate bursts with crunchy red cherries and juicy boysenberries, while Barbera's signature bright acidity slices through the warmth of the 2023 vintage, keeping everything light on its feet. Broccardo SSA. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Cascina Val del Prete 2021 Carolina (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). A wonderfully hedonistic Barbera that delivers exactly what you want from the variety. Plump and forward, with waves of blueberry syrup and boysenberry jam, touched with vanilla sweetness. Yet classic Barbera acidity keeps all this lushness in check, making it both indulgent and refreshing. Cascina Val del Prete. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Cascina Val del Prete 2024 Serra de' Gatti (Barbera d'Alba). This is a vibrant and energetic Barbera that opens with an intriguing floral burst of violets and wild roses. The palate zips with characteristic black cherry, ripe plum and fresh blackberry, all carried by Barbera's signature electric acidity. There's a wild, untamed quality that makes this wine particularly engaging and fun to drink. Cascina Val del Prete. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Demarie 2022 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Ripe plums and wild violets fill the air, with

summer berries trailing close behind. This Barbera brings a generous, round palate filled with juicy dark fruits and enough structure to stand up to a hearty meal, making it a perfect companion for classic ragu or grilled fish. This wine is versatile, fun and purely delicious. Az. Agricola Demarie Giovanni di Demarie Aldo. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

89 Cascina Maria 2022 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Wild plums and crushed violets leap from the glass, trailing threads of garden herbs and exotic spices through the air. This is Barbera turned up to its most glorious volume—generous and full-bodied, with waves of dark fruit rolling across a velvet cushion, yet never losing its vibrant, refreshing soul. Az. Agricola Demarie Giovanni di Demarie Aldo. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

89 Marrone 2022 Carlot (Barbera d'Alba). Here's a friendly Barbera that doesn't take itself too seriously. Plums and dark fruits do a casual dance with gentle spices, while pretty floral notes play softly in the background. It's as comfortable as your favorite T-shirt, soft, easy-going and just right for everyday enjoyment. The kind of wine that makes Tuesday night pizza feel like a proper occasion. Marrone. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Monchiero Carbone 2020 Monbirono (Barbera d'Alba). A dark and intensely spiced Barbera that has the same savory depth you might find in Asian ingredients such as nori or soy sauce. The palate is generously proportioned with abundant plum fruit and a juicy core that makes it immediately appealing. While the richness and intensity might be a bit much, it's precisely the kind of wine that shines by the glass. The exuberant fruit and bold personality make it a satisfying pour for those craving a more concentrated style of Barbera. Monchiero Carbone. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Diego Pressenda La Torricella 2022 Ariota (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). A Barbera that arrives wearing velvet—plush and saturated with dark intent. The nose dives deep into plum and pomegranate essences, while lifted violet notes add a candied sparkle above the depths. The palate pulls back from this initial intensity, showing more restraint though the warmth of alcohol makes itself known. It's like a musician who opens with a dramatic flourish then settles into a steadier rhythm. Diego Pressenda SSA. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

88 Fontanabianca 2023 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Generous and immediately pleasing, this Barbera d'Alba Superiore offers ripe plum and dark-berry fruit with a satisfying roundness. The palate shows classic Barbera juiciness balanced by refined tannins, while a subtle chalky minerality adds interest to the finish. Fresh and accessible

BUYINGGUIDE

with just enough structure to give it backbone. Fontanabianca. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

BARBERA D'ASTI

92 Tenuta Ronzano 2023 (Barbera d'Asti). Vibrant and expressive, this Barbera rushes forth with fresh and dried violets, sour plums and cherries, kissed with subtle fresh herbs. The palate shows a generous roundness, where roasted black fruits hint at the warm vintage. Yet true to Barbera's nature, bright acidity emerges to elevate the dense fruit, creating beautiful tension and lift. Tenuta Ronzano di Ronzano Marco. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Tenuta Garetto 2022 Rosina (Barbera d'Asti). Aromas of plump red plums and wild blackberries burst forth, wreathed in sweet spices and herbs, while subtle earthy notes play hide-and-seek. The palate fills with tart raspberry and black cherry, kept fresh by classic Barbera acidity. A wine for the people, a plush, pleasure-filled wine equally at home with Thursday's grilled salmon or Sunday's roast pork. Gianni Gagliardo srl. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 Marchesi Alfieri 2017 Carlo Alfieri (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Time in bottle has worked its magic here, transforming heady fruit into something more nuanced and complex. Roasted plums mingle with bay leaf and oak spice, while dried flowers and warm earth fill the glass. The palate stays rich but balanced, oak tannins adding structure without stealing the show. Classic Barbera acidity keeps everything fresh before a playful boysenberry zip brings it home. Marchesi Alfieri SRL Soc. Agr. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

90 Marchesi Alfieri 2021 Alfiera (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This Barbera is a deep, dark stunner. Blackberry juice and cassis mingle with crushed cinnamon and star anise, while violet candy hangs in the background. The sip delivers blackplum jellies and licorice root with a subtle rose water twist. Just when you think it's all richness, a zip of acidity swoops in for the finish. Marchesi Alfieri SRL Soc. Agr. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$58

OTHER RED WINES

93 Diego Morra 2023 Pelaverga (Verduno). This Verduno Pelaverga lifts from the glass with delicate floral notes, as if walking through freshly crushed petals. Light strawberry notes dance with crushed raspberries while subtle herbal undertones add complexity. When given a slight chill, the wine's refreshing character shines, making each sip invite another. Here's a wine that disappears from the glass far too quickly, combining brightness with pure drinking pleasure. Diego Morra. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

93 Marchesi Alfieri 2021 Costa Quaglia (Terre Alfieri). For full review see page 9. Marchesi Alfieri SRL Soc. Agr. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Diego Morra 2024 Pelaverga (Verduno). This Verduno Pelaverga opens like a garden in full splendor with aromas of fresh mint and bay leaf draped over wild berries warmed by the sun, with flowers scattered throughout. The palate brings pure joy, vibrant and fruit filled, while a gentle chill amplifies its lush, ripe character. A wine that delivers pleasure without pretense, making everyone at the table smile. Diego Morra. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

92 Pelassa 2021 RISERVA STERLOTTI SQNPI (Roero). An elegant perfume soars from the glass, showcasing Roero's sandy soils through intense pink rose and tart raspberry notes, mingling with sour cherries and dried leaves. This joyous Nebbiolo speaks fluently of its origins, with super-fine tannins and electric acidity carrying tart red fruits, bay leaf and balsamic touches. Like great jazz, this wine flows with refined, soulful beauty. Drink now–2035. Pelassa. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Eraldo Revelli Azienda Agricola 2023 San Matteo (Dogliani Superiore). A generous Dolcetto that opens with a compelling core of macerated dark cherries, as if freshly gathered in a bowl. The aromatics are enhanced by an herbal bouquet of thyme and bay leaf, complemented by subtle dried rose buds. The palate shows impressive richness and lusciousness, with a velvety texture enhanced by gentle tannins and a subtle creamy quality. The finish introduces an elegant interplay of violet and sweet licorice notes, adding complexity to this well-crafted wine. This is not the "little sweet one" (dolcetto) you may have been expecting. Eraldo Revelli Azienda Agricola. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Marchesi Alfieri 2022 San Germano (Piemonte). Dark cherries warmed with cinnamon and clove open this Piemonte Pinot Noir, while sweet tea and purple flowers add lift as the wine opens. The palate feels plump and generous, balanced by fine acidity. It finishes with an intriguing, savory turn, almost wild and gamy—screaming for roasted game or mushrooms. Marchesi Alfieri SRL Soc. Agr. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Tenuta Carretta 2021 Bricco Manera (Nizza). This Nizza commands attention with its inky depths, where black plums swim in a luxurious bath of dark liqueur. Warm star anise mingles with candied violets, creating an aromatic blend of both exotic and familiar. The palate unfolds with generous layers of concentrated fruit, while fine-grained tannins add a distinguished architectural structure. It's a wine that embraces its own opulence. Tenuta Carretta. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Hic et Nunc 2023 Altromondo (Grignolino del Monferrato Casalese). Here's a playful Grignolino that dances between sweet and savory with aromas of crushed raspberries and strawberry tops that weave through wild herbs and sun-warmed hay. The palate takes a thoughtful turn earthward, grounding those bright fruits in savory soil notes. Give it a slight chill, and this light-bodied charmer becomes incredibly versatile. Hic et Nunc. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Hic et Nunc 2020 Monumento (Barbera del Monferrato Superiore). Deep purple and intensely aromatic, this Barbera makes a commanding entrance. The glass brims with roasted plum and black-cherry notes, woven with singed cloves and sage. The palate is an exercise in luxuriance—plush and generous with its dark-fruited core, while oak-derived spices provide a powerful and polished finish. Hic et Nunc. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Tenuta Carretta 2020 Riserva Bric Paradiso (Roero). This Roero Riserva speaks in clear, straightforward tones of wild strawberries and fresh roses, offering an honest glimpse of its sandy terroir without pretense. While a second approach reveals hints of orange peel and white pepper, the wine maintains a certain reserve, with tannins that lean toward austerity rather than richness. It's a truthful messenger of its homeland, even if its story remains somewhat understated. Tenuta Carretta. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

TUSCANY WHITE WINES

93 Boscarelli 2022 Il Bianco (Toscana). The cool, crisp nose blooms with aromas of lime, green apple, white flowers and freshly cut grass, while citrus blossoms lead the way on the palate, above green and yellow apple slices and hints of white peach. Juicy and satisfying, but with a white-pepper punch on the finish. Boscarelli. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Pietro Beconcini 2022 Vea Trebbiano Macerato (Tuscany). Tangy and saline on the nose, with notes of pennies, pink grapefruit, Maldon salt and white tea. The palate presents more tea leaves, salt and grapefruit, while thyme, sage and a mix of other herbs punch through from the background. A savory, refreshing, sophisticated sip. Soilair Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Rosset Terroir 2022 Sopraquota 900 (Vino da Tavola). From vines cultivated above 900 meters in Valle d'Aosta, this golden-hued wine opens with quince and yellow plum melding into acacia honey, while wet-stone minerals echo its mountainous origins. The palate shows remarkable richness, balanced by energetic acidity and a cleansing lemon peel finish. Its complexity reflects its unique aging, which is divided between ampho-

rae, Tuscan clay pots, barrique and steel tanks. Rosset Terroir. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

91 Tenuta di Ghizzano 2023 Mimesi (Tuscany). Aromas of green apple, lime and white flowers make for a fresh, floral, saline nose. The palate is cohesive, with chalky, crushed, salty rock, grapefruit and more crisp green apple and lime. Electric with acid and super refreshing. Tenuta di Ghizzano. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

90 Dei Martiena 2022 (Toscana). The nose features aromas of peach, lemon and green melon, but with an invitingly savory feel overall. On the palate, an emerging, salty stoniness pushes back against persistent notes of peach and citrus, before a wave of acid washes the palate clean. Dei Martiena. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Val delle Rose 2023 Litorale Vermentino (Maremma Toscana). Vermentino is always delicious, but it hits different when you're seaside and stretched out, tanning and laughing with friends. This is sunshine and smiles in a glass. Volio Imports. *Best Buy*. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

ROSÉ

90 Fattoria Fibbiano 2023 Sophia (Toscana). The nose is white peach, wild strawberry and wild strawberry, plus a hint of green melon, while the palate begins with a satiny mouthfeel from more stone fruit and cherry, but then ferocious acid tears through. Fibbiano. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

TUSCANY RED WINES

94 Fèlsina 2021 Maestro Raro (Toscana). The nose has the earthy, umami warmth of wild cherries, top soil and crushed herbs, plus a sprinkling of salt and pepper for energy. On the palate, that peppery earthiness deepens, to become almost meaty, even as undertones of dark berries and dark chocolate add sweetness. Gleaming tannins, like a show dog's coat, structure a smooth, chocolatey finish. Volio Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

93 Cantalici 2019 Tangano (Toscana). Luxurious and comforting on the nose with vanilla, milk chocolate, black cherries and pomegranate syrup on top of more savory elements and the tang of iron-rich earth. Rich fruit and more vanilla and chocolate on the palate are balanced by spices and a note of flint on the finish. Saranty Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

93 Collemassari 2020 (Tuscany). The earthy, smoky nose billows with aromas of campfire, pine needles, leaves burning in the cool fall air, dried tobacco, walnuts and dried figs. The palate is laden with rich fruit notes of plum and more fig, but remains savory and smoky, even turning spicy with a hot lash of pepper that blazes all the way through the finish. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

93 PoderNuovo a Palazzone 2021 Argirio (Toscana). The nose is sweet, fresh and lively, with aromas of wild strawberry, raspberry, passion fruit and blood orange. On the palate, milk chocolate and cherry lift up the sweetness of the berries and the oranges, and a crack of peppery earth provides balance. Maisons Marques & Domaines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 Tenuta Casadei 2021 Filare 18 Cabernet Franc (Toscana). The nose opens savory and umami with aromas of coffee, dark chocolate, soil, herbs and sweet and spicy pepper, then turns sweet and tangy with raspberry and wild strawberry. The fruit carries a sweet palate, where notes of raspberry puree and freeze dried strawberries balance relentless acid and bold heat. Famiglia Casadei. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$66

91 Pietro Beconcini 2022 MaurLeo (Toscana). Dried figs, prunes, sultanas, dill pickles and balsamic vinegar on the nose lead into a palate of denser, tangier fruit, as cherries, warm citrus and a unifying river of saltwater lift the figs. Soilair Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

91 Santa Giulia 2021 Quarto Giro (Toscana). The nose is savory and umami, with damp earth, crushed herbs, tart berries and tea leaves, while the palate brings the tang of blackberries and black plums. Imposing tannins structure a finish of bitter herbs and pepper. Azienda Agricola Santa Giulia di Terzuoli Gianluca. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

91 Tenuta Casadei 2022 Sogno Mediterraneo Syrah (Toscana). The nose has the savory salinity of black-plum skin, black olive, saltwater over crushed rocks and mixed crushed herbs, while the palate brings the sweeter tang of blackberries and plums, even as plenty more savory, earthy, metallic notes push back against the fruit. Formidable tannins and fierce acid. Famiglia Casadei. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$24

91 Tenuta di Ghizzano 2020 Usiglian del Vescovo (Toscana). Aromas of crushed rock, rose petals and cracked black pepper create a nose that's saline, savory and floral all at once. The palate is salty, spicy and even meaty, but balanced, thanks to mature, macerated fruit. A long, warm finish. Società Agricola Usiglian del Vescovo SRL. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

91 Uggiano 2020 Petraia (Toscana). The nose has the savory spark of hot tires on pavement, licorice, bergamot and tart blackberries, before the berries sweeten and the citrus bursts on the palate, above a peppery earthiness that provides balance. Lots of heat and depth on the finish. Azienda Uggiano SRL. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

90 Castelvechio 2022 Le Colline (Tuscany). The nose is potting soil, mixed herbs, peonies, rose petals and wild cherries. On the palate, strawberries and abundant citrus accentuate the cherries, before a finishing crack of black pepper that's fortified by tense, springy tannins. Società Agricola Castelvechio SRL. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 Geografico 2022 Contessa di Radda Merlot (Toscana). The nose is spicy, earthy and tart, with aromas of spearmint, tea leaf, wild blueberries and cracked black pepper. Then blueberries and blackberries with juice pop on the palate in the face of more fresh wild mint and spicy pepper. Tannins are chewy and substantial. Geografico. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

90 Pietro Beconcini 2021 Reciso (Tuscany). An umami nose of dill pickle, top soil, balsamic vinegar, black olive and sour cherry sets up a sweeter palate of wild cherries, strawberries and orange slices, but with a dusting of salt and pepper over the fruit. Grippy tannins balance a river of acid that brings out the citrus. Soilair Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

90 Tenuta di Ghizzano 2020 VENEROSO (Tuscany). The nose is super saline, but also floral, with aromas of citrus, crunchy cherries and blackberries. On the palate, strawberries and other berries are joined by orange slices to create a wine that's juicy and very approachable, but with careful, intentional tannins. Tenuta di Ghizzano. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

88 Agricole Salvi 2019 Campo la Mora Il Nero (Toscana). The nose is fresh, earthy and slightly stony, with undertones of wood, strawberries and cherries providing texture and nuance. On the palate, searing acid and structured tannins balance a more potently sweet fruit element. Agricole Salvi. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

MAREMMA TOSCANA

92 Podere La Pace 2020 (Maremma Toscana). The nose is balanced between the tang of raspberries and sour cherries and savory mixed wild herbs and spices, and the palate stays balanced as citrus, earth and more herbs play with a persistent note of tart and juicy berries and cherries. Authoritative tannins and vigorous acid. Podere La Pace SRL Soc. Arg. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

92 Poggio Argentiera 2022 Bellamarsilia Morellino (Maremma Toscana). Morellino giving that seaweed low-tide Sangio thing that we love on the nose, then the palate is just super-fresh crunchy cherries with a little salted dark chocolate and an orange peel. A delight at any temperature, but I think with a chill on the bottle and the sun on your face on a warm autumn afternoon is ideal. Poggio Argentiera. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Sassotondo 2021 Poggio Pinzo (Maremma Toscana). The nose is cool, but dense with fruit, thanks to aromas of blackberries, black cherries and potting soil. On the palate, an ultra-saline, vibrant current of acid balances a continued blackberry element that oscillates between tart and sweet and is structured by clingy, clay-like tannins. Villa Italia. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Mazzei 2020 Tirrenico (Maremma Toscana). The nose starts earthy and savory, with coffee grinds, top soil and pepper, then turns semisweet with blackberries and dark chocolate. The cohesive palate brings abundant tart and sweet blackberries, plus more chocolate and earth, before a salt and pepper finish. Demeine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Arillo in Terrabianca 2023 Bevorosso Merlot (Maremma Toscana). On the nose, the sweetness of milk chocolate and wild cherries is balanced by savory notes of coffee, top soil, pepper and bay leaf. The palate remains balanced, as mixed berries join more sweet cherries, but citrus, salt and pepper add some bite. Acid bounces around firm tannins. Arillo in Terrabianca. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Sassotondo 2021 San Lorenzo (Maremma Toscana). The nose is rich with berries, from blackberries to currants to even a hint of blueberry, while undertones of damp earth and pepper provide balance. Dark, juicy berries flood the palate too, but that peppery spice swells on the finish, and structure comes from tightly coiled tannins and bright acid. Villa Italia. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

CHIANTI

95 Riecine 2021 Gran Selezione Vigna Gittori (Chianti Classico). Aromas of old leather, dark chocolate, espresso, Luxardo cherries and candied bergamot come together to create a distinguished nose, while the palate balances sweet, juicy blackberries, black cherries and citrus with more dark chocolate. Expansive, but not excessive. Soilair Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Badia a Coltibuono 2021 Cultusboni RS (Chianti Classico). Like their calling-card Chianti Classico, the Badia a Coltibuono Riserva is also exuberant, generous and delightfully approachable

even for a pop and pour, but there is a tension—a coiled-up spring of energy captured in the bottle—that suggests a little time will make this an even more exciting wine. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Cantalici 2020 Baruffo Riserva (Chianti Classico). Wild cherries and wild strawberries mingle with iron-rich soil and umami, savory aromas on the nose. Sweeter, riper but still crunchy berries pop on the palate, before salinity and heat buoy a finish structured by firm tannins. Saranty Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Casale dello Sparviero 2019 Paronza Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). On the nose, flinty undertones bring an edge out of otherwise sweet aromas of wild strawberry, raspberry, peony and blood-orange jam. The palate is tart Bing cherries and bitter citrus pith, before a finish that's simultaneously lively, warm, saline and structured by tannins that are polished, yet grippy. PSP Global Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2021 Le Bolle Gran Selezione Greve (Chianti Classico). Warm, spicy, inviting aromas of clove-studded oranges, cinnamon sticks and dried cranberries unfurl across the nose, while the palate cools slightly with iron-rich earth and herbs. Persistent currents of citrus and tangy red fruit create a cohesive feel and chewy tannins balance lively acid. Castello Vicchiomaggio. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Kirkland Signature 2021 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of sweet cherry vanilla and orange zest gust over terracotta, potting soil and mixed herbs, while on the palate the cherries come into their own and are joined by a very ripe peach element, lots of citrus and earthy, peppery undertones for balance. Tannins are lovely and approachable, but solid. Kirkland Signature. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

92 Lamole di Lamole 2020 Lareale Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is headlined by earthy, umami aromas of damp soil, coffee and pepper, while subtly tangy fruit undertones of blackberries and figs provide balance. The palate presents more berries and earth, before a cascade of rich, dark-chocolate-covered espresso beans tumbles over the finish. Acid crackles around chalky, chewy tannins. Santa Margherita USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

92 Mazzei 2021 Fonterutoli (Chianti Classico). On the nose, undertones of graphite and fresh pepper accentuate the potent astringency of crunchy red fruit. The fruitiness becomes gentler and juicier on the palate, with notes of blood orange

and wild cherry, but lurking tannins and acid recall the smack of the nose. Demeine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Salcheto 2023 Biskero (Chianti). The Salcheto project is laudable for a million reasons—dedication to sustainability, attention to accessibility—but none of it would matter if the wine weren't also good. And luckily, wonderfully, it always is. Ultrafresh, crunchy, tangy Chianti at an unbelievably fair price point. Salcheto SRL Soc. Agr. S.B.. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Villa a Sesta 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, black cherries and blackberries nestle in a bed of warm spices and crushed herbs, while on the palate they're dipped in chocolate and laid alongside a slick of orange jam and a sprig of fresh mint. Tannins are refined and silky, yet still powerful, and the finish brings an exciting heat and acid. Villa A Sesta. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

91 Badia a Coltibuono 2021 (Chianti Classico). Always reliable but never boring, widely available at an accessible price point but still expressing a strong personality—even an edge—this might just be the Chianti Classico that could convert everyone to drinking Chianti Classico every day. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Casale dello Sparviero 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The fresh, clean nose has aromas of black cherries, top soil and fennel, along with just a hint of raspberry. On the palate, blackberries accentuate the black cherry note, before more earth and herbs set up a warm, salt and pepper finish. PSP Global Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Castello di Volpaia 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of sweet cherries and vanilla come first, followed by savory, umami notes of damp earth, underbrush, balsamic, herbs and a crack of pepper. The palate brings dark, ripe berries and more earth. That pepper really starts to show as it's punched up by acid and heat, but a blanket of smooth tannins keeps things in check. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

91 Fattoria di Valiano 2021 Poggio Teo Riserva (Chianti Classico). A classic Chianti nose of Bing cherries, top soil, orange peel and wild fennel ushers in a palate that's balanced between darker berries and abundant earth. Firm tannins contrast well with lively acid. Soc. Agr. Valiano SRL. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Fattoria di Valiano 2021 San Lazzaro Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose opens cool and fresh with black cherries on ice garnished with wild mint, then shifts to weightier aromas of soil and herbs. The more savory palate is balanced between blackberries and more herbs, and tannins

still bring a ferocity even with a few years of age. Soc. Agr. Valiano SRL. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Vigneti La Selvanella 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A fresh, tangy and textured nose has aromas of damp soil, crushed Mediterranean herbs, black olives, tart blackberries and citrus peel. The blackberries sweeten on the palate, even as the tang of plum skin and more olives preserve a latent savoriness. Chewy tannins and lively acid. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

90 Cantalici 2022 Baruffo (Chianti Classico). A warm, welcoming nose of cherries and vanilla is underpinned by earth and citrus before rolling onto a palate filled with more fruit and earth but lots of spice as well, brought to life by bright acid and grippy tannins. Saranty Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Casale dello Sparviero 2020 (Chianti Classico). The nose has the textured edge of Bing cherries, blood-orange peel, graphite and dried cranberries. On the palate, tart blackberries lift the cherry and citrus notes, while chewy, chalky tannins fortify earthy undertones for balance. PSP Global Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Castello di Verrazzano 2021 (Chianti Classico). The nose opens floral and saline, with rose petals, cherry blossoms and new leather, then turns sharper with top soil and graphite. The palate is headlined by cherries and berries, but also has lots of Mediterranean herbs for balance, plus a cooling eucalyptus note on the finish. Acid bounces around clay-like tannins. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

90 Castello di Volpaia 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose opens with sweet wild cherries, wild strawberries and Mandarin blossoms, then umami notes emerge slowly. That interplay between cherries, berries and an earthy, umami element continues on the palate, above a strong undertone of milk chocolate and polished but grippy tannins structure a warm finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Collazzi 2022 Bastioni (Chianti Classico). The nose invigorates with piercing aromas of black cherry, plum, flint and coffee, while the palate sweetens but stays cohesive, with riper cherries, plums and figs swirling above undertones of earth. Polished but grippy tannins structure a warm, citrus finish. The Sorting Table. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Fattoria di Basciano 2022 (Chianti Rufina). On the nose, the gentle tang of ripe Bing cherries and orange peel is both complemented and balanced by fresh top soil and Mediterranean herbs, while the palate brings sweeter cherries and raspberries, before a dusty cocoa finish brings out the

bitter orange element again. Acid crackles around chalky tannins. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Kirkland Signature 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose starts savory and umami, with hot tar, petrol and damp earth, then turns floral and slightly tangy with violets, Mandarin blossoms and tart blackberries. On the palate, the blackberries ripen and are joined by black cherries, before a cooling, almost medicinal finish of dark chocolate and fennel that's structured by smooth tannins. As always, a crazy good deal from Costco. Kirkland Signature. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

90 Poderi Melini 2022 Granaio (Chianti Classico). Mandarin blossom, ripe peach, cherries and wild strawberries waft from the glass, then earth and herbs eventually follow on the nose. On the palate, the berries stay sweet and ripe, but notes of bitter citrus and medicinal roots add a sophisticated intensity. Fresh and medicinal on the finish, with eucalyptus, mint and salinity. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Sensi 2019 Forziere Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, a touch of blood orange sparkles above savory, umami aromas of tanned leather, pencil shavings and sun-dried tomato. Those savory notes continue onto the palate, where they're joined by cherries and strawberries for balance, before a unifying, warm citrus finish that's structured by firm tannins. Sensi Vigne e Vini SRL. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Tolaini 2022 Vallenuova (Chianti Classico). The nose is earthy and savory, with aromas of warm pavement, top soil and graphite, then has the tangy sparkle of bergamot, Bing cherry and wild strawberry. Those red, crunchy berries and citrus star on the palate, with the metallic tang and savory, earthy heat also persisting for balance. Tannins are firm but flexible, while acid adds energy. Tolaini. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Cantina del Farnio 2020 Riserva (Chianti Montalbano). A savory, earthy nose has tangy, medicinal undertones of black cherry, black olive and licorice. Those undertones take center stage on a palate where blackberries lift the black cherry element, the licorice is joined by fennel and eucalyptus over chewy tannins and bright acid. Kysela Père et Fils Importer. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Donna Laura 2022 Bramosia (Chianti Classico). The nose is balanced, with aromas of ripe Bing cherries, orange peel, top soil and herbs, and the palate is cohesive, with raspberries joining more cherries and earth, before a blast of citrus on

the finish that is lined with polished tannins. Donna Laura. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Poderi Melini 2022 San Lorenzo (Chianti Superiore). The nose is simultaneously earthy, sweet and tangy, with notes of wild cherry, top soil, flint and licorice. The palate leans into the fruit, with sweet, juicy berries and orange slices, while bright acid shines overhead. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Progetti Agricoli 2021 Pattini Riserva (Chianti). The nose presents savory, umami aromas of damp earth, petrol, graphite, tart berries and orange peel. The berries turn sweet and ripe on the palate, where they're joined by yellow fruit and an explosion of citrus that takes over, but grippy tannins hold things in place. W. Direct. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

96 Castiglion del Bosco 2020 Campo del Drago (Brunello di Montalcino). On the nose, the tang of wild herbs and blackberries is balanced by textured notes of coffee grinds and tilled soil. The palate brings more berries, alongside abundant salt and citrus, creating a bright, crunchy, lean, energetic feel that's further intensified by an electric vein of acid. Castiglion del Bosco. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$160

96 Col d'Orcia 2019 Vigna Nastagio (Brunello di Montalcino). A festive, inviting nose of figs, black cherries, blackberries, dark chocolate and walnuts warms and expands with sweet blackberries and more nuts and chocolate on the palate. A persistent, just barely bitter earthiness is emphasized by chalky, almost flinty tannins through a languorous finish. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

96 Giodo 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). The herbal nose sparkles with light, playful aromas of sarsaparilla, spearmint, licorice, black cherry and Mandarin blossom, before the palate erupts into a bubbling root beer float of medicinal root flavors, with a Luxardo cherry on top, as acid fizzes like carbonation. Just a sheer delight to drink. Soilair Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

96 Podere Le Ripi 2019 Amore e Magia (Brunello di Montalcino). Floral and saline on the nose with rose petals, cherry blossoms, crushed rocks and top soil. Sweet cherries and raspberries take over on the palate on top of a sturdy foundation of bitter dark chocolate before a hint of wild fennel on the finish. Geometric, carefully constructed tannins and vigorous acid. A rare example of a Brunello that has edge and personality, but is also welcoming and warm. Podere Le Ripi. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

95 Camigliano 2018 Gualto Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Herbaceous, earthy and savory on the nose, with wild fennel, mint and eucalyptus, then ripe cherries with snap in their skin and a squeeze of citrus bounce onto a palate that's delightfully lithe and energetic even as it carries the maturity of age. Camigliano SRL. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

95 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona 2019 Pianrosso (Brunello di Montalcino). Warm and sunny on the nose, with hibiscus, wild cherry, blood orange and cranberry, and the quiet sophistication of cigar smoke. Cherries and berries mingle with just a hint of vanilla and hazelnut coming through at the back like a spoonful of dessert on the finish. Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Fornacina 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose opens sweet and gentle, with cherry blossoms and berries, but then turns rich, spicy, savory and almost leathery. This dance continues on the palate, as the fruit turns juicier and riper over a bitter, sophisticated undertone. Villa Italia. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Molino di Sant'Antimo 2019 Paolvs Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose opens with sweet black-cherry syrup, Mission fig and candied-orange peel, then turns savory with notes of soil and crushed herbs. The palate stays balanced, with fresh cherries, plums and orange slices glistening over more earth tones, before a finish where grippy, powerful tannins hold up a long mocha finish. Molino di Sant'Antimo. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

94 Aisna 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose has a smoky, spicy, adventurous feel, from aromas of fresh tar under the summer sun, toasted cumin seeds and sweet, heady tobacco. Softer notes of rose petals and crushed berries are barely there on the nose, but become more pronounced on the palate, creating a wine that's tasty in an unconventional way. Château l'Escarelle. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Carpineto 2020 (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 5. Carpineto.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

94 Carpineto 2019 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 5. Carpineto.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$138

94 Castiglion del Bosco 2020 (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of cloves, pine needles, Bing cherries and dried cranberries create a spicy, warm nose, while the fruit ripens on the palate without losing that snappy freshness. Firm tannins and linear, decisive acid fortify undertones of earth and salt. Castiglion del Bosco. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$77

94 Elia Palazzesi 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose balances warmth and tangy salinity, with hibiscus, cranberries, citrus blossoms and crushed stones. The palate brings sweeter fruit notes of cherries, strawberries and orange jam, with firm tannins that preserve balance. Elia Palazzesi. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Fattoria dei Barbi 2019 Vigna del Fiore (Brunello di Montalcino). Warm coffee cake, macerated blackberries and cigar smoke make for a welcoming nose that explodes with a riot of berries and more sweet vanilla cream and coffee on the palate with that sophisticated bitter smoky element. Solid tannins and generous acid. Frederick Wildman. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Franco Pacenti 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). An earthy, savory nose has top soil, herbs, damp underbrush, dark cherries and berries underneath. Tart and bright cherries join strawberries on the palate, before the metallic tang of soil leaps forward, emphasized by notes of citrus peel and anise. Franco Pacenti. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

94 Poggio il Castellare 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). A salt breeze wafts through a perfumed nose of violets, roses, cherries and blackberries. The palate luxuriates in dark berries, chocolate and coffee with a hint of earth, insistent tannins and lively acid. Poggio il Castellare. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 San Polo 2019 Vignavecchia (Brunello di Montalcino). On the nose, overtones of crushed rocks bring out the tang of cherry blossom, blood orange and wild strawberry aromas. The fruit stays tart and crunchy on the palate, but chalky tannins and buzzy acid lift a subtle, sweet malted chocolate element for balance. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$370

94 Villa Poggio Salvi 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose offers aromas of wild fennel, mint, salt, black pepper and black cherry, before the palate pops with cherries, strawberries and raspberries, before a bitter orange jam note on a mocha finish. Tannins are flexible, but structured against heat. Società Agricola Poggio Salvi di Montalcino SRL. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Adagio 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose pops with the tang of Bing cherry, cranberry, hibiscus, blood orange and new leather. Those notes all continue on the palate, before a warm, spicy finish where polished, smooth tannins anchor a river of acid. Castello Finoto. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Castelli Martinozzi 2020 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is an explosion of flowers and spices, with aromas of Mandarin blossom,

clove, cumin and black cherry cola, while the palate has the piercing sweetness of ripe cherries, blackberries, milk chocolate and orange peel. Notable acid adds still more vibrancy. Castelli Martinozzi Società Agricola S.S. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Donna Olga 2019 Clos degli Amodeo (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is sweet, dense with dried figs, Luxardo cherries and candied orange peel, lifted by a refreshing blast of mint and wild fennel. The palate leans into berries, abundant sweet, warm citrus and more cherries, before a chocolate finish, but chalky tannins tease out latent earth tones for balance. Soilair Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Palazzo Rivolo 2020 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is defined by the medicinal semi-sweetness of black cherry, pomegranate, black licorice and espresso, and the palate has a similar feel as fennel and wild herbs balance sweet blackberries. Grippy, solid tannins accentuate a salted dark-chocolate note which emerges on the finish. Castello Finoto. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 San Polo Montalcino 2019 Podernovi (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose presents sweet, floral aromas of wild strawberry, wild cherry and orange blossom. The citrus element intensifies on the palate, and a sprinkle of salt adds freshness, but the overall feel remains approachable, thanks to plenty more strawberries and cherries. Az. Agr. Poggio San Polo Saarl. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

93 Voliero 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose features savory aromas of earth, tar, gunpowder, balsamic, herbs, leather and black cherry. Sweet strawberries and cherries on the palate are light and bright, while flexible tannins provide structure to an overall umami feel. Voliero. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Il Colle di Carli 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). Savory aromas of hot tar, crushed stones and mixed herbs headline the palate, while balance comes from undertones of Bing and black cherries. Strawberries accentuate cherries on the palate, as the herbs and savory salinity linger as undertones. Firm tannins provide structure. Il Colle di Carli. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Uggiano 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). Clean, fresh aromas of pomegranate, fig, wet slate, eucalyptus and wild fennel lead into a tangy yet semisweet palate of black cherry, blackberry, orange peel and more figs. Acid punches around textured, substantial acid. Azienda Uggiano SRL. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

ROSSO DI MONTALCINO

95 Corte dei Venti 2019 (Rosso di Montalcino). The nose is earthy and herbaceous, but with a blistering freshness, thanks to aromas of peppermint, wild fennel, sage, bergamot and flint. The palate offers cherries, strawberries and blood orange, but also more soil and herbs for a cohesive overall feel. Razor-sharp tannins. Corte Dei Venti. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Pietroso 2023 (Rosso di Montalcino). Aromas of fresh-brewed coffee, hot tar, burnt sage, scorched orange peel, tart cherries and raspberries come first, then a palate that's salty and almost effervescent with acid, where more tart and sweet berries pop and crunch. A citrus heat warms everything. Azienda Agricola Pietroso. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Gorelli 2019 (Rosso di Montalcino). On the nose, potting soil balances sweet, fresh aromas of Bing cherries, blood orange and rose petals. Strawberries and more cherries define the palate, but a dusting of cocoa powder and chalky tannins lift more soil notes through the finish. Gorelli Giuseppe. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

MONTECUCCO

92 Otto Ettari 2019 8 Ettari Riserva (Montecucco). Fresh pomegranate seeds, fresh figs, peonies, graphite and dark chocolate on the nose lead into a spicier, earthier palate where the tannins are sleek and relaxing, but also solid and contoured. The finish is full of pepper, heat and acid—a well-integrated, satisfying wine. Societa Agricola Otto Ettari S.S.. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Collemassari 2020 Rosso Riserva (Montecucco). Earthy and fresh on the nose, with potting soil and Mediterranean herbs, a bit of tobacco leaf and tart blackberries. Sour cherries and sweeter blackberries on the palate merge with more earth tones and bitter dark chocolate before dense, textured tannins carry through a spicy warm finish. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Le Pianore 2020 Tiniatus (Montecucco). A jubilant, fun wine, with a delightfully sweet nose of candied cherry, strawberry jam and mandarin blossom, and a palate that's a smear of strawberry orange jam. Le Pianore S.S.A. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

94 Bell'Aja 2022 (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose opens with decadent vanilla, malted chocolate, wild herbs and macerated blackberries, then turns savory with the tangy depth of warm pave-

ment and petrol. The palate is sweet and juicy with more berries and chocolate, but a rising heat combines with earth and pepper on the finish to push back and create an energetic tension. An incredibly vibrant wine. Bell'Aja. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Tenuta di Ghizzano 2021 Mimesi (Terre di Pisa). The super umami nose is fresh tires on hot tar, gun flint, pepper, black olive and sun-dried tomato, while on the palate barely ripe cherries and raspberries contrast with earth and a continued metallic tang. A taut, vibrant wine. Tenuta di Ghizzano. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Tenuta Montecchiesi 2021 Klanis (Cortona). Aromas of balsamic vinegar, black olives, cola and tart citrus swirl together to create a nose which is earthy and savory, yet with energy. The palate is fruit forward with notes of passion fruit, plums, and raspberries that are lifted by lively, energetic acid, while powerful tannins provide structure. Dal Cero F.lli. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Viticcio 2022 (Morellino di Scansano). For full review see page 18. Viticcio. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Tenuta Montecchiesi 2020 Selverello (Cortona). The nose is peppery and spiced, but also has the subtle sweetness of violets, blackberry tea and cinnamon. Juicy berries join the flowers on the palate, but the spices and earth tones are also reinforced by chalky, dense tannins and a metallic salinity. Dal Cero F.lli. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

94 Noelia Ricci 2023 (Emilia-Romagna). Like catching up with an old friend, this Trebbiano delivers its familiar magic in a fresh new vintage. Concentrated notes of roasted apples drizzled with chestnut honey lead the way, while gentle sweet spices and a whisper of salt add complexity. The palate shows off a gorgeous texture—plush and round but never heavy, as bright acidity keeps everything dancing. It's a reminder of why this wine is such a consistent crowd-pleaser, while also being a serious wine for aging. Drink now–2040. Noelia Ricci. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

94 Torre Zambra 2023 Piana Marina (d'Abruzzo). I never stopped thinking Abruzzo was one of the best places for wine in Italy, if not the world, but there was a moment where my attention was elsewhere. A few years ago the Torre Zambra Piana Marina recaptured my attention, and has held it ever since. A showstopper. Torre Zambra. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO

95 Boscarelli 2021 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). The nose is balanced between wild cherries, raspberries and violets on one hand and potting soil, licorice and fresh-cracked black pepper on the other. The palate brings more of everything, as the cherries, berries, flowers and earth all drift along a stream of chocolate ganache. Acid bubbles around solid, dense tannins. Boscarelli. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Boscarelli 2021 Costa Grande (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). The nose is both floral and saline, with aromas of roses, violets, peonies, mixed tart berries, top soil and wild fennel. The palate is laden with juicy, fresh plums and blackberries, even as the earth tones and herbs punch through and tannins cling. Boscarelli. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Cecchi 2019 (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Earthy and savory on the nose, with pepper, graphite, top soil and crushed herbs, then sweet and tart cherries and blackberries pop through and roll onto the palate, mingling with spices and more earth tones on top of firm, chalky tannins. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

OTHER RED WINES

93 Noelia Ricci 2023 (Sangiovese di Romagna Superiore). Here's a wine that would make Dante himself raise a glass! From Preddappio's hills, Marco Cirese crafts a Sangiovese that tells a story in every sip. Dark cherries awaken the senses while herbal notes, crushed earth and dried flowers dance in harmony. This is a serious wine, yet maintains a playful spirit, in the true essence of great winemaking. That salty finish arrives with a mouthwatering zing, propelling each sip forward. Drink now–2040. Noelia Ricci. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Bonomio 2021 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose gets a fresh umami quality from aromas of damp earth, balsamic, black sesame, sour cherry, and salt and pepper. The earthiness and tart fruit element define the palate before a spicy, peppery finish. Acid zips past clinging tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

88 Podere Castorani 2019 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose features cherries and strawberries bringing sweetness and an astringent cranberry current mingling with savory undertones

BUYINGGUIDE

of carpaccio and oregano. The sweet fruits shine on the palate, before that savory element returns for the finish. Acid glides along a road paved with slick tannins. Podere Castorani. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

SOUTHERN ITALY WHITE WINES

90 **Az Arg il Poggio 2024 Fiano (Sannio).** The nose is sunny, warm and citrus, with white flowers and toasted almonds, while the palate is headlined by fresh lemons and a sweeter lemon curd note that is lifted by cantaloupe, as more toasted nuts provide balance. W. Direct. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

89 **Masseria Cuturi 2024 Segreto di Bianca Fiano (Salento).** The nose opens savory and saline with saltwater, crushed shells and lime, then turns warmer and textured, but still savory, with wild herbs and preserved lemon. The palate is headlined by lemons and pink grapefruit, with a bit of white peach drawing the sweetness out of the tart citrus. Masseria Cuturi. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$14

SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES

PRIMITIVO

92 **Varvaglione Vigne & Vini 2020 Papale (Primitivo di Manduria).** The nose is earthy, savory and spicy, with cinnamon, cumin, hot pavement and mixed herbs leading the way, while tart blackberries and a hint of milk chocolate provide balance. Those notes all reappear on the palate, as the chocolate and dark berries come into their own and the spices remain lively, while vibrant acid lifts undertones of bitter citrus, salt and pepper. WinesU. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$29

91 **Amastuola 2021 Lamarossa (Puglia).** The nose is tangy, spicy and earthy, with aromas of top soil, pencil shavings, cinnamon, cumin, wild strawberries and pomegranate seeds. Sweet strawberries and raspberries headline the palate beneath a drizzle of pomegranate syrup, then the earth and spices reappear, before malted chocolate takes over on the finish. Amastuola Soc. Agr. SRL. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

91 **Varvaglione Vigne & Vini 2022 12 e Mezzo (Primitivo del Salento).** The saline, floral nose swirls with aromas of saltwater running over crushed rocks, violets, blood orange and tart raspberries and blackberries. The berries mature and sweeten on the palate, but also remain nestled in more salty, tangy earth and citrus notes, creating a fresh overall feel. Tannins are textured, but forgiving. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$16

90 **Amastuola 2021 Centosassi (Puglia).** The floral, spicy nose features peonies, violets and cloves, then adds strawberry jam and ripe peach for some balancing sweetness. The palate is headlined by the tangier sweetness of raspberries, red plum and ripe yellow-stone fruit, but also has a bouncy salinity and a squeeze of citrus and acid for contrast. Amastuola Soc. Agr. SRL. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$20

90 **Masseria Li Veli 2022 Le Cerrate (Primitivo di Manduria).** An earthy and umami nose of damp soil and tobacco is balanced by undertones of herbs and sweet, ripe raspberries. The palate swells with raspberry jam and ripe figs, with quieter notes of soil and herbs for balance, before a finish of bitter citrus beneath a sprinkle of salt. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

90 **Varvaglione Vigne & Vini 2022 12 e Mezzo (Puglia).** The nose balances the sweetness of strawberry cream, raspberries and citrus blossoms with piercing aromas of clove and wet slate. The unifying palate is delightfully warm and fun, with more raspberries and strawberries in vanilla whipped cream, an orange studded with cloves and a salted caramel finish. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE

94 **Fontanavecchia 2019 Vigna Cataratte Riserva (Aglianico del Taburno).** The nose opens with the warm spiciness of terracotta, oregano and sun-dried tomato. Then it sweetens with ripe berries layered with salted dark chocolate. The palate is tangy with pomegranate and black plum, before more herbs and bitter chocolate recall the nose. Tannins are decisive but not aggressive and allow a cooling, minty salinity to play out on the finish. A flex from Fontanavecchia, as this wine undeniably overdelivers. Wine Emporium. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

93 **Elena Fucci 2021 SCEG (Aglianico del Vulture).** The nose opens with smoky, carnivorous aromas beneath a dusting of crushed Mediterranean herbs, then bursts with juicy blackberries. The palate stays balanced, with plums joining berries and black olives and top soil preserving that meaty tang, creating an overall textured, substantial mouthfeel even in the face of vigorous acid. A warm welcome to Aglianico. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$33

90 **Basilisco 2021 Teodosio (Aglianico del Vulture).** The nose opens with the fresh sweetness of black cherries, blackberries, freshly ground espresso and milk chocolate, then leans into savory notes of warm soil and crushed herbs. Citrus mingles with more berries and earth to create a dynamic palate, which finishes with a lift from fierce tannins, lively acid and a blast of bitter citrus. Vias Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

90 **Re Manfredi 2022 (Aglianico del Vulture).** Aromas of dried cranberries, dried cherries, bricks, orange peel and top soil swirl together to create a warm, earthy nose. That balance between red berries, citrus and earth continues on the palate, before the sweetness of milk chocolate swells on the tongue. Acid zips around chalky, chewy tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$37

OTHER RED WINES

91 **Il Poggio di Fusco Carmine 2019 Aglianico (Sannio).** On the nose, tangy aromas of sour cherry and cranberry sparkle above herbaceous, earthy notes of terracotta and sweet tobacco. On the palate, vanilla accentuates the sweetness of riper cherries and recalls that sweet tobacco element, before fierce tannins swoop in on acid wings. W. Direct Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$34

90 **Il Poggio di Fusco Carmine 2023 Guerriero (Beneventano).** The nose has the warm, textured tang of bricks, dirt, pencil shavings and dried cranberries and cherries. On the palate, raspberries accentuate the cherry note, while a persistent iron-rich element and dark chocolate provide depth and balance. Tannins are formidable but flexible. W. Direct Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

89 **La Capranera 2022 Aglianico (Campania).** The sweetness of macerated berries and milk chocolate pushes up against smoky, grilled meat on the nose, while on the palate, a touch of black-plum skin draws the tang out of more sweet berries before warm smokiness gusts forth again on the finish. Put a chill on it and it's a perfect partner for a summer barbecue. Azienda Agricola San Salvatore 1988. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

88 **Tenute Masso Antico 2023 I Clasti (Salento).** Raspberries glisten above an otherwise savory, umami nose of damp earth, balsamic, herbs and pepper, while the palate is more fruit forward with blackberries and black plums, but austere tannins reinforce persistent earth tones and hold up a hot finish. Schenk Italia Spa. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$15

SICILY WHITE WINES

93 **Valle dell'Acate 2023 Zagra Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose opens with pointed aromas of grapefruit and thyme, then leans into notes of tree fruit, salt and more citrus. The citrus acquires a slightly bitter, sophisticated feel on the palate, while a white-tea leaf note creates a structured, substantial mouthfeel. A stunner, particularly at this price point. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$22

91 Donnafugata 2023 Sur Sur (Sicilia). The only problem with the Sur Sur Grillo is that it keeps getting better, which means I keep feeling more conflicted about how quickly I finish the bottle. Delicious and a phenomenal deal at this price point. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Feudo Maccari 2023 Olli Grillo (Sicilia). The nose draws a herbaceous, citrus warmth from aromas of preserved lemon and fresh thyme, while undertones of minerals and salt provide a cooling balance. The palate stays balanced, between warm nuts and herbs and the fresh sweetness of iced-tea lemonade, and has a current of fierce acid that runs through the finish. A screaming deal. Feudo Maccari. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Alessandro di Camporeale 2022 Benedè Catarratto (Sicilia). The nose is a spring-time snack plate of yellow apple slices, quince and toasted almonds, with a citrus blossom garnish. The palate adds notes of fresh orange, white peach and jasmine, before that almond element swells on a salty finish. Panebianco. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Baglio del Cristo di Campobello 2023 Lalùci (Sicilia). The nose presents crisp aromas of lemon, lime, new sneaker, salt and green apple. The palate brings more tree fruit and citrus, but also a rounder, plusher note of melon. A fresh, lively wine. Cristo di Campobello. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Guerrieri 2023 (Sicilia). The nose is savory and smoky, with aromas of hot pavement, garden hose, almond skin and lime zest. The palate is fresher, with lemons joining more lime notes, as well as a current of saltwater flowing over stones and coins. Saliva-inducing acid accentuates the citrus. Oliver McCrum Wines. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 MandraRossa 2023 (Sicilia). The nose offers citrus blossoms and daffodils, then fresh thyme, lime zest and salt. The palate is a sweet citrus melody, plus accentuating hints of stone fruit that stand up to the plastic-fresh floral elements and a nutty salinity that lingers from the nose. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Stemmari 2023 (Sicilia). The nose is an invigorating blend of white-tea leaves, lemon zest and pennies, while undertones of honey and toasted nuts provide a balancing gentleness. The palate is cohesive but also evolves, as that nuttiness salinates and acid zips around more intense notes of tannic, tangy tea leaves and rich honey. Prestige Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tenuta Rapitalà 2023 Viviri Grillo (Sicilia). Savory, umami aromas of low tide, seaweed and crushed shells on the nose then turn citrusy

with abundant fresh lemon, lime and grapefruit. The palate presents sweeter fruit notes of sugared half-grapefruit and candied orange slices, but also has teeth-tingling acid and flaky Maldon salt. Frederick Wildman. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Tenute Orestyadi 2023 Molino a Vento Grillo (Sicilia). On the nose, clean, gentle aromas of lemon-lime soda, candied orange and white flowers waft above a grounding note of crushed rocks. The palate brings plenty more citrus and a potent salinity, creating an overall freshness. Vibrant acid cuts through a slick mouthfeel. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Terre di Giurfo 2023 Suliccenti (Sicilia). The nose is clean but textured, with aromas of wet stones, lime zest, orange peel and freshly cut grass. The palate is defined by a saltier citrus element, and electrifying acid that adds a bouncy, metallic quality even as the overall mouthfeel is round and slick. Enoclassica Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Doppio Passo 2023 Grillo (Sicilia). On the nose, fresh thyme balances dominant citrus aromas of Mandarin blossom and lemon-lime marmalade. The citrus sweetens on the palate and meets a nutty, toasty element, creating a flavor like a citrus tart with salted, toasted-almond shavings. Gallo. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

ETNA

94 Donnafugata 2021 Isolana (Etna). Flinty and herbaceous on the nose, then sweet and indulgent with ripe peach and sugared grapefruit on the palate, all electrified by acid and salt—an exciting, thoroughly enjoyable expression of Carricante. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

93 Palmento Costanzo 2021 Contrada Santo Spirito (Etna). The nose is tangy yet layered, with the bite of lemons and limes but also the roundness of yellow apples and Anjou pears. The palate leans into those round, sweet notes, with more pear, lemon-honey tea and honeydew, and a deep, salty current of acid adds yet more vibrancy. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Palmento Costanzo 2022 Bianco di Sei (Etna). The nose is cool, fresh and subtle, with aromas of lemon, lime, white flowers and yellow apple, along with briny notes of a sea breeze and crushed oyster shells. The palate comes alive with dense fruit flavors of lemon candy, white peach, pear and cantaloupe, before a finish that's bouncing with acid and even more salt. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Donnafugata 2021 Sul Vulcano (Etna). Salt air, a squeeze of lemon, blooming white flowers and the hot plastic of beach chairs on the nose bring you to the beach before crushed herbs, rocks and earth on the palate lead you up the mountain for a sip straight out of Etna. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$39

ROSÉ

92 Fumante Contrada San Lorenzo 2023 (Etna). The nose is simultaneously piercing and weighty, with aromas of sweet chili, dirt, peppercorn, tomato leaf and grapefruit, while the palate leans into that sweet, warm spiciness that recalls a summer in the Southwest. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Antichi Vinai 2016 Bollenere Extra Brut (Etna). A glimmering, yellow-gold color and sparkling perlage foreshadow a sophisticated nose of quince, white flowers, salted toasted almonds, and green and yellow apples. The palate stays luxurious, with leading notes of Tarte Tatin, honeysuckle and more almonds, before a savory, fiercely acidic finish. Antichi Vinai. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Donnafugata 2022 Ben Ryé (Passito di Pantelleria). Passito di Pantelleria is like a birthday cake in a glass—joyful, sweet, nostalgic—and there's little question that Donnafugata's Ben Ryé is the benchmark in the category. An ideal way to experience the Zibibbo grape from this magical island. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

SICILY RED WINES

94 Donnafugata 2020 Mille e una Notte (Sicilia). The Mille e una Notte marriage of Syrah and Nero d'Avola feels like a fairy-tale romance—brooding and intense at first, then exuberant and exciting, with a warm, comforting finish. A story that gets better every time I read it. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$93

94 Donnafugata 2020 Tancredi (Terre Siciliane). The Tancredi blend is, like its namesake, both rich and beautiful, but also clever and unexpected, managing to respect what came before while testing new boundaries. It also has a vision for the future and I expect it will become truly exceptional as it matures. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

BUYINGGUIDE

94 Tenuta Regaleali 2018 Rosso del Conte (Sicilia). Aromas of sweet blackberries are balanced by earthy, medicinal undertones of potting soil, black licorice and eucalyptus. The palate brings tarter blackberries and pomegranate, while that earthiness deepens and intensifies with time. Acid tingles around dusty tannins. Filled with flavors that are hard to pinpoint until you've been there—a time capsule and a portal all at once. Total Wine & More. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 Feudo Maccari 2021 Mahâris Syrah (Sicilia). On the nose, sweet and tart blueberries and blackberries waft above savory, weightier notes of dark chocolate, soil and pepper. Those notes all reappear on the palate, as the berries oscillate between macerated and barely ripe around a backbone of salted dark chocolate, before a hot, peppery finish. Feudo Maccari. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$61/075 ml

91 Baglio del Cristo di Campobello 2023 Adenzia (Sicilia). The nose has the gentle tang of yellow apples, oranges, lemons and white flowers, while the palate sticks with those warm citrus notes for a round, rich feel, but also introduces a spritely salinity that adds a blast of energy. Cristo di Campobello. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 MandraRossa 2020 Cartagho (Sicilia). On the nose, sweet yet medicinal aromas of cherry cough syrup, roots, herbs and salt drift above a bitter anchor of dark chocolate. The chocolate layers with black cherries, blackberries and plums on an indulgent palate, but a dusting of salt and pepper, chalky tannins and biting acid keep the decadence in check. Total Wine & More. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Feudi del Pisciotto 2021 (Sicilia). The nose is earthy and warm, but also has the freshness of new pencils and licorice and the sweetness of berries and crushed petals. The flowers bloom on the palate, even as hot tar and more licorice add nuance. Grippy, dusty tannins set up a resurgently warm finish. Total Wine & More. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Progetti Agricoli 2023 Saverio Faro (Terre Siciliane). Aromas of black plum, dried blueberries and malted milk chocolate create a nose that is tangy, but with a comforting texture. On the palate, sour orange contrasts with blueberry pie sweetness, before a peppery, earthy finish. Acid bounces around chalky tannins. W. Direct. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Quignones 2023 Largasa (Sicilia). Currents of salt, pepper and earth run through the nose, complemented by tangy blackberries and black cherries. There's sweeter fruit on the palate, but also still that peppery earthiness and the weight of dark chocolate. Acid zips past taut tannins. Rangeland Wines. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Sibiliana 2022 Sensale Bio Syrah (Terre Siciliane). The sweet, earthy nose presents aromas of vanilla, blackberries, black plums, top soil and pepper, while the palate is balanced between the slight tang of blueberries and the weightier sweetness of milk chocolate. Tannins are slick and polished, yet grippy enough to structure a hot, peppery finish. Tita Italian Import & Export. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Terre di Giurfo 2020 Kudyah (Sicilia). The nose is tart yet warm, with aromas of black plums, dirt, hot tar and black licorice candy. On the palate, figs enhance the plum notes and further bring out that earthen warmth, before a cool, almost numbing finish of fennel seed and polished tannins. Enoclassica Selection. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Terre di Gratia 2021 (Sicilia). The nose has the smoky grit of cocoa powder and tobacco, then the subtly sweet weight of Brazil nuts and pomegranates. Figs and blueberries join the pomegranate on the palate, but chewy, dense tannins and easygoing acid fortify a nutty, savory overall feel. Terre di Gratia. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

MENFI

95 Planeta 2023 Cometa Fiano (Menfi). The nose opens with the floral freshness of clean laundry, white flowers and a lemon-lime spritz, then turns textured and salty with emerging wild herbs and crushed shells. That citrus, floral sweetness continues to bloom on the palate, before more Mediterranean herbs and an almost spicy saltiness drive together through a dynamic finish. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

95 Planeta 2020 Didacus Cabernet Franc (Menfi). Sweet wild strawberry and vanilla at first, then pencil shavings and pepper on the nose with a riot of wild Mediterranean herbs underneath poking through. Cherries and berries and a squeeze of fresh citrus light up the palate already tangy with the metallic glint of lead and fresh cracked pepper but a fresh salinity and cooling fresh mint on the back. Acrobatic in its ability to balance immediate pleasure and the promise of length—in this case the excitement of finding out what Sicilian Cabernet Franc can do with a little time feels worth the wait. Palm Bay International. **Cellar Selection.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

93 Planeta 2020 Sito dell'Ulmo (Menfi). The nose opens with the umami earthiness of damp soil and medicinal herbs, then turns subtly sweet with cherries and cocoa powder. The palate has a punchy, spicy feel, with flavors of sour cherries, tart blackberries, salt, pepper and lots of citrus, and finishes with a hot, lingering earthiness and a trickle of berry juice. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

ETNA

94 Donnafugata 2020 Fragore (Etna). With aromas of wild cherries and strawberries, salty rocks and wild herbs, a fiery heat and bubbling acid, the Fragore Etna rosso captures the explosive tension of the volcano and remains a delight to drink. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$93

94 Tasca d'Almerita 2019 Contrada Sciaranueva VV (Etna). Sweet and floral aromas of strawberry, rose petals and orange and cherry candies dance on the nose. On the palate, a more decadent sweetness comes from notes of strawberry jam and cherry pie, leading into a rich, milk-chocolate finish, but electric acid and a dusting of orange zest create a lively, compelling tension. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$120

94 Tornatore 2021 Zottorinotto (Etna). The nose is hot and savory, with aromas of crushed rock, sun-baked tennis clay and salted roasted peanuts, before a refreshing, slightly sweet blast of yellow apple pops through. On the palate, white peaches join the apple, while undertones of cumin and hazelnuts preserve balance and create a mouthfeel that's simultaneously creamy and textured. LUX Wines. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Donnafugata 2020 Dolce & Gabbana Cuordilava (Etna). Wild strawberry, wild cherry, mandarin blossom, crushed rocks, wild oregano and thyme on the nose, then more sweet fresh wild berries on the palate anchored in more savory wild herbs and damp earth. A hint of chocolate paves the way for a finish that soars with salinity. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Donnafugata 2021 Sul Vulcano (Etna). Notes of crunchy, tart red berries, hibiscus, blood orange and salty crushed rocks all set up a wonderfully fresh and immediate wine, but then more sophisticated umami flavors underneath and fierce acidity suggest patience will be rewarded if you give this a little more time in the bottle. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

91 Zumbo 2019 Andico (Etna). The tangy yet balanced nose has both a spicy earthiness and the fruit bite of hibiscus, cranberry and wild cherry. On the palate, strawberries and cherries greet undertones of orange peel and more pepper. Flexible tannins and acid create a bouncy, lively overall feel. Gruppo I Vinai. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

92 Donnafugata 2022 Bell'Assai (Vittoria). Sweet, dense strawberry fruit leather and

pomegranate syrup are lit up by salt and pepper, and a spicy warmth that characterizes both the nose and the palate. Expressions of pure Frappato are tragically few in this world and this one performs out of class at this price. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

92 Donnafugata 2021 Floramundi (Cerasuolo di Vittoria). Cerasuolo di Vittoria is an acrobat of a wine at its best and the Donnafugata Floramundi is an absolute celebration of all the best red-fruit flavors and earth tones of Sicily, but with a lean, mean strength and incredible flexibility. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

92 Mazzei 2020 Zisola (Noto). The nose is a summer barbeque, as hot, slightly acrid aromas of smoke, tar and meat play with lighter blackberry, violet and mint undertones. On the palate, the balance between meatiness and berry sweetness continues, while imposing tannins and searing acid keep everyone in check until a swirling mocha finish. Demeine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Vigna Nica 2017 Riserva (Mamertino). Snappy, crisp cherries and plums are layered over denser, sweeter blackberries and figs on the nose, run through with a salty mineral vein and scattered with herbs. These flavors expand with a depth and breadth on the palate that bode well for what might be on the horizon for the Mamertino DOC—I look forward to seeing how this wine develops. Total Wine & More. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 Mazzei 2022 Zisola (Noto). The nose is savory, earthy and slightly astringent, with aromas of top soil, mixed herbs, pepper and black plum. Black cherries, chocolate and coffee flavors push the palate towards sweetness, but the overall feel stays fresh and peppery until a warm, tannic, satisfying finish. Total Wine & More. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

91 Vigna Nica 2020 (Mamertino). A fresh, linear, animated wine expressing a terroir that's new even to most lovers of Sicilian wine with a clever, balanced blend of local grapes. The tart fruit and salinity will make you feel like you're looking out at the Aeolian islands, just as the vineyards do. Tradizione Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Colutta 2024 (Friuli Colli Orientali). This copper-glowing Pinot Grigio isn't your usual poolside sipper. Apple orchards and fresh cherries mix it up in the glass while spring blossoms and crushed stones keep things interesting. Take a sip and you'll find red-apple skins leading to an unexpected burst of minerality and zingy citrus. The vibrant acidity seals the deal. If you're looking for a basic white wine, keep walking. This one's got personality for days. Colutta Società Agricola S.S. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Colutta 2024 (Friuli Colli Orientali). Jump into a glass of pure refreshment. Citrus and lemongrass tangle with lime blossoms while wet gravel adds some serious backbone. The palate brings that zippy tartness you want from Sauvignon Blanc, hitting all the right classic notes. Simple, spot on and exactly what it should be. Colutta Società Agricola S.S. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

SARDINIA WHITE WINES

93 Antichi Poderi Jerzu 2021 Josto Miglior Riserva (Vermentino di Sardegna). Plums, black cherries, figs, top soil, gun flint on the nose perfectly foreshadow a palate that is simultaneously earthy with herbs and more soil, and dense with dark but still snappy fruit. The finish brings notes of dark chocolate and espresso, as well as a lingering heat. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Antichi Poderi Jerzu 2023 Lucean le Stelle (Vermentino di Sardegna). The nose drips with citrus aromas of lemon, lime, grapefruit, green and yellow apple, tulips and abundant salt, but also has depth and seriousness. On the palate, dried pineapple, lemon slices, lemon curd and more apples create a slick, rich feel that carries through a long finish. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

SARDINIA RED WINE

92 Antichi Poderi Jerzu 2021 Marghia (Cannonau di Sardegna). The nose is floral and saline, with aromas of rose water, new leather, tilled soil, tart blackberries and red-plum skin, while the palate balances sweet and tart berries with more earth and a peppery heat that's punched up by salt and acid on the finish. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER ITALIAN WHITE

91 Rosset Terroir 2022 Petite Arvine (Valle d'Aosta). The wine glides from the glass with quiet assurance, lifting you straight to the alpine heights of Valle d'Aosta. Jasmine and elderflower dance with lemon curd. The palate balances tart freshness with a hint of baked apple richness while vibrant acidity and salty minerals echo the rugged mountain terrain. Rosset Terroir. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

OTHER ITALIAN REDS

95 GRAWÜ 2021 (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). This wine wakes you up like a splash of cold water on a hot day. Savory spices of cumin, chili powder, and oregano dance on your tongue, intertwining with the bright, juicy burst of sour cherry and the tart, lip-puckering zing of cranberry. The playful tug of war between the spicy, savory notes and the vibrant, tangy fruits creates a fascinating flavor profile that's both delicious and fun. It's a wine with a big personality and deserving of a pairing with something as lively and bold. Living Wine. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Rosset Terroir 2022 Pinot Noir 850 (Valle d'Aosta). This high-altitude Pinot scales out of the glass like a speed climber on Yosemite's Half Dome, flashing warmed cherries and sweet baking spices with the confidence of a seasoned mountaineer. The palate trades its climbing harness for a velvet jacket, swinging between grilled herbs and mountain earth while Valle d'Aosta's rugged spirit powers through the finish. Rosset Terroir. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Rosset Terroir 2022 Syrah 870 (Valle d'Aosta). Mountain-grown Syrah showing classic black-pepper intensity, Nicoise olives, rosemary, and grilled black plums. The wine leads with its savory character, offering a silken texture that carries herbs and spice across the palate. As it unfolds, the dark fruits transition to lusher red notes with a subtle tartness that keeps things lifted. An ideal companion to roasted venison or grilled quail. Rosset Terroir. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES

90 Thierry Delaunay 2024 Le Grand Balloon (Val de Loire). Classic Loire in a bottle. Alluring aromas of pear, freshly picked field herbs and chamomile fill the nose along with lemon zest and white blossom. The palate is juicy with chalk-dusted orchard fruit that washes across wet stone buttressed by a vibrant yet subservient layer of acidity that delights. SARL Joel Delaunay. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

89 Amici Cellars 2024 Olema Sauvignon Blanc (Loire). This orchard-blossom-perfumed wine opens with fragrant aromas that leap from the glass including yellow apple, white peach, starfruit and a twist of lemon citrus. The palate is round with a tart, reserved acidity guiding the steely midpalate towards a chalky-citrusy finish. Pair with fried clams, calamari and chicken tenders. Amici Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

BUYINGGUIDE

89 **Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2024 (Val de Loire).** A sun-kissed blend of green apple, field grass, white-peach skin and Bosc pear opens on the nose. Steely in texture, the chalky midpalate rides above a layer of acidity that resolves in lemon-zest on the finish. Open without guilt and pair with a multitude of meals that would flatter a fresh white wine. Demeine Estates. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 **Thierry Delaunay 2024 Blanc de Lys (Val de Loire).** This wine is springy and cheerful. Perfumed aromas of Bosc pear, chamomile, jasmine blossom and green apple frolic on the nose while leaning into orange pith and lemon zest. Succulent orchard fruit leads on the palate quickly followed by tart acidity that brings along comforting, chalky wet stone on the long finish. SARL Joel Delaunay. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

SANCERRE

94 **Maison de Madeleine 2023 Caillottes (Sancerre).** This gorgeous Sancerre is a chameleon in a glass whose character flips on the palate while remaining entirely delicious. Intense golden-fruit aromas of baked yellow apple and ripe Anjou pear surrender to brioche, bread dough, toast, bruised honeysuckle blossom and orange zest on the nose. The palate is creamy and delicious with yeasty elements bending a knee to ripe orchard fruit that asserts its hegemony while acknowledging its depth-inducing sidekick. Tri Vin Wine & Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

93 **Domaine Henri Bourgeois 2023 La Côte des Monts Damnés (Sancerre).** This pleasing, fresh and stony Sancerre shines, especially for the price point. The nose is round with honey-drizzled golden-apple aromas that are lifted by orange blossom, honeydew melon and white-peach skin. The palate is mineral driven, textured and complex with river stone bolstered by a tart, floral acidity that completes with a citrusy finish. SAS Henri Bourgeois. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

93 **Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2023 Antique (Sancerre).** This Sancerre honors the region's history. The wine seduces with disarming savory aromas of dried field grass, toasted bread and almond skin that surf atop Bosc pear, white peach, lemon shavings and lilac blossom. In contrast to the nose, subtle herbal flavors are subservient to fruit on the palate that brings along whispers of chalk that frolics with orchard fruit. Demeine Estates. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 **Maison de Madeleine 2023 Silex (Sancerre).** Vivacious and lively, this wine will transport you to the banks of the Loire River. Perfumed aromas of hay and honeysuckle brush up against pastry cream, nectarine and zested lemon on the nose. The

delicate, mineral-driven palate reveals wet stone, while expertly balancing citrusy acidity and freshly sliced yellow apple. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 **Maison de Madeleine 2023 (Sancerre).** This wine draws you in and keeps you there while maintaining its freshness and vibrancy. Lemon-gold in color, the wine has a lush and perfumed nose of brioche, toasted bread, baked apples and dried lemon peel that brushes up against toasted walnut and honeysuckle. Creamy in texture, the rounded palate has a lean layer of acidity that bolsters the fruit core, while adding depth. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 **Maison de Madeleine 2023 Terres Blanches (Sancerre).** This is a ripe, fruit-forward Sancerre. Tropical fruit aromas of pineapple and guava lift from the glass buoyed by peach and crisp slices of golden apple. Rounded fruit flavors are guided by a mineral undertow that pulls the wine forward on your palate with restrained acidity peaking on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc.. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

90 **Alban Roblin 2023 (Sancerre).** This fresh, energetic Sancerre sings in your glass. Chalk-dusted aromas of green apple, Anjou pear and lemon peel open on the nose along with whispers of dried white blossom. The mineral-driven palate brushes up against crushed stone and weaves orchard-fruit flavors across a stream of lemon citrus. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 **Charles Debourges 2023 (Sancerre).** Detailed fruit and savory aromas fill the nose of this wine including melon, dried orange peel, field grass and yellow apple. Tart fruit on attack clings to river stone dusted with chalk and white blossom that flatters the lightest hints of dried herbs on the pleasing finish. Orvino Wine Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 **Hubert Brochard 2023 (Sancerre).** Dried lemon peel, green apple and nectarine aromas open on the nose dusted with chamomile and orange blossom. The palate is juicy with a thin layer of tartness that offers constructive counterbalance. Freshly crushed stone adds additional depth on the finish of this fruit-forward bottling that delights. Vintus LLC. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

TOURAINÉ

91 **Domaine Joël Delaunay 2024 (Touraine).** This wine is energetic and keen to please. Green apple and bruised pear cavort with herb mélange, lemon blossom and lemon peel on the nose. The elegant palate leads into crushed stone and basks in minerality that is lemon-citrus dusted towards the finish. Pair with risotto, chicken Milanese and

salmon-topped Caesar salad. SARL Joel Delaunay. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

91 **Les Eclaireurs 2022 Le Vin des Copains (Touraine).** This wine is terroir expressive in the best of ways. Playful and complex aromas of quince, orange pith, dried field grass, melon and bosc pear frolic on the nose. An initial burst of tartness quickly subsides on the palate and gives voice to an attractive mix of orchard fruit and savory black earth dusted with dried white blossom. A great value for the price. Sapere Originis. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Jean-Francois Roy 2023 (Touraine Chenonceaux).** This wine is a crowd pleaser; no need to fuss over the cork as you'll likely finish the entire bottle in one sitting. The wine has a fresh nose of lemon blossom, freshly picked green apple, green pear and chamomile. The juicy, fruit-forward palate is mouthwatering with chalky acidity that is in perfect counterbalance. Vignoble Roy. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 **Jean-Francois Roy 2023 Sauvignon (Touraine).** Chalk-dusted green-apple slice, green pear and daisy-blossom aromas swirl in your glass. The palate is juicy with mouthwatering fruit and acidity washing across crushed stone that provides a pleasing saline counterbalance before completing with a long finish. Vignoble Roy. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 **Thierry Delaunay 2024 Le Manoir (Touraine).** Sunny orchard fruit opens on the nose with steely aromas of Fuji apple, dried grass, Anjou pear, honeydew melon and lemon zest. A well-balanced river of focused, sun-kissed fruit and acidity stream down the center of the palate with waves of flavor brushing up against shattered stone. This is an eminently versatile wine to enjoy with seafood, poultry and vegetable dishes that would be flattered by a burst of acidity. SARL Joel Delaunay. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 **Chateau de Chasseloir 2023 Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine).** This wine is substantial and joyful. Brioche and pear-tart aromas open on the nose followed by roasted green-apple slice and lightly buttered toast. The fulsome palate is creamy with well-integrated fruit flavors that are lovingly supported by uplifting acidity that carries to the finish along with white nectarine and white blossom. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 **Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2023 (Pouilly-Fumé).** Lemon in color, this wine has a nose of yellow apple, quince, melon, forest floor and apple blossom. Filled with flavorful mineral-

ity and rounded river stone, the wine has a playful acidity complemented by a tinge of dried herbs while remaining orchard-fruit forward. Enjoy with Croque Monsieur, chicken Caesar salad and seafood. Demeine Estates. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

89 Jean-Francois Roy 2023 Symphonie (Valençay). Green-apple-led savory aromas inform the nose with lemon pith, dried sage and orange peel. Tart citrus leads on the palate quickly followed by a dusting of dried herbs and freshly-sliced Anjou pear. A great wine to elevate the midweek. Vignoble Roy. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

ROSÉS

90 Fournier Père et Fils 2023 Les Belles Vignes (Sancerre). Near gold in color, the wine has a nose of strawberry stem, dried red cherry, white peach, fennel leaf and orange peel. The reserved palate reveals a savory core that is encapsulated by orchard fruit that leads the taste while acknowledging its herb-tinged center. Pair with lamb, goat cheese and roasted eggplant. David Milligan Selections. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2024 (Sancerre). Restrained aromas of bruised Anjou pear, red cherry, golden apple, dried hay and field grass open on the nose followed by red-apple skin and lemon blossom. Tart acidity opens on the attack and maintains buttressed by green and red fruit flavors that persist on finish. Pair with rich dishes that would benefit from a palate cleanser. Demeine Estates. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

86 Domaine des Nouelles 2024 (Rosé d'Anjou). Pink-salmon in color, red cherry and pomegranate aromas brush up against rosehip and cranberry on the nose. On the palate the off-dry wine echoes flavors suggested on the nose with additional flavors of honeyed peach. Pair with grilled meats, olives and charcuterie. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$18

LOIRE VALLEY RED WINES

90 Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2022 Rouge (Sancerre). Dried herbs and blackberry open the nose of this savory wine that also dips its toe in a pool of black raspberry, black olive and strawberry stem. Graphite notes lead on the attack followed by cranberry and red cherry skin that contribute to a distinct tartness on the finish. Pair will potato soups, latkes and tofu stir fries. Demeine Estates. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 Comte de la Chevalière 2022 (Val de Loire). Red cherry brushes up against red raspberry and hibiscus on the nose, revealing additional aromas of strawberry and white blossom. The earthy palate leans into black tea and black-fruit flavors with youthful tannins that rally. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

89 Jean-Francois Roy 2023 Signature (Valençay). This wine is a fruit-forward kiss on the lips. Vibrant aromas of black cherry, raspberry and subtle hints of rhubarb dominate the nose along with white blossom and dried cranberry skin. Succulent fruit enriches the palate with joyful, jammy flavors that go on and on. Vignoble Roy. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Petite Buisse 2023 (Val de Loire). Entrancing, savory aromas of blackberry, raspberry, field grass and forest floor open on the nose buttressed by subtle hints of mint leaf. The palate celebrates black fruit undergirded by a mineral underlay that provides added dimension while dipping its toe in a cup of hibiscus tea. This is a versatile wine that can be paired with a multitude of dishes. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Les Eclaireurs 2020 Le Vin des Copains (Touraine). Restrained blackberry aromas flirt with red currant and black cherry on the nose. The palate opens with black fruit and smoky dark chocolate and resolves in red raspberry. This wine doesn't strive to be the center of conversation; it wants to make your meal the star. Serve with roasted meats, stews and grilled portobello mushroom. Sapere Originis. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

95 Philippe Colin 2021 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Despite the challenging vintage, this wine shines with depth and freshness—a floral nose of honeysuckle, lemon-grass, citrus and stony limestone, evoking a crisp, sun-kissed aroma. Vibrant acidity elevates notes of pithy citrus, orange oil, jasmine tea and fresh almonds, culminating in a soft, limestone finish. Unapologetically graceful, it is approachable now and irresistible after each sip. Cape Classics. **Editor's Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

94 Philippe Colin 2021 (Chassagne-Montrachet). Ripe and inviting, this wine opens with fresh apple, citrus oil and pear, seamlessly woven with chamomile, fine vanilla and limestone. The palate is vibrant and textured, with an initial pithy grip that gives way to a refined green pear and salty-stony finish. Delicate yet expressive, you can

enjoy now, but definitely keep a few bottles cellared. Cape Classics. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

94 Roux Père et Fils 2022 Les Macherelles Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). For full review see page 7. Roux Pere et Fils. **Editor's Choice.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Domaine Roger Belland 2022 Morgeot-Clos Pitois Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Delicate and elegant, this wine opens with a beautiful fusion of freshly cut Pink Lady apple, green pear, jasmine tea and alluvial stone. On the palate, it is round and textured, with layers of pithy citrus, oak spice, white pepper and a touch of salt and stone. A classic expression, it's wonderfully approachable now, perfect with roasted poultry and vegetables. Domaine Roger Belland. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

93 Roux Père et Fils 2022 Pot Bois (Chassagne-Montrachet). For full review see page 10. Roux Pere et Fils.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Jean-Claude Boisset 2022 Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Fresh and focused, this wine bursts with aromas of green pears, white peach, jasmine and honeysuckle, each note beautifully lifted. On the palate, generous layers of ripe fruit, pulverized stone and fresh salted almond create an intriguing depth. Enchanting and approachable in its youth, it captivates from the very first sip. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

BURGUNDY RED WINES

93 Philippe Colin 2020 Les Chênes (Chassagne-Montrachet). Elegant and refined, this wine exudes raspberry, licorice, rose and vanilla, seamlessly intertwined for a luxurious bouquet. Vibrant acidity enhances the silky palate, balancing polished tannins building finesse. Black cherry, pomegranate, and white pepper add depth, while soft stone lingers on the finish. A sophisticated expression that is accessible now. Cape Classics. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

90 Jaffelin 2020 Sur Les Grèves Clos Sainte-Anne Premier Cru (Beaune). Elegant and expressive, this Pinot Noir reveals delicate notes of violet and rose blossom, intertwined with blueberry and rosehip. Its refined structure offers a balanced and moderately long finish, showcasing both depth and freshness. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

BEAUJOLAIS RED WINES

92 **Château de Pizay 2023 La Centenaire (Morgon)**. This wine is beautifully mature. Ruby-red raspberry aromas scuttle across the nose lifted by red cherry, hints of black tea and pencil shavings. The palate is black-fruit fulsome with relaxed tannins that hug to the finish. The wine is lovely, and ready to drink now. Société des Vins de Pizay. —R.S. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

92 **Cave du Château des Loges 2023 Coeur de Granit (Brouilly)**. Brouilly is delicious and this bottling is but one example. Blackberry compote and red raspberry jockey around a ring of graphite showered with black tea and rosehip. Balanced black fruit prevails on the palate surrounded by a chorus of perfectly ripe tannins. La Compagnie de Burgondie. *Editor's Choice*. —R.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Cave du Château des Loges 2022 Les 3 Madones (Beaujolais Villages)**. This beautifully made wine leads with red fruit and an earthy bouquet of dried field grass and red raspberry. On the palate, the wine is supple, elegant and ready to drink now. Pair with grilled meats, roasted vegetables and good company. La Compagnie de Burgondie. *Best Buy*. —R.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château de Pizay 2023 (Beaujolais)**. This wine is an amalgam of orchard fruit in a glass. Succulent, juicy fruit leaps out on the nose beginning with bruised red raspberry, red plum and red cherry and finishing with a splash of crushed, ripe strawberry. The palate is perfectly in tune with the nose with tannins that show softness and resolve. Société des Vins de Pizay. *Best Buy*. —R.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

RHÔNE VALLEY WHITE WINES GIGONDAS

97 **Château de Saint Cosme 2023 Hominis Fides (Gigondas)**. This wine, in its youth, carries a delicate elegance with an understated power that makes it one to watch. The nose opens with a light touch of Pink Lady apple, white peach and white rose, but as it airs out, the layers grow deeper and more intriguing. On the palate, it starts off focused and direct, offering ripe Anjou pear wrapped in honeycomb and delicate white flowers, all lifted by a crisp, firm stony minerality. Its initial simplicity is just a prelude to the depth that comes with air, revealing the wine's true potential. It's more than approachable now, but if you're drinking soon, give it time to breathe, or better yet, let it rest in the cellar. This wine rewards patience, but even now, it's

a glimpse of something much more. SARL Barroul Château de Saint Cosme. *Editor's Choice*. —A.C.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

96 **Château de Saint Cosme 2023 Le Poste (Gigondas)**. This wine commands attention from the moment it greets the nose, with an undeniable aromatic intensity that's both bold and inviting. It's serious, but it also possesses an inherent charm that makes it approachable in its youth. The nose bursts with the sweetness of perfectly ripe Anjou pear, delicate peach blossom, fresh lychee and peonies, all layered with hints of rain-soaked earth and broken stones. On the palate, it's generous and lively, with a salinity that cuts through the richness, providing both refreshment and depth. This wine will evolve beautifully over the years—easily capable of aging through 2033+. SARL Barroul Château de Saint Cosme. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

96 **Domaine Santa Duc 2023 Clos des Hospices (Gigondas)**. This wine immediately draws you in with its captivating bouquet, blending the elegance of white orchard fruits and delicate florals, like the first day of summer in full bloom. A subtle note of acacia honey wraps around a vibrant mid-palate, where citrus pith, green pear and crushed stone combine to create a balance of freshness and finesse. The finish brings a fine leesy texture, beautifully supported by subtle oak and a lively acidity that keeps things crisp and linear. It's approachable now, but its potential really shines with time. A great candidate for cellaring through 2030+. Domaine Santa Duc. *Editor's Choice*. —A.C.C. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$108

94 **Domaine Saint Damien 2024 LES PRES (Gigondas)**. A delicate bouquet of crisp Bosc pear, peony blossom and crushed stone leaps from the glass with a vibrant, almost electric intensity. The palate is sleek and precise, powered by zippy acidity that pushes a saline minerality to the forefront, while citrus pith and fresh apple skins give it a tangy, mouthwatering edge. There's just enough texture here to keep things grounded, but it's the energy and focus that drive this wine forward. It's undeniably delicious now, but with a little patience, this one will reward you through 2030+. Domaine Saint Damien. *Editor's Choice*. —A.C.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

91 **Gigondas LaCave 2023 Domaine de la Souchière (Gigondas)**. This expression immediately grabs attention with a pronounced note of broken granitic flint, which forms the backdrop to a delicate yet vibrant bouquet of fresh pear, white rose, and a touch of salt. The palate is defined by its striking saline and stony minerality, infusing a refreshing energy to the flavors of citrus pith and underripe orchard fruits. Clean, crisp and effortlessly enjoyable, this wine is ready to be savored now, particularly alongside fresh seafood dishes. Its refreshing precision makes it a fantastic choice for those seeking something invigorating. Gigondas LaCave. —A.C.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$123

89 **Domaine de Longue Toque 2023 Les Vignes Blanches (Gigondas)**. This wine opens with a compelling aromatic mix of Bosc pear, peony and a touch of white mushroom, offering complexity and freshness. The palate leans into ripe-pear richness, carried by a chalky, broken-stone minerality that adds depth. Vibrant and ready to drink now—especially alongside bitter greens or fresh, herb-driven salads. A thoughtful white that's both elegant and grounded. Gabriel Meffre. —A.C.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

RHÔNE VALLEY RED WINES

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES

90 **Château La Thébaïde 2024 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Sablet)**. This wine opens with a juicy combination of blackberry and cassis, gently framed by fresh lavender and black pepper—all melding into an inviting nose. With a bit of aeration, round tannins melt into a silky palate of dark fruit, which is gently drawn out through the finish by its refreshing acidity. Approachable now (tank sample). Château La Thébaïde. —A.C.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Château La Thébaïde 2023 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu)**. Bold and rustic, this wine opens with overripe red cherry, violet and sweet-spice aromas, laced with clove and earthy clay undertones. Silky tannins and firm stony minerality frame a palate of black cherry, terracotta and white pepper. With aeration, soft red fruits emerge, adding depth. Perfectly suited for grilled, spice-marinated beef. A captivating, layered experience. Château La Thébaïde. —A.C.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

88 **Château La Thébaïde 2024 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu)**. Made of 70% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre, this wine is deep and brooding, with ripe black cherry, pomegranate and black licorice weaving through sweet spice and delicate rose florals. A firm acidic backbone and silty tannins provide structure, though ample aeration is needed for balance. Cellar for a year or decant. Perfect with braised meats and potatoes. Château La Thébaïde. —A.C.C. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

88 **Château La Thébaïde 2023 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Sablet)**. Lush and inviting, this wine bursts with black plum, blueberry, violet, tarragon, dark chocolate, clove and white pepper. Vibrant acidity keeps the palate fresh and lifted, while baked cherry, red licorice and fine herbs create rustic charm. A soft vanilla finish lingers beautifully. Decant for the full experience and enjoy now. Château La Thébaïde. —A.C.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

CROZES-HERMITAGE

96 **Domaine Verzier 2022 Vagabonde (Crozes-Hermitage).** Plush and focused, this wine opens with deep red cherry and licorice, accented by violet, smoked meat and granitic minerality. A complex palate, lively acidity balances a serious blend of black currant, olive, charcuterie, black tea, terracotta and rose. Layered and evolving, it is full of intrigue and energy. This is one to watch, so cellar several bottles for its unfolding journey. *Domaine Verzier. Editor's Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$31

94 **Domaine Les Hauts de Mercuriol 2022 (Crozes-Hermitage).** From 30- to 50-year-old vines in the village of Mercuriol, this wine unveils a complex nose—deep floral notes intertwined with olive, saffron and roasted earth, creating an alluring bouquet. The palate is lifted, with a white-pepper overtone enhancing layers of plum and blackberry. With aeration, the wine becomes silkier, its nuances melding beautifully. Approachable now, it pairs exquisitely with spicy Indian meat dishes. *Serge Doré Selections.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

94 **Yves Cuilleron 2022 Lieu-Dit Les Châssis (Crozes-Hermitage).** With an unmistakable sense of terroir, this wine opens with aromas of black cherry, olive, white pepper, black-tea leaf, rose and a musky terracotta edge. The palate is both floral and salty, with vibrant acidity lifting the complex layers of black cherry, currants and black tea. Sweet spices and licorice add length, making it approachable now yet built to age gracefully through 2032+. A true expression of depth and complexity. *Yves Cuilleron.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

93 **Ferraton Père et Fils 2022 Calendes (Crozes-Hermitage).** Deep and intriguing, this wine opens with rich dark cherry, scorched earth, terracotta and dark-chocolate aromas. Generous on the palate, it remains a bit closed, with iodine and spice emerging from the tight core of dark fruit. A firm, stony minerality keeps everything focused. Built for aging, cellar through 2030+ to fully experience its evolving potential. *Sera Wine Imports.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Saint Cosme 2022 (Crozes-Hermitage).** The nose of this wine is captivating, with fresh black cherry accented by soft floral and spicy notes. On the palate, vibrant acidity lifts the core of black fruit, creating a beautifully balanced wine. There's no fuss, no distractions—just pure, unmasked fruit, making this a straightforward, drinkable beauty, ready to enjoy now. *Winebow Imports.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

92 **Brotte 2023 La Rollande (Crozes-Hermitage).** Fresh black cherry, licorice, black olive, wild thyme and granitic aromas converge to create a sophisticated, inviting bouquet. On the palate, freshness meets a savory edge, unveil-

ing olives, meat, tea leaf and violets. A stony, salty character adds depth, while vibrant acidity keeps it lively, delivering a silky, easy-drinking experience. Approachable now in its youth. *Famille Brotte.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

GIGONDAS

97 **Domaine Santa Duc 2022 Clos des Hospices (Gigondas).** Made from 100% Grenache, this wine doesn't just walk the line between power and finesse—it carves it with intent. The nose hits with a tight, complex weave of red cherry, rhubarb, pomegranate, violet and wild thyme—both inviting and serious. The palate is taut and fresh, where white pepper and crushed stone thread through the fruit like static, adding grit to the gloss. Fine tannins wrap around the red core, giving it a kind of poised tension, while that marl-soil edge brings a mineral clarity that keeps things lifted and connected to its terroir. It's grounded and built to hold through 2035+. Aerate now if you want a glimpse, but make sure to hold a few more in the cellar. *Domaine Santa Duc. Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$108

96 **Château de Saint Cosme 2023 Hominis Fides (Gigondas).** The nose is striking with crushed rose petals dancing above a dark swirl of cherry, raspberry, licorice and white pepper. There's complexity in every sniff, yet it's still tightly wound, almost daring you to be patient. On the palate, it's all structure pulling the floral and spice elements into a tense frame. This is a wine that demands time—cellar it through 2030+ and let it blossom. *SARL BARRUOL Château de Saint Cosme.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$165

96 **Château de Saint Cosme 2023 Le Poste (Gigondas).** This wine opens with an inky allure—black fruits, salted licorice, olives and dried lavender unfolding into a nose that's both savory and quietly seductive. On the palate, soft black fruit glides effortlessly, accented by briny olives, cedar and a whisper of lavender. There's a quiet intensity here, structured and soulful. Let it rest until 2033+. *SARL BARRUOL Château de Saint Cosme.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$165

96 **Château de Saint Cosme 2022 Hominis Fides (Gigondas).** Not for the timid, this bold wine commands attention with its black licorice, olive tapenade and a meaty layer accented by wild thyme and bay leaf. Intriguing and intense, the palate is fresh with bitter tannins that support spicy mulled fruit, black licorice and a tea leaf-stony finish. There's a depth here that's still unfolding—best cellared through 2035+ to truly experience its power. Perfect with a juicy mushroom burger topped with funky cheeses. *Winebow Imports. Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$160

95 **Château de Saint Cosme 2022 Le Poste (Gigondas).** Serious and layered, this wine

opens with fresh black fruits mingling with wild thyme, sage, lavender and violet—dense and rich at the moment. The palate mirrors this intensity, with hints of white pepper, clove and dark chocolate enveloping the core of black fruit. It has yet to show off all of its layers. Cellar through 2035+ to allow this wine to fully harmonize and unfold. *Winebow Imports. Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$160

95 **Crous Saint Martin 2023 Les Espaliers (Gigondas).** This wine radiates purity and finesse, but with an edge that commands attention. Aromas of fresh roses, Carpentras strawberries, red licorice, flaky salt and crushed stone rise with confidence. The palate is liquid silk—focused, laced with rose and anchored by fine tannins and quiet power. There's a tension beneath its elegance that hints at something deeper. A captivating stunner. *SAS Reserve St. Dominique. Editor's Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

95 **Domaine La Bouïssière 2022 LA FONT DE TONIN (Gigondas).** Fresh raspberry and preserves meet jasmine and clove on a focused, expressive nose. The palate is lively and polished, where floral tones play off soft red cherry and a gentle touch of licorice. It's composed yet vibrant—drinkable now with a solid decant, or let it evolve gracefully in the cellar through 2032+. *Domaine La Bouïssière.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

94 **Château de Saint Cosme 2023 Le Claux (Gigondas).** This wine comes out swinging—brawny, brooding and unapologetic. But beneath its muscular frame lies a graceful core. The nose unfolds with black and blueberry compote wrapped in roasted meat, bay leaf, fine herbs and forest-floor nuance. The palate is firm and structured, with drying tannins anchoring the dark fruit and granitic tension. Cellar confidently through 2035+. *SARL Barroul Château de Saint Cosme.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$165

94 **Château de Saint Cosme 2022 (Gigondas).** Dense and complex, this wine opens with dark cherry, olive, licorice, clove, violet and a firm mineral edge. On the palate, vibrant acidity refreshes, as fresh olive notes evolve into a structured minerality, revealing soft plum, sage, bay leaf and stone that lingers through the finish. Built for the long haul, it is approachable now with a proper decant. *Winebow Imports.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 **Crous Saint Martin 2022 Les Espaliers (Gigondas).** Rich yet freshing, this wine greets with aromas of freshly washed black plum, spicy olive, violet and cedar—focused yet light. On the palate, tingly baking spice and vibrant acidity give way to white pepper and dried lavender, leading into soft blackberry and plum. The finish lingers with stone, offering a stately, layered experience that remains approachable in its youth. *SAS Reserve St. Dominique.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

94 **Domaine Brusset 2023 LES HAUTS DE MONTMIRAIL (Gigondas).** Grown on calcareous soils, this GSM blend presents a deeply earthy, almost meaty nose, with blackberry, black licorice, wild herbs and violets creating a captivating bouquet. The palate is lush yet balanced, with acidity that lifts dark cherry, cassis and blackberry flavors, all framed by a soft stony finish. Approachable now with a proper decant, but this has the structure to age gracefully through 2033+. *Domaine Brusset.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 **Domaine Brusset 2023 LES SECRETS DE MONTMIRAIL (Gigondas).** This Grenache blend has a precise, concentrated nose, rich with meaty undertones, raspberry, wild strawberry, licorice and underbrush aromas. The palate is focused and straightforward, with vibrant blackberry fruit balanced by delicate wild herbs. Approachable now with a proper decant, but with its structure, this wine is primed for aging and should cellar beautifully through 2035 and beyond. *Domaine Brusset.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 **Domaine de Verquiere 2022 (Gigondas).** Very heady from the start, this wine is lifted with fresh rose and jasmine, layered seamlessly over vibrant red cherry and sweet baking spice. The palate is full bodied with white pepper and clove cutting through the richness of the midpalate. Notes of soft fruit, rose and lingering baking spice carry through a long, textured finish. Decant if opening now, or let it rest in the cellar through 2035+. *Domaine de Verquiere.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

94 **Domaine du Grand Montmirail 2023 Cuvée Vieilles Vignes (Gigondas).** This wine opens with a pure and inviting nose of raspberry, black licorice, wild thyme, violet and a whisper of flaky salt. The palate is silky and seamless, with finely integrated tannins that frame delicate red berries and floral tones. It's graceful and easy to enjoy now, yet has the quiet structure to hold gracefully through 2033+. *SEMA - Famille Cheron.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 **Domaine La Bouïssière 2022 Beauegard (Gigondas).** This wine offers a delicate balance between power and levity, showcasing fruit purity. The nose is pronounced with red cherry, rhubarb, pomegranate, violet and wild thyme. The palate is fresh and vibrant, with notes of white pepper and pulverized stone weaving through the midpalate, leading into a long, lingering finish where youthful tannins cling to the delicate fruit. It's undeniably pretty now with proper aeration. But with time, it will develop even greater complexity. Drink now or cellar through 2035+. *Domaine La Bouïssière. Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

93 **Château de Saint Cosme 2023 (Gigondas).** This wine doesn't ask for your attention—it demands it. The nose hits hard with cedar, scorched

earth and brambly black fruit, layered with green olive, dry lavender and meaty undertones—untamed but grounded. The palate is taut, its aggressive tannins laying down the law early, muting the fruit but promising longevity. It's a brooding beast right now—cellar it through 2029+. *SARL Barroul Château de Saint Cosme.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

93 **Domaine Brusset 2023 TRADITION LE GRAND MONTMIRAIL (Gigondas).** A striking nose of deep cherry, concentrated strawberry and earthy underbrush captures the senses with both power and grace. The fine, drying tannins lend a precise focus to the purity of dark fruit, guiding it through a beautifully smooth finish. There's a quiet sophistication here, balanced by an undeniable edge. Ready to enjoy now for its boldness, but with enough structure to develop more layers with time. *Domaine Brusset.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

93 **Domaine de Longue Toque 2020 Lieu-Dit Les Trois Yeux (Gigondas).** Fresh and vibrant on the nose, this wine delivers a lively mix of black licorice, violets and a savory undercurrent that adds depth. The palate is bold and full bodied, with rustic tannins gripping onto spicy notes that lead the charge across the tongue. There's a lusciously unrefined energy here—big, structured and unapologetically bold. Give it time to settle into itself and cellar confidently through 2035+. *Gabriel Meffre.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$100

93 **Domaine de Piéblanc 2023 Les Terres (Gigondas).** Focused aromas of raspberry, soft red licorice and fresh rose immediately draw you in, offering a delicate yet enticing bouquet. On the palate, this wine dances with ease—juicy candied red-cherry notes are framed by a soft, airy texture, and it finishes with an elegant grace. It's a wine that speaks more to terroir than power, offering a seamless balance that's ready to enjoy now but should unfold even more over the next five to eight years. *Domaine de Piéblanc.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35/75 ml

93 **Domaine des Bosquets 2022 La Colline (Gigondas).** Ripe cherry skin, red licorice, white rose, clove and flinty scorched stone rise from the glass with a kind of smoldering precision—nothing showy, but everything in place. The palate doesn't hold back: black licorice and white pepper come in sharp, riding alongside firm red fruit that still feels tightly coiled. There's muscle here, but also restraint. It's drinking well now if you're paying attention, though a year or two of rest will likely pull it all into focus. *SNC Les Bosquets.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$88

93 **Domaine des Florets 2023 Alliance (Gigondas).** Grown at 500m altitude, this wine opens with a deep, red licorice-laced nose, layered with wild garrigue, crushed white pepper and fresh thyme. There's complexity and lift from the first sniff. The palate is taut and linear, showing concentrated dark berries, red licorice, and a mineral

streak that carries through. Tannins are firm but folding in, while mocha and pulverized stone echo on the finish. Structured and compelling. *Domaine des Florets.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

93 **Domaine des Florets 2023 Synchronicité (Gigondas).** Fresh raspberry, cherry skin and red licorice waft through the nose, light yet compelling. The palate takes a turn with dry herbs, lavender and faint wild herbs that push against the soft, yet bold black-cherry core. As it opens, a subtle rose note weaves through, adding complexity. This wine is approachable now, but with a hidden power that suggests it'll unfold even further well through 2034+. *Domaine des Florets.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

93 **Domaine des Florets 2022 Synchronicité (Gigondas).** There's a lifted energy to the nose—white strawberry, rhubarb, blackberry, white rose and a crack of white pepper all interwoven with purity and charm. On the palate, it's full bodied and firmly structured, with clingy, youthful tannins that grip the front of the mouth before yielding to soft threads of red licorice. Give it time: Cellar through 2028+ and let the wine find its rhythm. *Domaine des Florets.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

93 **Domaine du Grand Bourjassot 2022 Classique (Gigondas).** This wine offers an energetic nose focused on crushed ripe red cherry, clove, white pepper and baking spice—each precisely layered. The palate is polished, where a vibrant thread of red licorice draws everything into harmony. Tannins are beginning to knit into the fruit, adding depth and structure without weighing it down. Grounded, dark and quietly powerful, it's enjoyable now with a generous decant or ready to evolve beautifully through 2035+. *Famille Varenne-Perez.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

93 **Domaine du Grand Montmirail 2022 Lieu Dit Mon Rêve (Gigondas).** Dark and brooding on the nose, this wine opens with deep black cherry, black olive, bay leaf, lavender and underbrush—a layered savory, earthy complexity. The palate trends dark fruited, where youthful tannins pull black and red fruit into focus. Hints of licorice and umami unfold on the finish, joined by a soft touch of clove. There's quiet tension here, suggesting more to come. Best to let it rest in the cellar through 2028+ before revisiting. *SEMA- Famille Cheron.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 **Domaine La Bouïssière 2022 (Gigondas).** Captivating from the first whiff, this wine delivers a heady bouquet of rose petal, peony, jasmine, fresh cherry skin, rhubarb and white pepper—lifted and layered. The palate leans savory, with black and red licorice notes framing a concentrated red-fruit core. Generous in body yet finely balanced, it's ready to enjoy now, though its structure hints at

its potential to hold well through 2032+. Domaine La Bouïssière. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

93 **Domaine la Soumade 2023 (Gigondas).** A nostalgic and evocative nose blends red and black berries with lavender, white pepper, wild thyme and a hint of ocean breeze salinity—stunningly layered and transportive. The palate is equally compelling, where silky fruit meets a scattering of pulverized stone minerality, adding texture and depth. Elegantly balanced and expressive, this is approachable now with a proper decant, but will reward from additional cellaring. EARL Romero Frederic / Domaine La Soumade. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

93 **Domaine Le Clos des Cazaux 2023 Tour Sarra-sine (Gigondas).** Made from 70% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre, this wine leads with an energetic nose of fresh cherry, white pepper and pulverized stone that immediately sets the tone. The palate is all about tension and finesse, where bright fruit meets a stony core. Excellent texture and poise throughout. Drink now or confidently hold through 2032. Le Clos des Cazaux - Earl Archimbaud Vache. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

93 **Domaine Saint Damien 2023 SOUTEYRADES (Gigondas).** This wine opens with a tightly wound, concentrated nose—intense and serious—with deep floral tones of rose and densely packed red fruit aromas that hint at its power. There's a quiet confidence to it. The palate is all about grace and texture, delivering a seamless wave of silky Grenache fruit that glides effortlessly. It's both poised and gorgeous, already showing beauty in its youth. Domaine Saint Damien. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

93 **Gigondas La Cave 2022 Domaine de Carobelle (Gigondas).** There's great energy here—fresh red fruits and a twist of black licorice take center stage on the nose, vibrant and immediate. The palate follows with clarity: soft red berries framed by a gentle tug of tannin, some still integrating, others adding just the right grip. There's an ease to its structure that plays beautifully with food—think semifirm sheep's cheese or a slow-stewed pork shoulder. Gigondas La Cave. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69

93 **Montirius 2020 Terre des Aînés (Gigondas).** Expressive from the outset, this wine opens with a surge of intense red cherry and licorice on the nose, giving a sense of raw power. The palate follows suit—broad and generous—with layers of red cherry, rose petal, savory meatiness, clove and a lift of white pepper adding intrigue and structure. It's built with muscle and promise, needing time to knit together. Give it until 2028+ to revisit, or let it rest in the cellar through 2035+. Montirius Le Domaine. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 **Notre Dame des Pallieres 2022 Bois des Mourres (Gigondas).** The nose is like opening a jar of mixed berry preserves—vibrant, juicy and irresistible. On the palate, the wine takes a more earthy turn, where a soft licorice note gracefully weaves through the berry-forward profile. The finish lingers, gentle yet persistent. While approachable now, this wine will evolve beautifully with time. Cellar through 2028+ to let it reveal its full depth and character. Notre Dame des Pallieres. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$29

93 **Ogier 2023 Les Dentelles (Gigondas).** This wine walks the tightrope between delicacy and drive with quiet confidence. Aromas of raspberry, rose, violet and freshly turned earth are laced with stony minerality, giving it a graceful yet grounded identity. The palate is seamless—fine tannins give lift to bright red fruits and soft licorice, all delivered with levity and polish. Effortless now, but built to glide through the next decade. Ogier. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

93 **Pierre Amadiou 2023 Romane Machotte (Gigondas).** Driven by violets, crushed white pepper and a granitic edge, the nose is focused and pure, offering a snapshot of its terroir. The palate is energetic and compact, with dark-berry fruit wrapped tightly in youthful acidity and savory spice. White pepper lingers with freshness through the finish, making this both structured and approachable. A wine with poise, precision and staying power. Pierre Amadiou. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

93 **Pierre Amadiou 2022 Domaine Grand Romane (Gigondas).** The nose of this wine is infused with concentrated black fruits, scorched earth, delicate licorice and a touch of white pepper—captivating with understated elegance. On the palate, fine tannins integrate, balanced beautifully by fresh acidity. The finish is soft and berry driven, leaving a lasting impression. It's ready to drink now, but should cellar confidently through 2032+. Pierre Amadiou. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

93 **Pierre Amadiou 2022 Le Pas de l'Aigle (Gigondas).** Sun-drenched red cherry anchors the nose, surrounded by notes of white strawberry, raspberry and warm earth that frame the fruit with natural ease. There's a sense of balance and approachability from the outset, yet the wine doesn't coast on charm alone. On the palate, rhubarb, white pepper and a dusting of clove bring energy and texture to the midpalate, while pulverized stone minerality adds length on the finish. Revisit after 2028–2030+. Pierre Amadiou. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 **Château La Thébaïde 2023 (Gigondas).** Made from 70% Grenache and 30% Mourvèdre, this wine leads with a brooding nose of compact dark berries with lifted floral tones and

a fine white pepper spice. The palate is supple and quietly energetic, where soft red berries glide on a beam of fresh acidity. Elegant and composed, with a structure that suggests the ability to cellar. Château La Thébaïde. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 **Dauvergne et Ranvier 2023 Selection (Gigondas).** The nose layers black cherry, sweet black licorice, wild thyme and a pinch of white pepper in a focused, inviting bouquet. On the palate, it's silky and lifted by vibrant acidity, with subtle oak spice and fine herbs adding depth through the finish. There's elegance in its structure now, but it should evolve beautifully through 2033. R&D Vins. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40/75 ml

92 **Dauvergne et Ranvier 2022 Selection (Gigondas).** A heady, focused nose opens with perfectly picked red berries, delivering both ripeness and firmness. The palate, still reserved, emphasizes texture and fruit, with subtle hints of delicate florals and quiet minerality. This wine is unfolding slowly, holding its potential in reserve. It suggests promise, making it one to watch closely as it matures and reveals its true character. R&D Vins. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40/2 ml

92 **Domaine de Longue Toque 2020 Lieu-dit Les Plâtrières (Gigondas).** This fresh GSM blend layers red licorice, raspberry, rhubarb and pomegranate beautifully on the nose. The palate is silky, with youthful tannins that cling to the front of the mouth and slowly pull forward the wine's floral character. Peony and jasmine drift gently across the finish, lending a delicacy that makes this especially easy to enjoy in its youth. Gabriel Meffre. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

92 **Domaine de Piaugier 2022 (Gigondas).** A boldly expressive nose of red licorice, baking spice, and white pepper strikes, but it's the focus and layering that draw you in. The palate pulses with energy—bright acidity and a streak of stony-saline minerality provide lift and definition to a tightly wound core of soft red berries. The finish lingers with poise, but this wine is playing the long game: cellar through 2032+ for full revelation. Domaine de Piaugier. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Domaine de Piéblanc 2022 Les Terres (Gigondas).** A lifted, pretty nose evokes raspberry compote—bright, fresh and touched with a hint of salinity. The palate is round and poised, with well-knit tannins and a gentle acidic backbone that keeps the red-berry fruit lively and engaging. It's showing beautifully now, though there's enough to carry it through 2030+. Domaine de Piéblanc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35/75 ml

92 **Domaine des Florets 2022 Alliance (Gigondas).** The nose is captivating, with dark red cherry skins, clove and licorice weaving together into an intriguing, layered bouquet. The palate is evolving, with soft dark-cherry fruit gradually

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giving way to a stony finish. Hold off until 2028+ before revisiting, as this wine is still finding its stride. Domaine des Florets. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

92 **Domaine du Grand Bourjassot 2022 Cécile (Gigondas).** The nose is bright and inviting, with fresh sour cherry, delicate white tea and the soft fragrance of peony petals. On the palate, it's full bodied yet balanced, where youthful tannins weave together oak spice and ripe fruit in a subtle dance. Cellar through 2028 to allow its complexity to unfold. Famille Varenne-Perez. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

92 **Domaine du St Gens 2022 L'oracle (Gigondas).** Fresh and lifted, the nose is a vibrant mix of red jammy fruits, white pepper and broken-stone aromas. The palate is generous showcasing red fruits, licorice, and a soft calcareous minerality. Best to cellar it through 2028+ before revisiting to fully appreciate its beauty. SEMA-Famille Cheron. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 **Domaine Le Clos des Cazaux 2022 Le Souriras (Gigondas).** Incredibly heady, this wine reveals a captivating bouquet of pomegranate, rhubarb and fresh cherry skins, each note adding depth to the floral core. The palate follows suit but is spicy, with layers of white pepper and salt, with a hint of pulverized stone adding contrast. The wine holds considerable depth, yet it remains restrained, suggesting there's more to uncover with time. A bottle worth watching unfold. Le Clos des Cazaux - Earl Archimbaud Vache. —A.C.C.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$60

92 **Domaine Le Clos des Cazaux 2022 Prestige (Gigondas).** This wine exudes a striking purity, where cherry, rhubarb and licorice come together. A warmth hat pulses through the subtle crunch of pulverized calcareous stones. On the palate, it deepens further, with layers of black cherry, clove and stone unfolding slowly—dark and austere in character. It's a wine with undeniable structure and that demands time to truly shine. Cellar through 2032+ for it to fully reveal its potential, and rest assured, it has the backbone for the long haul. Le Clos des Cazaux - EARL Archimbaud Vache. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

92 **Domaine Raspail Ay 2022 (Gigondas).** There's a quiet elegance to this wine, where a subtle reductive veil gracefully lifts to reveal a vibrant core of pure red berries, savory umami and a delicate thread of lavender and violet. It's finely tuned, offering balance and a sense of place without exaggeration. Beautifully drinkable now, yet structured enough to evolve with grace through 2030+. Domaine Raspail-Ay. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 **Domaine Saint Damien 2023 LOUISIANE (Gigondas).** The nose is immediately compelling—clean, concentrated and pure, with vibrant

red cherries, licorice and violet aromas that speak with clarity and lift. On the palate, it's all silk and precision, with seamless tannins that wrap elegantly around a core of red fruit and savory licorice. Beautifully composed and focused, this wine is already showing its charm and is approachable now with a light decant. Domaine Saint Damien. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

92 **Famille Ravoire 2023 Pierre de Fontval (Gigondas).** Fresh, floral and captivating, this wine opens with a heady mix of crushed rose, violet and dark cherry skin—a nose that's as serious as it is seductive. The palate brings spice, salinity and a lift of acidity that frames soft red licorice and wet calcareous minerality. There's both grace and grip here. Approachable now with grilled meats or chocolate, but built to cruise through 2035+. Famille Ravoire. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

92 **La Dayse des Dulcy 2021 (Gigondas).** The nose opens with a rich blend of black cherry, a hint of white pepper, savory undertones and a touch of sweet baking spice. On the palate, the wine is silky, allowing concentrated red-fruit flavors to take center stage while soft, pulverized stones linger through the finish. While incredibly easy to enjoy now, there's a subtle depth here that suggests a bit more time in the cellar will reward those who choose to wait. A wine that's both approachable and full of promise. EARL Marc Autran et Fils. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 **La Grand Comtadine 2022 Héritiers Cheron Misset (Gigondas).** Already exuding silkiness on the nose, the wine opens with a truly inviting bouquet of perfectly ripe cherry skins, pomegranate and rose. On the palate, it's powerful, with a mocha layer resting atop fresh red cherry, soft licorice and firm stone. The structure is solid, making it a great match for a juicy burger of any kind. SEMA - Famille Cheron. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 **Verquière 2019 (Gigondas).** Aromatic and inviting, this wine opens with notes of red cherry, sage, cedar and a lift of dried lavender. The palate is vibrant and focused, with fresh acidity brightening the core of red-cherry fruit. A floral thread carries through the finish, adding finesse to its straightforward appeal. It's pretty, poised and ready to drink. Domaine de Verquière. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 **Alain Jaume 2021 Terrasses de Montmirail (Gigondas).** Dominated by black licorice and violets, this melding creates a captivating aromatic bouquet. There's verve and tension on the palate, with a charming delicate violet note that gradually gives way to an earthy finish. This wine would pair wonderfully with mushroom dishes, where its complexity can truly shine. Cellaring for a few more years before revisiting to allow its full potential to unfold. Vignobles Alain Jaume. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$33

91 **Amédée 2023 (Gigondas).** This wine delivers impressive aromatic intensity, balancing dark red cherry, raspberry, rhubarb and light rose with subtle cedar and earth tones. The full-bodied palate is lush and layered, with supple tannins melting into a core of dark fruit and stony minerality. Generous yet composed, it shows well now with a decant and has the structure to evolve gracefully through 2033. Amédée. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35/75 ml

91 **Cellier des Princes 2023 Domaine du Gypse (Gigondas).** This wine leads with an earthy, granite-driven nose layered in red cherry, black licorice, violets and wild thyme—a serious, grounded aromatic profile. The palate is plush and dark-fruited, where that same mineral backbone carries through, accented by a subtle mocha lift that adds depth without distraction. Polished and persistent through the finish, it's a wine that speaks softly but with conviction. Cellier des Princes. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$11/75 ml

91 **Domaine de l'Espigouette 2023 (Gigondas).** Driven by terroir, this wine opens with a savory edge—meaty notes layered with red berries, damp earth and hints of cypress that evoke a woodland walk after rain. The palate is structured and muscular, with drying tannins that elegantly pull forward an umami core and a subtle mocha finish. It's grounded yet lifted, and would shine alongside squid ink pasta or wild gamy charcuterie. Domaine de l'Espigouette. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA/75 ml

91 **Domaine de Longue Toque 2020 Domaine de Longue Toque (Gigondas).** White peach, red cherry skin, cherry blossom and jasmine tea create a graceful and inviting aromatic profile. The palate is full bodied and expressive, delivering a lift of white pepper and a graceful continuation of rose petal through the long finish. Layered and nuanced, this wine shows complexity without pretense. Drinking beautifully now. Gabriel Meffre. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

91 **Domaine des Bosquets 2022 Le Lieu Dit (Gigondas).** This wine draws you in with its seamless fusion of raspberry and pomegranate, touched by sweet baking spice that enhances the fruit's richness without overwhelming it. On the palate, dense raspberry flavors take center stage, underpinned by the subtle texture of white-stone minerality. The finish is clean and persistent, leaving an impression long after each sip. Straightforward yet compelling, it commands attention without effort. Enjoyable now, but its understated charm will keep you coming back for more. SNC Les Bosquets. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$88

91 **Famille Autran 2021 L'Héritage (Gigondas).** The nose of this wine is an inviting mix of dark cherry, mushroom, clove and savory umami notes, all melding together in a beautiful layered profile. On the palate, it's soft and accessible, where the black cherry and brown-mushroom notes unfold

gently, underscored by salinity. This wine would pair beautifully with risotto made with beef broth and topped with delicate, meaty proteins. Ready to drink now, it offers an effortlessly enjoyable experience. Earl Marc Autran et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Famille Ravoire 2023 Olivier Ravoire (Gigondas). Mostly Grenache and it shows—all clarity and confidence. The nose is generous with dark cherry, violets and a calcareous-stony mineral thread that keeps things grounded. Everything feels in place on the palate: fruit, structure and flow working in sync from start to finish. It doesn't try to shock or showboat—it just delivers. A wine that knows exactly what it is and doesn't overthink it. Ready now. Famille Ravoire. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

91 Gabriel Meffre 2022 Gabriel Meffre Sainte Catherine (Gigondas). There are notes of green olive, red licorice, rose, tart cherry and a dash of white pepper spice—definitely an intriguing nose. On the palate, the rhubarb and raspberry take the lead, with a touch of stemmy pomegranate character. The tannins are drying, with soft clove-like undertones. Approachable now, it's a wine that rewards a little aeration. Gabriel Meffre. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

91 Gabriel Meffre 2020 Laurus (Gigondas). There's impressive aromatic intensity here, where fresh cherry, red licorice, rose, jasmine and granitic minerality come across focused. The palate carries that energy forward with a persistent line of dark blackberry juice folded into pomegranate fruit, accented by white pepper, gentle baking spice and a fine-grained mineral texture. It's approachable now with a generous decant, but the structure hints at even more detail to come with time. Gabriel Meffre. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

91 Montirius 2019 Confidentiel (Gigondas). Soft red berries, singed orange peel, peony, white pepper and crushed stone lend a lifted delicacy to the nose, even if it leans a touch muted at first. The palate follows with quiet depth—salty, harmonious, and slightly brooding beneath the surface. A bit of air brings needed clarity. Let this rest in the cellar through 2028+ to allow its finer details to emerge. Montirius Le Domaine. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

91 Xavier Vignon 2022 (Gigondas). The nose is immediately generous and alluring, with a lush, lifted quality that draws you in. On the palate, it shows structural balance despite a touch of glycerine. Still a bit closed, even with air, the wine hints at deeper complexity yet to emerge. Give it time—cellar through 2032 to let those layers fully reveal themselves. Xavier Vignon. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

90 Cellier des Princes 2023 Cellier des Princes (Gigondas). The nose reveals a precise depth, driven by spicy red licorice and a kick of

white pepper—inviting yet enigmatic. The palate remains a bit reserved for now, flexing its muscle with complex layers and a whisper of umami that adds intrigue. This wine is still in its adolescence, showing raw potential. With time, it will evolve into something more polished, but for now, it's a bottle best revisited after 2028+ to fully appreciate its nuances. Cellier des Princes. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$11

90 Château La Thébaïde 2022 (Gigondas). Red cherry, pomegranate, anise and licorice intertwine to form an intense, captivating nose. The palate strikes a balanced with firm tannins and fresh acidity, but at the moment it's a bit shut. It's best to cellar this one through 2028+ before revisiting, allowing its complexity to emerge fully. Château La Thébaïde. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 Gigondas La Cave 2022 La Référence (Gigondas). Soft spoken yet expressive, this wine opens with heady notes of pomegranate, crushed red berries and violets, drifting elegantly from the glass. It's a textbook expression of Gigondas—structured with just the right grip of tannin and a backbone of acidity that lifts the fruit without weighing it down. Understated power and clarity define this bottle, showing both place and poise. Gigondas La Cave. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

90 Gigondas La Cave 2021 (Gigondas). A blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre, this wine greets you with a captivating nose of fresh orange zest, red cherry skin, peony, white rose, and jasmine, creating a complex bouquet. On the palate, soft oak spices mingle seamlessly with dark cherry skins, offering a rounded experience. It's wonderfully drinkable now, making it an ideal match for charcuterie or earthy, semifirm cheeses. Wine Wine Situation. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$29

90 Gigondas La Cave 2021 Signature (Gigondas). Made with Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault, this wine presents a pronounced nose of red berries, blood-orange peel, peony and a hint of white tea, offering a complex and intriguing aromatic profile. On the palate, it's delicate and floral, with the jasmine taking center stage, complemented by a fine stony minerality that adds depth. Whether you choose to cellar it for a while or enjoy it now as the first red of the evening with friends, it's a wine that's as versatile as it is inviting. Gigondas La Cave. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$61

90 Gigondas La Cave 2020 Le Brut du Foudre (Gigondas). Sappy and vibrant, the nose offers red raspberry, blood orange, pomegranate and red licorice. The palate is lush and approachable, where cherry skin, delicate florals and a firm stony minerality provide depth. Easy to enjoy now, but there's enough here to reward cellaring through 2030+. Gigondas La Cave. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$84

90 Marrenon 2023 Les Trois Chaînes (Gigondas). A compact and focused nose of fresh cherry, violet, wild thyme and crushed stone sets a clean and inviting tone. The palate delivers freshness and lift, with red-fruit purity framed by an intriguing umami note that adds dimension through the finish. There's clarity and restraint here, making it approachable now with a decant, though it's built to hold gracefully through 2034+. Marrenon. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35/75 ml

90 Saint Roch 2024 Projet F/Saint Roch (Gigondas). Beautiful high-toned nose with ripe dark cherry, rhubarb, red licorice, violet and a crush of rose and white pepper all melded in a way that's quite inviting. The palate is fresh with integrated tannins—full of a red-licorice note that lingers through the palate where soft floral and broken stone minerality meet along a soft but long finish. Quite enjoyable now. Domaine Saint Roch. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Aimé Arnoux 2022 Domaine La Maurelle (Gigondas). The nose is bright and fresh, offering a juicy burst of red-berry fruit leather, tinged with a touch of licorice. It's inviting and effortlessly approachable. The palate follows suit with lively acidity and good texture, all framed by white pepper and crushed stone that linger through the finish. Perfect for drinking now with a quick decant. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Malijay 2022 Tradition (Gigondas). The nose delivers solid aromatic intensity, with dark-red fruits mingling with red licorice. Soft berries weave through the backbone of dark, bittersweet tannins on the palate. It's a wine in flux—best left to age gracefully. Cellar through 2028+ before revisiting to allow its full potential to unfold. Société des Vins de Malijay. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40/75 ml

89 Louis Bernard 2022 Louis Bernard (Gigondas). Bright green olive, anise and lavender emerge on the nose. There's a balance on the palate, as ripe red berries merge with soft clove and a touch of pulverized stone. The structure here is solid, with the minerality adding depth to the fruit profile. Approachable now, but it has the potential to evolve beautifully in the cellar through 2035+. Gabriel Meffre. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Montirius 2022 La Tour (Gigondas). The nose hits hard with concentrated red cherry, white pepper, soft clove and earthy undertones, all wrapped up in a noticeable glyceric edge. On the palate, the fruit feels a bit more subdued, with softer edges that still holds appeal. Drink now. Montirius Le Domaine. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

89 RhonéA 2022 Le Pas de Montmirail (Gigondas). Dense strawberry and rhubarb com-

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pot set the tone, lifted by wild white flowers, white pepper and a cool wash of river stones on the nose—it's both plush and precise. The palate leans into its elegance, where bright acidity keeps the softness in check, framing notes of raspberry, strawberry, and whispery baking spice. It's open knit and quietly expressive now with a decant. RhôneA. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

89 RhôneA 2022 **Les Pierres du Vallat (Gigondas)**. There's a real richness to the nose, where red berries, licorice and rose intertwine to create a silky, almost ethereal bouquet. On the palate, that licorice note leads, backed by soft red fruits. It starts off promising, but the finish is abrupt. It's still an enjoyable expression, but one that leaves you craving a bit more depth and persistence. RhôneA. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Aimé Arnoux 2022 **Sélection Parcelle (Gigondas)**. Tart cherry, green olive, bay leaf and cedar create a punchy, spice-driven nose that doesn't hold back. The palate follows with a textbook rhythm—dark licorice, bay leaf and savory spice layered over a firm structure. It's direct, no-frills and confidently rooted in its terroir. Pop it now: It's ready to speak. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Domaine Brunely 2023 **Trésor (Gigondas)**. This wine leads with a heady dose of garrigue: cedar bark, brambly fruit and a streak of licorice give the bouquet both wildness and depth. The palate leans savory, layering tarragon, white pepper and forest-floor earthiness that lingers through the finish. There's a quiet intensity here that begs for the right pairing: think mushroom risotto or anything umami-rich to let its nuance unfold. Domaine Brunely. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

88 Terranea 2023 **Les Lauriers du Terroir (Gigondas)**. The nose immediately captures attention with its blending of dark-red cherry, licorice, violets and a dash of white pepper. The palate follows suit—lush with vibrant acidity, delivering more of that licorice, crushed stone and a subtle white-peppery kick. While this is undeniably serious, it's surprisingly approachable now, making it easy to enjoy even in its youthful state. Terranea. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

RASTEAU

95 Domaine La Luminaille 2023 **GARANÇE (Rasteau)**. Sourced from old-vine Grenache, Carignan and Mourvèdre, this wine comes out swinging with bold aromas of juicy plum, blackberry and dried rose, accented by lavender, pink grapefruit skin, and white pepper. It walks a fine line between power and grace, delivering a pure core of black fruit dusted in garrigue. Richly layered and full of charm, it's a bottle to enjoy now and one

you'll be glad to have cellared later. One to watch! Domaine La Luminaille. **Editor's Choice**. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

94 Domaine Brusset 2023 **(Rasteau)**. A blend of Grenache and Mourvèdre from argileux soils, this wine kicks off with a quiet but captivating nose of red cherry, soft licorice and mocha. The palate is spicy and dark-fruited, with vibrant acidity cutting through a firm stony minerality that adds both depth and structure. As it airs, a laser-like focus emerges, revealing the wine's true clarity. A final touch of mocha ties it all together. Drink now, or cellar through 2030. Domaine Brusset. **Editor's Choice**. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

94 Domaine des Escaravilles 2023 **La Ponce (Rasteau)**. Initially this wine is a bit reductive, but with patience, it reveals its true charm and strikes a beautiful balance. Rich dark fruits sit between fresh and compote, framed by smooth tannins that slowly unveil notes of licorice, rose petal and soft mocha. A delicate veil of lavender lingers, adding lift and elegance. Ready for immediate enjoyment, just allow it 40 minutes to breathe and reveal its full depth. Domaine des Escaravilles. **Editor's Choice**. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

94 Domaine Elodie Balme 2023 **(Rasteau)**. Vibrant and lifted, this wine opens with an energetic bouquet of violet, lavender and fresh earth, offering a polished and beautifully composed nose. The palate reveals a wild herbaceous thread woven through dense black fruit, softened by notes of gravel and a hint of mocha. There's elegance and poise throughout. Give it a proper decant or hold through 2030+ for added depth. EARL Domaine Elodie Balme. **Best Buy**. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

93 Camille Cayran 2022 **(Rasteau)**. There's impressive clarity on the nose, where black cherry, raspberry, violet and red licorice unfold with lifted intensity and precision. The palate follows with graceful balance. Tannins are already integrating smoothly, lending structure without distraction, and framing the fruit in all the right ways. Approachable now, but will reward cellaring through 2032+. Serge Doré Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

93 Crous Saint Martin 2023 **LES GARDE-CORPS (Rasteau)**. A blend of 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, this wine opens with a concentrated nose of fresh black plum, blackberry, violet and clove. Still in its youth, the palate is dominated by assertive tannins and a mocha edge that adds intrigue. This wine has the potential to evolve beautifully with time—best cellared through 2033+. SAS Reserve St. Dominique. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Domaine Beau Mistral 2022 **SAINT MARTIN (Rasteau)**. This wine bursts with aromatic intensity and youthful energy, showcasing deep

blackberry, cassis, violets, white pepper, and a hint of clove. With a little air, it unfolds into a silky texture, allowing the pressed brambly fruit to linger elegantly through its long finish. Approachable now, this wine offers an immediate allure while hinting at its potential for further development with time. Domaine Beau Mistral. **Best Buy**. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17/75 ml

93 Domaine Beau Mistral 2022 **Sélection Vieilles Vignes (Rasteau)**. This GSM blend radiates aromatic energy, with vibrant notes of raspberry, rhubarb, black cherry, and violet, all enriched by a delicate touch of mocha. On the palate, its texture is already remarkable, with a silkiness that promises to deepen and evolve with time. The balance and acidity are impeccably calibrated, making it approachable now, yet poised to develop beautifully through 2030+. A wine that invites you in now but leaves you curious for what's to come. Earl Beau Mistral. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Domaine Caroline Bonnefoy 2021 **(Rasteau)**. Fresh blackberry, red cherry and lavender burst from the nose, creating a lifted, sophisticated and incredibly precise bouquet. On the palate, the energy is palpable, with vibrant acidity carrying the fresh black cherries effortlessly across the tongue, leaving behind a soft trace of black pepper and pulverized stone. This wine is absolutely gorgeous—elegant, easy to drink now and perfect with a proper decant to fully unlock its charm. SARL Phetisson Bonnefoy. **Best Buy**. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

93 Domaine de Verquière 2022 **(Rasteau)**. A blend of 70% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 5% Cinsault, this wine opens with deep aromas of black cherry, clove, white pepper and warm earth, drawing you in with its inviting complexity. On the palate, it's fresh and vibrant, with subtle hints of salt and cracked clove that gently enhance the ripe black cherry, licorice and delicate sprigs of lavender. Silky and approachable now. Domaine de Verquière. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

93 Domaine de Verquière 2019 **Cuvée 1928 (Rasteau)**. This bold, full-bodied wine opens with a lush, slightly raisinated nose where fig, black cherry, raspberry and scorched earth converge in rich harmony. The palate leans into its savory depth, offering notes of dried meat, wild thyme, and crushed earth layered over a firm, salty stone minerality. There's a rustic charm here that brings balance to the wine's opulence. Drink now with a proper decant to let its structure unfold. Domaine de Verquière. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Domaine des Escaravilles 2022 **La Ponce (Rasteau)**. A blend of Grenache and Syrah, this wine opens with a fresh bouquet of ripe fig and blackberry, complemented by a hint of salt and stony minerality. The fresh acidity lifts the black fruit, creating a focused, straightforward profile

that's wonderfully easy to drink. Approachable and refreshing, this wine is perfect for immediate enjoyment. Domaine des Escaravailles. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

93 **Domaine Grand Nicolet 2022 Les Esqueyrons (Rasteau).** An elegant bouquet of cassis and blackberries wrapped in a delicate layer of *sous bois* immediately transports you to the heart of the region. Lush and full bodied, this wine has great presence on the palate, with youthful tannins that are gradually melting into its structure. A layer of black plums, along with white pepper and garrigue, coats the mouth, evoking a nostalgic sense of place. This wine is as enjoyable on its own as it is paired with cheese and charcuterie, effortlessly capturing the essence of the Rhône in every sip. Domaine Grand Nicolet. —A.C.C.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25

93 **Domaine La Luminaille 2022 (Rasteau).** Fresh rose petals and sweet spice rise gently from the glass, giving this wine an immediately delicate, inviting presence. The palate is all about structure and potential—lifted by bright acidity and framed by firm tannins. Though still tightly coiled, its ethereal florality hints at deeper layers yet to emerge. A graceful outlier for the region, this wine deserves patience to reveal its full arc. Hold through 2029+. Domaine La Luminaille. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

93 **Domaine la Soumade 2022 (Rasteau).** Aromatic and captivating, this wine weaves violet into a compact layer of cassis, light musk, and warm earth, creating a perfume-like bouquet that is both deep and delicately floral. On the palate, it's beautifully balanced, with black fruit nestled between a firm, stony texture that adds structure and depth. Approachable now, it's a wine that shines with elegance. Pair it with delicate meat dishes, such as roasted lamb or a fine duck breast, for a perfect match that enhances its nuanced character. EARL Romero Frederic / Domaine La Soumade. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

93 **Domaine la Soumade 2022 Cuvée Prestige (Rasteau).** The nose is captivatingly wild, with violet, rose, wild herbs and leather weaving together, resting atop a bed of gentle black plums. As soft tannins melt into the wine, vibrant acidity breathes life into the ripe blackberry and plum flavors. It's a wine that feels both approachable and complex, showing beautifully now with just a gentle decant. A delightful experience that invites immediate enjoyment. EARL Romero Frederic / Domaine La Soumade. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

93 **Domaine Les Evigneaux 2020 Belle Dame (Rasteau).** Fresh and focused, this wine opens with a powerful nose of red cherry, wild mint and black licorice, lifted by a vivid sense of energy. The palate leans into its fruit depth—crushed raspberry and red cherry dominate early, then give way to a grounding layer of dried herbs, white pepper

and a whisper of terracotta minerality. It's delicious now with air but structured enough to evolve through 2030+. Domaine des Evigneaux. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

93 **Domaine Martin 2023 Les Sommets de Rasteau (Rasteau).** Delicate and restrained, this wine opens with notes of freshly pressed dark cherry—stems and all—lifted by whispers of violet and rose petal. The palate shows graceful levity, guided by bright acidity that gently peels back layers of floral nuance and fruit purity. There's quiet confidence here, a wine that speaks softly but promises more with time. Cellar through 2028+. Domaine Martin. —A.C.C.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

93 **Domaine Martin 2022 Les Sommets de Rasteau (Rasteau).** This wine is all about purity and balance. Vibrant black-fruit aromas leap from the glass, with perfectly ripe cassis and blackberry that smell sweet and inviting. On the palate, the wine is effortless, with tannins gently integrating, supporting a pure blackberry core that is so delicious it's hard to resist. Approachable now, it's a wine that's simply easy to drink and enjoy. Domaine Martin. —A.C.C.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

92 **Château Goudray 2023 (Rasteau).** Vibrant and energetic, this Grenache-led blend offers ripe blackberry compote, wild thyme and a dusty edge of terracotta on the nose. The palate leans rustic in all the right ways, with juicy black cherry, plum and clove flavors riding on a backdrop of dried herbs and stony earth. Rounded tannins and lively acidity make this immediately enjoyable, but it has enough depth to hold a few years. SCEA La Couraçonne. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

92 **Château La Couraçonne 2023 (Rasteau).** This vibrant GSM blend kicks off with polished blackberry and cherry notes that burst from the glass, layered with just enough wildness to keep things interesting. There's a silty texture and refreshing lift on the palate, where juicy plum meets a whisper of stony minerality. Round tannins lend grip without getting in the way. Lively, approachable and full of character—this one's ready to enjoy now but has the guts to cellar through 2033+. SCEA La Couraçonne. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

92 **Domaine de Verquière 2021 Cuvée 1928 (Rasteau).** Dried herbs, leather and cedar musk dominate the nose of this wine, giving it a rugged Old World charm. The palate leans earthy, with a backdrop of crunchy black cherry that offers a flicker of fruit beneath the structure. Firm tannins and a concentrated dark-fruit core suggest this wine is holding back—for now. Let it rest in the cellar through 2029+ to allow its more nuanced side to emerge. Domaine de Verquière. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 **Domaine des Amadieu 2022 La Copado (Rasteau).** This wine exudes polish and vibrancy, with black cherry gracefully framed by a delicate touch of violet, creating a sophisticated and striking nose. On the palate, it unfolds with layers of black cherry, cassis, dried herbs and a hint of cocoa nib, blending harmoniously for a truly delightful experience. Approachable and utterly enjoyable now, it's a wine that invites you to savor its elegance and complexity. Domaine des Amadieu -SCEA Corine et Yves Jean Houser. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

92 **Domaine des Escaravailles 2022 Classique (Rasteau).** A vibrant crush of cassis and blackberry leads the nose, accented by white pepper and a lift of violet—fresh, focused and quietly sophisticated. The palate delivers on that promise, with each note seamlessly woven together, finishing with a firm stony edge that adds poise and structure. Very enjoyable now, but hold through 2026+ for added depth. Domaine des Escaravailles. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

92 **Domaine du Trapadis 2023 Les Cras (Rasteau).** This wine draws you in with heady aromas of violet, lavender and a deep core of dark cherry, plum and black licorice. On the palate, it's poised and lifted, where bright acidity brings energy and definition to the youthful dark fruit, while firm tannins add grip without overwhelming. Already elegant in its layering, it promises even more with another year or two of cellaring. Graceful now and will be quietly profound with time. EARL Domaine du Trapadis. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 **Domaine du Trapadis 2021 Les Adres (Rasteau).** With good concentration and a wild streak of energy, this wine leads with dried rose petal, *sous bois* and a musky edge that gives the nose both elegance and intrigue. The palate is brisk and taut, its vibrant acidity charging ahead with lean flashes of blackberry and lavender that vanish as quickly as they arrive. Round, drying tannins follow in their wake, echoing the wine's kinetic pace. There's tension and character here—give it time in the cellar through 2028+ to see where it lands. EARL Domaine du Trapadis. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 **Domaine Grand Nicolet 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Rasteau).** Fresh lavender and violet weave seamlessly into juicy lingonberry and a touch of wild thyme on the nose, giving this wine a lifted, energetic charm. There's real vibrancy here—the palate opens with aromatic intensity and a vivid pop of flavor, yet remains balanced, with juicy black fruit and floral tones riding alongside cracked black pepper. Its structure is dialed in just right, making this an expressive, approachable wine ready to enjoy now with just a little air. Domaine Grand Nicolet. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$21

92 Domaine la Soumade 2022 Cuvée Confiance (Rasteau). A beautiful overlay of violet musk, black olive and a light vein of lavender creates a heady, perfumed nose. On the palate, crunchy black cherry and soft plum are balanced with a touch of licorice, adding depth and intrigue. The wine is well structured, with fresh acidity that keeps it vibrant and approachable now, but it has the potential to cellar gracefully through 2030+. EARL Romero Frederic / Domaine La Soumade. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

92 Domaine les Evigneaux 2022 (Rasteau). Roses dominate the nose, delicately perched atop currants and black cherry, creating a focused and precise aromatic profile. On the palate, a pure core of deeply concentrated blackberry and plum unfolds, with its vibrant acidity gradually revealing the depth of flavor. The finish lingers with pulverized stone and a touch of mocha, adding complexity. Absolutely stunning now or cellar through 2030+ for further refinement. A wine that promises both immediate pleasure and future reward. Domaine les Evigneaux. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

92 Domaine les Evigneaux 2022 Belle Dame (Rasteau). A delightful bouquet of fresh rose petal and violet rises from the glass, draped over a ripe bowl of freshly washed blackberries. The aromas are lush and inviting. On the palate, the wine strikes a harmonious balance with earthy undertones, dried herbs and a soft mocha finish that lingers elegantly. This wine would pair beautifully with hearty dishes like roasted boar, enhancing the richness of the meat with its depth and complexity. Domaine les Evigneaux. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

92 Domaine les Evigneaux 2020 (Rasteau). Bold yet elegant on the nose, this wine delivers a stunning bouquet of violet, lavender and black licorice, all seamlessly integrated into a sophisticated aromatic profile. The palate veers more rustic, with dried herbs, rose petals and notes of underbrush layered atop a firmly earthy finish. Drying tannins add structure and grip, centering a core of fresh black fruit. There's both charm and edge here—approachable now with a decant and worth following over the next few years. Domaine les Evigneaux. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

92 Domaine Martin 2023 Rasteau (Rasteau). This wine hints at something wild and beautiful just beneath the surface. Aromatics of violet and rose petal bloom into a tightly woven core of pressed blackberry, white pepper and a dash of sea salt. The palate is sleek and vibrant, showing off pure black plum backed by punchy acidity and round, gripping tannins. There's a coiled energy here that promises to unfold with time. Decant now to explore its tension or cellar through 2030+. Domaine Martin. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

92 Domaine Rabasse Charavin 2022 (Rasteau). This wine opens with a delicate bouquet of fresh rose petals, black cherry, olives and a hint of flinty minerality that speaks to its complexity. There's a beautiful balance at play, where refreshing acidity elevates a soft lavender layer, adding an unexpected depth to the dark-fruited core. The wine is effortlessly pretty, with just enough structure to keep you coming back for more. Approachable now, but there's enough intrigue to make you curious about where it'll go with some time. Domaine Rabasse Charavin. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 La Bastide Saint Dominique 2023 La Cabane Rouge (Rasteau). Ripe and refined, this Grenache-Mourvèdre blend offers a silky feel, with layers of black plum, raspberry and cherry gliding along, backed by a subtle echo of licorice and wild strawberry. Fresh acidity keeps it lifted, while fine-grained tannins lend poise through the finish. Shows polish and charm, with the guts to be a versatile pairing. Drink now–2030. SAS Reserve St. Dominique. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Notre Dame des Pallieres 2022 les Ribes (Rasteau). Dark, crunchy black cherry, wild strawberry and raspberry intertwine with leather and violets, creating a fresh and inviting nose. On the palate, this wine is deliciously straightforward and fruity, with flavors of cassis, blackberry jam and a touch of fresh earth. Its freshness and approachability make it a joy to drink now, but it also has the structure to evolve beautifully with cellaring through 2032+. A wine that balances immediate enjoyment with the promise of future complexity. Notre Dame des Pallieres. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$17

92 Xavier Vignon 2021 (Rasteau). This wine opens with an irresistible burst of brambly black fruit—like a jar of wild-berry leather steeped in summer heat. It's juicy, inviting and downright mouthwatering. The palate follows through with waves of fresh black raspberry and dark cherry, accented by a pinch of flaky salt that adds edge and intrigue. While there's a whisper of earthy depth beneath, the spotlight stays on the pure, fruit-driven exuberance. Bold yet playful, this wine is a perfect match for richly marbled cuts like Kobe or Wagyu. Xavier Vignon. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 Cellier des Princes 2023 Domaine des Deux Rivières (Rasteau). This GSM blend delivers rustic charm with ease—juicy blackberry, violets, clove and dried earth rise from the glass in harmony. With air, the palate opens to plush black fruit framed by soft, youthful tannins. Approachable and inviting, it's a pleasure to drink now, but cellaring a few bottles will reward the patient. Cellier des Princes. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$6

91 Château du Trignon 2022 (Rasteau). The nose is beautifully heady, with a delicate perfume

of violet and lavender rising above a soft layer of black plums and warm earth—sophisticated and enticing. On the palate, youthful tannins are tempered by vibrant acidity, giving the wine structure and lift. While the pure essence of blackberries shines through, this wine will evolve even further with time. Best to cellar through 2028+ before revisiting. Famille Quiot. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28/75 ml

91 Château Goudray 2022 (Rasteau). Earth-driven and evocative, this wine opens with pronounced black cherry layered over fresh fennel, wet earth, and a dusting of mocha. The palate follows with round, generous textures, where soft black licorice and plum meet notes of underbrush and savory spice. There's a grounded energy to it that makes it an ideal match for bold, spicy fare. Hold through 2028+ to let the structure fully knit. SCEA La Couraçonne. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

91 Coteaux des Travers 2021 Mondona (Rasteau). Dried rose petals meld seamlessly into aromas of black cherry and olive, offering a nose that's equal parts floral and savory. The palate is taut and lifted, with youthful, drying tannins steering the focus toward black tea and a restrained core of fresh black fruit. A stony, mineral-driven finish adds tension and depth, hinting at a more expressive future. Decant to enjoy now or revisit after 2028+. Coteaux des Travers. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Domaine de l'Espigouette 2023 (Rasteau). Initially reserved, this wine unveils its wild beauty with aromas of mulled black plum, fresh lavender, wild mint and a hint of clove. The palate is concentrated and structured, with deep black fruits framed by youthful tannins and energized by a fresh stony-earth minerality. A lingering note of coffee bean adds complexity on the finish. Decant to enjoy now, or cellar through 2030+. Domaine de l'Espigouette. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA/075 ml

91 Domaine Galuval 2021 Les Collines (Rasteau). Juicy blackberry, black licorice and musk swirl with subtle cedar and dried herbs to create a nose that's both plush and wild. On the palate, vibrant acidity brings structure, pushing the wine's herbal and savory tones to the forefront for now, while the darker fruit lingers quietly beneath. There's complexity here, but it's still coming together. Give it time—revisit after 2028, ideally alongside a well-seasoned lamb dish to draw out its deeper character. SCEA Domaine de Galuval. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine Grand Nicolet 2023 Terre des Bertrand (Rasteau). A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Carignan from 40-year-old vines grown on red clay and rolled pebbles, this wine opens with the inviting aroma of freshly rinsed plums and blackberries, subtly lifted by a breeze of lavender. The palate is graceful and vibrant, with youthful tan-

nins supporting notes of wild thyme, delicate black tea and a firm, stony minerality. Approachable now with a proper decant, it reveals its elegance with ease. Domaine Grand Nicolet. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

91 **Domaine La Perdriere 2022 La Planne (Rasteau).** Licorice and fresh earth lead on the nose, wrapping around a juicy core of black plum. The palate shifts into a more floral register, where violets linger gracefully across the midpalate, framed by soft, round tannins and underpinned by a subtle note of black tea. Bright acidity brings lift and verve, making this wine an effortlessly drinkable pleasure right now. SCEA Famille Perdigao / Domaine La Perdriere. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30/75 ml

91 **Domaine Les Grands Bois 2022 MARC (Rasteau).** The nose is a captivating blend of perfectly ripe red cherries, tarragon, and *sous bois*, all driven by a distinct sense of terroir. On the palate, the wine feels a bit reserved, still tightly wound, with hints of cured meat, black olive, dried lavender, and a touch of terracotta adding depth. While it's intriguing now, this wine will truly benefit from further maturation—cellar through 2028+ before revisiting. Domaine Les Grands Bois. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

91 **Le Gravillas 2023 Horizon (Rasteau).** The warmth of the vintage speaks clearly through the nose—ripe dark cherry, wild strawberry and red licorice form an inviting bouquet. The palate, though youthful, reveals depth: drying tannins frame soft plum, clove and black tea, anchored by a firm, stony minerality. There's poise beneath its structure, suggesting greater elegance to come. Best revisited after 2028. Gigondas LaCave. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$38

91 **Notre Dame des Pallieres 2022 la Coudouliere (Rasteau).** The nose opens with an intriguing blend of cedary, green olive and *sous bois* aromas, creating a distinctive, earthy character. On the palate, it deepens with notes of black cherry and licorice, adding complexity and depth. While the wine feels wonderfully untamed, it shows great promise, evolving with time. Its bold structure makes it a perfect match for hearty braised lamb dishes. A wine to explore now, with an exciting journey ahead as it matures. Notre Dame des Pallieres. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

91 **RhôneA 2022 Prestige (Rasteau).** Fresh roses seamlessly meld with ripe blackberry, wild strawberry and black licorice, offering a nose that's both captivating and fragrant. On the palate, soft, round tannins hold a tightly wound core of black fruits, with that subtle thread of rose teasing its full expression. There's a sense of finesse here, but this wine isn't quite ready to show all its cards—give it time, and it'll reward you with layers of complexity. A wine with promise that's worth holding onto. RhôneA. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château La Couraçonne 2022 (Rasteau).** This wine presents a savory profile, with earthy, meaty aromas that lean into dark, brooding fruit. The palate mirrors this character, rich with underbrush and a pronounced calcareous minerality that gives it a firm backbone. While it's intriguing in its depth, this wine requires time—whether through aeration or cellaring—before it reveals its full potential. Best revisited after 2028+. SCEA La Couraçonne. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

90 **RhôneA 2022 Les Hauts du Village Single Vineyard Selection (Rasteau).** Fresh raspberry and blackberry are crushed together, releasing a stunning perfume of violet and iris that weaves through the fruit, creating a truly sophisticated nose. On the palate, vibrant acidity lifts the dark fruit profile, while generous tannins anchor the soft black fruits, adding a layer of depth. This wine is approachable now, showing balance and elegance, with a freshness that makes it easy to enjoy in its youth. RhôneA. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$34

90 **RhôneA 2022 Tradition (Rasteau).** The nose opens with a rich, dusty aroma of lush red and black cherries, beautifully woven with a sophisticated hint of violet perfume. The palate is equally complex, where freshly pressed black fruits seamlessly melt into a savory layer with garrigue. Approachable now, this wine is a perfect match for meaty stews, such as lamb tagines, bringing out the best in both the dish and the wine with every sip. RhôneA. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 22% **Price:** \$20

89 **Gabriel Meffre 2022 Saint Didier (Rasteau).** A compact bouquet leads with fresh black cherry, black licorice and a whisper of rose, delivering a focused and soft aromatic profile. On the palate, a lift of refreshing acidity adds energy and brightness to a soft core of dark fruit, while a gentle stony finish brings depth and texture. A composed, serious wine with elegance in reserve. Gabriel Meffre. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

SAINT-JOSEPH

96 **Domaine Verzier 2022 Madone (Saint-Joseph).** This wine bursts with energy, where dark fruits entwine with hints of garrigue, creating an intriguing depth. Floral notes of lavender and violets wrap around ripe blackberry and plum, while vibrant acidity delivers length and clarity. Elegant yet approachable, it's the ideal partner for the bold flavors of Korean BBQ. Domaine Verzier. **Editor's Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$42

95 **Domaine Verzier 2022 Empreinte (Saint-Joseph).** Pure and full of energy, this wine captivates with delicate aromatic layers of black cherry, lavender and violet, seductively woven together. Hints of soft terracotta and white pep-

per add intrigue to the nose. Perfectly balanced, ripe black fruits are lifted by refreshing acidity, while wild thyme, mint and freshly tilled earth lend depth. Gorgeous and effortlessly approachable now. Domaine Verzier. **Editor's Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

95 **Yves Cuilleron 2022 Les Serines (Saint-Joseph).** Aged for 18 months in oak, this rich, full-bodied wine exudes a seductive spicy nose of mulled black plum, blackberry, cherry, lavender and clove, framed by a firm granitic edge. The palate is focused with black fruit at its core bolstered by a firm mineral backbone. Vibrant acidity keeps it lively, making it approachable with aeration or ideal for cellaring through 2032+. Yves Cuilleron. **Editor's Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

94 **Saint Cosme 2022 (Saint-Joseph).** Already brimming with energy, the nose delights with floral overtones of jasmine and rose petals atop freshly pressed blackberry, black licorice, tarragon and light dark-chocolate shavings. The palate is bold with a gentle touch of black plum and smoke, though it is still reserved. Vibrant acidity keeps it beautifully balanced, revealing its full potential after 2028+. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

93 **Domaine Durand 2022 Les Coteaux (Saint-Joseph).** Luxurious and earthy, this wine opens with black plum, licorice, violets and a deep granitic minerality. The palate is more reserved, with soft blackberries woven into a textured frame. Bright acidity lifts its spicy midpalate, offering balance to youthful tannins. Elegantly structured, it should shine after 2028. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

93 **Domaine Les Alexandrins 2022 Les Ponts (Saint-Joseph).** A compact nose of fresh black cherry, saffron, white pepper, salty charcuterie and scorched earth hints at the wine's rich depth. The palate unfolds with dark fruit and a midpalate of dry herbs, delicately framed by white pepper and warm stone. Youthful tannins add structure, while vibrant acidity ensures a balanced, stony finish. Best enjoyed after another year or two in the bottle. Vineyard Brands. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

VINSOBRES

94 **Château de Rouanne 2022 Les Côtes (Vinsobres).** Powerful aromas of boysenberry, blackberry and cassis compote, woven together with violets, lavender, and sweet spices impress the senses. This is intense right out of the gate. Lush and juicy on the palate, it reveals layers of black olive, clove and white pepper through the midpalate, leading to a refined, pulverized stony finish. While compelling now, this wine will show its best after 2028+, as it continues to evolve and reveal its depth. Hold onto a few bottles because this new bot-

ting has charm yet to be discovered. SARL Barroul Château de Saint Cosme. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

94 Serre Besson 2021 Cru (Vinsobres). A remarkable expression from this young domaine, navigating a challenging vintage with finesse. The wine strikes an exceptional balance, where ripe fruit, roasted meat, olive, lavender and underbrush seamlessly blend on the nose. On the palate, concentrated red cherry and strawberry compote intertwine with white pepper and black licorice. A soft clove and black tea finish adds refinement. Delightful with aeration, this wine is a captivating, gastronomic companion that's ready for enjoyment now. Domaine Seree Besson. **Editor's Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

93 Château de Rouanne 2022 (Vinsobres). Upon first whiff, this wine evokes the spirit of Barroul, with a spicy red berry and rhubarb compote bouquet lifted by cedar and warm spice. Though still tightly wound, it hints at layered complexity beneath the surface. With aeration, the palate expands, weaving garrigue into pure plummy fruit, topped with a savory layer of Nyons olives. A wine of quiet power and elegance—best revisited after 2030 to witness its charming expression. SARL Barroul Château de Saint Cosme. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

93 Château de Rouanne 2022 Rouanne et Les Crottes (Vinsobres). Vibrant aromas of red cherry skins, red licorice, black olives, white pepper and a hint of cedar create a savory, captivating bouquet. On the palate, the wine is intense yet refined, with deep black cherry, licorice and white pepper. Full bodied and generous, it blossoms with aeration, evolving into a beautifully harmonious expression. Built for aging, this wine is best cellared through 2030+ to reveal its more polished, refined side. SARL Barroul Château de Saint Cosme. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

93 Domaine Autrand 2023 Mosaïque (Vinsobres). This heady blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre opens with an aromatic core of ripe black cherry, violet, dried lavender, wild thyme and black olive. Vibrant acidity brings freshness and amplifies the juiciness of just-picked cherries, drawing out a lingering note of white pepper on the finish. The wine offers impressive texture, with compact layers that suggest more complexity yet to unfold. With a proper decant, it's a natural pairing for spicy charcuterie and it promises to age gracefully through 2033. GAEC Autrand. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

93 Domaine Autrand 2023 Patrimoine (Vinsobres). This wine reveals a depth of rich, brambly fruit—from red cherry to currants—delicately woven with a touch of violet that adds an alluring lift. The perfume is captivating. Full bodied and rich, it is structured with round, grippy tannins that cling onto red cherry skins, soft clay-stony

minerality and subtle hints of fine herbs. Delicious now, it has the potential to cellar beautifully through 2030+. GAEC Autrand. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$17

93 Domaine Chaume-Arnaud 2021 (Vinsobres). This wine opens with a pure, stately nose, where juicy strawberry, raspberry, rhubarb, wild thyme and a hint of licorice blend into a bouquet that's both vibrant and inviting. On the palate, it is round and generous, with soft tannins that reveal deeper layers of dark fruit, black tea, violet and a refined stony finish. Despite challenging vintage conditions, Chaume-Arnaud masterfully captures the essence of their terroir. Best enjoyed with a bit of air now, or cellared through 2030+ for further complexity. Domaine Chaume-Arnaud. **Editor's Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Domaine Jaume 2023 Altitude 420 (Vinsobres). Both fresh and deep, the nose of this wine opens with luscious black and blueberries threaded by violet and licorice. On the palate, it is dry and full bodied, delivering dark berries, soft clove and black tea that taper into a smooth, saline-clay mineral finish. This wine consistently impresses and is approachable in its youth or after a few years in bottle. This should be an easy win with tender cuts of steak and other richly savory dishes. Famille Jaume. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

93 Domaine Jaume 2023 Vinea Natura (Vinsobres). Expressive from the first pour, this Grenache-Syrah blend opens with intense aromas of red cherry, black currant and black olive, enriched by soft clove and a hint of sea salt. With proper aeration, the palate becomes silky, revealing juicy dark cherry framed by subtle notes of violet and garrigue that add complexity and depth. Bright acidity and a touch of saline minerality lend freshness, making this wine both immediately appealing and structured enough to cellar gracefully through 2030. Famille Jaume. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

93 Domaine Jaume 2022 Altitude 420 (Vinsobres). The nose exudes luxury, with a depth of red berries, cooked rhubarb and rosehip—nostalgic and perfectly balanced. On the palate, power meets poise, as ample acidity expands compact layers of concentrated dark fruit and tannins, drawing out subtle notes of clove and black tea. Structured yet graceful, this wine will evolve beautifully with time. Best revisited after 2028 for a more refined expression. Famille Jaume. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

93 Domaine Jaume 2020 Clos des Echals (Vinsobres). A beautifully expressive nose of black cherry, licorice, olives and violets—true to the Southern Rhône. On the palate, it's full bodied with great texture, showcasing more black olives, cedar and wild herbs that coat the mouth. Deliciously savory and approachable now, this wine pairs wonderfully with risotto, perhaps with local wild mush-

rooms, making for an unforgettable gastronomic experience. Famille Jaume. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

93 Domaine l'Autrandine 2023 Les Escoulaïres (Vinsobres). This inaugural bottling, a blend of Grenache and Syrah grown in Les Escolairs at 400 meters, hails from a cool microterroir harvested in October. The nose immediately captivates with its vibrance—fresh cherry, rhubarb, licorice, sweet spices, dried rose petals and a touch of fresh earth woven seamlessly together. On the palate, the flavors are deeply concentrated yet gracefully persistent, delivering a delicious wave of bramble and dried lavender that leads into a clean, stony finish. It is enjoyable now as it strikes that harmonious balance between richness and elegance. GAEC Autrand. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

93 Domaine Vallot 2021 (Vinsobres). This wine opens with lifted notes of fresh red cherry and rose, but is grounded by an irresistible layer of salted meatiness. On the palate, lively acidity and fine tannins energize bright red cherry, rhubarb, black tea and white pepper. Both savory and bright, this is a wine of nuance and charm—deliciously approachable now, yet complex enough to keep you coming back for more. EARL Francois Vallot. **Editor's Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Chateau MontPlaisir 2021 Expressions (Vinsobres). An exciting evolution for the domaine, this wine showcases a silky, refined style. The seductive nose combines black cherry, cured meats, dried violet, lavender and black pepper, offering a complex and alluring bouquet. On the palate, great structure supports the dark cherries, presenting them with clarity and delicious precision. A proper decant will enhance its appeal or cellar through 2032+. Chateau MontPlaisir. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42/75 ml

92 Chateau MontPlaisir 2020 Hauts Galets (Vinsobres). A rich nose of dark cherry, white pepper, iodine, black olive and terracotta sets the stage for a balanced palate of black currants and violet notes. The finish lingers with stony minerality. Versatile and easy-drinking, this wine pairs perfectly with steaks and even makes a surprising companion to chocolate, elevating any meal with its depth and complexity. Chateau MontPlaisir. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75/75 ml

92 Chateau MontPlaisir 2019 Hauts Galets (Vinsobres). A true expression of terroir, this wine opens with aromas of terracotta followed by black cherry, black plum, violets, mint and dried thyme. The palate is generous, with juicy black plums, a hint of salt, fresh lavender and sweet oak spice. Full bodied and structured, this wine is poised for aging and should cellar beautifully through 2029+. Chateau MontPlaisir. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75/75 ml

92 **Domaine Autrand 2022 Cuvée VS (Vinsobres)**. Aromas of sweet dark cherry, rosehip and cedar evoke the rustic charm of a sun-drenched vineyard. Full bodied and fruit driven, this wine unveils a rich boysenberry midpalate, tightly held by youthful, drying tannins. As it lingers, notes of licorice, white pepper, and wet stone emerge, adding complexity. While delightful now, this wine will deepen with age. Best cellared through 2030+. GAEC Autrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 **Domaine Autrand 2022 Empreinte (Vinsobres)**. The bouquet opens with tart red cherry, rhubarb, cedar and dried rose petals, offering both lift and intrigue. The palate builds in complexity, revealing notes of licorice, saffron and a finely textured, pulverized stone finish. While approachable now with proper decanting, this wine holds the structure and depth to benefit from additional cellaring in the years to come. GAEC Autrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$24

92 **Domaine Autrand 2022 Mosaïque (Vinsobres)**. This wine opens with a captivating, layered bouquet—dark cherry, black currant, cured meat, salty black olive and dried rose petals interlaced in a deeply savory, complex perfume. On the palate, vibrant acidity brings poise and energy, carrying dark fruit through a savory, meaty midpalate and into a refined saline finish. Approachable now with aeration or cellar through 2028+. GAEC Autrand. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

92 **Domaine Jaume 2022 Référence (Vinsobres)**. This wine greets you with a blend of black-cherry skins, licorice, saffron, rosehip and dried earth—complex and inviting. On the palate, bold dark cherry, black licorice and black tea create a robust foundation, while drying tannins subtly temper the experience. A touch more time in the bottle may allow its full potential to unfold, promising even more depth as it evolves. Famille Jaume. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

92 **Domaine Jaume 2021 Référence (Vinsobres)**. This wine greets the nose with an intriguing blend of red cherry, red licorice, fresh veal, saffron, violet, white pepper and cedar—rich and savory. On the palate, it offers a rustic charm, with light pressed cherry, roasted meat and a touch of black olive, finishing with a hint of dusty earth. Complex and expressive, it pairs beautifully with BBQ meats, especially those with a touch of char. Famille Jaume. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

92 **Domaine l'Austrandine 2023 (Vinsobres)**. This inaugural bottling is a blend of Grenache and Syrah, and exudes a luxurious nose, with deep aromas of red cherries and bramble that immediately draw you in. Delicate notes of rose and violet linger on top, adding a seductive touch. On the palate, with a bit of aeration, pure red cherry and strawberry unfold alongside soft earth and wild

herbs. Throughout, the fruit takes center stage, making this wine irresistibly approachable and a pleasure to drink right now. GAEC Autrand. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

92 **Domaine Saint Vincent 2023 Tradition (Vinsobres)**. This wine opens with a richly expressive bouquet, where layers of red cherry and raspberry melt into notes of red licorice, wild thyme, and a touch of white pepper—opulent and inviting. The palate is round and luxurious, showcasing ripe dark cherry and rose petal, with a vibrant interplay of texture and acidity that reveals unfolding floral layers while gently smoothing youthful tannins. It's a versatile pairing for dishes that celebrate perfectly ripe, richly flavored ingredients. Domaine Saint Vincent. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

92 **Domaine Saint Vincent 2022 Saint Pierre (Vinsobres)**. This wine opens with a deep brambly compote of black cherry, raspberry, black licorice and a lift of white pepper—fragrant and inviting. On the palate, juicy fruit meets polished structure, with oak aging lending texture and depth. Rich layers of black cherry, red licorice, olive, violet and clove come together in seamless harmony, delivering a generous and vividly flavorful experience. Approachable now in its youth. Domaine Saint Vincent. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

92 **Domaine Saint Vincent 2022 Tradition (Vinsobres)**. This is a layered, terroir-driven wine where iron and clay-stone soils provide a foundation for deep black cherry and a lift of violet perfume. On the palate, it is soft and elegant, with black cherry carrying through the midpalate and black tea and crushed stone lingering on the finish. A natural match for roasted meats and rich sauces. Domaine Saint Vincent. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 **O&F Mousset Vins 2023 MM (Vinsobres)**. A dynamic blend of 55% Grenache and 45% Syrah, this wine opens with an explosive nose of ripe raspberries and juicy strawberries, anchored by deep black-cherry notes, a hint of meaty richness and a touch of spice that adds compelling depth. On the palate, it's even more intriguing, unfolding layers of black cherry, black olive, white pepper, violet and warm earthiness. With so much complexity, this wine is as captivating on its own as it is with bold, layered dishes like lamb tagine or aromatic Indian cuisine. O&F Mousset Vins. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

92 **Rhône Rive Gauche 2023 Vim Solis (Vinsobres)**. Composed of 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre, this wine offers beautifully lifted aromas of red cherry, wild strawberry, and cassis, gently framed by rose petals, wild herbs and a hint of white pepper. It's a celebration of red berries and freshness from start to finish. The tannins are youthful and round, providing structure to the soft red fruit and juicy red licorice at the core. A

whisper of white tea and pepper on the finish adds subtle depth. This should evolve gracefully in the cellar well, but is best enjoyed in its youth. Rhône Rive Gauche. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

92 **Rhône Rive Gauche 2022 Vim Solis (Vinsobres)**. This wine bursts with energy and aromatic intensity, immediately seductive with notes of dark cherry skins, crushed rose petals, olive, wild thyme and a touch of white pepper. The palate is youthful with round tannins that gently coat the mouth, offering a solid foundation for delicate layers of juicy red fruit, rhubarb and white tea. It is fresh and charming right out of the bottle, but grows in depth with a bit of aeration. Enjoy now or allow it time to continue evolving in the glass. Rhône Rive Gauche. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

91 **Courtois 2023 La Grange (Vinsobres)**. Violet, wild mint and stony minerality lead on the nose, with dark cherry lingering in the background. Vibrant acidity lifts white pepper and salinity, bringing focus to soft black currants and a refined granitic finish. Bright and structured, this wine should pair well with bold, spicy dishes. Enjoy now with a proper decant or revisit after another year or two of cellaring. Famille Jaume. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 **Domaine de Montine 2022 (Vinsobres)**. Seductive dark cherry and licorice lead on the nose, underpinned by a firm iron minerality that lends depth and complexity. The palate is lifted by fresh acidity, propelling lush dark fruit through a framework of oak spice that brings body and texture, while subtly softening an otherwise brisk finish. Structured yet expressive, this is a wine that charms with its quiet intensity. Domaine de Montine. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 **Gigondas LaCave 2022 Les Andronnies (Vinsobres)**. This friendly blend of Grenache and Mourvèdre presents firm and compact with a nose of juicy white strawberry, cassis, and dark cherries, layered with violet and a savory touch of black olive. It is dry and generous, with wild herbs at the forefront giving way to soft red berries and stony minerality. While inviting now, it is a wine that will reward patience—best revisited after 2028. Gigondas LaCave. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

OTHER RED WINE

91 **Victor Berard 2023 (Lirac)**. Bright and expressive, this wine opens with pure black plum and licorice, accented by white pepper, cedar and a touch of lavender for an inviting aromatic lift. Lively acidity balances the firm, bitter-edged tannins, framing a meaty, clove-spiced palate. With a proper decant, it's ready to enjoy now—perfect for

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good company over hearty fare. Les Grands Chais de France. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON WHITE WINES

PAYS D'OC

92 **Domaine de Belle Mare 2024 Les Cépages de Belle Mare (Pays d'Oc).** A light hue in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with makrut lime leaf, dried grass, wet stone and delicate guava peel aromas. The palate is tense in texture and vivid in flavors of green apple, lime and more chiseled stone. W. Direct. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 **Meridien 2023 Chardonnay by Monsieur Marcel (Pays d'Oc).** Brilliant gold in color, the wine opens with a fragrant nose of apple tart, buttered popcorn, candied pear, crabapple and dried white blossom. A latent creaminess tangoes with wet stone on the palate and resolves in a balanced palate experience bolstered by a healthy streak of acidity that enlivens the finish. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

91 **Meridien 2023 Les Héméris Sauvignon Blanc (Pays d'Oc).** This robust wine can stand on its own served by the glass. Lemon-gold in color, the wine has an aromatic nose of baked red apple, vanilla and clove baking spice, pear compote, honeysuckle and orange blossom. The creamy palate offers subtle, warm baking spices that are balanced with the fruit core and the faintest hint of dried field grass on the finish. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

90 **Jean-Paul Clement 2024 Grande Réserve (Pays d'Oc).** Jasmine, tuberose and plumeria aromas meet with coconut flesh on the nose of this extremely floral bottling. The palate carries a similar line, offering honeysuckle and coconut oil flavors. W. Direct. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

90 **Meridien 2023 Prétencieux Coq Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc).** This is a fulsome Chardonnay. Perfumed aromas of ripe peach, orange peel, candied apple and lemon zest pull you into the glass. The palate is juicy and replete with pineapple rind and touches of dried-lilac florals. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

90 **Meridien 2023 Prétencieux Coq Sauvignon Blanc (Pays d'Oc).** Baked green apple and vanilla baking-spice aromas leap from your glass followed by notes of honeydew melon, orange zest and dried white-flower blossom. Golden orchard fruit is accented by ginger and honeysuckle with more reserved flavors on the palate than suggested

on the nose. Acidity brightens the wine and makes it a more versatile food-pairing partner. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

90 **Meridien 2023 Réserve des Auléines Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc).** Lemon-gold in color, the wine opens with aromas of white nectarine and red apple accented with guava and tangerine zest. The wine leads with attractive florals including orange blossom and white-rose petal and then leans into chalk-dusted honeydew melon and dried lime slice. Pair with pan-fried salmon, fried anchovies and garlic fries. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON RED WINES

PAYS D'OC

91 **Meridien 2023 Les Héméris Syrah (Pays d'Oc).** The wine opens with an herbal nose of sagebrush followed by black plum, dried hay and rhubarb. The wine is balanced on the palate with black fruit in the lead bringing along ancillary flavors of mushroom and black olive. This wine craves your savory dishes. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 **Meridien 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon by Madame Germaine (Pays d'Oc).** This wine can open up an evening served by the glass and can also carry your meal. Dusty black-plum aromas are followed by macerated black cherry, black currant and hibiscus-topped blackberry. Gentle and relaxed flavors of black fruit slow walk across the palate basking in light tannins that complement rather than overwhelm. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

90 **Meridien 2023 Réserve des Auléines Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** This wine is a pleasure all the way around. Plump red cherry and just-ripened fig luxuriate in a pool of blackberry, violet blossom and clove. Reserved tannins show on the attack followed by an undercurrent of Darjeeling tea and pomegranate. This is a Cabernet Sauvignon you can share with friends who prefer lighter expressions of the grape, while also preserving its essential character. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 **Meridien 2023 Les Héméris Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** This joyful wine wants to start your dinner party. The wine has a perfumed nose of macerated red raspberry, bruised black plum, rhubarb and baking spice. The palate is sangria reminiscent and filled with a mix of red and black fruit, white peach and dried blackberry. A great bottle to open with friends to begin an evening. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 **Meridien 2023 Prétencieux Coq Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** This is a laid-back Cabernet Sauvignon. Spiced cranberry sauce, black raspberry, white peach, black plum and baking spice aromas fill the nose. The palate boasts fig, dried tobacco and leather with relaxed tannins that let the fruit shine. A good value. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Meridien 2023 Prétencieux Coq Merlot (Pays d'Oc).** This bright Merlot is stepped in freshness. The wine opens with a nose of mud-dled black plum, raspberry and ripe cranberry dusted with sliced Kalamata olive. The palate is mineral driven with dusty, mouthwatering tannins that lead into a finish of crushed stone. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 **Meridien 2023 Réserve des Auléines Merlot (Pays d'Oc).** Cheerful aromas of red cherry and black plum mix with dried cranberry and subtle hints of dried strawberry blossom. Mineral and No. 2 pencil flavors kick off the palate, buttressed by dusty acidity and forest floor that rises to the top and continues unencumbered to the finish. Pair with fried seafood, chicken escalope and dishes that would be benefited by a healthy bump of acidity. Meridien Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

PROVENCE ROSÉ WINES

93 **Château Miraval 2023 Muse de Miraval (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Classic Provence robust peach aromas fill the glass with hints of petrol and stone. This wine is perfect to pair with food, lots of minerality and a lingering citric bitterness that melts away into a superlong spicy finish. Cork + Knife Communication. —C.W.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$300/1.5 L

92 **Château La Coste 2023 Grand Vin Rosé (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** The nose of this wine sneaks up on you, it has the classic peach and an overwhelming mineral quality. The wine coats your mouth completely and has great bitterness and an ultralong finish. Pair with citrusy seafoods. Château La Coste. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

FRENCH SPARKLING WINES

99 **Billecart-Salmon 2009 Le Clos Saint Hilaire (Champagne).** A toast and Old Gold aroma, marks this single-vineyard Champagne's impressive age. It is certainly not old, but is rich with toast and spice and an intense and gorgeous concentration of flavors. It is a magnificent wine, its balance impec-

cable and perfect to drink now. Champagne Billecart-Salmon. *Editor's Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$595

85 **Veuve Devienne NV (Vin de France)**. Light and fizzy, with citrus and orchard fruit notes, but without much depth. It's fine, just not very memorable. Compagnie Francaise des Grand Vins. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

FRENCH WHITE WINES

89 **Château Grand Jean 2023 La Grande Ile (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The aroma gives some serious high toast that goes through to the flavor. It shows a smoky character, that will certainly integrate with the black fruits and acidity. Drink the wine when it has opened up, from 2027. SC Dulong. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

87 **Domaine Terra Vecchia 2022 Cuvée Évasion (Corse)**. A spicy, lightly smoky wine with a stalky edge that will soften. The wine's red-fruit aroma and blueberry flavor are bedded in juicy acidity. Drink the wine now. Domaine Terra Vecchia. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$22

86 **Domaine Terra Vecchia 2023 Cuvée Évasion (Corse)**. A fresh apple aroma and a bright texture give this wine its freshness and vibrant character. It is tangy with quince and grapefruit flavors. Drink now. Domaine Terra Vecchia. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$22

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES

VINHO VERDE

92 **Quinta da Lixa 2021 Reserva (Vinho Verde)**. Wood aged, this wine shows great style and richness. The toast flavors are discreet and support the white fruits and harmonize with the spice aroma. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Quinta da Lixa. *Editor's Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

90 **Quinta da Lixa 2024 Escolha Alvarinho (Vinho Verde)**. The wine's creamy texture and perfumed pear aroma are typical of the Alvarinho variety. Here, they join with crisp apple and citrus flavors in a ripe, complex wine. Drink from 2026. Quinta da Lixa. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 **Quinta da Lixa 2024 Escolha Avesso (Vinho Verde)**. The wine's nutty aroma and ripe, full fruits give a rich wine. It has spice and green-apple flavors adding to the wine's density. Drink from 2026. Quinta da Lixa. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

90 **Zé Inconformado Maceração Pelicular 2021 Colheita (Vinho Verde)**. The tangy and vivid character reflects the name of this wine. Honey and spice aroma with grassy and pineapple flavor is piqued by an almost toasty nutty background. It has density and a fine texture. Named for the Barca coop's nonconformist CEO and winemaker José Oliveira, known as Zé. Drink now. Adega Ponte da Barca. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$50

88 **Barcos Wines 2021 Inusitado Curtimenta (Vinho Verde)**. Pear and walnut aromas and a rounded texture give this wine a sense of richness. It is full of apple and white-peach flavors, finishing with acidity. Drink now. Adega Ponte da Barca. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$45

88 **Quinta da Lixa 2024 Escolha (Vinho Verde)**. A ripe, fruity wine, this has lemon and grapefruit aromas. A blend of Loureiro, Alvarinho and Trajadura, the wine is full bodied. Its freshness is enhanced by the lively acidity at the end. Drink now. Quinta da Lixa. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

88 **Quinta da Lixa 2024 Escolha Loureiro (Vinho Verde)**. An orange-tang wine with bright lemon acidity, this is refreshing and fruity. The wine's citrus aroma emphasizes the freshness of the wine. Drink now. Quinta da Lixa. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$13

87 **Barcos Wines 2023 Estreia Loureiro-Alvarinho Premium (Vinho Verde)**. The wine's grapefruit aroma and lemon flavors are refreshing, vibrant and fruity. The wine is tangy with tight acidity at the end. Drink now. Adega Ponte da Barca. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

VINHO VERDE

MONÇÃO E MELGAÇO

92 **Provam 2024 Portal do Fidalgo (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço)**. The wine, rich and with a creamy, lightly spicy texture is a fine example of Alvarinho in its homeland of Monção and Melgaço. Its red-apple aroma and bright acidity add freshness to the wine's richness. Drink from 2026. PROVAM, Produtores de Vinho Alvarinho de Monção LDA. *Editor's Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

89 **Adega de Monção 2024 Deu la Deu (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço)**. This wine, popular in Portugal, is bright and delicious. Its citrus aroma and tangy mandarin orange and acidity are well balanced and harmonious. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

88 **Adega de Monção 2024 Muralhas de Monção (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço)**. A crisp, fresh and fruity wine, this is refreshing and lively.

With its grapefruit aroma and tight acidity, it is a wine that is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

87 **Provam 2024 Pessoa da Vinha Terroir (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço)**. Crisp and lemony, this blend of Alvarinho and Trajadura is deliciously drinkable. Its bright grapefruit aroma and orange-peel flavor give a wine that is ready to drink. PROVAM, Produtores de Vinho Alvarinho de Monção LDA. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$12

87 **Provam 2024 Varanda do Conde (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço)**. The wine is soft with a touch of honey and ripe quince flavors. Its nutty aroma and tight acidity give the wine a fine start in life. Drink now. PROVAM, Produtores de Vinho Alvarinho de Monção LDA. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$10

DOURO

91 **Lua Cheia 2024 (Douro)**. This fine, soft blended wine is rich and full of white-peach and red-apple flavors. A hazelnut aroma and touches of spice add freshness to this wine from old vines grown as a field blend. Drink now. Wines & Winemakers By Saven | Saven Sa. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

91 **Quinta de São Luiz 2020 Winemaker's Collection (Douro)**. A wood aged wine, ripe and full of white fruit, this is rich with tropical- and apple-fruit flavors. The wine is dense with a spicy aroma and a structured aftertaste. Drink now. Sogevinus Fine Wines, SA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

90 **Lua Cheia 2024 Andreza (Douro)**. Sporting a ripe, cinnamon and nutmeg aroma with a fine tangy texture, the wine is finely balanced. Produced from the Códaga do Larinho, one of the lesser white varieties in the Douro, it reveals a tangy, taut freshness and delicious acidity. Drink now. Wines & Winemakers By Saven | Saven Sa. *Hidden Gem*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$21

90 **Lua Cheia 2024 Andreza Reserva (Douro)**. A spicy wine, with an edge of curry balanced by fresh lemon fruits, this is rich and full. Its quince and butter aromas emphasize the wine's richness. Drink now. Wines & Winemakers By Saven | Saven Sa. *Editor's Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$21

88 **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2023 Grainha Reserva (Douro)**. This is a crisply textured wine with layers of white fruits enhanced by citrus. It is ripe and juicy with a vivid, tangy aftertaste. It comes from vines growing at a high altitude above the Douro Valley. Drink now. Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 **Quinta do Covão 2023 Reserva Serra da Estrela (Dão).** Toasty aromas and touches of spice are the openers in a seriously impressive wine. It has a mineral character that permeates the wine's flavor and gives it texture. Apricot and green plum flavors give the wine richness. Wood fermented and aged, the wine will be ready from later this year. Quinta da Foz do Pinhão – Sociedade Agrícola, Lda. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 **Quinta São Sebastião 2023 Lisabona Reserva (Lisboa).** Ripe and fruity, with a hint of spicy wood flavors and bright acidity to contrast, the wine is developing well. Its white-peach aroma and balanced acidity and quince flavors have given a wine that is full of fruit. Drink now. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 **Fiuza 2024 3 Castas Reserva (Tejo).** A ripe, apple and spice flavored wine, this is juicy and refreshing. Its round texture and pink-grapefruit aroma are well matched. Drink the blend of Alvarinho, Moscatel and Arinto now. Fiuza & Bright, Lda. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

SPARKLING WINE

86 **Norte Vinhos NV Norte (Vinho Verde).** This is a lightly sweet wine with a tang of acidity and a prickle on the tongue. A baked apple flavor enhances the flavor. Drink now. Manuel Da Costa Carvalho Lima & Filhos, Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$10

ROSÉS

90 **Wines & Winemakers 2024 Andreza Altitude (Douro).** A ripe rosé, with delicious red fruits and attractive spice, this is both fresh and rich. Its red-berry aroma and bitter orange and lemon flavors bring crispness to the wine's intensity. Drink now. Wines & Winemakers By Saven | Saven SA. **Editor's Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Lua Cheia 2024 (Douro).** A pale rosé, crisp with acidity, this is light and bright. From terraced vineyards in the Douro, it has a light structure to go with its red currant aroma and raspberry flavor. Drinkable now. Wines & Winemakers By Saven | Saven SA. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

PORTUGAL RED WINES

VINHO VERDE

88 **Norte Vinhos 2023 Tapada dos Monges (Vinho Verde).** Red wines are a fine tradition in Vinho Verde—stalky food wines that are designed for oily fish and other similar foods. This red-fruit flavored wine, with a licorice aroma and bright acidity is ready to drink. Manuel Da Costa Carvalho Lima & Filhos, Lda. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 **Norte Vinhos 2022 Tapada dos Monges (Vinho Verde).** A light, fruity style that brings out red-fruit flavors and raspberry aromas, this is soft and fresh. Drink now. Manuel Da Costa Carvalho Lima & Filhos, Lda. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

DOURO

94 **Quinta da Foz 2021 Reserva (Douro).** From a spectacular vineyard at the mouth of the Pinhão river in the heart of the Douro, this wine, from parcels of old vines, shows an impressive richness. With a fine proportion of Touriga Nacional in the blend, the wine is perfumed, rich and with a black-currant aroma. Drink from 2027. Quinta da Foz do Pinhão – Sociedade Agrícola, Lda. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 **Quinta de São Luiz 2020 Vinhas Velhas Grande Reserva (Douro).** From one of the major Douro quintas, this structured smoky wine is impressive. Produced from old vines, it has a black-chocolate aroma and rich tannins that are cushioned by the ripe black fruits. Drink this powerful wine from 2026. Sogevinus Fine Wines, SA. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

93 **Quinta do Pessegueiro 2021 Pessegueiro (Douro).** The wine's licorice aroma and its ripe black fruits come together in an impressive wine. It has rich tannins, well embedded in the juicy fruits and texture. The wine comes from the Pessegueiro vineyard in the hills south of the Douro valley. Drink from 2026. Quinta do Pessegueiro. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 **Lua Cheia 2022 Andreza Reserva (Douro).** The wine has a smoky aroma and ripe tannins. Black fruits and acidity come together in a generous wine that has a solid texture and a spicy richness. Drink from 2026. Wines & Winemakers By Saven | Saven SA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 **Quinta da Foz 2023 Páteo das Tilas Reserva (Douro).** A juicy wine, named after the old trees planted around the vines, is lightly wood-aged

and with a black-fruit aroma and satisfying black-currant flavors. The acidity gives the wine freshness. Drink from 2026. Quinta da Foz do Pinhão – Sociedade Agrícola, Lda. **Editor's Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 **Lua Cheia 2022 (Douro).** A bold, smoky wine with rich tannins and juicy blackberry flavors. The wine's black-coffee aroma and structure are well developed, ripe and solid. Drink from 2026. Wines & Winemakers By Saven | Saven SA. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

LISBOA

91 **Quinta São Sebastião 2022 QSS Rare Grande Reserva (Lisboa).** Maturing well, this smoky, ripe black-fruit flavored wine is dense and attractively succulent. The dark-chocolate aroma, rich tannins and plush berry flavors all promise well. Drink from 2026. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Quinta São Sebastião 2023 Portão 9 (Lisboa).** This blended wine has an attractive smoky aroma that leads to soft tannins and juicy black fruits. It is fruity, cut with acidity and with a gentle structure. The wine is ready to drink. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

88 **Quinta São Sebastião 2023 TN (Lisboa).** A ripe, perfumed wine, this is full of bold black fruits and balanced acidity. It is a rich wine, the fruit integrated with the tannins. Drink from 2026. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 **Quinta São Sebastião 2022 Sy (Lisboa).** Violet aromas and a ripely spicy flavor give this wine richness and structure. The wine is warm and dense with fine layers of acidity. Drink now. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 **Quinta São Sebastião 2023 Lisabona Reserva (Lisboa).** This is a fruity wine, its soft texture and ripe berry flavors already drinkable. Juicy black fruits and a blackberry aroma bring fruitiness and a fresh edge. Drink now. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Quinta São Sebastião 2023 Miradouro da Vinha (Lisboa).** Juicy and fruity with soft tannins and layers of black fruits, this is open and approachable. It has a black-cherry aroma and a gentle texture. It's ready to drink. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

87 Quinta São Sebastião 2023 QSS rare (Lisboa). A bold and juicy wine, with ripe tannins and a soft texture, this is already drinkable. A blueberry aroma and black-fruit flavors come together in a succulent wine. Drink now. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Quinta São Sebastião 2023 SyTn Reserva (Lisboa). The wine is smooth, rich and generously textured. It has a licorice aroma and ripe spice and black-currant flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Quinta São Sebastião 2022 QSS Rare Reserva (Lisboa). A wine that has a blackberry aroma and spicy flavors, it is balanced and full of toasty flavors. It has a smoky black fruits and a ripe aftertaste. Drink now. Quinta S. Sebastião – Multiwines Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

TEJO

91 Fiuza 2023 3 Castas Reserva (Tejo). The wine's black-coffee aroma and firm tannins herald richness and structure. There is a fine juicy character, bringing out black fruits and acidity. The wine, an eclectic blend of Touriga Nacional, Alicante Bouschet and Sousão, will be ready to drink from 2027. Fiuza & Bright, Lda. **Editor's Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Fiuza 2023 Canto do Pedro Reserva (Tejo). A ripe and smoothly textured wine with solid tannins and rich black fruits, this is also finely balanced. It has a licorice aroma, black-fruit flavor and sustaining acidity with a firm aftertaste for aging. Drink from 2026. Fiuza & Bright, Lda. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Fiuza 2023 Oceanus Reserva (Tejo). The blend of Touriga Nacional and Alicante Bouschet encompasses the north and the center of Portugal in a glass. This is a structured wine with a blackberry aroma and dense tannins. Red-berry fruits bring promise of further aging. Drink this from 2026. Fiuza & Bright, Lda. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

PORT

94 Quinta do Pessegueiro 2021 Vintage (Port). This is an impressive drier style of Vintage Port. Its opulent black fruits from 40-year-old vines and a core of firm tannins are topped by the licorice and spice aroma. Bottled in October 2023, the wine will certainly age well. Drink from 2029. Quinta do Pessegueiro. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$45

SPAIN WHITE WINES

RÍAS BAIXAS

90 Mar de Frades 2023 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Enticing aromas of grapefruit rind and orange blossom give way to subtle hints of green pepper and white flowers. A pleasing saline character runs throughout, though the finish leans a touch too astringent, leaving the balance ever so slightly askew. Zamora Company USA. —B.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Gomez Y Rial 2023 Compostelae Albariño (Rías Baixas). Grapefruit on the nose leads into a creamy yet refreshingly brisk palate. This is an unpretentious, easygoing pour—depth isn't the aim here, but you might find yourself reaching for the next sip without a second thought. Bottle Diplomacy. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Bodegas Chaves 2023 Ponte da Barca Albariño (Rías Baixas). Ripe pineapple and macerated green peppers intertwine in an unexpected combination that some may find compelling. The fruit takes center stage, making this one to consider for those in search of a more generous, fruit-forward approach. Misa Imports. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 El Brazo 2023 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Opening with bright green-fruited aromatics backed by a subtle trace of smoke, this is the kind of wine to reach for when contemplation takes a back seat to straightforward, easy drinking. Votto Vines. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

88 Gomez Y Rial 2023 Alargo Albariño (Rías Baixas). The oak makes its presence felt right from the start, imbuing the nose with an almost alcohol-tinged edge. Yet, amid this bold display, the vibrant, fresh notes seem to be locked in a quiet battle. The result is a rather restrained experience, but it very well may suit those seeking a more uncomplicated sip. Bottle Diplomacy. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

CAVA

92 Bodegas U Mes U Fan Tres 2021 Cygnus Sador Brut Nature Reserva (Cava). For full review see page 11. Grapes of Spain. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Naveran 2022 Brut (Cava). For full review see page 12. Ole & Obrigado.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Isaac Fernandez Seleccion NV Biutiful Brut Nature (Cava). For full review see page 19. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.**
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Bodegas U Mes U Fan Tres NV 1+1=3 Brut (Cava). Baked apple and toast aromatics are followed by bright acidity with flavors of mixed citrus and a sprinkle of celery salt through a lingering finish. Grapes of Spain. —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Isaac Fernandez Seleccion NV Biutiful Brut Rosé (Cava). Juicy peaches and cherries, followed by a hint of fig and orange zest make for a fun, bright Cava with a creamy mousse and lightly spiced finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

87 Isaac Fernandez Seleccion NV Biutiful Brut (Cava). Zesty and fresh with grapefruit pith, ginger and smashed apples, this Cava finishes bone dry with energy and floral lift. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Otazu 2022 Pago de Otazu Chardonnay con Crianza (Pago de Otazu). Lush floral aromas carry into a mouthwatering palate showcasing citrus drive, crisp pear, and a finish of minerals and spice. Versatile and pleasing to enjoy with a range of foods. Impressive. Otazu. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Alberto Orte 2023 Vara y Pulgar (Spain). Freshness and concentration freely frolic in this bottling. Lemon in color, the wine has a bright, fresh nose of white rose petal, bruised Bosc pear, papaya skin, yellow apple, orange blossom and white peach. The palate celebrates ripe orchard fruit that washes across wet stone and a persistent layer of acidity that hints at brioche on the finish. Ole & Obrigado. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Alta Alella 2022 Cau d'en Genís (Alella). Nuanced and attractive, this comes with a refreshing length and a succulent mouthfeel. Fresh orchard fruits, citrus blossoms, and a sprinkle of fennel and sea salt give a lingering finish. Alta Alella. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

92 Bodegas Enguera 2024 Pellnua Raw Wine (Valencia). Made with organic grapes, this wine is an amalgam of heft and freshness in a glass. Brilliant lemon-gold in color, the wine opens with perfumed aromas of lemon curd, ginger-apricot scone and golden apple with a whisper of field grass and white blossom. The palate is curvy and creamy in texture with well-integrated fruit flavors that benefit from a touch of saline and orange pith on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc.. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

BUYINGGUIDE

92 El fanio / Albet i Noya 2023 El Fanio (Penedès). Nervy and compelling with the hallmark character of Xerel-lo: white blossoms, celery leaf and salt, honeysuckle and crisp pear. A lengthy finish satisfies. Albet i Noya. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Union de Viticultores Riojanos 2020 Viña Otano Barrel Fermented (Rioja). This characterful wine deserves company to match. Gold in color, alluring, concentrated aromas of baked golden apple, dried lemon peel and orange marmalade lift from the glass buttressed by quince and a tiny blanket of warm baking spices. The structured, layered, full-bodied palate handles complexity with ease while revealing additional flavors of apricot scone and apple tart buoyed by supportive acidity. Grapes of Spain. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 3 macabeus /Albet i Noya 2024 3Macabeus (Penedès). Mixed citrus, warming spices, and smashed apple reveal the pleasing fruit and roundness of Macabeu. Depth and lightly savory qualities emerge with further sipping. Crisp and lengthy. Albet i Noya. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Otazu 2023 (Navarra). Citrus blossoms and zest lift from the glass and carry into flavors of crisp apple, nectarine and a squeeze of lemon. A sprinkle of celery salt freshens the finish. Otazu. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Pago de la Jaraba 2023 (La Jaraba). Refreshingly light bodied while expressive, this energetic Sauvignon Blanc combines fresh hay, lemongrass, with juicy limes and citrus blossoms. Drink now and enjoy! Pago de la Jaraba. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

90 Pure Est. 2023 Orange Semi Seco (Spain). Gold in color, concentrated aromas of nectarine, golden apple, roasted orange slice and dried papaya skin open on the nose. Creaminess pervades the palate that frolics in honeysuckle and red-cherry blossom. This fulsome, off-dry wine yearns to be paired with risotto and creamier dishes that would benefit from a wine with structure and grace. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

90 Viña Costeira 2023 Teixada De Casio Albariño-Treixadura (Ribeiro). Opens with oceanic aromas that lend a breezy, saline lift, followed by well-defined mineral notes that carry through on the palate. There's a steady, lively energy from start to finish, with the fruit leaning just slightly ripe—nicely tempered by a clean line of acidity. A solid value, no question. W. Direct. —B.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 Viña Mein 2021 O Gran (Ribeiro). A nose led by cut grass and green pepper sets the tone, giving way to a palate that is distinctly lean but not without charm. Flecks of tropical fruit flicker

through, though the overall impression remains somewhat compact at this stage. Should it unfurl with time, there may well be something more compelling lying beneath the surface. USA Wine West. —B.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

89 Viñas del Cenit 2020 Cenit Blanco (Tierra del Viños de Zamora). A ripe, almost Cognac-like nose sets the stage, layered with exuberant tropical fruit—a clear signal to fruit lovers: this one's for you. The palate brims with overt juiciness, its lush character likely to appeal to those who gravitate toward wines with a touch of residual sweetness. Aviva Vino. —B.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Vinos Sierra Norte 2024 Fuenteseca White (Utiel-Requena). Green-plum, peach and pineapple aromas flirt with star fruit, field grass and shaved lemon peel on the nose. A burst of chalky, tart acidity animates the palate and brings along shattered stone and additional notes of pithy orange zest on the elongated finish. Pair this organic wine with calamari, pesto and dishes that would benefit from lively acidity. Vinos Sierra Norte, S.L. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

88 Fernández de Piérola 2023 (Rioja). The unusual variety Tempranillo Blanco provides refreshment and exuberant fruit. This white wine appears golden in the glass with expressive aromatics of pineapple and a sprig of mint. A sprinkle of sea salt elongates the finish. Bodegas Fernández de Piérola. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Viña Sastre 2019 Flavus (Ribera del Duero). Ripe bubblegum meets green candied fruit to create a menagerie of exotic notes and flavors. While the acidity does drive through, the end result is not quite balanced enough. De Maison Selections, Inc. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$47

SPARKLING WINES

92 Naveran 2022 Brut Nature (Penedès). Perfumed and enticing, this sparkling wine of Penedes brings together fresh orchard fruits, sweet citrus and citrus blossoms with a satisfying, creamy mousse and crisp finish. Ole & Obrigado. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

90 El Corral Cremat / Albet i Noya 2014 El Corral Cremat (Penedès). Floral and lifted with the gravitas of extended aging. Toasted brioche with aromas of freshly torn celery leaf and a touch of sea salt bring crisp complexity to a refreshing sparkling wine. Albet i Noya. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

88 Masia Salat NV Masia Salat Brut Nature Organic (Penedès). Spritzy aromatics of ripe stone fruits and melon are sprinkled in celery salt

and crushed apple. Distinctive and fun. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Mas Fi NV Mas Fi Brut Cava (Penedès). Citrus blossom on the nose carries into crisp nectarine and ripe peach lightly poured over with sweet cream. A crisp, long finish satisfies. Winesellers, Ltd. —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Mas Fi NV Mas Fi Brut Cava Rosé (Penedès). This is made from the unusual Trepát grape delivering crisp acid and a combination of alpine strawberry and black currants with an energetic close. Winesellers, Ltd. —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Mas Fi NV Zero Dealcoholized (Penedès). Charming with pineapple and sweet citrus, this lightly sweet sparkling is balanced by crisp acidity. While light on its feet for a sparkling wine, this will be a pleasing option for those wanting to go NA. Winesellers, Ltd. —E.C.B.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

ROSÉS

89 Union de Viticultores Riojanos 2023 Vina Otano Rosé (Rioja). Charming aromas of nectarine and watermelon join flavors of sweet orange and citrus blossoms for a refreshing and bright rosé with a satisfying, while simple finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Fernández de Piérola 2023 (Rioja). Exuberant fruit aromas and flavors are carried by the crisp, mineral length through a long finish. Flavorful, refreshing, and robust. Bodegas Fernández de Piérola. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

SPAIN RED WINES

RIBERA DEL DUERO

95 Garmon Continental 2020 (Ribera del Duero). Rich, detailed aromatics are followed by flavors of anise, violets, and dark fruits with spiced tobacco and hints of sandalwood carrying the midpalate through the mineral finish. Refined tannins and complex flavors last through a long finish. Garmon Continental. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Cruz de Alba 2017 Finca los Hoyales (Ribera del Duero). Immediately vibrant, the nose veers toward bright red berries. The hint of reduction helps to streamline the palate, balancing both the minerality and fruitiness. Given the serious

poise, my guess is that this wine has a real future ahead of it. Zamora Company USA. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

92 Bodega Y Viñedos Milénico 2017 Valdepila De Milénico Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). This is deeply hued with layers of luscious macerated plum. For those seeking an alluring iteration of fruit friendly decadence, this is worthy of your attention. The minerality is a bit lacking though, which might mean that this wine is better enjoyed on the earlier side. Jeff Welburn Selections. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

92 Bodegas Castillejo De Robledo 2023 Altos de Valdoso Roble (Ribera del Duero). Ripe black cherry is met with a fresh lift of oak to create a clean and pure expression of Tempranillo. While the tannins are present, they are well integrated making for immediately pleasurable drinking. Greta value here. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc.. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

92 Bodegas Peñafiel 2022 Miros Roble (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 11. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

92 Isaac Fernandez Seleccion 2022 Finca La Mata (Ribera del Duero). Generous and flavorful, this showcases a combination of dark fruits covered in sweet chocolate, while earthy and mineral notes emerge through the finish. Plush, attractive and a pleasure. Isaac Fernandez. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

90 Balbas 2022 Ardal Tradición Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). This is as if the color purple were to be made into a wine: here you can expect dark violet and ripe jammy notes that exude primary fruit flavors. Those who aim to be immersed in a pile of fragrance should grab a bottle immediately. Votto Vines. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

RIOJA

97 Marqués de Vargas 2017 Hacienda Pradolagar (Rioja). Refined, detailed, and full of complexity, this Tempranillo blend offers a mix of red and dark fruits with an enticing palate of lightly spiced molasses and mouthwatering length—an elegant expression of classic Rioja. Marques de Varga. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

94 Beronia 2020 III aC (Rioja). Dried herbs sprinkled on fruit preserves spread on toast pick up spiced cocoa through the lingering finish. Tannins are plush and balanced by pleasing acidity. Decant to enjoy now. This will continue to develop in bottle. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$76

94 Bodegas Ramirez de la Piscina 2017 Ramirez de la Piscina Gran Reserva (Rioja). Black cherries and plums, plus mountain herbs with a hint of clementine carry into the palate with flavors of spiced chocolate. Abundant, refined tannins and balanced acidity create a persistent finish. This is a serious while pleasurable wine. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

94 Marqués de Vargas 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Spiced fruits and sweet tobacco spun with balsamic fill the mouth with mouthwatering flavor and melting tannins. Its satin texture and lengthy finish make an attractive and delicious wine. Marques de Varga. *Best Buy.* —
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

93 Luis Alegre 2019 Finca la Reñana Tinto (-Rioja). Black plums and berries combine with oak spices and dried herbs. Elongated tannins carry the wine into a lengthy finish both delicious and satisfying. Bodegas Luis Alegre. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$70

93 Marqués de Vargas 2018 Reserva (Rioja). Dark fruit and violets lift from the glass, followed by flavors of spiced molasses with hints of cocoa. Luscious texture and plenty of concentration combine with abundant, fine tannins through a lengthy finish. Torgar Group. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

92 Bodegas Casa Primicia 2022 Casa Primicia Tempranillo (Rioja). A mix of berries and bramble transform into savory flavors of olive tapenade zested with orange. Tobacco and herbal notes lift from the aromas and finish. Palate cleansing tannins make this a wine to serve with a robust meal. W. Direct. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$24

92 Bodegas Casa Primicia 2020 Casa Primicia Crianza (Rioja). Friendly and full flavored, this Crianza showcases the expressive and mouthwatering side of Tempranillo. Currants and bramble, firm cherry and a hint of plum combine with dried herbs and oak spices through a long finish. W. Direct. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

92 Bodegas Escudero 2010 Arvum (Rioja). Rich flavor and supple tannins carry ripe dark fruits, dried cherries, accented by dark chocolate and a savory finish. Satisfying and mouthwatering. Bodegas Escudero SL. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

92 Bodegas Escudero 2010 Autor (Rioja). A complex of mixture of dark fruits and spice, chocolate-covered berries and savory length fill the mouth with flavor. A pleasing balance of structure and palate stimulation satisfy. Bodegas Escudero SL. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$33

92 Bodegas Muga 2022 Muga El Andén de la Estación Crianza (Rioja). For full review see page 10. Jorge Ordóñez Selections.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

92 El Coto 2017 Coto de Imaz Reserva (Rioja). Aromatic lift with depth draws into flavors of toasted walnut, mixed spices, wet tobacco and oiled leather on a back drop of sweet, dark fruits. Tannins are full while pliant, balanced through a lengthy finish. Winebow. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

92 Familia Escudero 2011 Serna Imperial Gran Reserva (Rioja). Aged two years in cask, followed by three years in bottle, this Tempranillo-Garnacha blend showcases its careful aging beautifully. Black cherries and plums with an accent of espresso grounds and a finish of oiled leather pour through refined tannins and a savory finish. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$54

92 Luis Alegre 2019 Parcela N95 Tinto (Rioja). Savory herbs and sauteed mushrooms combine with warmed mixed cherries sprinkled with spice. Tannins are lightly tactile and supple, carrying the wine into a lengthy finish. Bodegas Luis Alegre. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

92 Marqués del Silvo 2021 Marques del Silvo Crianza (Rioja). Attractive aromatics and silken flavors create an attractive Crianza ushering mixed berries and spice, while revealing pleasing earthy and savory elements. Balanced structure moves into a lengthy finish. Cuvee International. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

92 Marqués del Silvo 2019 Marques del Silvo Reserva (Rioja). Juicy and expressive, its red and black currants are drizzled with chocolate and sprinkled by spice. Graphite and an earthy accent emerge from the finish alongside finely corded tannins. Cuvee International. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

91 Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga 2019 111 Reserva (Rioja). Friendly, mouthwatering, and delicious, this Rioja Reserva delivers a mix of red and purple fruits with lush blossoms and a juicy finish. Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

91 Familia Escudero 2021 Serna Imperial Crianza (Rioja). Spiced red fruits swirl from the glass and fill the mouth with flavor. Fresh, inviting, and detailed, this Rioja is both charming and layered for a satisfying wine. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

91 tradicion H 2021 Crianza (Rioja). Black cherry and ripe berries join with fresh herbs, cocoa and espresso grounds that linger into a floral finish. Supple tannins are balanced delivering a wine

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that is both a pleasure on its own and built for food. Hidalgo Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Bodegas Casa Primitiva 2018 Casa Primitiva Reserva (Rioja). Aromatics swirl from the glass full of ripe fruits, nutmeg and cinnamon. Savory flavors with warming spices are carried by a balanced presentation and long finish. W. Direct. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

90 Luis Alegre 2021 Crianza (Rioja). Ripe berries and stone fruits combine with savory herbs and a light, warming sweetness that brings pleasure alongside abundant tannins into a compelling finish. Consider decanting. Bodegas Luis Alegre. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Primi Luis Gurpegui 2023 Tempranillo (Rioja). Pleasant with plenty of flavor, this Tempranillo offers dark fruits mixed with savory flavors carried by palate-cleansing tannins and a balanced presentation. Solid. Bodegas Manzanos. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Criadores de Rioja 2023 El Guardian (Rioja). Aromas and flavors of bramble are lightly lifted by blossoms and spice fills the mouth with fresh, juicy fruit flavors and a long finish. Criadores de Rioja. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

87 Bodegas Izadi 2021 Crianza (Rioja). Spiced tobacco and oiled leather aromas swirl from the glass followed by flavors of dark fruits. Firm tannins are balanced through a long finish. Bodegas Izadi. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Laertes Rey Graciano 2022 (Rioja). Red and black fruits covered in dark chocolate reveal tobacco and earth with further sipping. Fine grained, palate-cleansing tannins make for a versatile food wine. Arcadia Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA

93 Finca Río Negro 2018 5o Año (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). A complex mix of aromas and flavors wrap around finely corded, firm tannins that coat the mouth. Blackberries, apple skin, spices and cedar with dark-chocolate-covered citrus peel carry into a long finish. Decant and allow air to reveal further complexity. Siema LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

90 Mano A Mano 2021 Venta La Ossa Joven Y Dichosa (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Pert, just picked cherries, orange zest, and fresh herbs fill the mouth with flavor. Supple tannins combine

with juicy acidity for a long, mouthwatering finish. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Finca Río Negro 2019 (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Spiced and woody aromatics combine with flavors of firm raspberries and blackberries. Intense, and full in the mouth, it delivers a firm finish. Siema LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Dominio de Eguren 2021 Codice (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Deep ruby in the glass, aromas of cedar and dried blossoms become flavors of firm red fruits, spiced by cocoa and a sprinkle of sea salt. Firm, abundant tannins linger through the finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Finca Río Negro 2017 5o Año (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Aromas of aromatic woods and spice carry into flavors of bramble, blue and red fruits sprinkled by crushed vanilla bean. Powdery fine, palate-coating tannins linger through the finish. Siema LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

CAMPO DE BORJA

92 Bodegas Aragonesas 2022 Coto de Hayas Fagus (Campo de Borja). For full review see page 10. Marchetti Co.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Bodegas Aragonesas 2021 Aragonia Garnacha Selección Especial (Campo de Borja). Its enticing aromas of licorice root and blackberries swirl into flavors of violets and spiced red fruits. A sprig of mint lifts the finish for a mouthwatering wine. Marchetti Co. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Bodegas Aragonesas 2020 Aragonia Garnacha Selección Especial (Campo de Borja). Aromas of black currants and mint roll into flavors of red berries and cherries sprinkled with spice and fennel seed. Abundant, powdery fine tannins and a mouthwatering finish complete this Garnacha. Marchetti Co. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Bodegas Aragonesas 2023 Coto de Hayas Centenaria (Campo de Borja). For full review see page 15. Marchetti Co.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Bodegas Ainzón 2023 50+ (Campo de Borja). Violets and bramble emerge from the glass followed by savory flavors and a lightly peppery, mouthwatering finish and lightly textural tannins. Vinamericas, Inc. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

85 Bodegas Aragonesas 2023 Vina Temprana Garnacha (Campo de Borja). Spiced red and dark fruits come with powdery while persistent

tannins that deliver a mouthwatering, approachable experience. Garnacha. Marchetti Co. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

JUMILLA

91 CR Soul 2022 Monastrell (Jumilla). Fragrant aromas of black raspberry leap from the glass along with plum, strawberry and red cherry. The chalk-dusted palate is bright with mid-spring, red-fruit flavors that yearn for more time to open in your glass. This is an elegant wine, with aging potential through 2038, that you can still decant and enjoy now. WINERYSOUL369, S.L. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Sierra Norte 2023 Porta Regia 5 Meses (Jumilla). Black cherry and red raspberry collide with hibiscus and tart blackberry aromas on the nose. The palate takes a back seat to the nose revealing youthful tannins that will continue to develop and soften through 2035. Decant and drink now with roasted dishes including eggplant and poultry. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Sierra Norte 2022 Porta Regia 12 Meses (Jumilla). Monastrell from Jumilla is a beautiful thing and so is this bottling. Savory, spiced boysenberry and black-pepper aromas rub up against blueberry and blackberry on the nose. Concentrated black fruit coats the palate with firm tannins that will show best from 2028 onwards even as you can decant and drink now. Grapes of Spain. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

OTHER RED WINES

96 Vall Llach 2019 Mas de la Rosa (Priorat). Impressive, structured and compelling. A cascade of dark fruits, resinous woods, wet tobacco, dried blossoms, and a pinch of orange peel are carried by fine, palate-cleansing tannins and a firm finish. Beautiful and nuanced. Built to age. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.** —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$450

94 Marqués De Griñon 2019 Single Vineyard Estate Bottled (Dominio de Valdepeña). This is a rare treat of single-vineyard Petite Verdot with impressively juicy as well as tart red and black fruits with resinous herbs and a waft of tobacco. Tannins are powdery fine, carrying into a long, firm finish. Vinamericas, Inc. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Marqués De Griñon 2018 Svmma Varietalis (Dominio de Valdepeña). Spiced dark fruits and tobacco leaf wrap around finely corded, firm tannins balanced by crisp acidity. Allow air to open. It gains complexity with further sipping. Vinamericas, Inc. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Otazu 2021 Pago d Otazu (Pago de Otazu). Bold concentration, and refined tannins carry dark fruits, spice and garrigue with a pleasing earthiness and a persistent finish in which balsamic depth emerges. Otazu. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

92 Pago de la Jaraba 2021 (La Jaraba). This is approachable and delicious, with aromas of bramble with just a hint of vanilla, followed by flavors of cherries and spice. Soft tannins and a lengthy finish make an attractive red wine. Pago de la Jaraba. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Soliterra NV Harmonic (Catalunya). This is a beautiful wine. Black-tea and black-cherry aromas commune on the nose that brings along dried hay and mixed red-and-black plum. The palate is well balanced and echoes the nose with additional flavors of graphite, pencil shavings and forest floor that infuse the finish. Drink now through 2035. State Wines Selections. —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

91 Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga 2023 (Navarra). Red and black fruits intertwine with flavors of spices and mint. Refined tannins and a polished mouthfeel carry through a persistent finish. Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga 2023 (Navarra). Dark fruits covered in chocolate, candied violet, espresso and spice fill this juicy Cabernet with flavor through a lingering finish. Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

90 Cellers Domenys 2022 Capvespre Origen (Catalunya). Cocoa-sprinkled cherries and currants reveal cedar and refreshing, woody aromatics. Fine, firm tannins persist into a long, spiced finish. This wine continues to improve with air and further sipping. Vivino Selections. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Lavia 2020 Pueblo de Lavia Monastrell (Bullas). Fresh blackberry, red-cherry and field-grass aromas open on the nose, followed by soy sauce and black plum. The palate percolates with firm tannins that will soften with more time in bottle. Eminently youthful, decant and drink now, or open 2027 onwards. Massanois Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

89 Cairats 2016 Col·lecció Samsó (Montsant). Dark fruit, cedar, rose hip, and spice fill the mouth with flavor, then linger. Powdery fine, firm tannins reveal a sprinkle of cocoa. Allow to open with air. Table 31 Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Lavia 2020 Valles de Lavia Aceniche Monastrell (Bullas). Cherry-cola aromas lead on the nose accented by mint and lavender. Firm tannins show ahead of the fruit that raises blackberry,

black plum, and black cherry. Pair with grilled dishes, and decant an hour before serving to give the wine an opportunity to reveal its softer, gentler side. Massanois Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Cellers Domenys 2021 Anima Nua Cor Viu (Conca de Barberà). Aromatics and flavors of wet tobacco, rose hip, and a squeeze of clementine sprinkled by cocoa persist into a long finish. Supple tannins and a mouthwatering finish linger. W. Direct Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$63

87 Issac Fernandez 2021 Acentor (Calatayud). Desert herbs and mixed plums join with chocolate-covered cherries and a savory finish. Fine tannins are lengthened by mouthwatering freshness. Issac Fernandez. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Agricola Falset-Marca 2021 Imus Selection (Montsant). Woodsy aromatics cascade into flavors of pert, firm mixed berries and cedar. Firm, fine grained tannins carry into a lengthy finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

GERMANY

RIESLING

96 Nik Weis 2023 Bockstein Beerenauslese Riesling (Mosel). A dazzlingly rich and expressive dessert wine, bursting with layers of candied citrus, ripe apricot, and quince paste. The concentration is remarkable, yet the wine maintains superb balance with its bright acidity, keeping the sweetness fresh and lively. Notes of honeyed peach, dried mango, and a whisper of saffron add further depth, while the finish is endless, leaving an impression of both opulence and precision. A stunning example of what this vineyard can achieve at the highest level. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$285/375 ml

95 Fritz Haag 2023 Juffer-Sonnenuhr Gold Capsule Auslese Riesling (Mosel). A powerful and ripe Auslese, this delivers layers of honey, ripe guava, mango, passion fruit, and glazed peach. The piercing acidity creates perfect balance, cutting through the richness of the fruit. A subtle stony undertow adds complexity, enhancing the wine's long, expressive finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$62/375 ml

95 Nik Weis 2023 Laurentiuslay Beerenauslese Riesling (Mosel). Lush and deeply concentrated, this wine fronts an opulent mix of candied citrus, dried apricot, and quince paste, but here, hints of preserved fruit and warming spice weave through the layers. The acidity remains vibrant, providing balance and lift to the intense sweetness. Notes of honeyed pear, caramelized pineapple, and

a touch of saffron add further dimension, leading to a long, harmonious finish. Elegant yet powerful, showing exceptional depth and refinement. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$285/375 ml

94 Nik Weis 2023 Bockstein Auslese GK Riesling (Mosel). A beautifully rich and layered expression, this offers waves of candied citrus, quince paste, and golden peach. The sweetness is seamlessly woven into the wine's structure, balanced by razor-sharp acidity that provides lift and energy. Subtle floral notes and a hint of saffron add further complexity, leading to a remarkably long, resonant finish. It is a superbly composed Auslese with great aging potential. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$43/375 ml

94 Wittmann 2023 Aulerde Westhofen GG Riesling (Rheinhessen). This wine stands out for its elegance and expressiveness. The palate is an alluring mix of tropical guava and bright white raspberry, offering both freshness and depth. There's a beautiful flintiness that adds a mineral complexity, making it feel structured and layered. The wine maintains a delicate balance between fruit and acidity, giving it a crisp, refreshing quality. It's fresh, open, and inviting, with a long finish that lingers beautifully. This stunning wine showcases both finesse and character. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Wittmann 2023 Brunnenhäuschen Westhofen GG Riesling (Rheinhessen). This wine is super expressive from the get-go, offering a vibrant blend of ripe yellow fruit, like juicy peach and apricot, intertwined with zesty citrus notes of lemon and lime. The fruit is complemented by a delicate spice, reminiscent of white pepper and a touch of ginger, adding an extra layer of complexity. A fine mineral edge runs through the wine, providing structure and balance. The acidity is perfectly integrated, giving the wine freshness and a long, clean finish. It's a beautiful example of Riesling, showing depth, elegance, and superb harmony. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$130

94 Wittmann 2023 Kirchspiel Westhofen GG Riesling (Rheinhessen). This wine exudes a captivating flinty note, adding an intriguing mineral edge to its profile. The spice is present but not overpowering, with subtle hints of white pepper and ginger that provide depth. A savory quality rounds out the palate, enhancing its complexity. The acidity is lively and refreshing, perfectly complementing the wine's structure, while the finish is long, persistent, and layered with mineral-driven flavors. The balance of fruit, spice, and earthiness is exceptional, making this a truly complex and captivating expression of Riesling. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$115

93 Dr. Loosen 2023 Erdener Prälat Auslese Gold Capsule Riesling (Mosel). A luxurious and expressive wine, this offers vibrant dried mango

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and delicate hints of white raspberry. The rich fruit is beautifully balanced by a crisp lemon acidity, adding a refreshing zest that enhances the wine's elegance. Its well-defined structure carries through a long, harmonious finish, making this an outstanding example of the Auslese style. The layers of flavor and complexity reveal the exceptional quality of the Erdener Prälater vineyard, and the Gold Capsule designation signals a wine of exceptional pedigree. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 9% **Price:** \$60/375 ml

93 Fritz Haag 2023 Juffer Auslese Riesling (Mosel). A beautifully crafted Auslese that showcases excellent tension, balancing sweetness and vibrant acidity. Rich layers of peach, nectarine, apple, and quince are complemented by subtle hints of vanilla syrup, creating a harmonious complexity. The finish is long and luxurious, making this an impressive and elegant wine. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Fritz Haag 2023 Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese Riesling (Mosel). A stunning Auslese, this has vibrant layers of saffron, lime, and vanilla paired with the warmth of cardamom. The wine is a delightful blend of tropical fruit and citrus, offering both complexity and freshness. Its rich, textured mouthfeel and long, captivating finish make this a truly exceptional bottle. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$59

93 Nik Weis 2023 Goldtröpfchen Auslese GK Riesling (Mosel). Deeply concentrated and opulent, the wine showcases layers of dried apricot, golden peach, and a touch of honeycomb. The richness is beautifully counterbalanced by electric acidity, keeping the wine vibrant and fresh despite its luscious sweetness. Hints of saffron and candied citrus peel emerge on the long, elegant finish, adding further depth and intrigue. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. —A.Z.

abv: 8% **Price:** \$43/375 ml

93 S.A. Prüm 2009 Graach Himmelreich Eiswein White Riesling (Mosel). This exceptional wine has intensely concentrated layers of butter-scotch, brown sugar, and a touch of caramelized lemon. The richness is complemented by the bright, citrusy zing of singed lemon, quince paste, and a creamy custard-like texture. Its complexity and length are remarkable, with a finish that lingers long after the last sip. Truly a classic Eiswein, showcasing both opulence and precision. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.

abv: 7% **Price:** \$200

93 Wittmann 2023 Morstein Westhofen GG Riesling (Rheinhessen). This Riesling impresses with its remarkable complexity and intensity. It opens with an intriguing spice profile, featuring cardamom, clove, and a subtle touch of white pepper. The wine is rounder on the palate, with a rich texture that balances its vibrant acidity. The fruit is ripe and layered, offering hints of yellow apple, ripe peach, and a whisper of citrus zest. The

finish is long and elegant, with a mineral backbone that grounds the spice and fruit. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$130

93 Wittmann 2023 Westhofener Trocken 1G Riesling (Rheinhessen). A beautifully complex wine, this delivers striking saltiness and mineral depth. The flinty character is well integrated, with elegant fruit, balancing freshness and subtle richness. It's sleek, yet vibrant with a crunchy texture that lifts the wine's profile, creating a harmonious and long-lasting finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$52

93 Zilliken 2023 Rausch GG Riesling (Mosel). This striking wine exudes excellent tension, with an expressive blend of tropical fruits like pineapple and passion fruit, alongside bright citrus notes of lemon zest and grapefruit that dance on the palate. The balance between the fruit and acidity is impeccable, and there's an undeniable vibrancy that drives the wine forward. On the finish, it reveals layers of complexity, with subtle hints of spice, white peach, and minerality lingering long after the last sip. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

92 Dr. Loosen 2023 Ürziger Würzgarten Auslese Riesling (Mosel). This wine is a true expression of complexity and balance. The saffron and spice notes are immediately captivating, intertwining with the mineral undertones that give the wine a distinct character. The ripe fruit flavors, including hints of guava and peach, are rich yet vibrant, giving the wine a lush texture. The balance between sweetness and acidity is impeccable, with the acidity lifting the rich fruit profile and the mineral notes adding structure. The finish is long and dynamic, leaving a lingering impression of spice and freshness. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$34/375 ml

92 Fritz Haag 2023 Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). A stunning Spätlese with intriguing saffron notes and a lovely floral character. The wine is beautifully balanced, with layers of orchard, stone, and tropical fruits, offering a harmonious complexity. The finish is distinctly stony, adding an earthy depth that lingers. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$44

92 Fritz Haag 2023 Juffer-Sonnenuhr Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). Elegant with classic orchard fruits like pear and apple, complemented by hints of peach and a touch of spice. Well balanced, with crisp acidity and a long, refined finish. A sleek, graceful wine. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$77

92 Fritz Haag 2023 Monzeler Kätzchen GG Riesling (Mosel). A vibrant wine with candied citrus and ginger aromas, underscored by a distinctive flinty character. The palate is layered with spice and savory minerality, leading to a long and complex

finish that lingers beautifully. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Robert Weil 2023 Kiedrich Gräfenberg GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). This beautifully composed Riesling opens with delicate floral aromas, followed by a harmonious mix of ripe yellow fruits like golden apple, apricot, and a touch of pear. The balance between the juicy fruit and crisp acidity is striking, while subtle spices, such as white pepper and a hint of ginger, add depth. The wine's long finish is marked by a touch of minerality, giving it an elegant, refined character. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$99

92 Wittmann 2023 Niersteiner Trocken 1G Riesling (Rheinhessen). A vibrant and expressive wine, this shows a distinctive flinty edge paired with aromatic spice. Candied citrus notes add a touch of sweetness, while the wine's acidity provides great tension and balance. It finishes long, with layers of complexity that linger on the palate, offering both freshness and depth. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$52

92 Zilliken 2023 Bockstein GG Riesling (Mosel). This finely crafted wine gives spice-driven aromas that are perfectly balanced by its mellow acidity. The texture is open and generous, offering an elegant mouthfeel that lingers with a gentle depth. It showcases a refined complexity, where subtle mineral notes emerge alongside delicate citrus and white-fruit undertones. The wine's tension and harmony suggest great aging potential. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

92 Zilliken 2023 Rausch Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). A beautifully delicate yet sweet Spätlese, this comes with vibrant candied ginger and cardamom notes. The tropical-fruit profile shines, showcasing kiwi, guava, and hints of ripe mango. The wine is balanced with prominent acidity, adding freshness and lift, and finishes with finesse and complexity. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Dr. Loosen 2023 Erdener Treppchen Auslese Riesling (Mosel). This wine offers a rich bouquet of ripe peach and orchard fruit, complemented by notes of candied citrus that add a touch of sweetness. The acidity is beautifully integrated, providing structure and freshness that lifts the fruitiness without overpowering it. The wine's balance of richness and brightness creates a smooth, mouthcoating texture, while the finish is clean and elegant. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$34/375 ml

91 Robert Weil 2023 Kiedrich Turmberg Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Bright and energetic, the wine delivers a lively mix of citrus zest, ripe pear, and yellow apple. Hints of white pepper and wet stone add complexity, while the crisp acidity keeps

it fresh and structured. A refined, mineral-driven finish lingers elegantly. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$57

91 S.A. Prüm 2020 Wehlen Sonnenuhr Auslese White Riesling (Mosel). Rich and expressive, it has a delightful sweetness that's perfectly balanced by vibrant acidity. Notes of ripe pear, honey, and a touch of citrus zest lead to a long, lingering finish with a subtle floral undertone. This is a beautiful wine that shows both elegance and depth. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Zilliken 2023 Saarburg Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Complex and off-dry, this wine balances vibrant acidity with a touch of flintiness. It features bright notes of white raspberry, candied lemon, and tropical guava, all leading to a long, lingering finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$31

90 Dr. Loosen 2023 Graacher Himmelreich Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). A vibrant, expressive Riesling, this delivers the same depth as its predecessor, but this one has a slight fizz that lifts the palate even further. The rich flavors of citrus, pear, and subtle honey are made even more dynamic by the effervescence, adding a touch of liveliness and freshness. The acidity balances beautifully, providing structure and ensuring a crisp, satisfying finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Dr. Loosen 2023 Ürziger Würzgarten Alte Reben Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). This Riesling impresses with its intriguing complexity, offering vibrant flavors of saffron, guava, and delicate white flowers. The subtlety of the wine is balanced by its lively acidity, giving it a crisp and refreshing finish. There's a depth to the wine, yet it remains elegant and nimble, with a long, expressive finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Dr. Loosen 2023 Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). This wine dazzles with a captivating mix of saffron, lemon, and quince paste, offering both spice and richness. It has a great balance of vibrancy and smoothness, with refreshing acidity that lifts the fruit and adds depth. The long finish lingers with a silky texture, showcasing the finesse of this beautifully crafted Spätlese. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Dr. Loosen 2023 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Alte Reben Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). A vibrant bouquet of lemon, exotic fruit, and delicate floral notes leads the way in this expressive wine. The complexity unfolds with layers of fresh citrus, tropical fruit, and a subtle mineral edge. Its long finish accentuates the purity of the fruit, offering an elegant and well-rounded profile. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Dr. Loosen 2023 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese Riesling (Mosel). Lighter and more elegant, this Auslese strikes a perfect balance between sweetness and acidity. The wine's finesse is evident in its smooth texture and lingering finish, offering a harmonious blend of delicate fruit and freshness. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$34/375 ml

90 Fritz Haag 2023 Brauneberg "J" 1G Trocken Riesling (Mosel). A classic example, showcasing high acidity, with bright orchard and stone fruit notes. The wine has good intensity and a clean, focused finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

90 Fritz Haag 2023 Juffer Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Elegant and polished, a touch of saffron adds complexity. The sweetness is well balanced, complemented by lively tangerine and green-apple flavors. Fresh and juicy with a smooth finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$31

90 Fritz Haag 2023 Juffer Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). Spicy with vibrant acidity, this showcases apple and quince notes. Well structured with a crisp, fresh finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$57

90 Fritz Haag 2023 Kestener Paulinshofberg GG Riesling (Mosel). Elegant white floral aromas with a savory mineral edge are balanced by vibrant acidity and good tension. A crisp, refreshing wine with a clean finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Nik Weis 2023 Goldtröpfchen Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Classic and clean, there's a slight prickle of fizz. Juicy citrus and ripe orchard fruit give it a lively, refreshing charm. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$36

90 Nik Weis 2023 Goldtröpfchen Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). This lively and expressive Riesling has a slight spritz that enhances its freshness. In the harmonious blend of stone fruit and orchard fruit, juicy peach and ripe pear take center stage. Hints of citrus zest and a touch of honeyed minerality add complexity, while the balanced sweetness and acidity give it good energy and a lingering finish. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Nik Weis 2023 Ockfener Bockstein Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). A lively and aromatic expression shows crisp Granny Smith apple alongside juicy peach and delicate verbenas notes. The interplay of sweetness and acidity creates a refreshing, mouthwatering feel, while the minerality adds depth. Elegant and precise, the lingering finish leaves a bright, citrusy impression. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$36

90 Nik Weis 2023 Ockfener Bockstein Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). The rich yet balanced expression offers notes of lanolin and ripe pear, complemented by a touch of brown sugar. The sweetness is well integrated, lifted by a bright acidity that keeps the wine fresh and vibrant. Subtle floral and mineral nuances emerge on the finish, adding layers to its complexity. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$50

90 Robert Weil 2023 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). The very sweet and expressive wine offers vibrant apple and citrus fruit notes. Hints of honey and custard provide richness, while an earthy mineral character adds complexity to the long, satisfying finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Robert Weil 2023 Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). Well crafted with a nice balance of sweetness, this features rich pear and quince syrup flavors. A subtle touch of graphite adds depth, making for an enjoyable and balanced finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$49

90 S.A. Prüm 2020 Wehlen Sonnenuhr GG Riesling (Mosel). This wine presents a more aromatic profile, with rich yellow fruit notes like ripe apricot and citrus, seamlessly integrated with vibrant acidity. The balance is impeccable, offering a complexity that lingers on the long, satisfying finish. It's an elegant, well-structured Riesling with excellent aging potential. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

90 Villa Huesgen 2024 Auslese Enkircher Zepfwingert Noble Sweet Riesling (Mosel). A beautifully balanced sweet wine delivers rich notes of yellow plum, quince paste, and poached pear. The lively acidity cuts through the sweetness, creating a harmonious and refreshing profile. It's indulgent yet refined, offering a long, satisfying finish with a touch of elegance. Villa Huesgen. —A.Z.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$40

90 Zilliken 2023 Rausch Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Suave and beautifully balanced, this wine offers a refreshing mix of lemon-lime zest and ripe mango, complemented by a crisp citrus backbone. It showcases great length and a smooth, lingering finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$41

90 Zilliken 2023 Saarburg Trocken Alte Reben Riesling (Mosel). Crisp and invigorating, the wine comes with a bright core of green apple, Meyer lemon, and white peach. The acidity is vibrant yet well integrated, carrying the wine through a mineral-laced, slightly saline finish. This is a structured, food-friendly Riesling with depth and energy. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$46

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89 Dr. Loosen 2023 Erdener Treppchen Alte Reben Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). This wine offers a vibrant mix of yellow apple and lime, with a creamy undertone of custard that adds richness. The balance between fresh fruit and subtle oak influence gives it both energy and depth. It's smooth yet refreshing, with a touch of minerality on the finish. It is well structured and inviting. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$54

89 Dr. Loosen 2023 Erdener Treppchen Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Floral notes of white tea and daisy, complemented by a touch of sweetness. Crisp apple and peach fruit add depth. Well balanced with good freshness. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Dr. Loosen 2023 Erdener Treppchen Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). A touch of raw dough adds complexity to the bright guava and apple flavors. The wine is well focused, with balanced sweetness and acidity, leading to a crisp and harmonious finish. The subtle depth and clarity make it an enjoyable and refined Spätlese. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Dr. Loosen 2023 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). A more subtle wine, not as expressive as some others, yet it showcases a fine balance of tension and length. The citrus and mineral notes are present, with a crisp finish that highlights its elegance. While restrained, it offers a smooth and enjoyable experience with lingering freshness. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$34

89 Fritz Haag 2023 Estate Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Classic and approachable, there is juicy nectarine and a touch of mango. Crisp acidity keeps it lively, while the moderate length makes it an easy, refreshing drink. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Fritz Haag 2023 Kestener Paulinshofberg Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Crisp and juicy, it offers a balanced sweetness. Tangerine and green-apple notes stand out, creating a refreshing and vibrant profile. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$32

89 Nik Weis 2023 St. Urbans-Hof Estate Old Vines Riesling (Mosel). A touch of sponti character adds intrigue to this vibrant Riesling. Bright acidity carries notes of citrus and orchard fruit, with a long, layered finish. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Nik Weis 2023 St. Urbans-Hof Mosel Dry Riesling (Mosel). This is slightly wild from spontaneous fermentation, adding depth to its bright acidity. Long and complex, with layers of citrus, stone fruit, and a touch of minerality. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Nik Weis 2023 Wiltinger Alte Reben Riesling (Mosel). Bright and racy, with vivid yellow fruit—think mirabelle plum and golden apple—wrapped around a steely core. The high acidity drives the wine forward, giving it great tension and a crisp, mineral-laced finish. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$36

89 Robert Weil 2023 Tradition Riesling (Rheingau). This is juicy and approachable, with bright citrus and orchard fruit. It shows nice tension, and a satisfying length. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$27

89 S.A. Prüm 2022 Wehlen Sonnenuhr GG Dry White Riesling (Mosel). Bright lemon zest and a touch of sweet spice leave the first impression. Subtle and restrained, it also has a refined elegance, though it doesn't fully open up. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

89 S.A. Prüm 2020 Graach Domprobst GG Dry White Riesling (Mosel). This dry Riesling offers a well-defined balance of vibrant acidity and rich fruit flavors. Guava and pear take center stage, supported by a crisp backbone that keeps the wine refreshing. It's a harmonious and medium-bodied expression with a clean finish that lingers pleasantly. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

89 Wittmann 2023 Estate Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). Bright and crisp, a lively acidity frames citrus and stone fruit. Refreshing and well balanced, there is a clean, lingering finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

89 Zilliken 2023 Butterfly Riesling (Mosel). Medium dry, this is spice-driven with candied fruit notes. Well made, it has good length and complexity. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$24

89 Zilliken 2018 Saarburger Rausch Brut Nature VDP.SEKT.PRESTIGE Riesling (Mosel). Elegant and subtle, it comes with fine flint and white-raspberry notes. Light, smooth, and gentle bubbles add to its refined character. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$69

88 Dr. Loosen 2023 Bernkasteler Lay Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Juicy and off dry, it has a balanced mix of orchard and citrus fruit. It is fresh and clean with a lively finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$28

88 Dr. Loosen 2023 Red Slate Dry Riesling (Mosel). This is classic, with a touch of fizz, apple, peach, and a hint of smoke. It's well balanced but lacks depth. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Dr. Loosen 2023 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). With high acidity with a touch of sweetness, the wine offers crisp apple and quince flavors. Clean and refreshing with a decent finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$28

88 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2023 Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). It is rich with Christmas spice: citrus fruit, quince, and a hint of pine. It is well balanced and shows good depth. Bassermann-Jordan. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Nik Weis 2023 Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Refreshing and precise, lemon oil and crisp apple notes give it a lively character. The balance between sweetness and acidity is well judged, creating a sense of tension that keeps the palate engaged. Nik Weis | St. Urbans-Hof. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Off-Piste 2023 Sturmwolken Riesling (Pfalz). Off dry and fruity, there is a direct expression of orchard fruit and subtle hints of honey. Clean, easy-drinking, it has a nice, smooth finish. W. Direct. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$21

88 Robert Weil 2023 Kiedricher Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Subtle and restrained, it has clean orchard and stone fruit, good balance, and moderate length. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$39

88 Robert Weil 2023 Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Lively and expressive, it has a bright mix of citrus and orchard fruit. Subtle spice adds depth, while a fine spritz keeps it refreshing and energetic. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

88 S.A. Prüm 2021 Wehlen Sonnenuhr Spätlese White Riesling (Mosel). This is a bit smoky, with bruised pear and a smooth texture. The sweetness is balanced, though the finish is moderate in length, keeping things refreshing without being overly complex. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$45

88 S.A. Prüm 2020 Wehlen Ortswein Dry White Riesling (Mosel). A touch of lanolin adds depth to this otherwise vibrant wine, which showcases lush peach and pear flavors. The balance is harmonious, with a smooth texture and refreshing acidity that enhances its fruit-forward character. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

88 Villa Huesgen 2023 By The Glass Riesling (Mosel). Vibrant ripe peach and yellow-apple notes are complemented by a subtle hint of pine. This is a fresh, lively Riesling with a well-balanced finish, making it both approachable and enjoyable. Villa Huesgen. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

87 Dr. Loosen 2023 Blue Slate Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Straightforward and crisp, it has a slight green edge. The sweetness adds balance, but it feels a bit one-dimensional. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$22

87 Fritz Haag 2023 Estate Riesling (Mosel). It is made in the classic style with fruity notes and a touch of honey. Direct with moderate length, easy drinking. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

87 Guntrum 2024 Riesling (Landwein Rhein). This wine has a direct and fresh style, with subtle citrus and green-apple fruit. The medium-length finish is clean and balanced, showcasing a nice level of freshness. It's not overly complex, but it's well structured and easy to enjoy. Broadbent Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Raimund Prüm 2023 Solitär Riesling (Mosel). This is a bit on the industrial side, with sharp citrus notes and a vertical structure. The acidity is present, but it feels a bit more straightforward, with a moderate finish. Prestige Beverage Group. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Robert Weil 2023 Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). The wine's high acidity is balanced by some sweetness, with flavors reminiscent of Granny Smith apples. Fresh, crisp, it has a decent length. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$37

87 St. Michael Weinkellerei 2023 Spätlese Riesling (Rheinhessen). Precise and vibrant, this Spätlese offers a mix of juicy stone fruit, like peach and apricot, with crisp acidity providing structure. It's straightforward and refreshing, making it a solid choice for a versatile, easy-drinking Riesling. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$20

86 S.A. Prüm 2023 Blue Trocken White Riesling (Mosel). This is a straightforward and refreshing wine, showcasing clean citrus and orchard-fruit notes. It's crisp, with a zesty edge and a light body. The finish is short and clean, making it an easy-drinking option. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

86 S.A. Prüm 2021 Wehlen Sonnenuhr Kabinett White Riesling (Mosel). Sweet and rich, this has notes of brown sugar and candied lemon, complemented by a touch of lanolin. The sweetness is balanced by subtle acidity, but the finish is short and straightforward. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Villa Wolf 2023 Riesling (Pfalz). Light and fresh, the wine has vibrant orchard fruit,

delicate floral notes, and a crisp, clean finish. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

85 Louis Guntrum 2022 Dry Riesling (Rheinhessen). Straightforward, ripe and round, it offers subtle smoke and a polished finish. Broadbent Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

85 Raimund Prüm 2023 Essence Riesling (Mosel). Clean and approachable, it has citrus and sweet spice, though is somewhat neutral in character. It's a straightforward, easy-drinking style. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$15

84 Louis Guntrum 2023 Riesling (Rheinhessen). Ripe and fruit-forward, there is plenty of apricot and peach, but slightly lacking in precision. Broadbent Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$15

84 Villa Wolf 2023 Dry Riesling (Pfalz). Soft, and clean, with orchard and stone fruit, the wine lacks expressiveness. It is well made, though not remarkable. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Wittmann 2023 Estate Grauer Burgunder Pinot Gris (Rheinhessen). It offers subtle flint, balanced spice, and a touch of candied fruit. The wine is well crafted with a long, clean finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

89 Wittmann 2023 Estate Weisser Burgunder Pinot Blanc (Rheinhessen). The light matchstick note turns bright, while orchard fruit comes out with added crunch and crispness, making it a bit more lively and refreshing. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

87 Villa Wolf 2023 Gewürztraminer (Pfalz). Floral, it has a touch of grapey sweetness. The finish is direct, clean, and simple. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Villa Huesgen 2023 Dry Pinot Blanc (Mosel). The medium-bodied white offers subtle herbal notes, citrus hints, and a soft finish. Simple yet refreshing, this wine offers a clean and approachable profile. Villa Huesgen. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

86 Villa Wolf 2023 Pinot Gris (Pfalz). Crisp and direct, the wine offers zesty citrus and fresh orchard fruit, delivering a clean, uncomplicated profile. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Villa Wolf 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Pfalz). This delivers vibrant grapefruit and passion

fruit and is direct yet fresh, with a satisfying length. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

PINOT NOIR

86 Villa Wolf 2022 Pinot Noir (Pfalz). This is light in body with fresh cherry and rose hip flavors, complemented by a touch of sandalwood. It's an easy-drinking wine with a pleasant, delicate profile. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

ENGLAND

SPARKLING WINES

98 Gusbourne 2016 51°N Traditional Method Sparkling Blend (England). England's most premium sparkler is all it's cracked up to be. It walks a line between classic and modern. The bright, lucid nose of lemon curd, ricotta and toasted brioche, with flinty, nutty, mushroomy undertones, is hard to stop smelling. When you do, the palate doesn't disappoint. It's focused and long; the toastier, more lactic notes are well-tucked beneath a radiant sunbeam of unmistakably English acidity, a zing of citrus zest that makes taking another sip—or 10—an incredibly easy endeavor. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$370

97 Gusbourne 2020 Brut Reserve Traditional Method Sparkling Blend (England). 2020 was an excellent vintage in England and it shows on this Brut reserve from one of the region's most acclaimed producers. It's a rich and layered combo of Granny Smith apple crumble, grilled white peaches and toasted walnuts drizzled in honey. There's a flinty minerality here too, and a silky opulence to the palate, cut through with signature racy acidity, fine, persistent fizz and a long, honeyed orchard-fruit finish. Yum. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$79

96 Gusbourne 2019 Blanc de Noirs Traditional Method Sparkling Blend (England). This is a rich, toasty and ultra-classy Blanc de Noirs from a top notch producer in the "Montagne de Reims" of England. Heady notes of caramel apple, roasted nuts, bread and flint lead to a bone dry palate that crackles with oh-so-English acidity, playing in tune with the silky textural components and toasty opulence. Gusbourne nails it again, even in a tricky vintage such as this one. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$100

95 Gusbourne 2019 Rosé Sparkling Blend (England). A vibrant salmon hue, this bursts with strawberries and cream, watermelon and floral aromas, fringed with yeastier characters. There's a lovely lightness and delicacy to the palate. It's bone dry with quite racy acidity, but enough slippery,

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silky fruit weight to balance. 2019 won't go down as the best vintage in England (nor was it the worst). In spite of the challenges, Gusbourne has produced a delicious rosé bubbles. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$87

HUNGARY

WHITE WINES

94 Kristinus Borbirtok 2021 Analog White Blend (Balatonboglár). A blend of biodynamically farmed, spontaneously fermented Welschriesling, Gewürztraminer, and Sauvignon Blanc grapes give this dry, tart white wine from Hungary its layered flavors. Aged for 10 months in amphorae and tanks, it has tart lemons and limes as well as balanced floral and funky flavors. It wraps up with a bright, citrus-forward finish. ZRS Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —E.S.

abv: 12%

Price: \$18

90 Count Karolyi 2023 Grüner Veltliner (Pannon). Lemon, nectarine, apricot, grapefruit pith, and honeysuckle aromas burst out of the glass of this Gruner Veltliner from Hungary's sunny Pannon region. The crisp, linear body has mineral notes plus citrus on the long, elegant finish. Quintessential. *Best Buy.* —E.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$12

RED WINE

96 Kristinus Borbirtok 2022 Siller Zweigelt (Balatonboglár). Crunchy and dynamic, this biodynamic, minimal-intervention from Hungary's Lake Balaton region has mineral notes alongside raspberries, currants, and cranberries. It's a light-bodied red that could easily be mistaken for a rosé, and its slightly earthy undertone keeps things not only balanced, but also endlessly interesting. Serve it with a slight chill and watch glass after glass disappear. ZRS Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —E.S.

abv: 12%

Price: \$18

TOKAJI

95 Disznókő 2017 Aszú V.P.T.S. Furmint (Tokaji). There's a beautiful freshness among the stewed stone-fruit, pear, and floral aromas on this elegant wine. The structured palate is silky and sophisticated, with a long, bright finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$178

94 Disznókő 2021 1413 Édes Szamorodni Furmint (Tokaji). Lush apricots, nectarines, tangerine-juice aromas, and honeysuckle aromas headline this remarkably fresh Tokaj. The structured palate is rich with orchard fruit and citrus

flavors, and it all wraps up with an elegant, epically long finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$43

94 Disznókő 2019 Tokaji Aszú 5 Puttonyos Furmint (Tokaji). Stewed pears, honeyed stone fruit, and delicate floral notes headline this luxurious Tokaj. Despite the beautifully rich caramel on the finish, it's still bright and fresh—and will remain that way for years. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$80

94 Disznókő 2017 Kapi Vineyard Aszú 6 Puttonyos Furmint (Tokaji). Stewed pears, gentle spice, and tart apricot compote headline this richly nuanced wine. It's bright and balanced, with a lingering, honeyed finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$197

93 Disznókő 2018 Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos Furmint (Tokaji). Tangerine and mandarins brighten the stewed figs and honeyed apricots in this layered dessert wine. The long finish manages to be both bright and rich, and will have you reaching for another sip straight away. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.

abv: 12%

Price: \$64

93 Disznókő 2017 Tokaji Aszú 5 Puttonyos urmint (Tokaji). Expect ripe pears, apricots, yellow peaches, and quince aromas from this sophisticated, golden wine. The luxuriously rich fruit flavors linger on the long, fresh finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$80

93 Disznókő 2017 Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos Furmint (Tokaji). Layers of figs, apricots, floral notes, and honey combine in this beautifully viscous wine made with hand-harvested Furmint grapes. The finish is long and bright, with elegant acidity and faint spice. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$69

94 Disznókő 2018 1413 Édes Szamorodni Furmint-Hárslevelű (Tokaji). Honeyed apricot aromas with orange peel and delicate caramel headline this elegant dessert wine. It's beautifully balanced with tart acidity, ripe pear, and dulce de leche flavors, plus a seemingly endless finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$43

93 Alana-Tokaj 2021 Betsek Muscat (Tokaji). Floral aromas leap out of each glass of this distinctive wine, followed by honeysuckle and stone-fruit notes. These flavors carry through to the luxuriously viscous palate, where they're balanced by bright acidity, giving the wine immense gastronomic and aging potential. Alana-Tokaj. —E.S.

abv: 9.4%

Price: \$80/500 ml

95 Tempos Vega Sicilia 2017 Oremus Aszú 5 Puttonyos White Blend (Tokaji). Aromatic and

elegant, this wine has stewed and fresh peaches plus apricots on the nose. Blood orange and tangerine notes mingle with the rich caramel flavors on the beautifully structured palate, followed by a long, luxurious finish. IT Public Relations. —E.S.

abv: 11%

Price: \$112

BULGARIA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Rough Day 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). For full review see page 17. Bulgariana. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

90 For Better Or Worse 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). For full review see page 19. Bulgariana. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

GEORGIA

WHITE WINES

89 Telavi 2022 Mtsvane-Kisi (Kakheti). From a minimal-intervention winery in the foothills of the Gombori Mountains in eastern Kakheti, Georgia, this straw-colored pour blends two indigenous white wine grapes. There are tart lemon and lime aromas and flavors, as well as pleasantly bitter notes of grapefruit pith and peel on the bright palate. Total Wine & More. —E.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

RED WINES

90 K'AVSHIRI NV Red Blend (Georgia). Lush red fruits burst out of the glass of this dry red wine with wide-ranging food pairing potential. K'AVSHIRI wines are a collaborative effort between Khareba winemaker Vladimer Kublashvili and U.K.-based wine writer Robert Joseph, and this bottle contains a mix of indigenous and international grapes. The results are fresh, light-bodied, and easy-drinking, with elegant fruit notes followed by a bright, crisp finish. Colangelo & Partners. —E.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$60

89 Château Mukhrani 2020 Shavkapito (Kartli). Garnet-hued in the glass, this beautifully gastronomic red wine has fresh berry aromas and rich cranberry, currant, and leather flavors. The finish is long and very tart, with well-integrated tannins. Colangelo & Partners. —E.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$26

89 Château Mukhrani 2019 Collection Secrète Red Blend (Kartli). An elegantly approachable red wine that begs to be opened alongside a hearty, roasted meal, this bottle has cranberry and currant aromas followed by red-fruit and savory

herb flavors. Grippy tannins headline the long, dry finish. Colangelo & Partners. —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Telavi 2019 Qvevri Saperavi (Kakheti). Oaky aromas like baking spices and vanilla beans headline this dynamic red wine made in *qvevri*, Georgia's traditional underground aging vessels. There are tart cherry and leather flavors on the medium-bodied palate, which has integrated tannins and a dry finish. Total Wine & More. —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Teliani Vineyards 2023 Kindzmarauli Saperavi (Kakheti). Berry-compote and juicy mandarin aromas headline this semisweet red wine from Georgia's Kakheti. The palate is fruity and approachable, with baking spices on the finish. It's just the thing to pair with spicy lamb biryani. Colangelo & Partners. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$17

82 Kakhuri Gvinis Marani 2023 Semi-Sweet Saperavi (Kindzmarauli). Cherry-pie-filling aromas make way for a fruity and floral palate on this semisweet Georgian red wine. Colangelo & Partners. —E.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

LEBANON

WHITE WINE

89 Château Musar 2022 Jeune White Blend (Bekaa Valley). Lean and refreshing, this easy-drinking dry white wine is made for sipping chilled as the sun sets on a hot day. Expect lemon and herbaceous notes followed by a tart finish. Broadbent Selections. —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

RED WINE

89 Château Musar 2021 Jeune Red Blend (Bekaa Valley). There are faint leather and spice notes amid the red fruits on the nose of this blend of Cinsault, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon from Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. The medium-bodied wine has a long, tannic finish that would be ideal with roast pork, lamb, and other hearty fare. Broadbent Selections. —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

CALIFORNIA

CHARDONNAY

97 Kosta Browne 2021 Cerise Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Succulent aromas of baked apple and peach are wrapped in acacia honey, crushed graham cracker and orange marmalade on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate pulsate with crisp Asian pear, allspice, mandarin orange and white nectarine, cascading into fresh salin-

ity and a dry, youthful finish. This vineyard site is beloved for its fruit. Enjoy now or tuck away to age for more expression. Pair with roasted skate wing, brown butter and sage. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$170

96 Farm Cottage 2023 Trout Gulch Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Laser-focused on the nose, this bottling pops with lime pith, yellow apple and shiso leaf aromas. The palate is fascinatingly grippy, as green apple, lime and lemon rind flavors hold tight to a chalky minerality. Drink now–2037. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

96 Meyer Family Cellars 2023 Ferrington Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Aromas of fresh baked apple, yellow plum, baking spice and toasty oak arise on the nose of this wine. The flavors on the palate are crisp yellow apple, orange zest, whipped cream, mineral and a dry, mouthwatering finish. A thoughtful expression sourced from a vineyard known for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Drink now or cellar until 2032. **Editor's Choice.** —T.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$50

96 Rhys Vineyards 2022 Horseshoe Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Lightly honeyed on the nose, this brilliant bottling pairs warmer butter and honeysuckle aromas with zesty frozen pineapple and cold steel on the nose. The palate shows a more generous tone. Lemon-doused melon and pineapple flavors are streaked with a stony grip, as the acidity leaves the mouth singing. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$125

96 Senses 2023 Tenth Stop Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). The tropical nose of this wine bursts from the glass, with aromas of pineapple, orange blossom and lemon zest. On the nervy palate, brilliant acidity, supple texture and flavors of Meyer lemon, pear tart and salted lime peel energize the finish. **Editor's Choice.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$105

96 Wentworth 2023 Wentworth Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge). For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$82

95 Donelan 2021 Genevieve's Block Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of green pear, apple skin, flint and lemon blossom burst forward on the nose of this striking native-fermented Chardonnay. The palate delivers lively acidity and grip, with flavors of apple, lemon pith, cinnamon and white flowers that echo for over a minute. **Editor's Choice.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$100

95 Donum Estate 2023 Single-Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 4.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$125

95 Kosta Browne 2021 Bootlegger's Hill Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aromas of concentrated pear, lemon peel, sage and white flowers drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings flavors of crisp apple, cinnamon and lemon balm, with a bit of barrel structure and a streak of lively acidity and salty lemon peel across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$170

95 Senses 2023 B.A. Thieriot Vineyard Chardonnay (West Sonoma Coast). This native-fermented Chardonnay presents aromas of green pear, pineapple sage, lemon balm and lime pith on the nose. The palate shows intense concentration, with cracking acidity and flavors of salty Meyer lemon, ginger, Gala apple and lemon blossom that swell and dance along the finish. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$135

95 Senses 2023 El Diablo Vineyard Chardonnay (West Sonoma Coast). The nose of this complex and energetic native-fermented wine delivers aromas of fresh apples, shattered stones and white flowers. The palate is a tidal wave of electric Meyer lemon acidity. Flavors of green pear and pineapple sage lead to a gorgeously salty and pithy finish with faint hints of integrated oak. **Editor's Choice.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$85

95 Senses 2022 Charles Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A whisper of flint teases the richness of pear and intense minerality on the nose of this wine from a legendary parcel. The palate delivers charming flavors of crushed spice, apple, nectarine and shattered stone, finishing with echoes of salty lemon peel, white flowers and cinnamon that dance and linger for a minute. **Editor's Choice.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Anaba 2022 Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This lovely wine jumps from the glass with aromas of luscious Meyer lemon, nectarine, pineapple sage and lemon balm. The palate brings a wave of electric acidity with flavors of green pear, salted lemon peel and anise that linger and mingle across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$58

94 Donum Estate 2023 Estate Grown Year of the Rabbit Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Fess Parker 2023 Ashley's Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48

94 Fess Parker 2023 Parker West Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Lively aromas of grapefruit blossom and zest pair with a stony minerality on the firmly focused nose of this bottling. The palate is very mineral powered, its chalky texture and rock-

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riddled flavor playing against the sharp grapefruit tones. Drink now–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$48

94 Kosta Browne 2022 Bootlegger's Hill Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). A whisper of flint teases on the nose of this Chard, along with aromas of ripe apple, Meyer lemon and sweet cinnamon. The palate delivers rich pear, tart pineapple and soft floral flavors before a finish with zesty acidity and a touch of phenolic grip. Best from 2028–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$165

94 Lester Estate Wines 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Quite light colored in the glass, this is chiseled style of Chardonnay, popping on the nose with fresh citrus, pineapple and wet stone aromas. The palate is very firm and laced with a stony minerality, as white melon and citrus pith flavors make for a complex sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$45

94 Meyer Family Cellars 2023 Elke Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Zesty, concentrated aromas of pear, melon, guava, dried florals and orange blossom honey show on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate suggest caramelized apple, lemon curd and cardamom, interwoven with sedimentary rock, lush fruit and a savory, lip-smacking finish. Pair with melon and prosciutto. **Editor's Choice.** —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$39

94 Ridge 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). The familiar flinty tone of this bottling meets with complex kicks of lemon curd and lemon verbena on the nose. Grippy and delicately oaked, the palate offers buttery flavors balanced by lime peel acidity and a salty finish that makes the mouth water. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Saracina 2023 Chardonnay (Mendocino). For full review see page 7. **Editor's Choice.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

94 Three Sticks Wines 2022 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This wine displays a wild level of complexity on the nose, with aromas of tart green pear, fleshy apple, Rainier cherry, sage, lemon peel and ginger swirling and dancing. The palate brings bright acidity and flavors of Meyer lemon, lemon thyme, pineapple sage and apple blossom that ricochet along the palate. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

93 Benziger Family Winery 2023 Pear Block Chardonnay (Los Carneros). This rich and lively Chard jumps from the glass with aromas of popcorn, roasted apple and nectarine. The palate delivers bright stone fruit, citrus and floral flavors that culminate with a salty, pithy citrus crunch. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Benziger Family Winery 2023 West Rows Chardonnay (Los Carneros). For full review see page 8. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$48

93 Bouchaine 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

93 DiPalermo 2023 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Lively aromas of lemon glaze and crisp Pink Lady apple draw the nose into this county cuvée. Lively acidity pops on the palate, as citrus, stone fruit and pineapple flavors ride into a warmly spiced finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

93 DiPalermo 2023 John Sebastiano Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Tangerine sorbet, almond and candied orange-peel aromas make for an alluring nose on this bottling. There's a strong grip to the palate, where toasty pastry flavors provide the warmth and the lemon cake element adds a citrusy edge. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

93 Donelan 2021 Nancie Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Focused aromas of popcorn, flint and green apple jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate brings vibrant nectarine and apple flavors, with echoes of pithy Meyer lemon, stony minerality and orange blossom lifting across the very long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

93 J Vineyards & Winery 2023 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Longboard Vineyards 2023 Rochioli Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This bright and elegant wine jumps from the glass with aromas of white flowers, pear, marzipan and lemon curd. The palate is wildly energetic, with flavors of pineapple, cinnamon, orange blossom and pithy Meyer lemon peel. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$56

93 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Estate Cuvée Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

93 Lumen 2023 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Broad aromas of peach, pineapple and popcorn are quite welcoming on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a sharper side, presenting grapefruit flesh and tangerine peel flavors that slide into a toasted brioche finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Lynmar Estate 2022 Susanna's Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This layered and decadent wine displays waves of Meyer lemon, pear and hazelnut aromas on the nose. The palate offers rich texture and flavors of baked apple, white

flowers and marzipan, with plush acidity and just a touch of salty grip at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

93 Marbeso 2023 Spear Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). From an organic vineyard located just 12 miles from the ocean, this wine has lovely aromas of honeysuckle, lemon blossom and tangerine spray on the nose, which stays very nimble. The palate zips with acidity that cuts through apple, lemon and toasted almond flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Merry Edwards Winery 2022 Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This is one of two white wines the iconic Pinot Noir winery produces. A classic cool-climate Chardonnay, it offers supple but exuberant aromas of baked spiced apple, nectarine, candied orange rind and cantaloupe on the nose. The palate expands with rich Tahitian vanilla bean, blood orange juice and moderate acidity on the finish. Pair with pappardelle pasta, English peas, pancetta, olive oil and Parmesan cheese. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

93 Patz & Hall 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This nuanced Chard displays a sunshiny personality on the nose, with aromas of pineapple, sage, orange blossom and cinnamon. The palate brings flavors of green pear, candied ginger, caramelized pineapple and pithy lemon that echo along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Senses 2023 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This lively and aromatic Chard delivers fully loaded aromas of grilled lemon, bright apple and citrus blossom on the nose. These give way to decadent flavors of pear tart, sweet cinnamon, fresh-cut green herb mélange and cinnamon on the palate. Charming and very drinkable stuff. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

93 Walt 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Beautiful aromas of lemon, fresh apple, ripe pineapple, white flowers and vanilla waft on the nose of this wine. The palate is deftly layered, with flavors of ripe nectarine and Meyer lemon peel, barrel richness, a ribbon of bright citrusy acid and a touch of salty grip at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Alma de Cattleya 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This lively wine displays bright floral aromas alongside green apple, pear and river stone on the nose. The palate gives fresh pear, nectarine, ginger and lemon pith flavors, generous acidity and a bit of phenolic grip at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Blue Rock 2023 Baby Blue Gapstone Vineyard Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This focused and zesty wine delivers aromas of lemon peel, green apple, river stone and cinnamon on the nose. Flavors of mixed stone fruit and citrus ride on waves of lemon-lime acidity and rocky minerality. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$28

92 Bogle Family Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

92 Cambria 2023 Katherine's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Lemon balm, baked apricot and macadamia nut aromas converge on the appealing nose of this bottling. A blast of acidity cuts into the lightly salted core of pear, apple and citrus peel flavors, with a warm oak note carrying the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$22

92 Carpe Diem 2021 Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This Chard is juicy and fresh, with aromas of green apple, white flowers, honey and citrus on the nose. Flavors on the palate suggest peach, apricot and blood orange zest, with a creamy mouthfeel and flinty acidity on the finish. Pair with white saucés and fresh seafood. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$23

92 Christopher Creek Winery 2023 Ronya's Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This pale gold, stainless-steel-aged wine brings lifted pineapple, Meyer lemon peel, orange blossom and quince aromas on the nose. The palate has brilliant acidity and generous tangerine, sage and white flower flavors that vibrate on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$69

92 Cuvaison 2022 Coeurtina Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Mixed blossoms combine with stone fruit, citrus zest and integrated oak spices. Persistent acidity and an almost creamy mouthfeel linger into a long finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$70

92 Fess Parker 2023 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Honey-laced almond and ripe Pink Lady apple aromas make for a fresh and engaging nose on this bottling. The palate hits with tension that gives way to yellow apple and Meyer lemon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$48

92 Gust 2023 Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

92 Lewis 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Juicy nectarines and pears lifted by citrus blossom mix with toffee and candied pecans in this wine full of vibrant fruit and a rich while mouthwatering finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

92 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$55

92 Lynmar Estate 2023 Adam's Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The nose on this wine delivers a mélange of green pear, lemon and fresh green herbs. On the palate, punchy cit-

rus and white flower flavors come with bright acidity, finishing with a pithy, salty finish that begs for another sip. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$70

92 Paradise Springs 2023 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Lightly toasted macadamia nut aromas meet with honeysuckle and lemon blossom on the inviting nose of this bottling. The palate takes a bolder line, showing popcorn, baked nectarine and spiced apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$59

92 Rombauer 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$42

92 Sirin 2022 Parmelee-Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 12.
abv: 25% Price: \$38

92 Stringer Cellars 2022 John Sebastiano Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Toasty hazelnut, baked lemon and browned butter show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is rich, bold and powerful, with lemon glaze, pineapple and more butter flavors that flow into a salty finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$56

92 Whipsmart Wine Company 2023 Chaise Longue Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This bright and nervy native-fermented Chardonnay from a coastal site delivers boisterous stone fruit and floral aromas on the nose, leading to pithy Meyer lemon, pineapple sage and green apple on the palate. The finish delivers a solid phenolic bite and pithy citrus for a solid minute. Huge value here. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$20

91 AJA Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Lime peel, lemon blossom and crushed granite aromas make for a compelling nose on this bottling. The palate is similarly mineral driven, giving an earthy edge to the lime balm and lemon verbena flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$37

91 Alta Orsa 2023 Hafner Vineyard Chardonnay (Alexander Valley). This supple and balanced wine brings aromas of pear, nectarine and sweet cinnamon on the nose. The light-bodied palate delivers flavors of fresh apple, lemon zest, pineapple sage and biscuit that echo softly across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$34

91 Artesa 2022 Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Richly flavored yet also racy and lingering, this wine combines tropical fruits, zippy spice and toast on a backbone of mouthwatering acidity. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$26

91 CRU Winery 2022 Smith & Lindley Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

91 Cuvaison 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Los Carneros). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$35

91 DiPalermo 2023 Radian Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a richer style, offering honeysuckle, toasted hazelnut and butter-basted apricot aromas on the nose. The palate's baked fruit and butter flavors are leveled by a vibrant acidity, leading into a macadamia nut finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

91 Duckhorn Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). In this wine, ripe apple and pear zested with lime and white grapefruit join a creamy touch of caramel for plenty of flavor poised on a mouthwatering palate and crisp finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$38

91 Fess Parker 2023 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). This wine takes time to come out of its shell, and then reveals lemon tonic, lime pith and melon rind aromas. Apple, pear and lime-splashed jicama flavors converge on the palate of the wine. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$48

91 Gen5 2023 Chardonnay (Lodi). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.1% Price: \$11

91 GlassMen 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This ripe and tropical Chardonnay brings aromas of ripe pear, pineapple, sweet cinnamon and orange blossom on the nose. The palate delivers a pop of lively citrus fruit, fresh white flowers and Meyer lemon peel across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$35

91 J Vineyards 2022 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$26

91 Mason Cellars 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Racy and bright, this is a uniquely nervy Chardonnay built for fresh seafood as much as rich risottos. White grapefruit pith, white peach and a sprinkle of sea salt complete the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

91 Melville 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Earthy aromas of riverbed and crushed stone open up into lemon blossom and citrus peel on the nose of this estate bottling. There's a lime pith grip to the palate, where ample citrus edges cut into the dried apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$44

91 Pali Wine Co. 2021 Pali Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Rounded aromas of white peach, honeysuckle and buttered popcorn are hit with a kiss of oak on the nose of this bottling. The

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palate is tight with granular tannins that showcase the baked apple, lemon glaze and oak spice flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$70

91 Paradise Ridge 2023 Vineyard Select Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Captivating aromas of Golden Delicious apple, buttered popcorn and hazelnut crème swirl on the nose of this Chard. The palate delivers richly textured apple and pear fruit flavors, with whispers of vanilla and cinnamon. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$50

91 Protégé 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Sweet citrus and a mix of grapefruits combine with oak spice in this wine for rich flavor coupled with racy acidity. The wine is mouthwatering and lengthy. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.7% Price: \$45

91 Rancho Viñedo 2021 Dona Martina Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). From own-rooted old vines, this is a bold and rich bottling, offering seared apple, apricot, lemon peel and salted nut aromas. It lands with quite a bit of heft to the palate, as warm lemon cake and baked peach flavors are cut by a green apple freshness. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$54

91 Rombauer 2023 Buchli Station Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Sweet citrus and crisp stone fruits wash across the palate into a refreshing, long finish on this wine. Flavorful and energetic. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.6% Price: \$75

91 St. Francis 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.1% Price: \$17

91 The Calling 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). There's lively freshness to the nose of this wine, with soft aromas of Gala apple, lemon balm, pineapple sage and white flowers emerging. The palate delivers bright apple-pear-citrus flavors with vibrant acidity that swells to a crescendo along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$30

91 Thumbprint Cellars 2023 Catie's Corner Vineyard No Oak Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This unoaked Chardonnay delivers punchy aromas of pomelo, green apple and ginger on the nose. The palate is a bright wave of sunshiny acidity, with flavors of tart pear, lemon peel, nectarine and white flowers that linger on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$45

91 Walt 2023 Bob's Ranch Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This creamy and rich wine delivers aromas of roasted apple, pear and toasty spices on the nose. The palate offers some zesty citrus flavors alongside lemon balm, cinnamon and some pleasant grip along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

90 Brendel Wines 2021 Noble One Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Aromas of pithy citrus, fresh herbs and flowers dominate the nose of this unoaked Chardonnay. The palate brings bright acid and flavors of lemon balm, tart pineapple, sage and salted lime peel that explode on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$30

90 Buena Vista 2022 Jovita's Selection Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This opulent wine delivers a burst of ripe pear, apple and cinnamon aromas on the nose. The palate is densely packed with flavors of baked apple pie, barrel spice and caramel that continue through the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 Chalk Hill 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$26

90 Chateau St. Jean 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$45

90 Cline Family Cellars 2023 Hat Strap Chardonnay (Los Carneros). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

90 Drop of Sunshine 2022 Chardonnay (Central Coast). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

90 Ferrari-Carano 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$27

90 Fogscape Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$25

90 Hearst Ranch Winery 2024 Glacier Ridge Chardonnay (Monterey County). Clean and fresh aromas of pear flesh turn toward peach, coconut and vanilla on the nose of this bottling. The palate sizzles with the acidity of the very recent harvest, as a firm structure upholds the apple and pear flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$32

90 La Crema 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of roasted pear, cinnamon and buttery pastry highlight the nose of this wine. The palate brings a bit more lively citrus character, with flavors of Meyer lemon, green apple, marzipan and chalk lingering across the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

90 Papapietro Perry 2023 Peters Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This round and full-styled Chard delivers aromas of butterscotch, roasted apple and popcorn on the nose, giving way to candied lemon peel, pear tart and toasty oak flavors on the palate. Drink this with crabcakes. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$58

90 Talbott 2023 Kali Hart Chardonnay (Monterey). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

90 Tamber Bey 2023 Sans Chene Chardonnay (Yountville). Exuberant aromas of candied peaches and citrus blossoms meet flavors of cooked pear. Silken texture and balanced acidity feature through the moderate finish of this wine. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.2% Price: \$45

90 Tamber Bey 2022 Deux Chevaux Vineyard Chardonnay (Yountville). A mix of tropical and ripe stone fruits fill the mouth with generous flavor bringing sweet citrus and a crunch of raw sugar (not the sweetness but the flavor) through the finish of this wine. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.6% Price: \$80

90 Wrath Wines 2024 EX Unoaked Chardonnay (Monterey). This is a strong example of unoaked Chardonnay, exploding on the nose with orange blossom, plumeria and pineapple guava aromas. Good tension to the palate helps balance the exuberant tropical flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 12.8% Price: \$19

89 AMICI CELLARS 2023 No Curfew Chardonnay (California). The vibrant nose of this wine features youthful apple, mandarin orange, dried peach, coriander and jasmine. On the midpalate, flavors of yellow plum, spiced pear, lime marmalade, vanilla cream and mineral lead to earthiness on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 13.4% Price: \$12

89 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5% Price: \$8

89 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Buttery Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5% Price: \$8

89 Cline Family Cellars 2023 Seven Ranchlands Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Aromas of crisp apple, nectarine, ginger and orange blossom lift the nose of this wine. The palate displays lovely grip, bright acidity and flavors of pear, spice and river rock that resonate across the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

89 Francis Ford Coppola Director's Cut 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This nimble and supple wine offers aromas of fresh apple, pear and caramel on the nose. The palate delivers a punch of pithy lemon, flowers and barrel spice. Drink with crab cakes or grilled shrimp. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$21

89 Stony Hill 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District). Toasted popcorn aromatics dominate this wine, leading to flavors of banana, lemon cream and a pithy finish. Acidity

keeps the palate watering through a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$110

88 Browne Family Vineyards 2023 Forest Project Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Rich aromas of butter, toasted coconut and subtle marzipan show on the nose of this bottling, which raises money to plant trees. The palate is thick, viscous and very soft in texture, pairing marshmallow, coconut and vanilla candy flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

88 CRU Winery 2022 Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). A darker hue in the glass, this bold bottling shows oak, roasted apple and baking spices on the very rich nose. The palate is lush with buttery pastry and cinnamon-dusted apple flavors, with oak spice lingering into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 Lion's Ridge 2023 Special Reserve Chardonnay (Central Coast). Macadamia nut and nectarine aromas meet with a honey glaze on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers ripe apple and more honey, leaning toward sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Sarah's Vineyard 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Santa Clara Valley). Apple cider and dried pineapple aromas show on the slightly aged nose of this wine from a warm vintage. The palate is rich and dried out, with apple flavors prevalent. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$38

88 Second Cheapest Wine 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Sponge Cake 2023 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This is a restrained-style Chardonnay, with vanilla, green pear and cinnamon aromas coming across on the nose. The palate gives some apple and butter character, with waxy texture and a soft, floral finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Well Born Winery 2022 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Honeyed apricot aromas hint at sweetness on the appealing nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture and rich in style, offering apricot jam and honeysuckle flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

SAUVIGNON BLANC

96 Saracina 2022 Lolonis Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino). Aromatics of crisp citrus, juicy melon and dried herbs cascade across the nose of this wine. The mouthfeel is luminous with high energy and salinity, along with mouthwatering lime blossom, white grapefruit and fennel. Lolonis Vineyard is a prized site that yields a captivating

expression of old-vine Sauvignon Blanc. Pair with steamed mussels and garlic aioli. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

95 Saracina 2023 Lolonis Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Merry Edwards Winery 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). This decadent and fleshy barrel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc delivers a pop of fresh Meyer lemon, lime, linen and citrus blossom aromas on the nose. The palate offers fresh acidity with some heft and flavors of lemon zest, fresh grass, ginger and melon. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Merry Edwards Winery 2023 Meredith Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Aromas of lime zest, tart pineapple, lemon balm and white flowers jump from the glass on the nose of this energetic wine that was partially fermented in amphora. The palate delivers mouthwatering acidity with waves of citrus and floral flavors before a high-toned finish that vibrates for ages. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

93 Stone Edge Farm 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This complex Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon delivers aromas of zesty lemon, nectarine, candied ginger and honeysuckle on the nose. The palate brings waves of vibrant acidity with flavors of white cherry, sage and lemon pith that swell and recede across the finish. Brilliant now, this will certainly age gracefully in the cellar. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

93 Thievery 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This wine is rich and supple, with aromas of Clementine orange, pink grapefruit, baked apple and dried herbs on the nose. Flavors on the palate are substantial, evoking white grapefruit, peach and pear layered with spice and sedimentary rock on the finish. It leaves you wanting another sip and a spot to enjoy the sunshine. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

92 Cuvaision 2023 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Carneros). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

92 Lava Cap 2024 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (El Dorado). Zesty and lifted aromatics evoke green papaya, honeydew melon, citrus zest and dried coriander on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate are sweet lime segments, pineapple, grapefruit, white peach and savory herbs, layered with high acidity and juicy finish. Pair with spicy shrimp papaya salad. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$26

92 Lewis 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). A complex of citrus blossom and zest aromas carry into flavors of ripe pear sprinkled with

spice. This wine is richly flavored while mouthwatering and full of length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

92 Stephen Ross 2024 Trestle Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (San Luis Obispo Coast). Vibrant aromas of guava peel and cut grass meet with a piquant kick of jalapeño zest on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling. The palate is tense in structure, presenting lime zest and green apple flavors against a wet-sidewalk minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$32

91 Alma de Cattleya 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Punchy aromas of lime and gooseberry jump from the glass of this cool-climate wine. Flavors of fresh-cut flowers, lemon pith and grass linger on a palate with hard-charging acidity and a finish redolent of pithy lime. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Carmel Road Winery 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This wine is bright, with aromas of citrus, green papaya, pineapple, dried herbs and honeycomb on the nose. The flavors on the palate are quince, white nectarine and pomelo zest interwoven with dried bay laurel, Himalayan salt and a dry, supple finish. Pair with procioutto-wrapped Charantais melon. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$18

91 Gundlach Bundschu 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Coast). This bright and focused wine delivers aromas of grapefruit, white flowers and a touch of capsicum on the nose. The food-friendly palate delivers plush acidity and flavors of lime peel, ginger and candied lemon. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

91 Navigator 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). Lively aromas evoke ocean breezes, candied citrus rind, caramel apple and white flowers on the nose. Undulating flavors of orange marmalade and lime zest are speckled with clove and mineral on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Valravn 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma). This is big, fruit-driven and energetic Sauvignon Blanc. Aromas of grapefruit, white flowers and candied lemon peel jump from the glass on the nose. Ripe, juicy mixed-citrus flavors along with grass and a hint of jalapeño drive the palate before a fruity and acidic finish. Great value here. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

91 Wrath Wines 2024 EX Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Zeitlos 2022 Stonestreet Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Alexander Valley). Bright and lively aromas of grapefruit, gooseberry and cut grass dominate the nose of this high-elevation Sauvignon Blanc. The palate delivers pithy citrus, sage and

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lemon blossom aromas that echo across the powerfully structured finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

90 AJA Vineyards 2023 Eds' Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Malibu Coast). One of the few remaining vineyards in this wildfire-scarred appellation, this wine from a vineyard named after the proprietor's grandfathers Edward and Edwin shows apple, citrus and mossy earth aromas on the nose. The palate pairs dried lime, apple and green-chile flavors atop a smooth texture. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Artesa 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Refreshing and energetic, this wine features a cascade of lime, sweet orange and citrus blossom. Crisp, bright and charming. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$25

90 Austin Hope 2024 Cellar Select Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). A golden hue in the glass, this bottling is a smoother style of Sauvignon Blanc than what's typically found in this region, showing apple and lemon sorbet aromas. The palate is creamy in texture, offering green and yellow apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Benziger Family Winery 2024 Paradiso De Maria Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Mountain). This wine is all about freshness, with aromas of lemon, lime, wildflowers and cut grass that swirl on the nose. The palate feels almost weightless, with energetic acidity, lively citrus flavors and a soft, easy finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$43

90 Imagery Estate Winery 2024 Wow Oui Sauvignon Blanc (Pine Mountain-Cloverdale Peak). This easy-drinking, high-elevation wine brings fresh lemon-lime aromas on the nose. It shows supple acidity on the palate, with flavors of pithy lemon and white flowers that amplify all along the finish. Drink this with halibut ceviche. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$38

90 Penny Island 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 Ross Ranch and Vineyards 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Knights Valley). This light and bright stainless-steel-aged wine gives fresh grapefruit, cut grass and white flowers on the nose. The palate brings energetic acidity, lively lime and herbal flavors that soften across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Round Pond Estate 2024 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford). Bright, zesty and tropical aromatics join flavors of sweet citrus and pith through an enlivening finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Tamber Bey 2023 Lambentz Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Fresh lemon blossoms and herbs lift from the glass leading into this energetic wine with a silken mouthfeel. Pithy and mouthwatering. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$42

89 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (California). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

89 Pedroncelli Winery 2024 Giovanni & Giulia Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). This crisp and floral wine brings lively tropical pineapple and papaya aromas on the nose. Fresh lime zest, white flowers and grassy notes emerge on the palate before a clean, citrus-driven finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Second Cheapest Wine 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

GRENACHE BLANC

92 Kaleidos 2023 Grenache Blanc (El Pomar District). Quite bold on the nose, this bottling opens with vivid aromas of peach, tangerine and grapefruit. The palate is lively and tense, pairing stone fruit and fresh citrus into a very enjoyable experience. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$39

91 Epiphany 2023 Rodney's Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Pithy citrus rind and wet clay aromas make for nose that's both sharp and earthy on this bottling. The palate is tense with a tart, lime-like freshness that carries acid-driven energy deep through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 French Bliss 2024 Grenache Blanc (Alexander Valley). This bright and high-toned wine delivers aromas of tart pineapple, stone fruit and flowers on the nose. The palate is acid driven, with loads of floral character, mouthwatering acidity and a bit of phenolic grip on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

VIOGNIER

94 Jacuzzi 2023 Clarum Viognier (Petaluma Gap). Punchy aromas of tangerine and orange blossom dominate the nose of this amphora-fermented Viognier. The palate delivers on all the citrusy promise, enhanced by peach, a pithy, salty grip and intense acidity that evolves and lingers along the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Kendric Vineyards 2023 Proprietor Grown Viognier (Petaluma Gap-Marin County). On the nose, this wine offers fresh and lively aromas of

white peach, yellow apple, white grapefruit, white flowers, beeswax and honeysuckle. On the palate, it skates into flavors of quince, baking spice, mineral and sunshine. —T.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$28

92 Anaba 2023 Landa Vineyard Viognier (Sonoma Valley). This classic Viognier delivers bright floral notes and peach fruit aromas on the nose. The bright and buoyant palate offers flavors of nectarine, crushed green herbs, honeysuckle and a finish redolent of salted lemon peel. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

92 Fess Parker 2023 Rodney's Vineyard Viognier (Santa Barbara County). Always one of the better Viogniers from the region, this vintage begins with a stone-inflected nose that's layered in crisp apple, lemon balm and light yogurt aromas. The palate evolves from lemon wedge and grapefruit into richer stone fruit and creamier textures by the finish. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

PINOT GRIGIO

92 Akira 2023 Pinot Grigio (California). This is a lovely selection for the Zero Sugar wine category. Aromas are crisp and lively, with citrus zest, kiwi and melon on the nose. It's high energy on the palate, with flavors of mandarin orange, dried apricot, white pepper and mouthwatering salinity. Pair with fresh oysters on the half shell. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

92 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Pinot Grigio (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

92 J Vineyards 2023 Pinot Gris (California). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$21

91 J Vineyards & Winery 2023 Estate Pinot Gris (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

91 Monte Volpe 2023 Pinot Grigio (Potter Valley). Lush aromas of apple, pineapple and nectarine are layered with white flowers, acacia honey and creamy vanilla on the nose of this wine. High acidity mixes with flavors of citrus, peach and dried herbs, with a mineral, dry finish. Pair with hard cheeses and spiced cured meats. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

VERMENTINO

91 Jacuzzi 2023 Vermentino (Los Carneros). Bright, zippy and floral, the nose of this wine gives aromas of white flowers, tart pineapple and beeswax. The palate delivers flavors of pithy lemon,

waxy tangerine and a lovely phenolic grip along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Lava Cap 2024 Vermentino (El Dorado). Zippy and lively aromatics convey kiwi, green guava, honeydew melon, yellow apple, white tea and fresh dill on the nose of this wine. Flavors suggest orange slices, pink grapefruit, apricot, bay leaf and mineral throughout the midpalate, leaving a juicy, mouthwatering finish. Pair with fried smelts. —T.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$26

91 Monte Volpe 2023 Vermentino (Mendocino County). This cool vintage in Mendocino has produced zesty, mineral-driven white wines, especially from Italian varieties. Kissed by the sun and touched by ocean breezes, this wine rested in a barrel for nuance and texture. Lifted aromas of candied citrus, apple and jasmine arise on the nose. Flavors convey stone fruits and brown sugar layered with grapefruit rind and sedimentary rock, leaving a dry, supple finish. Pair with creamy seafood pasta. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

ALBARIÑO

95 Moon Tears 2023 Brisat Albariño (Lake County). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

94 Moon Tears 2023 Albariño (Lake County). This wine is vibrant, with aromas of orange blossom, Meyer lemon, guava and notes of mineral on the nose. The flavors on the palate are white peach, white grapefruit and dried coriander, layered with sedimentary rock, spearmint and a dry, juicy and mouthwatering finish. “Moon Tears” refers to semiprecious stones found in Lake County. Pair with stuffed baked sardines. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Brace and Bit 2023 Aloria Vineyard Albariño (Sierra Foothills). In this delectable and characteristic Albariño, aromas suggest Golden Delicious apple, citrus, white peach, mineral and fresh herbs on the nose. Flavors on the palate are pear, green apple, citrus zest and wintergreen, with lively acidity on the finish. Pair with grilled calamari steak and Israeli couscous. —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

90 Kaleidos 2023 Albariño (El Pomar District). Clean aromas of Asian pear and melon rind make for a fresh entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate is smooth in texture, offering poached apple, canned pear and citrus rind flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$39

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Lussier 2023 Old Vines Green Valley Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Solano County Green Valley). For this bottling, the winemaker incorporated whole-cluster fermentation and aging in used and

new French barrels. The outcome is a multilayered composition of fresh herbs, citrus skin, white flowers and saline goodness on the nose. Flavors on the palate are elegant and rich, suggesting Meyer lemon, white nectarine, grilled orange slices and cilantro, with a sumptuous, long finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

94 Pellegrini-Olivet Lane 2023 White Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

93 Centennial Mountain 2021 Carricante (Sonoma). This refreshing and zesty blend of Pinot Grigio and Malvasia delivers aromas of mixed citrus and fresh flowers on the nose. The focused palate brings loads of lemon, lime and pomelo, plus chalky minerality and a pithy, floral finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$49

93 Three Sticks Wines 2023 Durell Vineyard Pinot Blanc (Sonoma Coast). This mineral-laden wine delivers aromas of green pear, river rock and white flowers on the nose. The palate pops with vibrant acidity, a good touch of grip and flavors of pineapple sage, pithy lime and lemon balm along the finish. Absolutely charming. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

92 Anarchist Wine Co. 2023 The Anarchist Grüner Veltliner (Mokelumne River). This is an enjoyable wine either with food or for just kicking back. Aromatics are bright and rich, with a concentration of white nectarine, peach, baked apple and honeysuckle. The palate gallops into white grapefruit, tangerine, turmeric, lifted acidity and a mouthwatering finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$26

92 Bouchaine 2023 Estate Riesling (Carneros-Napa Valley). Citrus blossoms and honeysuckle aromatics twist into flavors of citrus zest, fruit and a pithy, long finish. Aged in both clay amphora and stainless steel, this Riesling is both textural and crisply mouthwatering. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$45

92 Calera 2023 Chenin Blanc (Cienega Valley). Clean and quite aromatic, this bottling hits the nose with bountiful waves of lemon, dried orange and tangerine peel, with hints of hot sand and light wool. The palate is firm and lightly tart, offering pear and citrus flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

92 LangeTwins 2024 North River Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Mokelumne River). Vibrant aromatics of peach and papaya are top notes on the nose of this wine, followed by orange blossom and mineral. The palate offers layers of apricot, pink grapefruit and dried herbs, with sedimentary rock and a dry, mouthwatering finish. Pair with tuna tartare and whipped wasabi avocado. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

91 Epiphany 2023 Camp Four Vineyard Roussanne (Santa Barbara County). Tangerine spray and green apple aromas make for a zesty nose on this notoriously oily grape variety. The palate shows a bit more richness with flavors of toasted almond, but they too are cut by citrus and apple elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30

91 Epiphany 2023 Rodney's Vineyard Marsanne (Santa Barbara County). Hearty aromas of toasted nut meet with lemon peel and wool on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture, offering lime zest and grapefruit pith flavors, making the most of a tough variety. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

91 Portalupi Wine Co. 2023 Arneis (Mendocino). An Italian grape variety, Arneis is rarely grown in the U.S. This bottling is a California spin on the profile but offers a glimpse of the native expression. Notes of pear, baking spice and candied citrus arise on the nose. The palate has supple stone fruit, tangerine zest, honeycomb and a dry finish. Pair with Parmesan risotto. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$36

90 Bouchaine 2023 Estate Gewürztraminer (Carneros-Napa Valley). Floral and sweetly spiced, this Gewürztraminer delivers the aromatic richness of the variety, with fleshy texture. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

90 Détente 2023 Experimental Series #005 Colburn Vineyard Pedro Ximénez (Adelaida District). This core grape to traditional Spanish sherries isn't often made in a still style, or at all, in California, but it's fascinating and unique enough to earn more attention. Aromas of beeswax, bitter almond and lemon peel lead from the nose into a waxy palate of dried apricot and nutty almond flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

WHITE BLENDS

94 Donelan 2021 Venus Roussanne-Viognier (Bennett Valley). Whispers of flint and almond mingle with aromas of white flowers, concentrated nectarine and citrus mélange on the nose of this Roussanne-dominated blend. The palate is an energetic powerhouse, with flavors of salted Meyer lemon, apple, hazelnut, orange blossom and ginger that linger forever along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$60

93 Anarchist Wine Co. 2023 The Anarchist Outré Blend White Blend (California). Who could have thought that this kitchen sink of aromatic white-wine grapes would blend so well together? This bottling shows well-integrated aromas of white flowers, honeysuckle, citrus zest and stone fruits, topped with mineral and dried herbs. The palate leads into fresh saltwater taffy, lime skin, orange

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segments and a refreshing, lively and mineral finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$26

93 Bouchaine 2023 Alsatian Blend White Blend (Los Carneros). This blend of Gewürztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris delivers a complex of fleshy, full-bodied texture, floral aromatics and flavors of crisp apples with a squeeze of citrus. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 Anarchist Wine Co. 2023 Stream of Consciousness White Blend (California). This wine is a riff on a classic blend, with Sauvvy B cozying up with Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer. Racy, bright acidity plus loads of citrus, guava, pineapple and green herbs arise on the nose. The palate conveys softer nuances of peach, yellow plum and white grapefruit, with white pepper on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$24

92 BuonGuido 2023 Mezzogiorno White Blend (Sonoma). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

90 Farmhouse 2023 White Blend (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Hearst Ranch Winery 2023 Three Sisters Cuvée White Blend (Central Coast). The nose on this bottling is incredibly floral, offering jasmine, tuberose and ripe pear aromas. The palate is similarly aggressive on those fronts, with vivid plumeria and poached pear flavors most prevalent. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$32

SPARKLING WINES

100 Roederer Estate 2019 L'Ermitage Brut Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 2. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$80

97 Roederer Estate 2019 L'Ermitage Brut Rosé Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$115

96 Roederer Estate 2020 Apple Alley Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 4. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$55

95 Rhys Vineyards NV Perpetual Reserve Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (California). Super youthful, this wine offers aromas of crisp red apple, Asian pear, jasmine and yeasty brioche on the nose. The mousse is firm yet creamy, with flavors of orange sherbet, baked plum, Pop Rocks candy, baking spices and a dry, mineral finish. It is blended with fruit from the 2016 to 2021 vintages. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$105

95 Domaine Carneros 2017 Le Reve Sparkling Blend (Carneros). In this wine, enticing aromas of toasted brioche lead to a crisp palate of green apple with a squeeze of lemon chased by crème brûlée zested with tangerine. Caramel-covered crisp apple emerges through a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$128

93 Baldacci Family Vineyards 2021 Pops Champagne Blend (Los Carneros). Aromas of lemon cream spread on toast lift from the glass of this sparkling wine, turning into creamy flavors of apples and tart stone fruits. A sprinkle of sea salt emerges through a long, savory finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Domaine Carneros 2019 Ultra Brut Sparkling Blend (Carneros). This wine offers pleasing complexity carried by an incredibly crisp finish. Zesty aromatics combine with flavors of sweet melon and blanched almond. Refreshing, satisfying and lengthy. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$52

93 Domaine Carneros 2018 Late Disgorged Brut Sparkling Blend (Carneros). Crushed hazelnut and pecan, citrus blossoms and honeycomb swirl from the nose into the palate of this wine, with flavors of alpine berries and honey pastry. Depth combines with a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

93 Portalupi Wine Co. 2023 Arrossire di Barbera (Mendocino). Aromatics of this wine convey juicy Bing cherry, yellow plum, strawberry shortcake, brioche and florals on the nose. The mousse is firm with tiny bubbles. Flavors on the palate are red currant, red plum, watermelon, orange sherbet and saline, with a dry, mouthwatering finish. Pair with charcuterie and creamy cheese. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

93 Samuel Louis Smith 2021 Pelio Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Monterey). A light hay color in the glass, this extra brut bottling begins with aromas of lime balm, white flowers, sifted chalk and the slightest hint of cheese rind on the nose. The palate snaps with citrusy flavors from grapefruit skin to lime pith, as sparks of white pepper add intriguing depth. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$70

92 Pellegrini-Olivet Lane 2022 Sparkling Red Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This wine is made with carbonic maceration and the Charmat method. The result is a fruity wine with concentrated cherry, strawberry and black tea aromas on the nose and palate, with a touch of grippy tannin and energetic bubbles. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$55

91 Domaine Carneros 2021 Brut Sparkling Blend (Carneros). A constellation of crisp orchard fruits and lightly squeezed citrus join flavors of softly spiced, buttered toast. Crisp acidity and a

succulent mouthfeel carry this wine into a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$39

91 J Vineyards NV California Cuvée Sparkling Blend (California). For full review see page 14.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Sosie Wines 2022 Bare Necessity Sparkling Rosé (Bennett Valley). This sparkling rosé of Syrah delivers aromas of cherry pit, grapefruit and strawberry on the nose. The palate has bright lemony acidity, pithy orange, Rainier cherry and subtle meaty flavors that linger on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$45

ROSÉS

94 Red Car 2024 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This extra-pale, almost golden, rosé delivers a striking nose with aromas of white cherry, orange blossom and river rock. The palate has focused minerality and flavors of stone fruit, lemon and white flowers. All summer long, baby! —T.R.C.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$30

93 Frequency 2024 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Barbara County). The nose on this bottling is vibrant, showing rose petal, light strawberry and raspberry aromas. The palate sizzles with persistent acidity and verve, giving an electric vibe to the fresh pink fruit and citrus pith flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$37

93 Imagery Estate Winery 2024 Aleatico Rosé (Sonoma Valley). This charming rosé of Aleatico bursts from the glass with aromas of roasted berries, rose petals and tangerines on the nose. The palate delivers lively acidity and enough structure to handle a wide range of foods or just relax near the beach. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Mathis 2024 Mathis Vineyard Rosé of Grenache (Sonoma Valley). This soft-pink-hued wine offers bright floral aromas alongside a punchy hit of citrus and peach. The palate delivers all of that, plus berry freshness and enough richness to pair with grilled veggies and salmon. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

91 AJA Vineyards 2023 Wildflower Rosé (Paso Robles). A mineral-driven streak of damp earth and stone on the nose of this bottling opens up toward rose petal, tangerine peel and melon rind aromas. The palate is also pleasantly earthy, like licking chiseled marble, while light pink and orange fruit flavors add warmth. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$37

91 Anarchist Wine Co. 2023 Rosé Against the Machine Rosé (Mokelumne River). This producer understands the art of creating a tasty glass of wine for everyone. Salmon hued, this wine offers aromatics of papaya, raspberry, watermelon, cantaloupe and cumin on the nose. Flavors of strawberry

jam, blood orange zest, peach pit, cinnamon and sedimentary rock are layered throughout the finish. Pair with melon salad or fish tacos. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$23

91 **Détente 2024 Colburn Vineyard Rosé of Grenache (Adelaida District).** Bubblegum and watermelon aromas join hints of cherry-orange sorbet on the joyous nose of this bottling. There's spry energy to the palate, where candied cherry and strawberry flavors ride bright acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 **Eberle Winery 2024 Cotes-du-Robles Rosé of Grenache (Paso Robles).** This is a bold style of rosé, and always one of the crowd-pleasers for Paso wine lovers on a warm summer day. Aromas of cherry, bubblegum and orange sorbet lead from the nose into a palate where strawberry soda pop flavors are cut by a firm tension. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

91 **Gust 2024 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** This pale-peach-colored rosé is bouncing with floral energy on the nose. The palate packs a wallop of juicy citrus and stone fruit flavors, a whisper of grippy tannin, and mouthwatering acidity. The wine will show beautifully with lemongrass grilled prawns. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Hearst Ranch Winery 2024 Julia Rosé (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 14. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 **Kaleidos 2023 Rosé of Grenache (Paso Robles).** Damp stone and soil aromas meet with muddled stone fruit and ripe melon on the nose of this bottling. The palate clings to a rocky, earthy flavor range, with hints of red fruit and orange peel arising by the midpalate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

91 **Lava Cap 2024 Rosé (El Dorado).** On the nose of this wine, juicy aromatics include raspberry, red plum, blood orange zest and crushed herbs. The flavors on the palate are wild strawberry, yellow plum and dried apricot, interwoven with dried bay laurel and mineral on the finish. Pair with salmon or avocado toast. —T.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$26

91 **Moret-Brealyynn 2024 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Darkly hued rosés are not the trendy thing, but this bottling is a strong argument otherwise. A light shade of magenta in the glass, it offers hibiscus, cherry and juicy berry aromas on the nose. There's ample texture to the palate, where cranberry, pomegranate and more hibiscus flavors arise. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30

91 **Pedroncelli Winery 2024 Bushnell Vineyard Rosé (Dry Creek Valley).** This soft-pink rosé of Zinfandel delivers pretty aromas of peach, straw-

berry and white flowers on the nose, giving way to fresh tangerine, berry and white pepper on the palate. It's a clean and fresh style that's great for pool-side sipping or with grilled veggies. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22

90 **Banshee 2023 Rosé (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$28

90 **Lynmar Estate 2024 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This supple and easygoing wine delivers a nose full of fresh peach, raspberry and white flower aromas. The palate has really soft texture, lively acidity and bright tangerine and melon flavors that echo along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

90 **Wente Vineyards 2024 Riva Ranch Rosé of Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** A pale pink in the glass, this bottling shows baby powder and light peach aromas on the nose. The palate is tightly wound enough to balance the cherry and orange sorbet flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 **Big Dog Vineyards 2023 Zula Mae Vineyard Rosé (Amador County).** This deep-hued rose offers aromas of orange marmalade, peach, dried herbs and minerals on the nose. The flavors on the palate are strawberry, raspberry fruit cup and herbs, with silky tannins to finish. Pair with a spicy shrimp po'boy sandwich. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

89 **Sofia 2024 Rosé (Monterey County).** Bold aromas of strawberry and cherry are prominent yet pleasant on the nose of this wine. The palate is creamy and rich, showing cherry syrup flavors that are appealing if aggressive. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 **Mengler Family Wines 2023 Notre vue Vineyards Rosé of Syrah (Russian River Valley).** This richly extracted rosé is deep orange-pink in color, with aromas of raspberry, baked fig and white flowers on the nose. The palate delivers rich structure and flavors of nectarine, spiced strawberry and lemon balm. This wine will show best with grilled salmon. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$28

88 **Midnight Cellars 2024 Luna Rosé (Paso Robles).** Generous aromas of watermelon and tangerine sorbet show on the nose of this wine, which also has a stony kick. The palate is rounded in strawberry flavors that seem almost sweet. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$29

PINOT NOIR

100 **Wentworth 2023 Wentworth Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** For full review see page 2. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$125

98 **Wentworth 2023 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$78

97 **Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70

97 **Marbeso 2023 Our Lady of Guadalupe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Rounded and creamy aromas of strawberry and raspberry sorbet are dusted in pepper, thyme and crushed stone on the lavish nose of this bottling. The palate sizzles with acidity and peppery spices, as the lush raspberry curd and pomegranate juice core proves vivid deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$58

97 **Melville 2023 Terraces Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** The brilliantly fresh and deliciously fascinating nose on this bottling pops with raspberry, cherry, sumac, pepper and French-toast spice aromas. The palate layers dank herb and sansho pepper flavors into waves of raspberry, strawberry and sour cherry, staying mouthwatering the entire time. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$78

96 **Alfaro Family 2023 Trout Gulch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Lovely and engaging aromas of bright cherry and hibiscus float above a lingering sense of damp earth on the nose of this bottling. The texture is very tense on the palate, as brilliantly fresh cherry flavors are cut by wet riverstone elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

96 **Farm Cottage 2023 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This appellation blend begins with a stunning nose of vivid raspberry and polished gravel aromas. The palate is zesty and fresh, showing vibrant raspberry and pomegranate flavors that are cut by peppercorn spice and a stony minerality, staying dry while bright into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

96 **Goldeneye 2022 Ten Degrees Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Scents of sea air combine with fresh, laser-focused red plum, dried herbs, citrus, toasty oak and potpourri on the nose of this wine. The flavors on the palate are the first-of-the-summer raspberries and strawberry-rhubarb, tossed with herbs, pink grapefruit zest and dry, silky tannins. Decant to drink now, or cellar until 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$135

96 **Goldeneye 2021 Gowan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Wild, lush aromas of black strawberry, plum and boysenberry have lavish notes of dried bay laurel, orange blossom honey and vanilla bean on the nose of this wine. Rounding out the palate are tart cranberry, red currant, grapefruit zest and allspice, layered with earth and dry tannins on the finish. This wine is still a baby, but it is lovely

BUYINGGUIDE

with some aeration. Drink now or cellar until 2034. **Hidden Gem.** —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$90

96 Kosta Browne 2022 Bootlegger's Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Lavish aromas of crushed cherries and strawberries come into focus on the nose of this Pinot. The palate brings flavors of condensed raspberry, cocoa, flowers and sweet shiitake that linger and dance on the finish. While delicious now, this wine should be cellared for five years or more. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$220

96 Kosta Browne 2022 Treehouse Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this rich but ethereal Pinot delivers focused aromas of Bing cherry, fried shiitake, Darjeeling tea and orange peel on the nose. The palate offers deep, brooding flavors of fresh raspberry, cherry juice, roses, cedar, cocoa powder and cinnamon, with a considerable lift of orange peel acidity along the back. Best from 2030–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$220

96 Kosta Browne 2021 Treehouse Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Beautifully ripe aromas of Bing cherry, crushed raspberry and violets erupt from the glass on the nose of this Pinot. The palate unfolds in waves. Layers of cherry, mixed berry, cinnamon, purple flowers and cocoa powder mingle across a framework of plush tannin and orange peel acidity. Beautiful now, this wine will age for at least a decade. **Editor's Choice.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$210

96 Lussier 2022 Signal Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). From a high-elevation vineyard site, this wine offers concentrated and focused aromas on the nose, with layers of dark cherry, damson plum, blackberry, coriander, dried florals and maple butter. The palate shines with a purity of red fruits, evoking black strawberry, tart red plum, pomegranate, clove, orange zest and Himalayan salt to create a sultry finish. Decant and enjoy until 2035. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

96 Masút 2023 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eagle Peak). Opulent aromas of pomegranate, raspberry, cardamom and Tahitian vanilla oil are prominent on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate say “drink me now,” with bountiful red berries, Bing cherries and black tea. Racy acidity and lip-smacking tannins enhance the finish. Decant, drink or cellar until 2030. Pair with roasted bacon-wrapped monkfish. **Editor's Choice.** —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

96 Melville 2023 Anna's Block Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A fascinating conversation is happening between herbal tones (such as bay leaf and pine needle) and zesty fruits (like strawberry and cherry) on the engaging nose of this block-des-

ignated bottling. Incense and cedar flavors enliven the palate's raspberry and cranberry core. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$74

96 Melville 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling is fresh while candied on the nose, offering aromas of raspberry and strawberry alongside pot-pourri and subtle herbs. The palate's array of flavors is impressive, showing tart strawberry, sansho pepper and wild thyme elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$44

96 Melville 2023 Sandy's Block Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A lighter hue in the glass, this wine entices the nose with bay leaf, sage and nori aromas that give so much depth to tart currant and smashed cranberry elements. The palate turns that into raspberry, tea leaf and eucalyptus flavors that finish on a warmer vanilla tone, deftly showing fruit, herb, spice and savory components at once. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$74

95 Alfaro Family 2023 Lindsay Paige Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Cranberry and cherry aromas are cut by sage, thyme and chipped flint on the nose of this bottling. There's a nice kick of acidity on the palate, where red apple and cherry Starburst flavors are dusted in crushed rock, toasted chaparral and anise elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

95 Blue Farm 2022 Farmhouse Pinot Noir (Carneros). For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$95

95 Donelan 2021 Two Brothers Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). This elegant and aromatic Pinot erupts from the glass with aromas of concentrated black cherry, purple flowers, cinnamon and orange peel on the nose. The palate displays impeccable balance between rich tannin and electric acidity, with flavors of raspberry, clove and Darjeeling tea that blossom along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

95 Farm Cottage 2023 Trout Gulch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Maraschino cherry and strawberry pie aromas are lifted by hints of cola and an earthy pinch of thyme on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling by Ryan Alfaro. The strawberry and cherry plot picks up chaparral-spice twists alongside a concrete-dust minerality, each aspect applied judiciously. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$54

95 Folktales 2023 Whole Cluster Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey). For full review see page 4.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Kosta Browne 2022 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Potent but clean aromas of black cherry, cola float and intense rose extract show on the enticing nose of this appellation cuvée. The palate retains a firm textural edge amidst a soft, envel-

oping mouthfeel, as lovely flavors of raspberry and chai spice make for a bold yet balanced sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$120

95 Kosta Browne 2021 Bootlegger's Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This decadent Pinot delivers aromas of ripe cherry, crunchy cranberry, rose petals and cinnamon on the nose. The palate displays rich tannin, with electric acidity and juicy flavors of crushed cherry and raspberry with echoes of cola spice, espresso and rose petals lingering across the finish. Tasty now, this will improve with a few years in the cellar. Drink 2030–2045. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$210

95 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

95 Lynmar Estate 2023 AMDG Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$85

95 Melville 2023 Block M Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Vivid and exotic aromas of Surinam cherry, black tea, sumac and black peppercorn engage the nose on this block-designated bottling. The palate is energetic and brisk, pairing strawberry with elegant mace and star anise flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$78

95 Merry Edwards Winery 2022 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine is bright but rich, with aromas of cranberry-strawberry, blood orange, dried herbs and rose petal on the nose. The flavors on the palate are pomegranate, white grapefruit and Bing cherry interwoven with sage, clove, dried tobacco leaf and a long, supple finish. Decant and enjoy with roasted Cordon Bleu chicken. —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

95 Merry Edwards Winery 2022 Dach Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine is rich, with aromas of brandied cherry, red plum, orange marmalade and dried rose petal on the nose. Flavors on the palate are bramble raspberry, cranberry-strawberry coulis, dried fennel and pink grapefruit zest, joined with white pepper, allspice and dry, long finish. Hold or decant until 2034. Pair with grilled lamb chops and gremolata. —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

95 Meyer Family Cellars 2023 The AV Way Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Aromatics on the nose of this wine are red berry, pine needle and coriander, with notes of maple, portobello mushroom and toasted oak. Flavors on the palate evoke youthful raspberry, Bing cherry, orange zest and dried herbs, with a super-dry finish. The name refers to the location of the vineyards on the road, which is said to embody the essence of Anderson Valley. Aerate, drink or cellar until 2032. **Hidden Gem.** —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45

95 Native 9 2021 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). From ninth-generation Californian James Ontiveros comes this lovesong to the Santa Maria Valley farming culture that his family pioneered. Regionally familiar aromas of rustic sagebrush and gamy leather meet with a pristine cherry liqueur line on the nose. The palate is awash in savory thyme and fennel pollen flavors that elevate the strawberry and orange peel fruit tones. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$76

95 Nicholson Ranch 2021 NIRVANA Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Ripe aromas of cherry, raspberry and licorice jump from the glass on the nose of this robust Pinot. The palate brings plush tannin, orange peel acidity and flavors of Bing cherry, raspberry, cola spice and black tea that soften gradually along the finish. Delicious now, this will benefit from a little time in the cellar to soften. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$115

95 Pali Wine Co. 2021 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Deep, dark and bold, this bottling begins with aromas of black cherry and caramel on the juicy, rich and comforting nose. The palate proves both hefty and jammy, pairing strawberry and cherry flavors with splashes of oak and spicy herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

95 Senses 2023 Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of cherry, spiced raspberry and violets waft from the glass on the nose of this sultry native-fermented Pinot Noir. The palate brings an energetic punch of salty plum, berry, cinnamon and clove flavors that reverberate across an exceedingly long finish. Sexy stuff! —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

94 Anaba Wines 2022 Felix Hunter Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of cranberry, Bing cherry, spiced fig and cocoa powder drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings fresh, energetic acidity, crushed raspberry and toasty spice flavors, with velvety tannins and a long, floral finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$74

94 Anaba Wines 2022 Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This bright and aromatic Pinot delivers aromas of crushed Bing cherry, fresh raspberry, Darjeeling tea and cocoa powder on the nose. The palate gives waves of bright cherry, barrel spice and roasted shiitake flavors that lift off along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$74

94 Anaba Wines 2022 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This softly colored Pinot displays lovely aromas of dried cherry, cranberry, cedar and cinnamon on the nose. The palate brings flavors of shiitake, Darjeeling tea, plum skin and rose petal that echo across a long finish. Best from 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74

94 Carpe Diem 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). The dynamics of the nose on this wine reveal crushed red berry, cranberry, umami and sweet oak as swirling top notes. The mouthfeel is juicy with mulberry, cranberry and citrus cream flavors, rushing into a dry but gravelly finish that makes the mouth water. Pair with roasted half-chicken and seasonal veggies. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

94 Daniel Wines 2022 Grand Vent Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This sumptuous native-fermented Pinot delivers punchy cherry, raspberry, sage and cinnamon aromas on the nose. The palate is broad and supple, with flavors of reduced cherry, berry pie, lemon peel and absolutely mouthwatering acidity in a framework of rich tannin. Best from 2030–2040. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

94 Fulcrum 2023 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone). From an appellation that always does well with age, this wine opens with hibiscus, white tea and pomegranate aromas on the nose. The palate is firmly textured with fine tannins that frame brisk pomegranate, hibiscus and potpourri flavors. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$74

94 Gary Farrell 2021 Lancel Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This rich, ageworthy wine brings aromas of crunchy Bing cherry, licorice and purple flowers on the nose. The palate has concentrated cherry and berry flavors with black tea, cocoa and spearmint touches that expand and contract along the finish. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Goldeneye 2022 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Although the vintage was cool, this classic expression of Pinot Noir is a red-berried, crushed-herb dynamo, with remnants of oolong black tea on the nose. Flavors of strawberry, blood orange zest and maple lead to a silky finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$62

94 Kosta Browne 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The nose of this wine jumps with aromas of concentrated Bing cherry, plum and dark cocoa. The palate displays generous tannin balanced by zippy acidity and flavors of berry coulis, sandalwood and shiitake. Rest this in the cellar for five to ten years and drink with roasted pork and mushrooms. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$120

94 Lussier 2022 Côte de Boont Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine comes from multiple high-elevation (900- to 2,640-foot) vineyards in the region, including fruit from Ridge Vineyards. The nose is succulent, with aromas of cherry confiture, amaro, amber, dried rose petals and dried green herbs. The palate highlights the spectrum of red fruits, including plum, Rainier cherry, liqueur-soaked cherry, clove-studded citrus and lip-smack-

ing tannins on the finish. Pair with roasted duck confit. —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45

94 Lussier 2022 Golden Fleece Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine is rich, with aromas of bramble raspberry, red plum, cinnamon and rose petal on the nose. Flavors on the palate are pomegranate, apricot jam and blood orange zest, sliding into dried sage, mineral and dry but juicy tannins. Hold or drink until 2034. Pair with whole grilled mackerel and sweet peppers. —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$56

94 Lussier 2022 Roma's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine is spicy, with aromas of Bing cherry, black strawberry jam, violet and notes of chicory on the nose. Flavors on the palate are raspberry, red currant coulis and peach, interwoven with orange zest, vanilla cream and a dry, supple finish. Hold or drink until 2034. Pair with duck cassoulet. —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$50

94 Moret-Brealyynn 2023 Lakeview Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Bright, lifted aromas of red cherry, spiced raspberry, cinnamon and roses pop on the nose of this wine. The palate sits deftly between raspberry-orange peel acidity, fresh florals, berry and cedar flavors, with just enough tannin for mid-term aging. But it's singing now, so go for it. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$72

94 Nicholson Ranch 2022 777 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This Pinot, crafted exclusively from Dijon 777 clone, bursts from the glass with aromas of baked cherry, cinnamon and orange zest. The palate displays beautifully focused flavors of cranberry, black plum, clove and cinnamon in a framework of velvety tannins. Best from 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$105

94 Pali Wine Co. 2021 Rancho La Viña Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). The cherry liqueur core on the nose of this bottling is deftly layered in hints of sandalwood and truffle. Baked strawberry and sour cherry pie show on the sip, dusted in complex touches of mace and cardamom, making for a deliciously flavorful palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

94 Samuel Louis Smith 2023 Montañita de Oro Pinot Noir (Monterey County). A lighter hue in the glass, this appellation-spanning blend of Pelio, Michaud and Double L vineyards offers cran-raspberry, brisk pomegranate, toasted sage and zesty white-pepper aromas on the nose. The palate's tart red-fruit flavors are cut by more spicy pepper elements and a touch of game. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Sarah's Vineyard 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley). Baked plum, cherry pie filling, clove and cardamom aromas make for a jubilant, slightly stewed fruit nose on this estate

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bottling. The palate is hearty and fresh, pairing boysenberry and black plum with chai and licorice flavors, all very well integrated. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

94 Senses 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This broad and opulent Pinot delivers classic flavors of baked cherry, raspberry, cedar and cola spice on the nose. The palate gives rich tannin, spicy berry fruit and loads of black tea and cinnamon, with a long and nervy finish that displays dynamic tension between tannic grip and orange peel acidity. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

94 Senses 2023 MCM88 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This elegant Pinot opens with distinctive aromas of cranberry, rose petals, cinnamon and Darjeeling tea. The palate offers vibrant acidity and supple tannin, with flavors of macerated Bing cherry, baking spices, sandalwood and cocoa dust. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$105

94 Stewart Cellars 2023 NOMAD Thornton Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This rich and punchy Pinot delivers aromas of roasted cherry, raspberry, cinnamon and rose petals on the nose. The palate brings a wave of bright Bing cherry and raspberry flavors, followed by black tea, potpourri and cinnamon across the finish, with vibrant acidity and enough tannin for mid-term aging. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2023 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Lavish aromas of raspberry coulis and cherry compote blossom on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers fresh, opulent berry flavors with notions of rose petal, sweet cinnamon and orange peel along the broad and textured finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Walt 2023 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Very rich aromas of black cherry compote and French-toast spices are very comforting and inviting on the nose of this bottling. Firm tannins wrap around the black cherry, cola and toasted herb flavors of the creamy palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

94 Walt 2023 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Lovely and fresh aromas of black raspberry, pomegranate and cherry sorbet are cut by toasted wood spice on the nose of this bottling. The brisk raspberry juice flavors of the palate are dusted in thyme, anise and pepper spices. Expect the components to align more with time. Drink now–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$85

93 Blue Farm 2022 Anne Katherina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros). Aromas of dusty cherry, spiced raspberry compote and sage lift the nose of this wine. The palate has dark, earthy energy, with flavors of Darjeeling tea, black plum,

orange peel and cinnamon that vibrate on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85

93 Blue Farm 2022 Riverbed Pinot Noir (Carneros). Punchy aromas of crushed Bing cherries, cinnamon stick, clove and black tea jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate has flavors of raspberry, cola and forest floor in a framework of velvety tannin and plush acidity. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Calera 2022 Jensen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan). Bouncy aromas of berry, game and juniper converge on the nose of this built-to-age bottling. Grippy, leathery tannins wrap around dried fruit and savory herb and meat flavors on the palate. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

93 CRU Winery 2022 Sierra Madre Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 DiPalermo 2023 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A darker hue in the glass, this wine from an extremely coastal site offers rich black cherry, baked fig, nutmeg and caramel aromas. The palate is rich and yet tense, pairing bold acidity with ripe cherry and deep spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Exprimere 2023 Mia Peake Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is the lighter half of this brand's winemaking exploration, in which the same grapes undergo differing treatments in the cellar. Transparent in hue, it reveals intriguing cranberry, rhubarb and orange peel aromas on the sanguine nose. The palate is firm yet bright, offering sour cherry, cranberry and more citrus flavors that would pair with everything from chicken and fish to barbecued meats. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$96

93 Exprimere 2023 Persey Peake Ranch Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's a sanguine earthiness to the nose of this bottling, giving savory depth to the cranberry and dried raspberry aromas. The palate pairs sagebrush and charcuterie flavors with more tart lines of orange peel and dried cranberry. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$96

93 Gracianna 2023 Bacigalupi Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of baked cherry, caramel and cocoa powder dominate the nose of this wine. The palate displays flavors of juicy black plum, cinnamon and cedar that echo along a minute-plus finish. Classic juice, pure fun. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$58

93 J. Dirt 2021 Duvarita Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). For hailing from a vineyard that's very close to the coast, this is a bold bottling, starting with ripe aromas of boysenberry jam, toasted spice and shaved oak. The palate pairs oak

and boysenberry with hints of pepper and lavender potpourri. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Estate Cuvée Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Lynmar Estate 2023 Hawk Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This rich and earthy Pinot delivers aromas of black cherry, cranberry, shiitake and Darjeeling tea on the nose. The palate brings plush texture and more forest floor, black plum and cinnamon flavors to the party before a lingering spice-scented finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$92

93 Nicholson Ranch 2022 Dry Farmed Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Punchy aromas of cherry pie filling, sweet cinnamon and cocoa powder drive the nose of this dry-farmed Pinot Noir. The palate carries that energy, with fruity berry flavors wrapped in barrel spice and a hint of earthy richness, plus plenty of tannin for a bit of aging. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$105

93 Paradise Springs 2023 Founders Block Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling from an iconic block of grapes offers cherry, fresh raspberry, light cola and subtle white pepper aromas on the nose. The palate is quite delicate, offering red fruit, cinnamon and clove flavors that will emerge steadily with patience. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$105

93 Rhys Vineyards 2022 Alpine Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Quite dark in the glass, this bottling is intense, offering baked cherry, dried berry, clove and nutmeg aromas on the nose. The palate is very spicy and oak driven, with chai, caramel and vanilla flavors enhancing the lushly layered baked-red-fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$125

93 Samuel Louis Smith 2023 Michaud Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone). Cranberry aromas on the nose of this bottling are layered in cedar, pine duff and dried mushroom scents on the complex nose of this bottling. Cherry, red currant and cranberry flavors are cut by graphite and sandalwood on the savory palate. This is a very young wine from an appellation that always benefits from age. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$65

93 Stewart Cellars 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A vibrant nose with aromas of raspberries, rose petals and cinnamon jumps from the glass of this Pinot Noir. The palate delivers a savory mélange of flowers, spice and crushed berry flavors that undulate along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 Terrigena 2018 Abbassi Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros). The nose of this Hungarian-oaked Pinot is loaded with aromas of cranberry, tart strawberry, licorice and herb mélange. The palate displays lively acidity and flavors of crushed cherry, spiced berry compote, cinnamon and orange peel that linger for a full minute. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$59

93 Tremolo 2023 667 Clone Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of tart cherry, cranberry and plum liqueur jump from the glass on the nose of this zesty wine. The palate delivers flavors of fresh raspberry, Darjeeling tea, pithy orange peel and cinnamon before an acid-driven finish with enough tannin for mid-term aging. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Valravn 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). Aromas of crushed Bing cherry, cranberry, cinnamon and rose petal drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of fresh raspberry, sage, orange peel and crushed herbs, with powdery-soft tannin and a vibrant streak of acid that energizes the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2023 Ueberroth Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of sour cherry, licorice and violets jump from the glass on the nose of this Pinot. The palate is energetic, even bracing, with flavors of black cherry, anise, cinnamon and orange peel. Zippy acidity and gripping tannin ebb and flow along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Walt 2023 La Brisa Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Focused aromas of cherries, raspberries and purple flowers erupt from the glass of this wine. The palate delivers waves of those flavors with plush tannin and orange peel acidity that lingers with echoes of flowers and spice. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Walt 2023 Sierra Mar Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A bit brisk on the nose at first, this wine's tangy pomegranate aromas open up toward sagebrush, thyme and peppercorn on the nose. The palate snaps with cranberry and bay leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

92 Anaba 2022 Pinot Noir (Carneros). Focused aromas of dense cherry, spiced raspberry, cedar and fried shiitake mingle on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers more cherry flavors, with the zest of orange peel, cinnamon, black tea and echoes of cedar across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$54

92 Anaba Wines 2022 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A bright color in the glass, this wine pops with raspberry, strawberry, sumac and rose-hibiscus tea aromas on the nose. The palate picks up black tea and black plum flavors, leading into a floral yet dense finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$74

92 Anaba Wines 2022 WestLands Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The nose of this energetic Pinot jumps with aromas of tart raspberry, forest floor and sweet cinnamon. On the palate, bright flavors of dusty cherry, purple flowers, sage and orange peel linger and linger. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$74

92 Boekenooogen 2022 3 Clone Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dark, plummy aromas are spiced by clove and star anise on the dense nose of this wine. The ample amount of oak on the palate works to bring depth and richness to the soothing baked plum and nutmeg flavors. —M.K.
abv: 4.6% **Price:** \$60

92 Bouchaine 2022 Dijon Clone Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Pert cranberry combines with just-brewed black tea, dried flowers and herbs. Palate-cleansing and textural tannins are carried by refreshing acidity and a lengthy mineral finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 Bouchaine 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). With the structure and flavor concentration to serve a savory combination of foods, this Pinot Noir combines crisp, dark fruits through a energetic, long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

92 Bouchaine 2022 Pommard Clone Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Lushly flavored and friendly, this wine showcases spiced red fruits and sarsaparilla with pleasing approachability and a generous palate. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

92 Gary Farrell 2021 Fort Ross Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). Vibrant aromas of cranberry, cinnamon and nori waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate has a wave of energetic orange peel acidity, supple tannins and flavors of black cherry, Darjeeling tea and cola spice. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$90

92 Jessup Cellars 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Super-concentrated aromas of cherry and raspberry liqueur and blackberry jam jump from the glass of this Pinot. The palate delivers a wallop of berry fruit and flower flavors with supple tannin and generous acidity across the finish of the wine. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

92 La Crema 2022 Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine jumps from the glass with aromas of cranberry, macerated cherry, cinnamon and orange peel. The palate has flavors of earthy mushroom, cola spice and black cherry along an energetic finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

92 Lynmar Estate 2022 Block 10 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This round and generous wine delivers ripe cherry-berry, orange peel and cinnamon aromas on the nose. The palate brings a

bit of elegant strawberry, with vibrant acidity and floral lift along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$92

92 Nicholson Ranch 2022 Cactus Hill Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of bright cranberry, chopped herbs, shiitake mushroom and star anise flow from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate brings rich tannin for aging and flavors of cinnamon, baked cherry, plum skin, cedar and violets that blossom over the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$100

92 Pali Wine Co. 2021 Pali Vineyard Clone 115 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Charred blackberry, singed sage and tree bark aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich and creamy in texture, pairing ripe fruit flavors with very strong spice tones. This clonal selection is clearly a bold one. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

92 Paradise Ridge 2022 Walters Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Concentrated aromas of raspberry and Bing cherry swirl on the nose of this Pinot. The palate brings a fresh and energetic vibe, with flavors of cherry candy, spiced plum, cola and rose petal that bounce along the finish of the wine. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

92 Paradise Springs 2023 Our Lady of Guadalupe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Fresh and snappy aromas of pomegranate and raspberry jam meet with thyme and marjoram on the nose of this bottling from a relatively new planting. The palate is a bit more shy, offering those tart cherry flavors against a wild-herb component. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$75

92 Paradise Springs 2023 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Joyous and juicy aromas of cherry, red berry and sagey herbs draw the nose into this bottling. There's a lightly savory funk to the palate, where game, black sage and bay leaf flavors give depth to the red current and darker berry core. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$75

92 Sarah's Vineyard 2023 Rancho La Viña Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley). Ripe yet tart aromas of blackberry, cherry and cranberry are intense while fresh on the nose of this bottling. The tense palate balances rounded cherry flavors with accents of cardamom and mace. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

92 Terrigena 2017 Seppa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This softly extracted Pinot delivers aromas of cranberry, black tea and nori on the nose. The palate brings flavors of crushed black cherry, earthy roasted mushroom and forest floor. On the finish, those earthy tones are elevated by the freshness of orange peel acidity. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$59

92 The Introvert 2023 Reserve Pinot Noir (California). This wine is bright, with aromas of Bing cherry, plum, peach, potpourri and toasted vanilla on the nose. Flavors on the palate evoke ripe strawberry, raspberry, orange marmalade, dried sage, molasses and grapefruit zest, with a spicy, long and juicy finish. Pair with grilled bison burger and sweet potato fries. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

92 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). This nimble and punchy Pinot delivers aromas of candied raspberry and cherry on the nose. Flavors of fresh strawberry, cinnamon and racy berry-lemon acidity juice up the finish. Drink this with roasted duck or other gamebirds with fruit compote. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Walt 2023 Bob's Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Focused aromas of dark cherry, raspberry and spice mingle on the nose of this wine. The palate is nimble and energetic, with flavors of fresh-crushed Bing cherry, Darjeeling tea, cinnamon and orange peel that resonate on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$100

91 Alma de Cattleya 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). On the nose of this wine, aromas convey fresh Bing cherry, concentrated raspberry, sweet cinnamon and black tea. The palate brings supple tannin and energetic acidity, with flavors of macerated cherry, spiced plum, cinnamon and orange peel along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Alta Orsa 2023 Slusser Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a spice-driven and aromatic Pinot, with lifted scents of roasted cherry, rose petal and cola spice on the nose. The palate delivers supple tannins, lively acidity and flavors of baked cherry pie, forest floor and black tea that ease into a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$43

91 Anaba Wines 2022 Las Brisas Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The nose of this wine jumps from the glass with aromas of bright raspberry and spearmint. The palate has flavors of crushed cherry, orange peel, cinnamon and more of that lifted mint tone that energizes the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

91 CRU Winery 2022 Regan Vineyards Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Handwritten Wines 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine is redolent of sour cherry, cranberry and purple flowers. The acid-driven palate displays layers of raspberry, cola, black tea and anise, with the supple grip of tannin becoming firmer along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

91 Hanzell 2023 Sebella Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The nose of this wine gives gentle aromas of crushed Bing cherry, black tea and rose petals, with flavors of shiitake mushroom, cinnamon and orange peel layered across the palate. The finish leans into the earthier aromatics and the grip of plush tannin. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$45

91 La Crema 2022 Bellflower Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of roasted cherry and raspberry dominate the nose of this wine. The palate displays rich flavors of dark cocoa, plum and earth that linger across a long finish. Enjoy with roasted pork and mushrooms. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Longboard Vineyards 2022 Mer Sauvage Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine brings tart raspberry, cherry, herb mélange and pie spice aromas. Displaying a nice balance between grippy tannin and juicy acidity, the palate offers flavors of dusty cherry, fresh strawberry and cinnamon that persist through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

91 Michael Pozzan 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This classic Pinot delivers aromas of ripe cherry, raspberry, cola spice and cedar on the nose, with those same flavors and well-balanced acid and tannin on the palate. Enjoy with roasted pork loin and mushroom sauce. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

91 Mon Premier 2022 The Benefactor Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine explodes with aromas of cherry pie filling and rose petals. This cherry-berry energy continues on the palate, where tangerine acidity lifts the finish with echoes of cinnamon and cedar. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

91 Pali Wine Co. 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Cola, damp thyme, dried cherry and cranberry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more broadly styled, offering cherry tomato and roasted cranberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$85

91 Pali Wine Co. 2021 Pali Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Muddled plum, nutmeg and oak spice aromas converge on the nose of this bottling, which shows a touch of age already. The palate offers a complex combination of dried cherry, roasted tomato, leather and pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

91 Panther Ridge 2022 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of dusty black cherry and Darjeeling tea burst from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate displays a streak of blackberry-orange acidity, with flavors of bright raspberry, earthy cinnamon and purple flowers that resonate on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

91 Paradise Ridge 2022 Barrel Selection Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Deep, earthy aromas of roasted shiitake mushroom, spiced plum and cranberry dominate the nose of this wine. The palate displays plenty of plush tannin, with a streak of raspberry-lime acidity and flavors of violets, cinnamon and berry coulis. Drink this with grilled pork tenderloin. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$65

91 Terragen 2021 Pinot Noir (Carneros). A beautifully floral nose with aromas of purple flowers, thyme, sage and raspberry gives way to a juicy and concentrated palate. Flavors convey crushed Bing cherry, cedar and black tea, with herbal echoes along the finish of this wine. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$39

91 Wrath 2023 EX Pinot Noir (Monterey). A lighter hue in the glass, this wine pairs crisp raspberry aromas with uncracked peppercorn and gamy elements on the nose. The palate is refreshing with sour cherry flavors that are layered in bay leaf and orange peel, pulling into a savory finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$29

90 Acacia 2023 Pinot Noir (Carneros). This intense Pinot offers aromas of candied cherry, raspberry and mint on the nose. These give way to flavors of sour cherry, spiced berry compote and herb mélange on the palate, with rich, grippy tannin at the finale. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$20

90 Boekenooogen 2022 Dry Land Garret's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Bold, rich and oaky on the nose, this is a ripe bottling with extracted plum, vanilla and nutmeg aromas. The palate is powerful with oak flavors that dominate the viscous texture and hints of clove and dried fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

90 Buena Vista 2022 Geza's Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This bright and lively wine delivers aromas of Bing cherry, black tea and cinnamon on the nose, giving way to raspberry gastrique, cedar and rose flavors on the palate. The finish lingers with echoes of barrel spice, cocoa powder and orange peel. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Cambria 2023 Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Rustic aromas of tart cranberry, oregano and thyme show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also a touch rugged and earthy, pairing red fruit with sage-like spices and dusty soil tones. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

90 Cuvaison 2022 Pinot Noir 90.1 Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). Rosehips, honeysuckle, alpine berries, mountain sage and a finish of spiced cocoa combine with fine-grained tannins through a balanced finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$80

90 **Dusty Nabor Wines 2023 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Sandalwood and incense aromas play with tomato-curry touches on the unique nose of this bottling. The palate is more familiar, offering red currant, cranberry and more of that curry spice. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 **Gearbox 2023 Pinot Noir (California).** This bright wine offers aromas of raspberry and orange blossom that cascade into soft vanilla scents on the nose. The flavors are youthful strawberry, peach pit, cardamom and mineral, leading into the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **IDE 2023 Alcalde Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 19. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Jaffurs 2023 State Street Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** Ripe black cherry, violet, peppercorn and rose-candy aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is bold, rich and clean with mace- and nutmeg-spiked cherry compote and root beer flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

90 **La Crema 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Aromas of macerated cherry, cranberry and cinnamon dominate the nose of this wine. The palate brings the satisfying grip of plush tannin, pithy orange acidity and concentrated raspberry and mint flavors that linger. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 **Lumen 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Intriguing sarsaparilla, dried cherry, graphite and porcini dust aromas show on the nose of this blend of Rancho Real and Julia's vineyards. Crisp raspberry and cranberry flavors are cut by gamy meat and dank sage on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Mon Premier 2023 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** Aromas of tart cranberry and cherry dominate the nose of this wine. The palate brings flavors of rich earth, black plum and fried mushroom, with powdery, fine-grained tannin and zippy acidity. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$38

90 **Pacific Veil 2023 Tri-County Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** This blend of Pinot Noir from San Luis Obispo, Monterey and Santa Barbara counties strikes a down-the-middle style, offering brisk pomegranate, raspberry, cola and mushroom aromas. The palate show more oak atop the baked red-plum core. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

90 **Penny Island 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 19. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Upwell 2023 Pinot Noir (California).** This wine is fresh, with aromas of strawberry, Bing cherry, cream, dried herbs and toasted oak on the nose. The palate offers juicy plum and grilled tangerine, with lifted tannins on the finish. Enjoy with weekday meals. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **AMICI CELLARS 2023 No Curfew Pinot Noir (California).** This youthful wine offers aromatics of red plum, savory dried herbs, earth and potpourri on the nose. The flavors are Bing cherry, cranberry and malted chocolate, with a dusty, dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

89 **Claudio Family Cellars 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** The nose of this wine offers aromas of salty cherry, cinnamon and fried shiitake. On the palate, soft tannin and flavors of cranberry and soy sauce join with pithy orange-peel acidity and earthy flavors that linger on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

89 **El Pino Club 2022 The Cusp Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Buoyant aromas of cherry pie, cinnamon and cocoa powder waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. Generous tannin and plush acidity dominate the palate, with flavors of roasted raspberry, Darjeeling tea and sour cherry lingering along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

89 **Gracianna 2023 Mercedes Riverblock Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This lighter-bodied Pinot delivers soft floral aromas alongside cherry and strawberry on the nose. The palate brings a bit of earthy tannin and flavors of tart raspberry, shiitake mushroom and barrel spices that lend some depth to the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$68

89 **Lion's Ridge 2023 Special Reserve Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** Nutmeg and mace aromas meet with baked strawberry fruit on the nose of this wine. The palate is similarly spiced, with star anise taking the lead over red-fruit-jam flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 **Motif 2023 Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Darker aromas of stewed strawberry and pomegranate are spiced with comforting caramel touches on the nose of this bottling. Baked berry and strawberry jam flavors benefit from an oak-dust kick on the palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

88 **Blue Rock 2023 Baby Blue Gapstone Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** The nose of this Pinot leads with dusty cherry and cranberry aromas, with flavors of black tea, cinnamon, forest floor and plum skin on the palate. The finish of the wine echoes with whispers of spice and the energetic grip of tannin. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

88 **Lyric 2023 Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Rustic and earthy aromas of dark cherry and loamy soil show on the nose of this bottling. The palate pairs woodspice and baked red fruit with a chalky grip. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Well Born Winery 2022 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Lighter hued in the glass, this bottling offers hibiscus, cranberry and cedar dust aromas on the nose. The palate is light and easygoing, with subtle flavors of pomegranate and soft spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

87 **Vanderbilt 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Aromas of cherry juice, tart raspberry, cedar and herb mélange waft on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of roasted cherry, concentrated raspberry, mint, sage and thyme, with cinnamon and earth emerging along the oaky finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

96 **Daou 2022 Soul of a Lion Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** For full review see page 3.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$150

95 **Baldacci Family Vineyards 2021 Brenda's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** Delivering power and poise with intriguing complexity, this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon moves from floral and spice aromatics to flavors of dark fruits, cocoa powder, fresh cedar and tobacco. A mineral graphite character joins fine tannins, offering the potential to age, or decant and enjoy this wine now. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$250

95 **Cliff Lede Vineyards 2022 Crossfade Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Napa Valley).** Impressive and satisfying, this blend of Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc enjoys accents of Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec. The result is a balanced, richly flavored and satisfying red with black cherry and fig, sweet tobacco, graphite and dried herbs. Tannins are succulent through a lingering finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$80

95 **Cliff Lede Vineyards 2022 Rhythm Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Stags Leap District).** Richly flavored, this wine features complexity and depth, with chocolate-covered dark fruits, resinous woods and herbs, tobacco and graphite. Palate-coating fine tannins and a mouthwatering finish bring balance and length. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$125

95 **JCB 2022 Phi Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Inky and brooding, this wine is also full bodied yet poised with tension and velvety texture.

BUYINGGUIDE

Luxurious tannins carry flavors of rich black fruits and unexpected earthiness. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$335

95 Kinsella 2017 Jersey Boys Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). A big, bold nose of blackberry, cocoa and black pepper jumps from the glass of this Cabernet. The palate delivers loads of rich tannin with flavors of currant, raspberry, dark chocolate and mint that linger through the finish. Best from 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

95 Wild Diamond 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

94 Baldacci Family Vineyards 2019 Thomas Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bold, full bodied and even assertive, this wine is built to impress. A complex of dark fruits, both dripping ripe and just baked, combine with spiced tobacco, sandalwood and a pleasing earthiness. Palate-coating tannins and balanced acidity linger through a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$1,000

94 Duckhorn Vineyards 2020 Rector Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon, with a healthy pour of Merlot blended in, combines flavors of ripe dark fruit with freshly ground coffee and cocoa powder, with a savory, black-tea finish. Firm tannins cleanse the palate through a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

94 Glassblower 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

94 Janzen 2021 Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The refined richness of one of the region's great vineyards is on full display in this full-bodied wine. Flavors of dark fruits and cocoa with fine white abundant tannins carry into an oak-spiced finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$225

94 Janzen 2021 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich and generous, this Cabernet Sauvignon from one of the region's heritage vineyards delivers. Sweet dark fruit, tobacco and fresh pine lead into a satisfying, bold finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$295

94 Ridge 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dark, heady aromas of dried berry are layered in lavish, well-integrated toasted wood spices on the nose of this bottling, which includes 9% Petit Verdot and 5% Merlot. The mouthfeel is expansive on the palate, proving both creamy and tense, as intense dark fruit, cappuccino and oak flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Ross Ranch and Vineyards 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Ripe, round aromas of roasted cherry, blackberry and cocoa drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of macerated raspberry, bitter chocolate, mint and toasty barrel spice in a framework of juicy acidity and soft tannin. Delicious now, this will age well for at least a decade. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

94 Wappo Hill 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Concentrated flavor wraps supple tannins through a lengthy finish on this wine. Elements of black fruits, spices and flowering herbs bring boldness and beauty. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$255

93 Cairjn Wine Cellars 2022 Lopai Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Aromas of elderberry jam on a slice of buttery brioche meet with violet and soy elements on the nose of this densely presented Cab. The palate pairs savory charred-meat flavors with a rich core of cassis, making for a comforting and warm experience. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

93 Cliff Lede Vineyards 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Napa Valley). Delicious and concentrated, this wine celebrates a full palate of dark fruits, warming spices and cocoa, with graphite emerging through the finish. Satisfying, approachable and yet also well structured. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

93 Duckhorn Vineyards 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Red and black berries sprinkled with cocoa and espresso are spun through with white herbs. Aromas and flavors combine to bring a mouthwatering and satisfying, lengthy Cabernet with polished tannins. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Duckhorn Vineyards 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Lavish while poised, the spice and cocoa of this Cabernet lift from the glass then fill the mouth with flavor, combining with a mix of berries for a long, rich finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Duckhorn Vineyards 2019 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Assertive and rich with flavors of black fruits, dark chocolate and sweet spices, this mountain Cabernet melts across the palate with powdery-fine while abundant tannins through a mouthwatering finish. Decant or enjoy with age. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Janzen 2021 Cloudy's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The structural refinement of the 2021 vintage combined with full-bodied richness delivers a wine with savory, dark fruits integrated with oak toast and palate-cleansing tannins. Decant to enjoy with food, or hold well in cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$185

93 Jayson 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$110

93 Mason Cellars 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Lush and full bodied, with ripe black fruits, tobacco and thyme, this is a Cabernet for flavor lovers. Polished tannins coat the mouth for a satisfying finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 No Love Lost 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Bold and generous, while also poised, this mountain Cabernet combines freshly ground espresso and chocolate with a mix of black fruits and an accent of black tea. Decant this brooding and structural wine, or allow time in cellar. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$75

93 Rancho de Ontiveros 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). This Cab retains the more savory and herbaceous elements that are inherent to the ocean-cooled Santa Ynez Valley. Aromas of charred tomato, roasted pasilla, tart plum and rust show on the nose. The palate is lively with curry-laced plum, fresh boysenberry and green peppercorn flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$76

93 Rombauer 2019 Proprietor Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$150

93 Rombauer 2019 Stice Lane Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Plush, generous and fully flavored, this Cabernet delivers a rich experience of succulent dark fruits, chocolate and a mouthwatering finish that invites further sipping. Enjoy now or age. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$140

93 Round Pond Estate 2022 Eric Bovet Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Richly flavored with polished tannins, this wine offers dark fruits, spiced chocolate, wet tobacco and a long finish. Graphite emerges on further sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$150

93 Round Pond Estate 2022 Louis Bovet Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Bold with lush tannins, this richly flavored, friendly and pleasurable wine brings together dark cherries and plums, baking spices and a mocha finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$128

93 Victor Vineyards 2022 Night Bird Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Big, bold and opulent, this Cab jumps from the glass with aromas of black cherry, milk chocolate and cinnamon. The palate has rich tannin, plush texture and juicy acidity, with flavors of concentrated cherries and berries, cocoa powder and graphite. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

93 Whitehall Lane 2021 Leonardini Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A mix of ripe berries, bramble and a pleasing accent of buttered toast make an enticing Cabernet. Polished tannins bring refinement to this flavorful, fruit-forward wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

92 Banshee 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

92 Blue Rock 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). The bright and focused nose of this wine delivers layers of blackberry, cherry and plum aromas. The palate displays very fine tannic structure, with round berry fruit and hints of leather, peppercorn and cocoa powder. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

92 Clos de Napa 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Dark plums and berries accented by fresh herbs lift from the glass and carry into flavors of cocoa and earth. Velvety tannins bring an experience of richness to this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Duckhorn Vineyards 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Food friendly and delicious, this wine combines flavors of dark fruit with savory herbs, fennel and sweet spices. Approachable tannins and balanced acidity make this a go-to Napa Valley wine. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Duckhorn Vineyards 2020 Cork Tree Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). From a cooler part of Napa Valley, this wine delivers dark fruits, cocoa and savory flavors through a structure of melting tannins and brightening acidity that linger through a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

92 Ferrari-Carano 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$70

92 Hanzell 2021 Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This soft and charming blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc delivers aromas of blackberry, raspberry and purple flowers on the nose. The palate offers layers of black fruit, herb mélange, baking spices and plush tannin, balanced by a wave of acid through the middle. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

92 Heitz Cellar 2019 Spring Valley Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Cracked pine and cocoa aromas on the nose of this wine become flavors of salted dark chocolate, juicy plums and mint. Elevated acidity takes the reins with persistent, finely corded tannin following. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$150

92 Janzen 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bold, juicy and persistent, black cherry and cassis combine with a hint of vanilla bean and pleasing earthiness through a succulent finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$100

92 Lewis 2021 Mason's Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Generous and full bodied, this wine brings together flavors of sweet, black fruits, mountain herbs, tobacco and oak spices with velvety tannins and a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Lewis 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Earthy aromatics with cedar and baking spice lead to flavors of candied walnuts, black figs and plum drizzled in dark chocolate. Balanced structure brings poise to a long finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$190

92 Muscardini Cellars 2019 Madrone Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

92 Rombauer 2019 Atlas Peak Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). Spiced tobacco, cassis and powdery tactile while supple tannins complete this full-bodied, flavorful Cabernet Sauvignon that's built to age. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$140

92 Roth Estate 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Round Pond Estate 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Dark fruits, light tobacco and pleasing earthiness carry through the finish of this wine, along with cocoa-powder tannins and balanced acidity. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

92 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2021 V Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$125

91 Bacio Divino 2022 Bacio Divino Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Full bodied with supple tannins and expressive fruit and spice, this wine delivers hearty flavors of tobacco, cedar, mixed berries and cherries, cocoa and woody aromatics. Smooth tannins carry through a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$150

91 Buck Shack 2022 Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Calluna Vineyards 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Chalk Hill). This Cabernet blend has a sumptuous nose of blueberry, pepper and violets.

The palate brings rich tannin, juicy acidity and flavors of crushed berry compote, sage, cinnamon and black pepper that linger across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$75

91 Chateau St. Jean 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 CK Mondavi and Family 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$8

91 Ferrari-Carano 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

91 Francis Ford Coppola 2022 Archimedes Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Aromas of black cherry, mint and tar waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The rich and tannic palate displays flavors of black plum, dark chocolate and loamy earth, with a streak of bright raspberry acid that lightens the intensity along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Goldschmidt 2022 YOEMAN Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Aromas of dusty cherry, blackberry and graphite waft on the nose of this wine. The palate possesses a malty richness, with flavors of bitter cocoa, spiced plum and purple flowers that blossom along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

91 Martis 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

91 Paul Dolan Vineyards 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). For decades, this producer has been a leader in making estate-certified organic Cabernet Sauvignon in Mendocino. This bottling notes the purity of the fruit source. Notes of succulent baked plum, dark cherry, cinnamon, dried sage and cocoa nib saunter toward the palate. Pair with grilled T-bone steak. —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Rebel Ridge 2022 Cab23 Black Edition Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine lives up to its name, Black Edition Cab23. From the celebrated 2023 vintage, it offers aromas of dark fruits with layers of baking spices and black licorice on the nose, followed by rich and silky tannins on the palate. Enjoy with hearty meals and a roaring fire. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Rombauer 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

91 Smith & Hook 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). For full review see page 15. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Tamber Bey 2022 Deux Chevaux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). Bold, brawny and darkly fruited, this wine bursts forth with rich flavor. It evokes black fruits and cocoa liqueur, lightly spiced and with a lingering finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$85

90 AJA Vineyards 2020 Miracle Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Malibu Coast). A strong argument for why this appellation should grow, this bottling pairs toasted mahogany, walnut, graphite and dark cranberry aromas on the nose. The palate's riper cherry flavor is balanced by firm tannins and a toasty oak spice that leads to a caramel-kissed finish. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

90 AMICI CELLARS 2023 No Curfew Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Deep aromas of rich dark berries and cardamom are layered with vanilla cream on the nose of this wine. Concentrated flavors on the palate convey ripe plum, mocha, clove and espresso through the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

90 CK Mondavi and Family 2022 Dark Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$8

90 LVE 2022 Legend Vineyard Exclusive Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bursting with flavor, this collaboration between John Legend and Boisset Collection offers up front dark fruits, integrated oak spices and an enticing finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

90 Method 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Tobacco and cracked pine are set over a backdrop of dark fruits and graphite, with a hint of cola through the finish, making this an intriguing Cabernet. Abundant powdery-fine tannins persist into a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

90 Midnight Cellars 2021 Nebula Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Damp forest floor, dried plum and leather aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a flash of purple fruit on the palate, where peppercorn, tar, pencil shavings and a decent tension converge. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$58

90 Napa Cellars 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

90 Raymond Vineyards 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley). A lighter hue in the glass, this is a fresh and fun style of Cab, starting with aromas of snappy boysenberry and freshly

plucked rose petals. It's lightly bodied on the palate, where zesty berry and violet flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley). Dark red fruit, toasted bread and subtle maple aromas show on the nose of this wine. There's a caramel core to the palate, where oaky elements add spice to the reddish fruits. The tannins are still stiff. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

90 Sextant 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Upwell 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Rich, opulent aromatics on the nose of this wine include dark cherry, plum and dried herbs, with notes of toasted vanilla and florals. Flavors on the palate are ripe raspberry and citrus cream interlaced with tobacco leaf, dusty tannins and a dry finish. Pair with grilled steak. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Lion's Ridge 2023 Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Dense aromas of violets, black currant and charred meats make for a complex nose on this bottling. The palate's purple fruit and pepper flavors ride firm-enough tannins into a rich caramel and vanilla finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Lucas & Lewellen Estate Vineyards 2020 Valley View Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark and hearty aromas of blackberry jam, toasty oak and baking spice make for a rich nose on this bottling from the warm pandemic vintage. The palate is both thick and somewhat tart, offering ripe blackberry and dried leather flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Ocnautic 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Baked red plum, damp wood, turned loam and hints of sage and peppercorn show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is bold, rich and nearly sweet, offering anise and baked-fruit flavors atop a hearty mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$16

89 Second Cheapest Wine 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

89 Wines By Alisa Jacobson 2023 Distinctive by AJ Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Dark cranberry, cherry and prominent herb and pepper aromas show on the nose of this sustainably minded bottling. The palate is dry and herbaceous, as flavors of thyme, fennel and mint decorate the red fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Etenia 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Light and tart aromas of cranberry

and wild herbs show on the nose of this wine. The palate is layered in flavors of thyme and oregano that enhance the candied strawberry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Oblivion 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Tart plum and cranberry aromas meet with ample herbs on the nose of this wine. The palate is also awash in cranberry juice flavors that are lifted by hibiscus and oregano elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Terroir Napa Valley 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bold flavors of dark fruit, chocolate and espresso bean are carried on smooth tannins into a modest finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

CABERNET FRANC

96 Mountain Terraces Winery & Vineyards 2021 Cabernet Franc (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$140

91 Dusty Nabor Wines 2022 TTT Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Peppery and floral on the nose, this wine offers aromas of cranberry, blueberry, cracked spice and pot-pourri. The palate rides a tart line of cranberry fruit that is cut by white pepper and anise spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Thumbprint Cellars 2021 Ramazzotti Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). Bright aromas of black plum, leafy tobacco mint and cedar dominate the nose of this wine. The palate is soft and nimble, with juicy raspberry acidity and flavors of baked cherry, licorice and black pepper across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

90 Akash 2021 Dreamville Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley). Tart aromas of strawberry meet with dark red flower, pepper and herb on the nose of this bottling. Sticky tannins frame the taut sip, where pepper dust, fennel and brisk red fruit flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$57

90 Peju 2022 Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). Spiced dark fruits fill the nose and mouth of this wine, coupled with a refreshing lift of herbs and wet tobacco. Mouthwatering length balances palate-cleansing tannins. Enjoy with food. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Octopoda 2023 Cabernet Franc (California). This wine offers concentrated and rich aromas of blackberry, boysenberry, cardamom, dried green herbs and vanilla cream on the nose. The palate is supple and intense with cassis, black currant, grilled bell pepper, allspice, bay leaf and silky tannins to finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

CARIGNAN

94 Giannecchini 2021 Carignan (Mendocino). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15% Price: \$50

93 Cline Family Cellars 2022 Ancient Vines Carignane (Contra Costa County). The Ancient Vines series is a unique selection of ancient vineyard sources in Contra Costa County, which is well-known for heritage varieties. The site is entirely dry-farmed and organic. This selection is lush and vibrant with aromas of ripe raspberry, black plum, root beer, dried violets and vanilla cream soda on the nose. Flavors are concentrated, with dark strawberry, blood orange, clove, peppercorn and dry tannins on the finish. Decant and enjoy with a grilled mushroom hamburger. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

92 Graziano 2019 Carignane (Mendocino County). This is Old Vine Carignan at its best. Aromas on the nose convey baked black plum, simmering spices, wildflowers, toasted oak barrel and maple. The palate offers fresh stone fruit with good acidity, grilled orange slices, white pepper and savory spices on the mouthwatering finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

GRENAICHE

94 Dumb Luck 2017 Grenache (Lake County). This wine is rich and supple, with aromas of dark plum, black raspberry, dried fig and fresh potpourri on the nose. Flavors on the palate are strawberry-cranberry and grilled orange slices interwoven with Moroccan spices and a silky, long finish. Pair with roasted orange duck. —T.P.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$48

94 Frequency 2023 Zaca Mesa Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Dark berry, damp soil, lavender-led potpourri and complex herbs draw the nose into this wine from a historic site. Firm tannins balance brisk cranberry, marjoram and peppercorn flavors that linger long. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

94 J. Dirt 2021 Christy & Wise Grenache (Santa Barbara County). From a meticulously farmed biodynamic vineyard that's actually west of the already coastal Sta. Rita Hills, this is a stunningly intense and ripe wine, bolstered by 15% Syrah. Dense black cherry, licorice and Dr. Pepper flavors are somehow balanced on the nose. The palate is bold, thick and creamy, with cherry, boysenberry and purple flower flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

93 Caliza 2022 Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Strawberry, cinnamon and spiced black-cherry compote aromas draw the nose deeply into this bottling. The palate is rich, lush and

lovely, layered in baked cherry, pie crust and spice cake flavors that gain tension on the bubblegum-like finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$78

93 Four Bridges Wines 2022 Grenache (Paso Robles). Waves of cherry and pomegranate aromas are spiced with white pepper, bay and tea leaf on the complex nose of this bottling. The vivid palate pairs red fruit with green peppercorn and a bursting acidity, making it quite quaffable. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$42

93 Lumen 2022 Grenache (Santa Barbara County). A lighter, slightly brownish hue of red in the glass, this bottling of clone 362 from Nolan Ranch enlivens the nose with strawberry, pomegranate and cranberry aromas, as star anise and sandalwood add spice. The palate is tense and bright with strawberry, sage and cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

93 Meeker 2021 Venturi Vineyard Grenache (Mendocino). It is exciting to see Rhône varieties grown in unusual regions. This bottling has more body and baking spice due to the warm vintage. Aromas of fleshy red plum, cassis, clove, dried florals, toasty oak and citrus show on the nose. Lively flavors on the palate include fresh yellow plum, cranberry, white grapefruit and white pepper, with dried bay laurel to finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

92 Paradise Springs 2023 Camp 4 Vineyard Grenache (Los Olivos District). This is a very pleasant wine built for many occasions. A core of juicy cherry and baking spice aromas lead from the nose into a palate splashed in more red fruit alongside ample mace and chai spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$55

91 Austin Hope 2022 Grenache (Templeton Gap District). Elegant aromas of black cherry and cola become quite oaky and caramel-soaked on the nose of this bottling. The palate's texture is very creamy, wrapping around extremely lush flavors of strawberry cordial, coffee liqueur and butterscotch milkshake. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$75

89 Cairjn Wine Cellars 2022 Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This bottling is a bit tart with strawberry and dank herb aromas. The palate pairs that fruit and herb combo with coffee and caramel elements. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$75

88 Midnight Cellars 2021 Moonbeam Grenache Noir (Paso Robles). Dried cherry, nutmeg and mulling spice aromas arise on the nose of this bottling. The palate is showing some oxidation, with clove and nutmeg flavors most prevalent. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% Price: \$58

SYRAH

98 Melville 2022 Donna's Block Estate Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). For fans of cool-climate Syrah, this bottling is always a benchmark and this version is tops. Wispy strawberry aromas are decorated with delicate seaweed and sansho pepper perks that pop even more with patience. The palate's cherry, green peppercorn and eucalyptus leaf flavors align in magical ways. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$62

97 Samuel Louis Smith 2023 Coastview Vineyard Syrah (Gabilan Mountains). A delicate color in the glass, this fascinating Syrah presents elevated floral and peppery aromas on the nose, adding ethereal depth to engagingly crisp pomegranate and rose petal accents. The snappy palate pops with pomegranate and red currant flavors that float atop fennel, pepper and game elements. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$55

96 Lucia by Pisoni 2023 Soberanes Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

96 Marbeso 2023 Robert Rae Ranch Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). This whole-cluster Estrella clone bottling was grown at a vineyard less than 10 miles from the sea. Aromas of violet, frozen açai, lavender and peppercorns snap on the nose. The wine is tightly woven on the sip, where purple fruit and flower flavors are seasoned with white pepper and crushed asphalt touches. Drink now—2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$60

96 Melville 2022 Estate Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Cool-climate Syrah doesn't get much more exemplary than this. Bold aromas of cracked peppercorn, rosemary, lavender, black raspberry and a touch of dank seaweed leave the mouth watering. The tense palate carries all that depth as well, offering purple-fruit flavors awash in nori, bay laurel and eucalyptus leaf. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$44

96 Saxum 2021 Cayucos Ridge Vineyard Syrah (San Luis Obispo Coast). From one of this winery's newer vineyards on the coastal slopes west of Paso Robles, this wine is incredibly dark and rich in the glass, offering black tea, cola and caramelized blueberry aromas on the nose. The palate's mocha, fudge, purple flower and peppercorn flavors lead into a nutty finish. Drink now—2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$138

96 Stringer Cellars 2022 Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). An extremely comforting range of aromas entices the nose on this bottling, from baked cherry and French-toast spices to peppercorns and buttery pastry. Smoked meat and cracked peppercorn flavors pair deliciously

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with rosemary, grilled fruit and strong espresso touches on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$69

95 Cairjn Wine Cellars 2022 Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Intense and savory aromas of soy sauce and roasted meat are enlivened by hints of purple flowers and rich fruits on the nose of this bottling. The palate is viscous and ripe yet remains dry, with flavors of bittersweet chocolate, creamy caramel, pepper and mocha. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Dumb Luck 2016 Syrah (Lake County). This wine is rich, with aromas of black currant, blackberry, maple and vanilla spice on the nose. The flavors on the palate are boysenberry, black plum, sarsaparilla and blood orange zest, sliding into bittersweet chocolate and a long, mouthwatering finish. Decant and pair with grilled ahi tuna. —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

95 J. Dirt 2020 Slide Hill Syrah (Edna Valley). Bright currant aromas meet with savory hints of forest floor and sunny summer meadows on the nose of this bottling. Bay leaf and sage are woven into the broad berry and cherry flavors of the palate, which ends on energetic kicks of black and green peppercorn. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

95 Samuel Louis Smith 2023 Sandstone Terrace Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Immensely pleasing and refreshing, this blend of 50% Gali, 40% Nelson and 10% Coastview vineyards is vibrant and fresh on the nose, popping with raspberry, pomegranate and white pepper aromas. The palate harmonizes, with zippy flavors of that same spicy fruit combo. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$35

94 Handley Cellars 2021 Kazmet Vineyard Syrah (Redwood Valley). This AVA is well known for its Syrah. Dense and supple, this wine offers aromas of boysenberry, dark cherry, red curry, dried florals, dark chocolate and orange-vanilla spice on the nose. Flavors on the palate are black plum, black currant confiture and dried fig, with dusty tannins on the finish. Pair with grilled lamb loin. —T.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

94 Meyer Family Cellars 2021 HIGH GROUND Syrah (Yorkville Highlands). This AVA is legendary for Rhône varieties. Opaque and deep, this wine offers aromas of dark berries, savory herbs, bittersweet chocolate, fennel and sweet vanilla cream on the nose. Concentrated and with a dry finish, the palate evokes black currant coulis, star anise, black tea, clove and citrus zest. Aerate and drink or cellar until 2030. —T.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$48

94 Paradise Springs 2023 Donnachadh Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Dense and dark aromas of blackberry, elderberry, fudge and coffee are amazingly balanced on the nose of this single-vineyard expression of the Alban clone. The palate

pops with acidity that enlivens the creamy coffee, roasted berry and fig flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

94 Zaca Mesa 2019 Clydesdale Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). Rugged aromas of bloody meats and dusty trails meet with hints of berry sauce and vanilla spice on the dynamic nose of this wine. Waves of vanilla and chai spice fill the creamy palate, where comforting dark fruit and pie crust flavors lead into a lingering, floral finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

93 Falcone Family Vineyards 2023 Syrah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Frequency 2023 Zaca Mesa Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Lovely aromas of violet and blueberry are enhanced with earthy touches of clay and loam on the nose of this bottling. The clean, direct palate similarly balances fruit, earth and savory aspects, offering blackberry and pepper dust flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Frequency 2023 Zotovich Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a solidly crafted example of a rather extreme cooler-climate Syrah expression. Tart red fruit aromas are cut by cracked peppercorn, green sage, sansho pepper and damp thyme elements. The palate is brisk and herby, offering black raspberry, pepper and sage-like flavors in a boisterous display. Drink now–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Jaffurs 2022 State Street Syrah (Central Coast). There's a lot going on in this entry-level bottling from a longtime Syrah house. Thyme, green tea, mint and tart cran-pomegranate aromas show on the nose, while the palate's grippy tannins present elderberry alongside savory waves of raw lamb and rosemary. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

93 Kaleidos 2022 Syrah (Adelaida District). Elegant aromas of dark purple fruits, purple flowers and iodine show a touch of spice on the nose of this bottling. The palate pairs a slightly tart elderberry flavor with layers of lavender, rosemary and charred lamb. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$59

93 Ledge 2013 Adams Ranch Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For being a dozen years old, this bottling still bangs with vivid fruit. The nose offers iodine, dried meat, fennel and aged strawberry aromas. The palate shows some age, but is plenty alive, offering dried red fruit, rosemary and meat flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Lewis 2021 Alec's Blend Syrah (Napa Valley). This distinctive Syrah brings in Merlot, Cabernet Franc and a touch of Petite Sirah to create lifted floral and herbal notes, as well as smoked

meats, to the aromatics, and mouthwatering structure to the palate. Savory and seductive, this is a full-bodied red wine built to enjoy. Will continue to develop in bottle. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Lewis 2021 Ethan's Syrah (Napa Valley). Smoked meats, black olives and dark fruits lead this full-bodied, juicy and savory Syrah. Dark chocolate emerges with further sipping. Palate-coating tannins will benefit from food and carry into a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Akash 2021 Dreamville Syrah (Temecula Valley). This single-vineyard expression from Roux Vineyard shows the potential for Syrah in Southern California. Aromas of elderberry and sagebrush greet the nose, while the palate offers boysenberry and savory herb flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$57

92 Falkner 2022 Syrah (Temecula Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$70

92 Thibido 2023 Just Because Homestead Hill Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Pure fruit aromas of açai, blueberry and grape Jolly Ranchers pop on the nose of this carbonically fermented bottling. The palate pairs those juicy elements with pinches of thyme and white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Midnight Cellars 2021 Nocturne Syrah (Paso Robles). Reductive aromas of asphalt and burned soy sauce make for a savory entry to this wine. That tarry kick sails through the palate's dried blackberry, cherry and beef jerky flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$58

91 Pulchella 2022 Block 6 La Vista Vineyard Syrah (Adelaida District). High-toned aromas of violets and sharp purple fruit show on the nose of this block-designated bottling. There's a brisk tension to the palate where similar purple fruit and flower flavors prove quite aggressive. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$57

88 Left Bend 2018 Muns Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Very tart on the nose with red-plum-skin aromas, this bottling is showing a bit of its age. Toasted wood and baked red-fruit flavors are spiced by licorice on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

MOURVÈDRE

94 Austin Hope 2022 Mourvèdre (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Dumb Luck 2016 Mourvèdre (Lake County). This wine is vivacious, with aromas of ripe

plum, blackberry, cardamon and dried florals on the nose. Flavors on the palate are black strawberry and blood orange zest, intertwined with vanilla cream, espresso crema, dried chicory and a long, supple finish. Pair with grilled bratwurst. —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

94 Kaleidos 2022 Estate Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Fresh violet and intense açai aromas make for an attention-grabbing nose on this estate bottling. The palate is dry in texture but loaded with blueberry compote and violet-spiked gelato flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

94 Meeker 2022 La Sierra Vineyard Block 8 Mourvèdre (Lake County). The Rhône varieties grown in the High Valley region of Lake County are delicious old-vine projects. This selection is fresh and vibrant, with aromas of boysenberry, blueberry, citrus zest, vanilla bean, allspice and floral notes on the nose. The palate is filled with fresh supple peach, red plum, raspberry and star anise, rolled into a dry finish with silky tannins. Pair with roasted duck breast. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

94 Paradise Springs 2023 Nolan Vinyard Mourvèdre (Santa Barbara County). Super-fresh and exciting on the nose, this vibrant bottling of a typically more savory grape pops with hibiscus, pomegranate and raspberry aromas on the nose, as sumac and light ash elements add depth. The palate is bright as well, with hibiscus and pomegranate flavors converging with mellow hints of earth. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$45

93 Caliza 2022 Estate Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Deep aromas of violets, blueberry and uncracked peppercorn meet with the slighted bit of gamy funk on the nose of this estate bottling. Creamy, thick tannins fill the palate, where blueberry, açai and purple flower flavors are bold and satisfying. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$78

93 Cline Family Cellars 2023 Ancient Vines Mourvèdre (Contra Costa County). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

MALBEC

93 Clay Shannon 2021 Winemaker Series Malbec (High Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Arrowood 2021 Malbec (Knights Valley). Aromas of concentrated blueberry, black plum and purple flowers jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate displays layers of black

fruit, pepper and cinnamon, with grippy tannin and lively acid. Best from 2030. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

91 Tom Mackey Cellars 2022 Woolard Family Vineyard Malbec (Sonoma Valley). Black plum, roasted meat and sweet cinnamon aromas dominate the nose of this wine. The palate displays bright blueberry and plum flavors, with rich barrel structure and spice lifting the back end. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

MERLOT

94 Daou 2022 Reserve Merlot (Paso Robles). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

94 Wild Diamond 2016 Merlot (Lake County). This wine is concentrated, with aromas of blackberry, olallieberry, dried sage and chicory on the nose. The flavors on the palate are black currant confiture, dark plum and grapefruit zest, interwoven with layers of tobacco leaf, bittersweet chocolate, black peppercorn and dry, grippy tannins. Decant and enjoy with roasted prime rib. —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$58

92 Calluna Vineyards 2022 Aux Raynauds Merlot (Chalk Hill). This bright and fruit-driven Merlot delivers aromas of roasted berries, candied cherries, milk chocolate and fresh mint leaves. The palate of the wine displays the same cocoa-berry character, with lively acidity and plenty of tannin for mid-term aging. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

92 Duckhorn Vineyards 2022 Merlot (Napa Valley). Balanced and pleasing, this wine delivers blackberries, plums, oak spices and a splash of black cherry cola. Firm while polished tannins complete the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Lava Cap 2023 Estate Grown Merlot (El Dorado). Opulent and rich, this wine offers aromatics of ripe Bing cherry, boysenberry, dried cranberry, orange marmalade, potpourri and vanilla on the nose. Flavors on the palate are red currant coulis, raspberry jam, dried coriander, black olive and baking spice, with layers of mineral throughout. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Quattro Theory 2022 Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Castello di Amorosa 2019 Merlot (Napa Valley). Full bodied and full flavored with a lingering finish, this Merlot offers dark fruits, cocoa, tobacco and a lift of fresh herbs. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$48

90 Midnight Cellars 2021 Estate Merlot (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Light red fruit and flower aromas meet with spicy cinnamon and earthy tree-bark elements on the nose of this bottling. Baked red fruit and dusty herb flavors are wrapped in leathery tannins on the palate, which still feels quite young. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$52

90 Raymond Vineyards 2022 Reserve Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Rombauer 2022 Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

90 Tom Mackey Cellars 2022 Woolard Family Vineyard Merlot (Sonoma Valley). There's a lively old-school energy to this Merlot, with aromas of cherry gastrique, black pepper and cedar aromas on the nose. The palate displays supple berry character with barrel spice, flowers and cocoa powder echoing on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 CK Mondavi and Family 2023 Merlot (California). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

89 Napa Cellars 2022 Merlot (Napa County). Dark, spiced fruits and bold tannins make for a palate-cleansing, persistent Merlot. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

89 Parducci Wine Cellars 2023 Small Lot Merlot (Mendocino County). The nose on this wine offers aromas of fresh and lush dark plum, cassis, tangerine and dried sage. Flavors on the palate convey raspberry coulis, cranberry-pomegranate, crackled black pepper, chocolate shavings and supple tannins to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

GRACIANO

94 Frequency 2023 Los Alamos Graciano (Santa Barbara County). Very rich and comforting on the nose, this bottling shows intense aromas of baked elderberry and black cherry. The palate is engaging and complex, pairing boysenberry with flavors of lavender, violets and pepper, as the tension rises on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Frequency 2023 Portico Hills Vineyard Graciano (Santa Barbara County). Intense aromas of boysenberry and blackberry are cut with a spicy streak of peppercorn on the juicy nose of this bottling. The palate is both bold in ripeness and yet awash in acidity, pairing blueberry and açai flavors with a zesty energy. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

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92 Frequency 2022 Portico Hills Vineyard Amphora Graciano (Santa Barbara County). Super dark in the glass, this bottling pairs ripe boysenberry-extract aromas with wet riverstone and loamy soil touches on the nose. The palate shows a soil-like element as well, giving earthy depth to the berry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69

NEBBIOLO

93 Jacuzzi 2023 Fuvum Nebbiolo (Petaluma Gap). Buoyant and charming, the nose of this amphora-aged Nebbiolo displays black fruits, olives and flowers. The palate features grippy tannin, balanced acidity and dark earthy flavors of blackberry, cranberry, sage, chopped herb mélange and black licorice. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$66

92 Portalupi Wine Co. 2022 Nebbiolo (Mendocino). Mendocino is known for its Italian heritage and Italian varieties. This lush wine has aromas of sweet red plum, candied citrus rind, cinnamon and notes of toasted oak and florals on the nose. Flavors on the palate are dried red currant, plum, dried coriander and dried apricot. It's creamy midpalate, with a dry, rocky finish. Pair with a pulled barbecue pork sandwich. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

91 Clos de la Tech 2019 Domaine Valeta Nebbiolo (Santa Cruz Mountains). Strawberry and cola aromas meet with tea and tomato leaf on the nose of this bottling of a rare grape for the region. The palate pairs rusty earth and tea leaf flavors with hints of dried cherry and cool coffee. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

BARBERA

93 Portalupi Wine Co. 2023 Barbera (Amador County). From the highly regarded Shake Ridge Ranch in Amador, the fruit is focused—boysenberry, blackberry pie, savory mushrooms, baking spices and sweet vanilla on the nose. The palate is opulent with woven layers of cola, allspice, mulberry, huckleberry and citrus zest, leaving the finish with slight but satisfying tannins. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Brace and Bit 2022 Aloria Vineyard Barbera (Sierra Foothills). The Sierra Foothills features high-elevation vineyards. This vineyard-designated Barbera offers aromas of creamed cherry, dried raspberry, crushed herbs and rocks on the nose. The palate brings supple black strawberry, lingonberry, mineral and tart, silky tannins on the finish. Pair with lamb Bolognese pasta. —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

92 Jacuzzi 2023 Riserva Barbera (Los Carneros). This rich and ripe Barbera delivers aromas

of blackberry, cherry, toasted spices and purple flowers on the nose. The palate is rich and intense, with gripping tannin, soft acidity and flavors of concentrated berry, licorice, barrel spice and black tea that linger on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

92 Portalupi Wine Co. 2023 Barbera (Mendocino). This cool-climate Barbera is rich and concentrated, with aromas of bramble blackberry, blueberry, baking spice, potpourri and spicy vanilla on the nose. The palate brings fresh red berries, ripe Bing cherry and savory herbs, layered with dark chocolate, bay leaf and a silky, dry finish. Pair with grilled bison. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

91 Enotria 2018 Riserva Barbera (Mendocino County). Rich, robust aromas of red currant and spiced blackberry jam are top notes on the nose of this wine, joined with cardamom, black licorice and sweet toasted oak. The layered components on the palate are red licorice, baked plum, coriander and citrus zest, followed by dry tannins and a spicy finish. Pair with smoked brisket. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

PETITE SIRAH

95 Dumb Luck 2017 Petite Sirah (Lake County). This wine is vibrant, with aromas of blackberry, yellow plum, orange-pekoe black tea and dried rose petal on the nose. Flavors on the palate are boysenberry, blood orange segments, cracked black peppercorn and bay leaf, intertwined with sedimentary rock, mocha cream and a dry, long finish. Decant and pair with grilled rib eye steak. —T.P.
abv: 25% **Price:** \$48

94 Portalupi Wine Co. 2022 Petite Sirah (Mendocino). This selection hails from an old vineyard but is produced in a modern style. Rich, deep fruit aromas evoke blackberry jam, roasted sweet pepper, coriander seed, violets, toasted vanilla and molasses on the nose. The palate creates a dynamic of concentrated black fruit, dried crushed herbs, candied citrus rind, vanilla cream and dry, dusty tannins with a spicy, supple finish. Aerate and pair with grilled ribeye steak. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

93 MCV 2022 Gemeny Vineyard Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Nearly opaque in the glass, this is a very intense yet steadily pleasurable bottling, showing cassis, blueberry, lilac and grilled meat aromas on the nose. The palate is layered in creamy tannins that present cassis, coffee and violet flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Meyer Family Cellars 2021 Summerwind Vineyard Petite Sirah (Yorkville Highlands). The Yorkville Highlands are known for Petite Sirah and this producer has been a leader in the region for years. This wine has a deep, opulent hue, with aromas of olallieberry, chicory, espresso bean, star

anise and toasted vanilla on the nose. Flavors are concentrated on the palate, with pink peppercorn and grapefruit zest. Super-dry dusty tannins on the midpalate carry through on the finish. Decant or cellar until 2032. —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$42

92 Lava Cap 2022 Petite Sirah (El Dorado). Intense aromatics on the nose of this wine suggest boysenberry, olallieberry, cardamom, chicory, vanilla cream and florals on the nose. Flavors on the palate are red currant and black strawberry, interwoven with coriander, meaty tannins and minerals on the finish. Decant and pair with slow-roasted lamb shank. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

ZINFANDEL

94 Baca 2023 Cat's Cradle Zinfandel (Rockpile). This richly extracted Zin delivers a punch of black cherry, plum and purple flower aromas on the nose. The palate offers flavors of dark chocolate, black pepper, raspberry coulis and kirsch before the finish lingers with echoes of cinnamon and anise. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Baca 2023 Home Base Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Gobs of superripe raspberry aromas jump from the glass on the nose of this Zin. The palate is a wave of cherry-lime acidity, velvety tannin and spice, with flavors of cassis and blueberry jam exploding across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

93 Eberle Winery 2023 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). There's a vibrant freshness to this bottling of Zin from three vineyards, offering black cherry, French toast spice and graphite aromas on the nose. The palate is tense and peppery, with dense cherry flavors balanced by a snappy acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

93 Jessup Cellars 2022 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This fruit-forward and satisfying Zin plays all the hits, with focused raspberry, florals and cinnamon on the nose. The palate is loaded with gobs of candied cherry, vanilla, cinnamon sugar and violets that explode across a finish with enough tannin for the cellar. —T.R.C.
abv: 16.1% **Price:** \$60

93 Lava Cap 2023 Estate Grown Old Vine Zinfandel (El Dorado). The old-vine Zinfandel grown on this estate is legendary. On the nose of this bottling, robust and concentrated aromatics include black currant confiture, boysenberry jam, cardamom, dried florals and ginger. Flavors on the palate feature ripe and tart raspberry, blackberry jam, dried black Mission fig and orange marmalade layered throughout the palate and on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Lava Cap 2022 Zinfandel (El Dorado). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Louis M. Martini 2022 Gnarly Vine - Monte Rosso Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). This spicy and intriguing Zin brings aromas of roasted cherry, plum compote, cinnamon stick and star anise on the nose. The palate delivers a wave of raspberry-lemon acidity and flavors of baked berries, cassis and licorice that linger for a solid minute. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Giannecchini 2021 Zinfandel (Mendocino County). This tasty example of old-vine Zinfandel hails from a cooler region with heat spikes, high elevation and ocean influence. Rich and abundant aromas evoke dark cherry, Damson plum, huckleberry, citrus, coriander and toasted oak. The flavors are zesty but not weighty. Decant and enjoy with smoked turkey and the fixings. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Gracianna 2023 Bacigalupi Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This beautifully nuanced Zin delivers aromas of ripe raspberry, black cherry, violets and cocoa powder on the nose. The palate brings on an edge of savory roasted meats, fresh herb mélange and wild blackberry. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$52

92 Pedroncelli Winery 2022 Courage Faloni Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$56

92 Portalupi Wine Co. 2023 Schoolhouse Creek Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). The nose of this wine is dominated by aromas of salted plum, blackberry and fresh mint. The palate is notably tannic, with rich black cherry and cocoa powder flavors that unfold along the finish. Best from 2028–2040. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Gary Farrell 2021 Grist Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Tart raspberry, sage and black pepper aromas jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate displays elegant balance with flavors of crushed berry, herb mélange and spice that linger all the way across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Pedroncelli Winery 2022 Bushnell Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Zesty aromas of raspberry, baked plum and licorice jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate displays rich fruit and spice character, with enough plush tannin for mid-term aging. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Pellegrini-Olivet Lane 2023 A.V. Old Vines Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Pure aromas of crushed cherry and raspberry mingle with fresh-cut lilac on the nose of this elegant wine. The palate delivers plush tannin, zesty acidity and waves of

berry fruits that are buoyed by nuances of crushed herbs and black pepper. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Ridge 2023 Benito Dusi Ranch Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Very ripe and jammy aromas of dried red fruit, licorice and cinnamon show on the nose of this bottling of a classic vineyard by a classic winery. The palate delivers more complex flavors of damp soil, oak and strawberry. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$46

90 Gundlach Bundschu 2022 Rancho Agua Caliente Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Fresh cherry, orange peel and cinnamon-clove aromas drive the nose of this softer-styled Zin. The palate gives fresh cherry-blackberry flavors and a supple, velvety texture. Enjoy now to 2035 with ribs or other grilled pork. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Nine North Wine Company 2022 Hullabaloo Zinfandel (North Coast). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

OTHER RED WINES

95 Mountain Terraces Winery & Vineyards 2021 Petit Verdot (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 16% **Price:** \$160

94 Saint Gregory 2022 Pinot Meunier (Mendocino County). This grape variety is more often found as a component in sparkling wine. But the still wine interpretation can be otherworldly, as in this bottling. Aromas of red fruits, fresh sage, rosemary, dried rose petal, citrus and vanilla sea salt arise on the nose. Youthful strawberry and raspberry embrace the palate, gliding into silky tannins, mushroom, star anise and a mouthwatering, dry finish. Pair with toro tuna sushi. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

94 Thirty-Seven Wines 2022 Reserve Petit Verdot (Petaluma Gap). This intense wine displays gorgeous aromas of candied cherry, strawberry, violets and licorice. The palate offers supple texture, bombastic red fruit, sweet cinnamon and mint flavors in a framework of velvety tannin. Beautiful now, this will age gracefully for over a decade. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

93 Lava Cap NV Tempranillo (El Dorado). It is always exciting to taste high-elevation fruit, and Tempranillo is gaining attention because it is more heat-resistant to warmer temperatures. This bottling offers robust aromas, concentrated with ripe blackberry, boysenberry, dried herbs, black olives and toasted vanilla on the nose. Generous flavors on the palate evoke black currant compote,

blueberry and mandarin orange zest, with clove scattered throughout the finish. Pair with barbecued meats. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Monte Volpe 2020 Aglianico (Mendocino County). This Italian variety is showing up more often in California. In this Mendocino version, the fruit is rich. Vibrant dark berries are much more ready to drink even with fuller but softer tannins. The wine is an absolute match for hearty meals like grilled and roasted meat dishes. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Ovis 2020 Nero d'Avola (High Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

93 Whipsmart Wine Company 2023 The Fiddler Nero d'Avola (Russian River Valley). Aromas of concentrated cherry, strawberry-balsamic and fresh herbs burst forth on the nose of this striking carbonic Nero d'Avola. Generous fruit and spice character saturates the palate, leading to a finish that dances between floral tones, bright acidity and plush tannin. Pizza time, people! *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$20

91 Enotria 2021 Dolcetto (Mendocino County). Vibrant, lush aromas of Bing cherry and boysenberry are candied on the nose of this wine, with notes of dried florals, sarsaparilla and toasted oak. The flavors on the palate are cranberry, candied red-apple skin and cinnamon Red Hot candy, with a savory, dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Lorimar 2021 Sangiovese (Temecula Valley). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling, which includes 15% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, offers aromas of dried red fruit, li hing mui plum, pepper spice and a brick-like minerality on the nose. The palate is pleasantly rustic in red fruit and earth flavors, all wrapped in firm tannins. More evidence that Sangio can soar in Temecula. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$52

91 Lorimar 2021 Grand Reserve Montepulciano (Temecula Valley). Deep, dark and juicy, this bottling, which includes 11% Petite Sirah, presents clean aromas of blueberry and açai on the nose. The palate is hefty in mouthfeel, offering a range of flavors, from earth, tar and espresso bean to slightly tart dark fruits. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$66

91 Pali Wine Co. 2023 Pali Vineyard Dornfelder (Sta. Rita Hills). An array of purple aromas show on the nose of this rare California bottling of a German grape, from açai and Concord grape to violet and lilac. The palate pairs those floral elements with blueberry and white pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

90 Monte Volpe 2020 Sangiovese (Mendocino County). There are many variations in the flavor profiles of Sangiovese. This one has aromas of plum confiture, dried cherry, savory spices, mushroom, dried herbs and molasses on the nose. The palate offers cooked raspberry, cranberry, citrus zest, coriander and earth, with integrated rich tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

RED BLENDS

98 Saxum 2022 Heart Stone Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For being so bold, dense and ripe, this is a masterfully made blend of 31% Syrah, 29% Grenache, 22% Graciano and 18% Mataro. Intense aromas of blackberry, mocha, maple butter and black cardamom lead from the nose into a mouthfilling palate of roasted fig, blackberry sauce, star anise and licorice flavors wrapped in polished tannins. —M.K.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$138

97 Saxum 2021 Bone Rock James Berry Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark, dense and thick in the glass, this blend of 82% Syrah, 11% Grenache, 5% Petite Sirah and 2% Roussanne is somehow still tightly wound on the nose, offering aromas of dark red fruit and elderberry alongside hints of toasted walnut and espresso bean. The expansive, creamy palate is intense yet suavely presented, with violet, blueberry and coffee flavors lingering long into the peppery finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$159

96 Frequency 2022 Select Graciano-Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Winemaker Zac Wasserman is mastering the art of Graciano, here blending in 40% Syrah to present aromas of fresh yet dark purple fruit, violets and charred meat on the nose. It's quite expansive on the palate, pairing lavender and black plum with a penetrating, persistent acidity. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

96 Saxum 2022 James Berry Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This blend of 48% Grenache, 34% Mataro, 8% Syrah, 8% Counoise and 2% Carignan from one of Paso's most important and historic vineyards retains an ageworthy elegance amidst its rich density. Uplifting aromas of red and purple flowers join blackberry and caramel on the nose. The palate offers an array of savory herbs, including oregano and marjoram, that give an edge to the strawberry and baking spice flavors. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$138

96 Saxum 2021 Hexe Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This dense style of wine rises to a different level of enjoyment for those seeking ripe and lush expressions. The blend of 40% Grenache, 19% Graciano, 18% Syrah, 13% Mataro and 10% Petite Sirah starts with black currant, coffee bean, violet extract and dried meat aro-

mas on the nose. The palate is lavish with buoyant flavors of plum pudding, espresso and rich caramel candy, with firm yet polished tannins. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$159

96 Saxum 2021 Rocket Block Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dense blackberry, açai and blueberry aromas meet with savory streaks of tar, seared beef and oak on the nose of this blend of 70% Grenache, 15% Mataro, 11% Syrah and 4% Counoise. The palate is lavish and creamy yet splashed with a persistent acidity, showing ripe while dry flavors of root beer float and cherry cola, as the finish sizzles with energy. —M.K.
abv: 16.9% **Price:** \$159

95 Caliza 2022 Azimuth Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Opening with a savory streak of pepper sauce, this blend of 44% Mourvèdre, 35% Grenache, 19% Syrah and 2% Mataro offers strawberry, violet and warm baking spice aromas on the nose. The palate is intense and lavish yet framed by waxy tannins, as blackberry, pepper and lavender flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$78

95 JCB 2022 The Surrealist Red Blend (Napa Valley). Bold and full bodied, this Cabernet-Petit Verdot blend combines panache with generosity, succulence and rich flavor. Dark chocolate, dripping ripe fruits and integrated spices sweep through the mouth on palate-coating tannins. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$395

95 Saxum 2022 Broken Stones Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Intense aromas of extracted cherry, boysenberry, toasted wood and black pepper show on the nose of this blend of 66% Syrah, 13% Graciano, 11% Zinfandel and 10% Grenache. Deep, dark and lush flavors of black cherry are cut by a graphite minerality and steady acidity on the rich palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$138

95 Saxum 2022 Paderewski Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Unctuous aromas of blackberry, blueberry, perfumed violet and a truffle-like earthiness converge on the nose of this single-vineyard blend of 43% Syrah, 26% Mataro, 14% Tempranillo, 11% Graciano and 6% Viognier. Dark blueberry flavors run from the tip of the sip through the finish, enhanced by pinches of lavender and toasted rosemary. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$138

94 Cairjn Wine Cellars 2022 Blend No.3 Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Intense and nutty aromas of pecan, peppercorn and chile husk give depth to the vibrant strawberry and black cherry scents on the nose of this blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Syrah, 5% Graciano and 3% Mourvèdre. The palate is thick in texture, showing blackberry, porcini dust and creamy mocha-espresso flavors on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

94 Cairjn Wine Cellars 2022 Unlimited Devotion Yankowski Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark berry, toasted pecan and savory meat aromas show on the nose of this blend of 60% Graciano and 40% Mourvèdre. The palate is spicy with pepper flavors that enhance the boysenberry and dried meat flavors at the core. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$85

94 Chalk Hill 2022 Estate Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Chalk Hill). For full review see page 6. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Chateau St. Jean 2022 Cinq Cépages Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

94 Donelan 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc (Fountaingrove District). Bright and focused aromas of crushed berry and black cherry mingle with tar and black pepper on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a punch of powder-fine tannin and intense acidity, with flavors of dark cocoa, currant, violets and cracked pepper. Delicious now, this will improve with some time in the cellar. Drink 2030–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

94 Donelan 2021 Cuvée Moriah Red Blend (Sonoma County). This Grenache-Mourvèdre blend brings savory-spicy energy on the nose, with aromas of sweet cinnamon, black plum, cherry coulis and floral herbs mingling. The palate delivers richer meaty character, with bright cherry fruit and savory spices. Best from 2028–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

94 Dumb Luck 2017 GSM (Lake County). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

94 Frequency 2023 GSM (Santa Barbara County). This is a classically designed Rhône blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre, yet with the benefit of Santa Barbara's seaside sunshine. Plump aromas of black raspberry and plum burst on the nose across an elegant woodspice. The palate's fresh acidity weaves through rich red fruit, mace and star-anise flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

94 Marbeso 2023 Grenache Blend (Sta. Rita Hills). Not many Rhône blends come from this cooler appellation, but this split between Grenache from Spear Vineyard and Syrah from John Sebastiano makes a compelling argument for more. Aromas of boysenberry, black cherry and fresh purple flowers lead from the nose into a juicy palate of anise, thyme, peppercorn and bold fruit, with meaty undertones delivering a savory edge. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$52

94 Saxum 2022 G2 Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark plum and wild cherry aromas form the backdrop for an array of chaparral elements, from fennel to thyme, on the nose of this blend of 44% Grenache, 19% Mataro, 18% Graciano, 14% Syrah and 5% Carignan. The palate is suave and polished, pairing baked red plum and sumac flavors with mace and peppercorn. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$138

93 Brown Estate 2022 Chaos Theory Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Cairjn Wine Cellars 2022 Crown of Avignon Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Boysenberry, charred nut and graham cracker aromas meet with a hint of savory tar on the nose of this blend of 44% Grenache, 37% Syrah and 19% Mourvèdre. A peppery spice boosts the berry jam, thyme and grilled meat tones of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Cline Family Cellars 2022 Red Blend (Contra Costa County). The Ancient Vine series is a unique selection from heritage vineyards in Contra Costa County. This bottling is deep and opulent, with aromas of baked blackberry, black currant, dried herbs, potpourri and molasses on the nose. The flavors on the palate are boysenberry coulis, clove and habanero jelly, with supple, silky tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

93 Eberle Winery 2023 Cotes-du-Robles Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). This is one of the most classic Paso Robles bottlings, and this vintage's fresh profile really pairs well with the region's warmer days. The blend of 58% Grenache, 34% Mourvèdre and 8% Syrah starts with aromas of smashed raspberry, hibiscus and fennel pollen on the zesty nose. The palate is juicy and bright, offering quaffable red fruit and light spice flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

93 Ferrari-Carano 2022 PreVail West Face Red Blend (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$100

93 Harvey & Harriet 2022 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Intense yet polished aromas of blueberry and toasted cardamom lure the nose deeply into this bottling. Chewy tannins frame the sip, where black plum, blackberry and violet flavors lead into a bittersweet-chocolate conclusion. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$28

93 JCB 2021 Leopard Red Blend (Napa Valley). Distinctive, intriguing and generously flavored, this surprising blend of Syrah, Cab Franc and a lift of Viognier provides unctuous, succulent and

savory flavors. It's full of tropical blossoms, mixed fruits and spice. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

93 JCB 2021 The Charmer Red Blend (Napa Valley). Full bodied, lush, concentrated and polished yet muscular, this red blend weaves red and black fruits, dark chocolate and a ferrous finish into a mouthfilling extravagance. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$225

93 Kaleidos 2022 Morpheus Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Lush and comforting aromas of spice cake wrap around the baked berry and Luxardo cherry core on the nose of this blend of 54% Syrah, 26% Mourvèdre and 20% Grenache. The rich palate of grilled cherry, berry and star anise is offset by a firm texture. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$49

93 Mengler Family Wines 2022 Medley Alegria Vineyards Red Blend (Russian River Valley). Lifted aromas of cranberry pie, herb mélange and licorice explode from the glass on the nose of this blend of over 60 varieties from the Alegria Vineyard. The palate displays bright acidity, plush tannins and flavors of tart berry, spice and flowers. Chill this wine slightly and serve with anything from the grill. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Rombauer 2019 Le Meilleur Du Chai Red Blend (Napa Valley). Black currant, mixed cherry, spices and pine cascade through the mouth with flavor. Powdery-fine tannins and balanced acidity carry through a long, satisfying finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$175

93 Saxum 2022 4 Hearts Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Heady and rich aromas of cassis and purple flower make for an intense nose on this ripe blend of 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Petite Sirah and 25% Zinfandel. The palate is smooth and viscous in texture, carrying blackberry sauce, fig and prune flavors that finish with a caramel touch. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$138

92 AJA Vineyards 2019 5 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Malibu Coast). All five primary Bordeaux varieties team up for this bottling from the Malibu Coast, which starts with sultry aromas of red berry, mocha and woodspice on the nose. There's a chalky tension to the sip, where dried fruit, damp wood, pepper and rustic mushroom flavors align. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Akash 2021 Dreamville Blend No. 34 Red Blend (Temecula Valley). This blend of 82% Syrah and 18% Zinfandel works very well, starting with aromas of tart pomegranate, hibiscus and pepper. The palate surrounds a core of charred nut

and baked cherry, with complex clove and anise elements adding depth. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$57

92 Blue Rock 2022 Baby Blue Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Sonoma County). Rich aromas of cocoa powder, cherry and cinnamon waft from the glass on the nose of this (mostly) Bordeaux-style blend. The palate has rich grippy tannin and flavors of berry liqueur, cocoa and purple flowers before a long finish. Yummy now, but a few years in the cellar will unlock the energy of this wine. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$34

92 Caliza 2022 Sympatico Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Lively boysenberry, dark strawberry and lilac aromas meet with graphite and damp soil on the nose of this blend of 60% Tempranillo, 22% Grenache, 8% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre and 5% Mataro. The palate blends blackberry and blueberry fruit flavors with pinches of black pepper and loamy soil. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$78

92 Ferrari-Carano 2022 Tresor Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

92 Francis Ford Coppola 2022 Eleanor Red Blend (Sonoma County). This decadent blend packs a wallop of generous berry pie and cocoa aromas on the nose. The palate delivers a nifty balance of juicy acidity and plush tannin, with flavors of cherry, clove and flowers that vibrate along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 Frequency 2022 Aces Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Dark cherry and berry aromas meet with minty cola and turned-earth scents on the nose of this blend of 40% Syrah, 40% Graciano and 20% Grenache. Firm tannins and a solid acidity frame the dried red fruit and sanguine flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

92 Lions Head Collection 2022 Lion Tamer Red Blend (Napa Valley). Muscular and bold, this Malbec-based red blend delivers the succulent, ripe fruits of the variety together with the structure and depth of Petite Sirah and Cabernet. Oak spices and lush fruits fill the mouth with flavor. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Longboard Vineyards 2022 Point Break Red Blend (Sonoma). This deeply extracted but velvety-smooth blend bursts from the glass with aromas of fresh cherry, concentrated strawberry, dark chocolate and rose petals on the nose. The palate dances with lively acidity and rich berry flavors before a finish laden with aromatic spice and plush tannin. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

92 MCV 2022 1105 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Darkly hued and intensely thick in the glass, this blend of 57% Petite Sirah, 13% Syrah, 12% Petit Verdot, 10% Grenache, 7% Tannat and 1% Viognier presents intense black currant and fresh lilac aromas on the nose. The palate is creamy and comforting in texture, filling the mouth with flavors of violet and cassis. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

92 Pedroncelli Winery 2022 Endurance Super Tuscan (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of decadent raspberry liqueur, violets and chocolate dominate the nose of this blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet. The palate delivers flavors of rich plum, cherry, roses and barrel spice with rich, hearty tannin. Enjoy with grilled steaks or chops. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

92 Roth Estate 2022 Heritage Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

92 Ruby Hill Winery 2021 Odyssey Merlot-Petit Verdot (Livermore Valley). This wine's aromas are rich, with blackberry, dried herbs, molasses and Tahitian vanilla on the nose. Flavors on the palate are red currant confiture, grapefruit zest, cardamom, dried tobacco leaf and bittersweet chocolate, with silky tannins on the finish. Decant and pair with grilled Wagyu beef. —T.P.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$100

92 Thirty-Seven Wines 2022 Reserve The Hermit Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Petaluma Gap). Bright and focused aromas of cherry liqueur, milk chocolate and caramel waft from the glass on the nose of this blend. The palate brings a wave of lively acidity and all those flavors, with supple tannin and a heady lift of barrel spice along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$59

91 AJA Vineyards 2022 Winemaker's Blend Red Blend (Central Coast). This proprietary blend is downright fun to enjoy, starting with aromas of black-cherry soda pop, mace and star anise on the nose. The juicy palate shows a similar combination of fruit and spice, picking up pepper and dark flower flavors along the way. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

91 Alfaro Family 2021 Dragon Slayer Red Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains). The playful label alone is a solid reason to buy this wine, but the insides also deliver a fun, fresh and food-friendly blend. The nose offers blackberry and lush floral aromas while the palate floats more dark berry, cocoa and chai flavors atop a fluffy texture. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Austin Hope 2022 GSM (Templeton Gap District). Quite lavish and heavily spiced on the nose, this blend of 40% Syrah, 33% Grenache and 27% Mourvèdre presents thick aromas of vanilla, caramel, toffee, coffee and black cherry extract. The

palate shows a similarly jammy, oak-driven style, with butterscotch and coffee-candy flavors most prevalent. Fine tannins rise on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

91 Austin Hope 2022 Mourvèdre-Syrah (Templeton Gap District). Intense and lavish aromas of stewed fruit, root beer, mint and licorice explode on the nose of this bottling. There's a confectionary sea-salt-caramel core to the palate, with hints of clove and mace adding nuance. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

91 Falkner 2022 Meritage (Temecula Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$80

91 Falkner 2022 Amante Red Blend (Temecula Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$80

91 Four Bridges Wines 2022 Volition Red Blend (Paso Robles). Rustic blackberry aromas are slightly wild and tart on the nose of this blend of 87% Petite Sirah and 13% Tannat, which also offers violet and wet slate scents. The palate is dark yet tart and loaded with grapy flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Jayson 2022 Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

91 Kaleidos 2022 Osiris Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dried berry and potpourri aromas meet with hints of savory jerky on the nose of this Grenache-led blend. Roasted plum and strawberry flavors combine with pepper and clove on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$49

91 Lion's Ridge 2023 Special Reserve Red Blend (Central Coast). A pleasing array of spices like mace and star anise plus struck stone and purple flower aromas show on the nose of this widely available wine. The palate has similar spices, including nutmeg and clove, to enhance the baked red-fruit and peppercorn flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 LVE 2022 Legend Vineyard Exclusive Red Blend (Napa Valley). Lip smacking and full bodied, this red blend offers rich flavors of dark fruits, chocolates and espresso, with plush tannins and a generous finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 MCV 2022 Black Red Blend (Paso Robles). A plentiful array of baking spices as well as dark red fruit, cocoa and toasted pecan arise on the nose of this blend of 68% Petite Sirah, 16% Tannat and 16% Petit Verdot. The palate is layered in rich sea-salt caramel and blackberry pie flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

91 Midnight Cellars 2021 Gemini Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dark plum, berry and crumpled

thyme aromas draw the nose into this reserve blend of 29% Petite Sirah, 19% Merlot, 16% Syrah, 15% Zinfandel, 15% Tannat and 6% Malbec. There is a solid core of dark red fruit to the palate, which is balanced by persistent acidity and just enough pepper spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$68

91 Monte Volpe NV Primo Rosso Lot 17 Red Blend (Mendocino County). This opulent bottling from unique lots was aged in American and French oak barrels. The Italian grape varieties in Lot 17 have the aromas of black currant confiture, baked plum, dried violets, sarsaparilla and molasses on the nose. Flavors on the palate are cooked Bing cherry, candied grapefruit, black pepper and supple tannins to finish. Pair with grilled pork chop with apple chutney. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

91 Nine North Wine Company 2022 The Bomb Red Blend (North Coast). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

91 Ridge Vineyards 2023 Three Valleys Red Blend (Sonoma County). Bright raspberry and boysenberry aromas come into focus on the nose of this Zin blend. The palate packs a wallop of rich raspberry-lemon, blueberry and cinnamon flavors, while the finish displays grippy tannins, aromatic spices and whispers of lilacs. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$36

91 Ridge Vineyards 2022 Monte Bello Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains). This classic Cab-based blend from the top of the appellation also includes 10% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. It's ripe and exuberant on the nose, with boysenberry jam and dried purple-flower flavors. The palate doesn't exhibit the usual tension, presenting a suave set of blackberry, pepper and mint flavors on a softer frame. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$325

91 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Madonna Estate Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Clara Valley). Dark, intense fruit aromas are bold but not overdone on the nose of this blend of 76% Grenache, 16% Syrah and 8% Mourvèdre, which also shows earth and fennel elements. The complex palate is layered in fig, date, clove and star anise flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

91 Thibido 2022 Hippy Hill Estate Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Hearty, bold and yet slightly tart on the nose, this blend of 65% Mourvèdre, 18% Syrah, 15% Grenache and 2% Carignan offers dark red cherry, deep violet and spicy pepper aromas on the nose. Peppery spices and hints of thyme and green sage enliven the dark fruit tones of the palate, where waxy tannins linger long. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Tom Mackey Cellars 2022 Dog Tired Red Blend (Sonoma County). This robust blend displays roasted cherry and spiced raspberry aromas on the nose. The palate gives flavors of berry gastrique, crushed mint leaf, sage and cocoa powder. Rest this wine in the cellar for a few years and it will pair marvelously with grilled meats. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$30

91 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2021 Terzetto Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). A harmony of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, this red blend celebrates aromatic lift as much as structure and length. Dark fruits combine with fresh herbs and tobacco, with cocoa powder and spice emerging from the finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$90

90 AMICI CELLARS 2023 No Curfew Red Blend (California). This wine is hearty, with aromatics of black plum, chicory and toasted oak on the nose. The palate offers ripe dark cherry and clove layered with mocha and supple tannins. It is a classic cool-climate red blend that pairs easily with grilled meats for everyday drinking. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

90 Carmel Road Winery 2022 Red Blend (California). This wine is supple, with aromas of boysenberry, blackberry, molasses, brown sugar and potpourri on the nose. The flavors on the palate are black currant coulis, olallieberry and dried sage, layered with lemon zest, mineral and dry, grippy tannins. Pair with meat loaf. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Farmhouse 2022 Red Blend (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Gen5 2023 Red Blend (Lodi). This ripe wine offers aromas of blackberry and boysenberry pie, vanilla extract, sarsaparilla and crystallized ginger on the nose. The palate conveys plum, dark cherry and creamy vanilla, with supple tannins on the finish. Pair with broccoli beef. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$11

90 Goldschmidt 2022 FIDELITY Red Blend (Alexander Valley). This blend offers generous aromas of raspberry, black cherry and cocoa powder on the nose. The palate delivers rich tannin, juicy acidity and vibrant berry flavors that linger with whispers of graphite and black pepper on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$20

90 Mengler Family Wines 2018 Rita's Block Alegria Vineyards Red Blend (Russian River Valley). This field blend of 20-something varieties shows layers of plum, cherry, blackberry and cedar aromas on the nose. The palate brings elegant floral tones, cranberry, kirsch and cinnamon flavors across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$65

90 Oblivion 2022 Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Paraduxx 2021 Rector Creek Red Blend (Napa Valley). Approachable and generous, this red blend carries flavors of spiced cocoa and espresso grounds, a complex of sweet spices and palate-coating flavor. Succulent tannins and balanced acidity push through a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Pulchella 2022 Highs & Lows Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Tart boysenberry and black plum aromas are sharp on the nose of this blend of 66% Syrah and 34% Grenache. The palate is zippy in energy, cruising through puckering black plum and cardamom flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$57

90 Pulchella 2022 Gathering Red Blend (Paso Robles). Vanilla, caramel, clove and stewed berry aromas show on the nose of this blend of 44% Grenache, 42% Tempranillo, 9% Petite Sirah and 5% Syrah. The palate shows some age, with flavors of prominent oak and warm baking spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$57

90 Tamber Bey 2022 Deux Chevaux Vineyard Rabicano Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Yountville). Full bodied and muscular, this red blend captures amplitude and generous flavor with dripping ripe dark fruits and oak spice. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$85

90 Treana 2022 RESERVE Red Blend (Paso Robles). This bottling amps up the oak to 11, showing unctuous aromas of liquified caramel, vanilla and plum pudding on the nose. The palate is creamy and dense with more caramel, woodspice and flavored-coffee elements, proving richly satisfying in a dessert-like manner. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$103

89 Akash 2022 Dreamville Blend No. 48 Red Blend (Temecula Valley). Violet, ripe plum and berry aromas make for a darkly hued entry to this blend of 75% Syrah and 25% Petite Sirah. The palate is quite chewy in texture and bold in cherry and pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$57

88 Akash 2021 Dreamville Blend No. 75 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Temecula Valley). This blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Cabernet Franc from three vineyards offers strong anise, damp asphalt and dark red-fruit aromas on the nose. The palate is a bit tart and slightly funky, showing fennel and sour red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$57

89 Angels & Cowboys 2022 Proprietary Red Blend (Sonoma County). This blend displays aromas of roasted cherry, cinnamon and toasty oak on the nose. The palate brings flavors of

concentrated cherry, dusty raspberry, forest floor and cinnamon across the grippy finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Clay Shannon 2021 Mutton Red Blend (Lake County). Aromas of bramble dark fruit, vanilla spice, red licorice, dried florals and smoky paprika rise on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate are black currant confiture, orange liqueur, dried thyme and mocha, with supple tannins on the finish. Pair with a pulled pork sandwich. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 The Sneak 2023 Red Blend (Carneros). Bright blueberry, kirsch and cinnamon stick aromas fuel the nose of this blend. The palate layers rich tannin, cherry-berry concentrate and barrel spice before a finish that's loaded with grippy tannins and spice in equal measure. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Pulchella 2022 City Slicker Red Blend (Paso Robles). Tart berry aromas meet with baking spice on the nose of this blend of 64% Zinfandel and 36% Petite Sirah. The palate is also aggressively tart, pairing berry, pepper and tar flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$57

88 Pulchella 2022 Witness Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). A bit sour on the nose, this blend of 84% Grenache and 16% Syrah offers tart red fruit and wild herb aromas. The palate is both sour and a tiny bit sweet, with more herbal elements adding depth. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$57

88 Rabble 2021 Red Blend (Paso Robles). The augmented-reality labels of these wines are worth the purchase price alone. Inside is decent wine too, in this case starting with aromas of cranberry, cherry, dried herb and game. The palate pairs tart red fruit with light herbs on a fairly simple frame. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

88 Wente Vineyards 2022 Mount Diablo Highlands Red Blend (Central Coast). Leathery aromas of dried fruit, asphalt and baked soil show on the nose of this fairly priced blend. Muddled plum flavors play alongside the earth and savory meat tones of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

DESSERT WINE

93 Bogle 2019 Petite Sirah (Clarksburg). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$20/500 ml

OREGON CHARDONNAY

96 **Domaine Serene 2021 Récolte Grand Cru Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** When you put “Grand Cru” on the label, you have to walk the talk. This wine pulls it off. Lemon tart and catmint aromas waltz with wisps of straw and fresh coconut. A thick coating of lemon curd and warm brioche butters up the palate, with a touch of ginger and lemon-verbena tea adding to the fun. The wine’s acidity and texture are equally gentle. Match this wine with a lounging jacket and Lobster Newburg. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$160

96 **Royer 2022 Witzel & Wind Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 4. *Editor’s Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

94 **Adelsheim 2022 Breaking Ground Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** Breaking Ground is breaking good with its aromas of lemon, wet concrete and dust warming on a light bulb that’s just been turned on. Jolting acidity greets flavors like sage, butter and a lemon granita with a lemon grass garnish. A crisp texture and refreshment wait. Break out the salted cod fritters. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 **Domaine Serene 2022 Clos du Soleil Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Sure, the wine’s apple, cinnamon and chamomile tea aromas are fresh and clean. But it was the scent of sheets freshly washed with lemon-scented laundry powder drying on the clothesline that won me over. A tangy bit of acidity illuminates flavors of tart, almost ripe pineapple, lime zest and thyme. Restrained alcohol and a lithe mouthfeel add to the wine’s enjoyment. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$85

94 **Domaine Serene 2022 Côte Sud Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** A most excellent mix of a cinnamon-spiced apple tart, saline and wet stones is punctuated by wisps of coconut and butter. The wine’s toasted filbert, butter and creamy lemon miso flavors will trigger cravings for a poolside salad, while its luxurious texture suggests wearing silk. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$95

94 **Gradient 2023 Reserve Chardonnay (Lower Long Tom).** Using Dijon 548 fruit from the estate vineyard, the Reserve was fermented and aged for 12 months in 100% new French oak. Slices of Bosc pear drizzled in lemon juice meld with aromas of chalkboard dust and saline. The wine feels lithe and nimble on the palate, with bright acidity, flavors of lime zest and a touch of butter. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$36

94 **Hamilton Russell Oregon 2022 Maple Grove Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Your senses will come alive as you breathe in this wine’s tangy lemon-pith, lemon-tart, chalkboard-dust and fresh, mineral-laden well-water aromas. The wine feels coiled like a steel band on the palate, with energetic acidity propelling flavors of white grapefruit and lemon verbena tea. Enjoy now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

94 **Knudsen 2021 Founders Series JLK Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** This Chardonnay is a worthy tribute to the memory of Julia Lee Knudsen, a true Willamette Valley pioneer who cofounded Knudsen Vineyards in 1971. JLK opens with brioche and Golden Delicious apple aromas that meld with the fresh scent of lemon peel. Flavors like green tea served with lemon and honey glide along a rich texture. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

93 **Domaine Serene 2022 Aspect Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Aromas of sweet, ripe white peaches and sweet pea flowers are tempered by earthy notes of marigolds and chamomile flowers. A lean texture and boisterous acidity are matched by equally brisk flavors of freshly cut grass, wet slate and tonic water served with a lemon twist. This would be outstanding with my zucchini risotto. Just give me a few hours’ notice before dropping by. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

93 **Domaine Serene 2022 Evenstad Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Pears, lemon and chamomile flowers dominate an aromatic set that includes smaller amounts of vanilla and chalkboard dust. A lemon tart with a butter crust and cinnamon flavor combination holds court on the palate. The wine’s texture is on the rich side, with more than enough acidity to keep things interesting. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 **Royer 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 10.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$45

93 **Violet Vines 2023 Stiling Vineyard Clone 95 Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** The decadent aromas of sweet pea flowers and ripe Anjou pears drizzled with lemon juice and honey are a nice accompaniment to the fresh saline note of a maritime wind. Then you arrive at the wine’s Key lime pie with a graham-cracker crust flavor that weakens resistance and the knees. Wisps of sage and saline flavor hover nearby. Surrender, Dorothy. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$32

92 **Adelsheim 2022 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** When I first sniffed this wine, my oaky chard alarm screamed in my ear. I encountered pineapple, passion fruit and talc aromas in direct competition with a pronounced butter note. The first sip took me in another direction, as the wine’s icy brisk acidity energized flavors of toasted filberts,

sage, lemon zest and a trifling amount of butter. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

92 **Adelsheim 2022 Ribbon Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Ribbon Ridge).** The wine’s peach and saline aromas are joined by a grassy quality that is positively Sauvignon Blanc-like. Elevated acidity and a crisp texture go hand-in-hand with the Chardonnay’s lemon, green-apple, melon and wet slate flavors. A taste of raw coconut hangs in the background of this perky wine. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

92 **Cortell Collection 2022 Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Flower power is on full display here as aromas of honeysuckle, lemon-scented geraniums meld with notes of earthy oregano and the sweet grassy scent of clover honey. The wine’s flavors are equally mesmerizing, with yellow apples and lemon grass tea joined by buttery macadamia nuts. Crisp acidity and a clean, fresh mouthfeel is the cherry blossom on top. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Gradient 2023 Chardonnay (Lower Long Tom).** I continue to be impressed by the Chardonnay produced by this southern Willamette Valley winery. Its estate wine is a beautiful mixture of orchard fruit and citrus, including aromas of tangerine and freshly cut grass united with Cosmic Crisp apple, honey and butter flavors. Gradient’s trademark acidity will make your mouth water. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$26

92 **Irvine & Roberts 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Rogue Valley).** Who could ask for anything more from a Chardonnay than aromas of lemon, lavender, butter and honeycomb? The wine’s rich texture is a nice fit for its lemon butter on toast, honey and rosemary flavors. Moderate acidity massages the palate as you look for the popcorn maker. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$35

92 **Sokol Blosser 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** These lemon and saline aromas are worthy of the Amalfi Coast in summertime. Fainter aromas of juniper and Marcona almonds do nothing to diminish that Mediterranean vibe. The wine’s ethereal texture floats flavors of lemon butter, thyme, wet slate and German chamomile. Serve with fritto misto and any Marcello Mastroianni film. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$42

92 **Stoller 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** A lime-sorbet, lemon-zest, wet concrete and sweet pea flower aroma combination is a nice introduction to the wine’s flavors of honey, lemon butter and ripe pears. There’s a nice bit of acidity here, and the Chardonnay’s texture is brisk, with a snappy bite. If I ever get invited to a lobster broil, I’m bringing a bottle of this wine. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Violet Vines 2023 Gracie-Fehr Estate Chardonnay (McMinnville). A desert oasis comes to mind as this Chardonnay's Golden Delicious apple aroma mixes with a sesame oil, thyme and sumac combination that reminded me of a nice batch of za'atar. Things turned more traditional on the palate, with tangy Granny Smith apple and salted sunflower seed flavors zipping complementing a crisp texture and blazing acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Argyle 2022 Spirithouse Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). The cold, fresh scent of mineral-laden stream water is an icy counterpoint to aromas of lemon icing and chamomile tea served with honey. The Spirithouse feels light and specter-like on the palate, with acidity as crisp as an ice-cold apple. The wine's lemon- and lime-zest flavors are matched with traces of tonic water and earthy bay leaf. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

91 Björnson 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). The rich aromas of lemon gelato and Tahitian vanilla are pierced by a mineral-laden combination of saline and wet slate. A racy bit of acidity livens the wine's mouthfeel, with lemon, lime, toasted almonds and shaved coconut dancing across the palate. I'm eager to try this wine with coconut curry that may or may not include shrimp. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$50

91 Compris 2023 Wavelength Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). The wine's baked goods and citrus aromas had me craving lemon pound cake. Things get tangier after that, with lemon-balm, green-tea, mint and white-peach flavors kicking in. Wavelength's texture is crisp, its acidity mouthwatering. Enjoy with frequency. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$55

91 Domaine Rogue 2022 Chardonnay (Applegate Valley). This nicely balanced Chardonnay is a blend of Wente and Dijon clones that were barrel fermented and aged 10 months in once—and twice-used French oak barrels. Fruity mirabelle plum and Cara Cara orange aromas are accented by a touch of grassiness. The flavors are like a mature white Burgundy, with orange zest meeting a fino-like combination of saline and nuts. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 Irvine & Roberts 2022 Convergence Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). An aromatic burst of Meyer lemonade is quickly tempered by a rich coconut butter scent. The lighter-bodied Convergence shows off classic pineapple, toasted filbert and butter flavors with restrained acidity. This is a pleasing sipper where the wine's texture is as gentle and soothing as a back rub. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50

91 Lange 2023 Classiqué Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The tangy fruit and mineral qualities of this wine's aromatic set are best

described as apricots and oranges crushed on slate. It tastes like Mandarin orange segments, with juice dripping down your chin, spiced up by bursts of coriander and freshly picked basil. The texture lies somewhere between creamy and dreamy. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

91 LucidWild 2022 Hidden LucidWild Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). This light and frisky Chardonnay smells like a refreshing, icy lemon granita. There's also a touch of white grapefruit in the background, complemented by aromas of wet slate and saline. Jangly acidity escorts flavors like spearmint and a sweet-tart citron flavor that should be featured in a cocktail served in a tropical climate. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

91 Phelps Creek 2022 Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge). This aromatic combination of grilled lemons and smoky flint is pretty nice, but a mildly sweet note similar to candy corn is quite compelling. The palate offers a bit of a gearshift as tangy flavors of lemon zest, tangerine and earthy sage crank up the tart alarm. You could power a village with the electricity provided by this wine's acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

91 Seiji 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). This is my first time tasting a wine from this producer, and I'm impressed. I loved how its Chardonnay combines a lush guava aroma with tangy bits of lemon basil, freshly cut grass and white pepper. The winning combination repeats with passion fruit, lemon verbena tea and shredded coconut flavors. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$50

91 Soter 2022 Estates Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The lime and the coconut isn't a kid's story, it's the story of this wine's aromatic journey. Embraced by mildly elevated acidity, flavors like lime, butter, lemongrass and chamomile tea cruise along an almost creamy texture. Pair with popcorn and any Owen Wilson flick. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

91 Stoller 2022 Elsie's Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Pucker up because Elsie isn't messing around when it comes to acidity and delivers as much tart and twang as possible. An aromatic explosion of lemon zest and melon is followed by bursts of saline, marzipan and gardenia. A snappy texture accompanies the flavors of Elsie's sliced pears drizzled in lime juice, papaya and ginger flavors. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Björnson 2023 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The aromatic set of lemon, lime and lychee is a tropical Chardonnay paradise. A wisp of plumeria flowers floating in the background will remind you of a Hawaiian lei. The wine's gentle acidity drives a creamy texture and flavors like lemon curd, toasted filberts and a trace of saline. This fine

example of Willamette Valley Chardonnay can be popped and poured with everything from chicken fingers to lobster rolls. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Bryn Mawr 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Lemon, butter and seared scallop aromas are a tough combination to beat. The wine's restrained acidity and borderline creamy texture are the backdrop for white-grapefruit, lime and butter flavors. This is a sippin' on the dock of the bay special. Pair it with a sunset, swooping seagulls and a basket of fish and chips. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

90 Cardwell Hill 2022 The Bard Chard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). All's well that ends well when you have a Chardonnay like this. Orange blossoms and honey beckon, girded by butter and corn bread. A lemon flavor commands the palate stage, joined by flecks of butter and sage. This is a wine fit for a midsummer's eve. When the Bard said, "Good wine is a good familiar creature if it be well used," he meant "Serve this with lobster rolls." —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

90 Knudsen 2022 Family Series Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). This rich, aromatic combination of peach, lemon, buttered popcorn and apple blossoms will transport you to an orchard or a movie theater. A smooth, round texture supports flavors like lemon verbena tea and toasted filberts, while a trace of coconut hovers in the background. This a fantastic pairing with a grilled cheese sandwich and a Friday night in-home movie. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

90 Peter William 2023 Egan Vineyard Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). The scents of lemon verbena tea and smoky flint serenade the nose, followed by a symphony of tart lemon, coconut and oatcake flavors. The wine's acidity is shivering and its mouthfeel is tangy. I would expect this acidity would come in handy when dining on toro sashimi or chargrilled mackerel. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Pike Road 2022 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The sweetness of a hyacinth in bloom meets the sweetness of ripe pineapple slices in this tempting aromatic set. This is a light-bodied Chardonnay where lively acidity boosts flavors of ripe pear, honeycomb, ginger and toasted filberts. You couldn't ask anything more from a Willamette Valley Chardonnay in this price range. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Soléna 2023 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A bouquet of aromatics features hydrangeas and honeysuckle draped over notes of lemon peel, apricot and talc. There's some weight here as flavors like limoncello, cantaloupe and green tea coat the palate. Another highlight is the wine's

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elevated acidity. I enjoyed the way it cut the fruit like a knife. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Sweet Cheeks 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For fans of a richer style of Chardonnay, Sweet Cheeks is there for you. A pronounced ripe nectarine aroma kicks things off, joined by a trace of that earthy mineral post-rain scent known as petrichor. A really ripe, sweet Asian pear flavor is spiced up by a touch of coriander. The texture is a creamy treat. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

90 William Marie 2021 Dion Vineyard Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). Grapes from a 50-year-old-plus vineyard are used to craft a Chardonnay that opens with classic aromas of lemon, butter and smoky flint. This lighter-bodied wine with crystalline acidity leans heavily to the savory on the palate. That's where chamomile tea, earthy oregano and lemon join forces with mushrooms and a touch of bone broth. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

89 Del Rio 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). Made entirely with Del Rio Vineyard fruit, this Chardonnay leads with an aromatic orchard fruit medley of pears and Golden Delicious apples mixed with a touch of wet stones. The wine's primary flavors of lime zest and eucalyptus are joined by a touch of butter. Keep a bottle on hand for butter chicken curry takeout. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$22

89 Domaine 524 2022 Therese Marie Reserve Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Pears in syrup, spiced with cinnamon, are counterpointed by an earthy note of freshly baled hay warming in the sun. The wine's acidity struggles to keep up with rich, buttery flavors like lemon shortbread and coconut. The texture is creamy smooth. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$56

89 Gemini 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). Gemini's estate Chardonnay has a peppery apple cider aroma that matched up beautifully with a savory note that reminded me of banh mi. In fact, given the wine's acidity and lemon, pineapple and green-tea flavors, a banh mi made with chicken would make an excellent food pairing. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Phelps Creek 2021 Lynette Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge). Dust warming on a light bulb, orange peel rips and pear juice drips down the chin. Lynette's aromatic set may eventually inspire a proper haiku. In the meantime, sip this Chardonnay to enjoy its flavors of tart apple, touches of saline and butter, and a bit of marzipan on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$48

88 Boedecker Cellars 2023 Purity Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Purity's muted aromas of lemon and pear are overshadowed by notes of ginger and chalkboard dust. The wine's acidity is nicely

elevated, but its mouthfeel is to the tin side. Tart citrus and Granny Smith apple flavors mingle with a trace of green tea sweetened with agave syrup. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

PINOT GRIS

93 King Estate 2023 Domaine Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Some people dismiss Pinot Gris as worthy of quaffing fun but little else. Those people should be unfriended. The Domaine is stainless steel-fermented and aged *sur lie* for eight months to add weight and depth. It has aromas of waxy lemons and mirabelle plums that intersect with a wisp of saline. Shiver-inducing acidity shines its spotlight on flavors like Granny Smith apples, thyme, and grilled scallops. Get some. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$40

92 King Estate 2022 Eola Springs Vineyard Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Made with fruit from a renowned vineyard whose vines first went into the ground in 1972, this lively Pinot Gris opens with clean, fresh aromas of lime zest, ripe Anjou pears and green tea. Citrusy acidity backs flavors of Cara Cara oranges, lemon basil and lemon zest. Be prepared to pucker up. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

92 Raptor Ridge 2023 Vineyard Select Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The wine's preserved lemon and chamomile aromas are like sitting down with a nice cup of tea. Perhaps it is a high tea, as the wine's lemon verbena, lavender-water and lemon-zest flavors collide to give the impression of a nice lemon-lavender tart. This is not your average Pinot Gris. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

92 Silvan Ridge 2023 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is a dance party where a laser beam of acidity powers the turntables and disco balls. The dance floor is filled with fresh aromas of lavender water, lime zest, and nectarines. Then, a zesty lemon-lime combination is wrapped in a ball of green tea and a wee bit of honey. The Silvan Ridge Pinot Gris takes the party to 11. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Del Rio 2023 Estate Pinot Gris (Rogue Valley). The wine's macadamia nut and lemon-infused mineral-water aromas mingle with a smoky note similar to sparking a fire with pieces of quartz. A tart and tangy mouthfeel is fueled by sprightly acidity and flavors like lemon sorbet and orange zest. At this price, you get quite the bang for the buck. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$18

91 Pike Road 2023 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The pleasing aromatic duo of sweet lemon-drop hard candies and earthy post-rain slate patio tiles is a heck of an introduction. The wine's lemon-curd and saline flavors are backlit by refreshingly crisp acidity. With a fresh texture and the bite of

that acidity, this Pinot Gris will make a great pairing with fish tacos and sunshine. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Soléna 2023 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The first aromatic wave is a sweet-tart combination that matches orange peel against lemon poppy seed cake. Then notes of wet slate and earth arrive, conjuring memories of walking along a stone path in the garden after rainfall. Elevated acidity and a light, crisp texture escort flavors of peach pastilles, grapefruit and the rosemary and mint that grow in that garden. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$24

91 Vitae Springs 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Really fresh aromas of peaches, lemon zest and pine needles meld with tiny bursts of pineapple and wet slate. Crisp acidity lights the path for tart orange- and lemon-zest flavors that, over time, evolve into a lemon-meringue-pie-like experience. Pair this Pinot Gris with a blanket, a picnic and an outdoor concert. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

90 King Estate 2022 Goschie Vineyard Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Aromas of lemon-flavored drinking vinegar and honey blend with floral notes of bergamot orange and gardenias. The wine's acidity is elevated, and its snappy texture herds flavors of lemon zest, roasted almonds and the slightest trace of peach slices drizzled in salted caramel. Sip this wine as you let thin strips of guanciale melt on your tongue. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$31

90 King Estate 2022 Paradox Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). A barrel-aged Oregon Pinot Gris is truly something from the upside-down world. Its grassy nose is accented by aromas of nectarines, gardenias, lemon and a hint of butter. A decent bit of acidity matches up with toasted filberts and the taste of a sweet slice of cantaloupe drizzled with lime juice. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 King Estate 2022 Pfeiffer Vineyard Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). There's a distinctly "cowabunga" vibe here with a floral powerhouse of assorted Hawaiian lei flowers, wet grass and ripe pineapple. The wine's tangy acidity accompanies a tart mouthfeel and flavors of pineapple, butter, lemon zest and dried ginger spice. Sip this wine while streaming *The Endless Summer*. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Left Coast 2023 The Orchard Pinot Gris (Van Duzer Corridor). If you were to slice up a cantaloupe and squeeze some tangerine juice on the chilled slices, you might have an inkling of how crisp and refreshing this wine smells. The acidity is equally invigorating as Meyer lemon, yellow-apple, ginger and cinnamon flavors jitterbug across your palate. Serve with the next sunset in the largest glass you can find. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

90 Sweet Cheeks 2024 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). A floral bouquet including orange blossoms, sweet pea flowers and lemongrass is matched by a rich citrus aroma similar to lemon sorbet. The wine's acidity is restrained, and it feels full in the mouth. Flavor-wise, it is a lime and coconut extravaganza, perhaps with a touch of butterscotch. I think I have my new match for crab rangoon. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

89 King Estate 2024 Artisan Series Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The Artisan's stone-fruit aromas of Golden Delicious apple and pear are accented by flecks of lemongrass and white pepper. Unripe pineapple and earthy oregano flavors are backed by moderate acidity as they cruise along the wine's fleshy texture. A bit more acidity would have moved the dial upward for me. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 King Estate 2022 Steiner Block Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This biodynamic Pinot Gris is a tart treat. Its lime zest, wheat grass and freshly baked white-bread aromas are a full meal. The wine's texture and acidity are equally brash, with lemon, white grapefruit and freshly cut grass vying for attention. The wine aged on the lees in a concrete egg for eight months, with a weekly *bâtonnage*. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

89 Lange 2023 Classiqué Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). If you are hungry when you sip this wine, be warned. It smells like chilled peach slices drizzled with honey and the starchy goodness of a warm corn tortilla touched with a tad of butter. The light-bodied wine's pineapple and guava flavors are fruit-cup-like, with freshly cut grass to liven things up. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

89 Lujon 2023 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The aromatic kiwi and carrot cake combination definitely grabs your attention. Don't worry—this is no flabby Pinot Gris. Its crystalline acidity blows up flavors like buttery baked yellow apples, walnuts and cinnamon. This is a fuller-bodied Pinot Gris with a voluptuous texture. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$16

89 Underwood 2023 Pinot Gris (Oregon). The sweetness of ripe pear and passion fruit aromas is tempered by a tart apple-cider note. The wine's pleasingly plump texture is matched by its restrained acidity. The flavors are more to the tropical side, with lime zest and papaya accompanying a touch of beeswax. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

89 Westmount 2023 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). A scent similar to dust warming on a light bulb that's just been switched on is joined by a ripe, bruised Golden Delicious apple aroma. The wine feels almost thick on the palate, with acidity that just manages to keep pace with ripe peach,

lime and warm sourdough flavors. Try this wine with barbecue chicken wings and a picnic blanket. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$20

88 Kings Ridge 2023 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is a summertime in the park wine that fills the air with lemon gelato and nectarine aromas, along with small amounts of gardenia and mint. The wine feels light in the mouth, with acidity as soft as a pillow and flavors like lemon balm and not-quite-ripe peaches. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Iterum 2023 Old Friend Oak Grove Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Eola-Amity Hills). I need more old friends like this one. Its aromas are a fresh burst of apricots, lemon zest, pine needles, chamomile flowers and freshly cut grass. Searing acidity blazes a path for tart, almost austere flavors like lemon pith, lemon verbena tea, wet slate and nearly ripe peaches. This wine will cut through fatty dishes like a laser beam, so break out the toro. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Sweet Cheeks 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Oregon). This stainless steel gem is tart, tangy and refreshing. Its grassy nose is filled with aromas of pineapple, sea breeze salinity and wet rocks. It feels light and nimble on the palate, with zingy acidity accompanying flavors like rosemary, sage and tonic water on the rocks with two lemon twists. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Bow & Arrow 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). Be prepared to dab your lips with napkins as this wine's searing acidity does its thing. Guava and pineapple aromas intersect with a note of something akin to lanolin. Saline and slices of melon drizzled in lime juice complete the scene. After a hard night of air guitar solos, sip this wine for refreshment. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

PINOT BLANC

92 Brigadoon 2023 Joy Arlene Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). Joy Arlene, where have you been all of my life? My ode to Joy begins with aromas of tart green apples, German chamomile, lemon grass tea and a wildflowers-filled meadow. Then, a wicked combination of uplifting acidity and a rich texture hoists flavors like wet stones, lemon, green tea and honey on their shoulders. The word "Joy" is on the label for good reason. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

90 Boedecker Cellars 2023 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). It is bees in the orchard time, as this Pinot Blanc smells like chilled slices of

Golden Delicious apples dipped in orange-blossom honey. The wine's modest acidity and round texture make it easy to sip and enjoy flavors like lemon verbena tea hit with a teaspoon of honey. I'd like to try this wine at brunch with deviled eggs and ham. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Amity 2023 Pinot Blanc (Eola-Amity Hills). Freshly cut grass, lemon and green-papaya aromas are part of this Pinot Blanc's fresh start initiative. Slightly elevated acidity livens up the wine's crisp texture and flavors of green table grapes and lemon sorbet. This food-friendly wine will pair nicely with everything from fried chicken to cheese omelettes. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

88 Sokol Blosser 2023 Pedotti Vineyard Pinot Blanc (Dundee Hills). An aromatic combination of meadow flowers and mirabelle plums put me in the mood for an orchard stroll. While I enjoyed the wine's primary flavor of cantaloupe slices sprinkled with sea salt, the acidity was muted, and the mouthfeel was on the thin side. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

PINOT NOIR (WHITE)

92 Open Claim 2022 White Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). Lightly pressed fruit and 16 months in French oak, none new, have created a white take on Pinot Noir with elevated acidity and an elegant texture. This is an aromatic potpourri of rose petals, baked apples, cinnamon, wet slate and waffles drizzled in maple syrup. A combination of orchard fruit and flint flavors is joined by traces of lavender water and butter. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

91 Left Coast 2023 White Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). Orchard fruit abounds as this white take on Pinot Noir's Golden Delicious apple and poached pear aromas take over your local atmosphere. The wine's rich texture feels like a pillow upon which lemon curd, vanilla wafer cookie and rosemary flavors recline. Red Pinot Noirs will look on with envy at how much fun you are having. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

90 Trinity 2023 Blanc Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The great white Pinot is often talked about, but seldom encountered in the wild. Trinity's version leads with cherry, peach and wet pavement aromas that are spiced up by a tiny amount of white pepper. Lemon and raspberry flavors that would make Ahab envious drift upon a creamy texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$34

87 Amity 2023 White Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). I was "all in" for the wine's tart raspberry and lemon beeswax aromas. The wine's thin texture, modest acidity and flavors of lemon

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and red fruit-infused mineral water fell short of my hopes. Serve with a sunset on a hot summer's day. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

RIESLING

95 Royer 2022 Estate Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills). Royer has raised the bar for Willamette Valley Riesling with this estate wine. Aromatically, this is an explosion of grilled lemons, Bosc pear slices, honeysuckle and a trace of petrol. Crisp acidity that would stir a stone statue lights up flavors like lemon zest, wet slate and chamomile-tea flavored with a drop of honey. Prepare to lively up yourself with this wine's pucker power. Enjoy now through 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$38

93 Love & Squalor 2021 Riesling (Willamette Valley). Few people in Oregon have a touch with Riesling as skilled as this producer. Its aromas are an orchard tour of ripe Golden Delicious apples and pears mixed with lime zest and wet slate. The wine's vibrant texture and elevated acidity make flavors like chamomile tea, ginger and lemon curd feel like they are hopscotching across the palate. Pair it with anything and everything. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$21

93 Phelps Creek 2023 Pioneer Block Riesling (Columbia Gorge). This is sipping history. The grapes used to make this wine come from a cobble-packed 1.5 acre block of vines planted in the Columbia Gorge by Rich Cushman in 1981. Aromatically, it is all about the lemon and pineapple, with a bit of chalkboard dust minerality for good measure. The wine's ripe apple and pear flavors suggest a bit of residual sugar sweetness, but with a lightning bolt of acidity to get your attention. So good. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$28

92 Sokol Blosser 2023 Lone Star Vineyard Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills). Fruity aromas of lemon peel and pineapple are pierced by a tangy sativa-like note that smells like a turbo-charged cup of chamomile tea. Brilliant acidity then frames flavors like lemon, tangerine and sage in a juicy fashion. This is zesty stuff that will revive the most jaded palate. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Vitae Springs 2023 Heure Dorée Riesling (Willamette Valley). This is a tale of two wines. Aromatically, this Riesling is a tangy, sweet-tart mix of Ginger Gold apple slices, not-quite-ripe pears and a trace of the scent you encounter when you slip a new LP out of its album sleeve. Then you get these rich flavors of lemon sorbet and baked apple sprinkled in nutmeg. The wine's acidity is elevated and bright as a Coleman Hawkins sax solo. —M.A.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Les Chevaux Ivres 2024 Riesling (Columbia Gorge). Lemon lovers unite; this is the Riesling for you. The wine's aroma of green tea served with honey and a lemon wedge is followed by lemon granita, lemon verbena and nectarine flavors. A small lavender note appears toward the finish. The wine feels light and airy on the palate, and there's just enough acidity here to keep up with all the fruit. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Vitae Springs 2023 Mon Cheri Riesling (Willamette Valley). Cue the Stevie Wonder mix-tape, as my Cheri amour is as lovely as a summer day. The predominant aromas of lemon peel and orange-blossom honey mix nicely with wee bits of petrol and almonds. The wine's rich texture is a nice backdrop to the rich flavor of lemon-drop hard candies and a lightly bitter green-tea note. Pair with sunglasses and a straw. —M.A.
abv: 10.4% **Price:** \$32

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Raptor Ridge 2024 Tuscowallame Estate Grüner Veltliner (Chehalem Mountains). Raptor Ridge made the first American Grüner Veltliner I ever tasted, and I think this year's model is the best I've had from them. The vines were planted two decades ago and Tuscowallame is one of only 29 growing sites for Grüner Veltliner in North America. Aromatically, the wine is a mix of citrus and ripe Bosc pears, with a hint of white pepper. Flavors of tangerine, tarragon and papaya roll along a rich texture that puts the "lux" in luxurious. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Del Rio 2023 Estate Viognier (Rogue Valley). The apricot-jam aroma was enough for me as I imagined slathering the scent on warm biscuits. Then, tart apple- and lemon-peel aromas arrived to temper my jam. Enough acidity to tickle the tip of your tongue unites in refreshing fashion with flavors like lemon sorbet, honeycomb and a trace of white pepper. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

92 Hyland Estates 2024 Old Vine Gewürztraminer (McMinnville). A floral mix of gardenias, sweet alyssum and mint surround the wine's rich lemon-curd scent. Tangerine and white grapefruit flavors then do a jig with notes of spicy lychee and tonic water garnished with a lemon wedge. The wine's bold acidity matches a surprisingly rich, almost thick mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$29

92 Peter William 2023 Daisy Creek Vineyard Viognier (Rogue Valley). My favorite Daisy this side of Donald Duck or *The Great Gatsby* is an aromatic tilt-a-whirl of lavender-scented laundry powder, lemon meringue, and gardenia aromas. The floral theme continues as powerful Bergamot tea flavors collide with notes of pink grapefruit and

toasted filberts. You can savor this wine by itself, but pad that might be a nice pairing. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Violet Vines 2023 Rockbottom Vineyard Albariño (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). Albariño from The Rocks District isn't something you stumble across every day. This one opens with lemon, peach and lavender aromas that are accompanied by wisps of smoky flint and sweet pea flowers. Invigorating acidity amplifies the wine's lemon verbena and lemon-zest flavors. More people need to plant Albariño in The Rocks District. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Bow & Arrow 2023 Union School Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Willamette Valley). The wine's saline-driven mineral water laced with a lemon-twist aroma triggers summertime at the beach flashbacks. Bright acidity shines a light on zesty lime, lemon, chamomile tea and beeswax flavors that are juicy and fresh. Shuck your shoes, shuck your oysters and shuck your Chenin Blanc inhibitions. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 Bow & Arrow 2023 Melon de Bourgogne (Willamette Valley). I was expecting minerals and spine-tingling acidity. Instead, I encountered a bowl of tropical fruit and a pleasantly creamy texture. Aromas of passion fruit, melon and lemon transitioned to lemon gelato and pineapple flavors, with a splash of wine—a pleasant experience, for sure. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Sokol Blosser 2023 Estate Müller-Thurgau (Dundee Hills). A ripe melon aroma pleasantly intersects with gardenia and orange popsicle notes. The theme continues on the creamy palate, where orange creamsicle and wet slate notes rule the roost. What a great wine to chill down and transport to the nearest zoo concert under the stars. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

WHITE BLENDS

93 Franchere 2023 Fast Hearts Orange Wine-White Blend (Willamette Valley). Be still my heart. Here is an orange wine that is pure of fruit at heart and doesn't have the tannic structure of a leather boot. Fast Hearts is an Alsatian-inspired blend of Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer and Riesling that opens with aromas of nectarines, strawberries and lilacs. Gentle acidity, silky tannins and a slippery mouthfeel frame flavors like pink grapefruit, saline and sweet red cherries. It's just outstanding. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$25

93 King Estate 2022 Four Nobles Cuvée Blanc White Blend (Willamette Valley). As a tip of the cap to Alsatian field blends, the Four Nobles is a blend of Gewürztraminer, Pinot Gris, Muscat and

Riesling. The light-bodied, dry white kicks off with ripe pineapple and a crème brûlée burst of burnt sugar. The wine's zingy acidity lights the way for flavors of tangerine, lemon verbena and toasted almonds. A traditional cheese fondue paired with the Four Nobles would be glorious. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

93 **Quady North 2023 Pistoleta Rhône-style White Blend (Rogue Valley).** For full review see page 10. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

92 **ConurWines 2023 Mate White Blend (Willamette Valley).** This aromatic blend of varieties, including Pinot Blanc, Muscat, Riesling and Müller-Thurgau, opens with a bicycle kick of lively passion fruit, ripe Anjou pear and freshly cut grass aromas. Its texture and acidity are equally vibrant, with a hat trick of guava, pineapple and lemon zest flavors. Pair the Mate with friends and a Dungeness crab boil at the beach. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$27

90 **Franchere 2023 Lionesses White Blend (Willamette Valley).** One usually does not consider an Ehrenfelser and Kerner blend when considering Willamette Valley white wines. This rare creature leads with a flower show of aromas that mixes mirabelle plums with tulips, gardenias and hyacinths. Sliced pears sprinkled with sea salt dominate the crisply textured palate, joined by a trace of orange zest. We clearly need more American-grown Ehrenfelser and Kerner in our lives. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$22

SPARKLING WINES

95 **Bryn Mawr 2018 Blanc de Noirs Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This is scintillating stuff, from the wine's zesty acidity to its genteel texture. A tight column of bubbles helps deliver lemon, powdered sugar, poached pear and wet modeling clay aromas to the part of the brain that regulates pleasure. After that, raspberry, lemon verbena and brioche flavors traipse along the wine's chalky texture. Open this bottle for the best times in your life. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$85

95 **Domaine Serene MV Fleur de Vie Demi-Sec Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** Fleur de Vie's genteel bubbles tickle the nose in a consensual fashion, as do the aromas of walnuts, figs and a touch of wet stones. A smooth and almost creamy texture coaxes flavors of lemon, peaches, pecans and honeycomb. Although the Fleur de Vie's sweetness is subtle, it will put you in the mood for a slice of pecan pie. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$80

94 **Domaine Serene MV Evenstad Reserve Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** For full review see page 6. *ditor's Choice.*

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$105

94 **Lundeen 2015 Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** The eight-year late disgorged traditional method sparkling wine is made entirely with Chardonnay from Bunker Hill Vineyard near Salem. It is breakfast at Wimbledon time, with aromas of strawberries, creamy white chocolate and a wisp of wet stones. The elegantly textured wine shines bright acidity on tangy grapefruit and saline flavors. Big-time yum. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$95

94 **Lytle-Barnett 2018 Brut Rosé Pinot Noir Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 7. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

93 **Argyle 2013 Extended Tirage Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** The scent of fresh hay warming in the sunshine is matched by a sweet-tart pear and quince combination that is quite hypnotic. The Pinot Noir-Chardonnay blend maintains intense acidity to drive crisp lemon-lime, saline and tonic-water flavors. Match with fresh-shucked Yaquina Bay oysters and your favorite yacht rock channel. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$85

93 **De La Ferme 2018 Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** Fresh aromas of a clean, saline sea breeze and rain-soaked patio tiles mix with notes of cantaloupe, straw and mint. This sparkling wine is approximately 50% Pinot Noir and 50% Chardonnay, with an April 2024 disgorgement date. It is medium bodied, with lemon-sorbet, apple, honeycomb and rosemary flavors that coat the palate. Very sophisticated. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

93 **Domaine Serene MV Evenstad Reserve Brut Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** This blend of 60% Chardonnay, 34% Pinot Noir and 6% reserve wine leads with spicy coriander and ginger aromas that wrap themselves around slices of chilled pears and brioche. A tight column of disciplined bubbles is as mesmerizing as any ant farm. A rich orange flavor is complemented by almond note worthy of a fortune cookie. The fortune? "A sparkling wine that crosses your path will soon become a friend." —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

93 **Lundeen NV Brut Reserve Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** A traditional method blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the Brut Reserve offers exquisite aromas of honeydew melon, spearmint, white chocolate and a hint of wet stones. The wine's crisp mouthfeel complements its lemon,

brioche and nutmeg flavors. The bubbles are gentle and feel languid and luxurious. —M.A.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$70

93 **Lytle-Barnett 2019 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 9. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

93 **Raptor Ridge 2018 Extended Tirage Sparkling Brut Rosé Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Talk about pretty in pink. This traditional method sparkler rested *en tirage* for six years. Now, it is eager to get out and stretch its legs. Frothy bubbles get the show started by helping to deliver the wine's peach-pastille, wet modeling clay and saline aromas. Modest acidity and a creamy texture caress the flavors of raspberries lightly sprinkled with powdered sugar. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

93 **Sokol Blosser 2022 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** This 60-40 blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Blanc opens up with aromas of saline, beeswax, wet slate and a lovely one-two punch of coconut and vanilla. An electrifying volt of acidity drives the wine's tropical flavor mix of papaya and passion fruit slices drizzled in lime juice. Pair with the nearest beach. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$56

93 **Violet Vines NV Extra Brut Sparkling Blend (Eola-Amity Hills).** A traditional method blend of two-thirds Chardonnay and one-third Pinot Noir, this extra brut will shiver your timbers with a lightning bolt of acidity and citrusy aromas and flavors of lemon and grapefruit. The wine's aromatics also include a burst of fresh pine needles. The citrus flavors are joined by touches of caramel and brioche. The bubbles are in a tight column worthy of a military parade. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

92 **De La Ferme 2019 Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** De La Ferme is part of a new wave of excellent sparkling wine producers in the Willamette Valley, as witnessed by this lovely blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. It is a lovely aromatic mix of lemon drops, fresh melon slices, and bursts of saline and wet slate. Gentle acidity and languid bubbles escort flavors like brioche, lemon, white chocolate and green tea. This wine will pair nicely with a lazy Sunday afternoon. Disgorged in April 2024. —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 **De La Ferme 2017 Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** A pronounced pink-grapefruit aroma is complemented by notes of marzipan, cinnamon and a bouquet of freshly cut freesias. Frisky bubbles and crisp acidity lively up the palate as the sparkling wine's orange zest, Honey-crisp apple and beeswax flavors do a tango. This

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approximately 50-50 blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay was disgorged in the spring of 2024. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Hyland Estates NV Single Vineyard Brut Sparkling Blend (McMinnville). This traditional sparkling wine is a blend of 80% Chardonnay and 20% Pinot Noir. The wine's gentle bubbles help deliver aromas of ripe pears, earthy marigolds and a touch of wet terra-cotta. With gentle acidity, the wine's texture is lush and pleasing. Flavors like pear, caramel and brioche glide across the palate. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$58

92 Irvine & Roberts 2019 Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Rogue Valley). Energetic bubbles are eager to help deliver the wine's aromas of lime sorbet, west slate and the fresh saline scent associated with a freshly shucked oyster-shell lining. The fruit gets tangier on the palate, with lime zest and ginger flavors melding with a savory note similar to seared scallops with a touch of butter. There's a bit of body here, with gentle acidity. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Lundeen 2012 Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The late disgorged 10-year-old wine is made entirely from Bunker Hill Vineyard Chardonnay. Suppose you took a warm brioche from the oven and slathered it with honey butter and Meyer lemon zest. In that case, you will appreciate how awesome this wine smells. The white grapefruit and lemon profiterole flavors are a mere bonus. Drink with straws and confidence. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$125

92 Lytle-Barnett 2018 Brut Pinot Noir-Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). A classic bubbly aromatic set of brioche, lemon and yellow apples is accented by a note that reminds me of a spicy Ligurian olive oil. This sparkling wine feels lean and lithe on the palate, with white-grapefruit, white-tea and almond-cookie flavors triggering hunger pangs. Served with smoked salmon or sturgeon, you might have an epic combination. —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$75

92 Raptor Ridge 2020 Estate Cuvée Blanc de Noirs Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). A red-raspberry aroma as pure as a fresh snow and almost as icy opens up an aromatic set that includes touches of dried rose petals and warm brioche. The wine's bracing acidity lights up flavors of red apples, a citrusy grapefruit-like note and a wee bit of cherry. The wine's bubbles are as gentle as an old lap dog. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Abacela 2023 Alegria Albariño (Southern Oregon). The Jones family took fruit from perhaps the oldest Albariño vines in America to make a sparkling wine. Boy, am I glad they did. Alegria's fresh and lively aromatic combination of Granny Smith apples, honeydew melon and mint sets the tone for this gently sparkling Albariño, which has

flavors of lime zest, orange sorbet and brioche fresh out of the oven. Alegria's acidity is bright enough to warrant wearing shades. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Furioso 2022 Spirito Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Yamhill-Carlton). A spirited blend of 75% Pinot Noir, 18% Pinot Meunier and 7% Chardonnay, the pinkish-hued Spirito is a bowl of raspberry and day lily aromas that are graced by a touch of peach. Modest acidity and frothy bubbles join forces with warm brioche and tropical flavors like guava and pink grapefruit. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$82

91 Lagniappe 2023 Fizzy Lizzy Swampwater Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge). This crown-capped, undisgorged ancestral method sparkling wine is 100% Chardonnay and 100% fun. The party kicks off with a ripe melon aroma that is followed by a bitter herb and green-apple note that is reminiscent of marigolds. Gentle bubbles and restrained acidity are matched by flavors of lemon curd, Golden Delicious apples and a bit of tangy nectarine. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

90 Lytle-Barnett 2020 Blanc de Noirs Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). These aromas of buttercream fondant, strawberries and chilled Pink lady apple slices call for a picnic in the sunshine. The wine's bubbles are as gentle as its soft mouthfeel, with strawberry, raspberry and citrus flavors that glide across the palate. Put on some favorite vinyl and kick back with this one. —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$75

89 Sokol Blosser 2022 Bluebird Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). The label is an homage to the winery's long-time support of the Prescott Western Bluebird Recovery Project. The sparkles fly as aggressive bubbles help deliver aromas of a lemon-filled croissant and tart green apples. Brisk acidity amplifies the wine's juicy pink-grapefruit, Golden Delicious apple and lemon-zest flavors. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

ROSÉS

92 Vitae Springs NV Sol Rosé (Willamette Valley). Sol Rosé is a multi-vintage blend of eight varieties ranging from Pinot Noir to Savagnin Rose. Its tangy aromas feature the bitterness of a negroni and persimmons matched by red-apple and basil notes. Orange zest and strawberry flavors complement a saline and savory note similar to eating mortadella at the beach. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Adelsheim 2024 Artist Series Rosé (Willamette Valley). Peaches, raspberries and beeswax aromas make for a captivating perfume. With gentle acidity and a creamy texture, this is an easy rosé to sip while pondering life and Tik Tok chal-

lenges. Peaches and cream dominate the palate, along with a spritz of lemon citrus. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Domaine Serene MV 'r' Pinot Noir (Oregon). 'r' marks the spot if you are hunting for a dry rosé with snappy acidity and a gentle, elegant texture. This pink-hued wine's rich, ripe melon and red-raspberry aromas are tempered by bursts of tangy citrus and saline. Then, tangy lemon-zest and peach-pastille flavors collide on the palate in merry fashion, joined by a lemon basil tea note on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

91 Pike Road 2023 Rosé Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This rosé is just flat out fun. It smells and tastes like a bowl of ripe strawberries and papaya slices drizzled in a little lemon juice. To balance all of that fruit, an acidity so tangy that you might think about a white grapefruit zips into the picture. I crown this wine the ultimate yacht rock pour. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Trinity 2023 Rosé Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A wonderfully tropical guava aroma mixes it up with notes of sweet strawberries and freshly cut grass. Bright acidity will make the mouth water just a bit as flavors like pink grapefruit and beeswax go sailing by. If you ever find yourself sitting on a dock by the bay, crack this bottle open. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$28

90 King Estate 2024 Rosé Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). When you are in the mood for a rosé that is creamy and dreamy instead of lithe and lean, grab this bottle. The wine's aromatic combination of rose water and strawberry-flavored gummies is a winning one. Then, you get a bonus round of ripe, sweet red pears, guava, and pink grapefruit. It's a dry rosé, but there's a tinge of the sweet-tart here. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$20

90 Peter William 2023 Peter William Vineyard Rosé (Rogue Valley). My rosé preference is lean and acid-driven, and Peter William ticks all the right boxes. The pink Grenache introduces itself with peach, basil and talc aromas. There is more tart peach on the crisply textured palate, which is joined by honeycomb and toasted almond flavors. Try this rosé this summer with a grilled chicken sandwich. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$24

90 Westmount 2023 Rosé (Willamette Valley). A nose of bright red raspberries, hibiscus tea and thyme is a heck of a nice introduction to this pinkish-hued wine. It's smooth, creamy texture makes it easy to contemplate pouring a second glass. Modest acidity helps raspberries drizzled in lemon juice seem extra tangy. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$20

89 Raptor Ridge 2024 Vineyard Select Rosé (Willamette Valley). A giant peach aroma that would catch James' attention is matched sniff-

for-sniff by the sweet, grassy and fresh aroma of a sidewalk strip filled with daisies. A texture that borders on creamy is joined by restrained acidity and flavors of peach-pastille hard candies and the tang of tangerine. —M.A.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$25

89 Sweet Cheeks 2024 Rosy Cheeks Rosé (Oregon). Rosy Cheeks is an off dry blend of mostly Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris. If you are a fan of the Jolly Rancher's watermelon offerings, you need to find this wine. Red candied apple and peach aromas are a nice introduction to flavors of watermelon, red raspberries and a wisp of cotton candy. I might try the Rosy Cheeks with a plate of spicy buffalo wings. —M.A.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

GAMAY

93 Bow & Arrow 2023 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). Strawberry and boysenberry aromas mingle with notes of leather and toasted oats. If the Ramones sponsored a breakfast cereal, it would smell like this wine. The wine's rich black-cherry flavors dominates lesser notes of black coffee and earthy mushrooms. Thanks to its brilliant acidity, those flavors bounce like a mosh pit. Gamay, gamay, hey. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

93 Broadley Vineyards 2022 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). This is one of the best examples of a Willamette Valley Gamay Noir I've encountered. The wine rested for 15 months in neutral French oak before spectacularly hitting the streets. It sports a lithe texture, aromas, and flavors of cranberries, raspberries, wet slate, sage, and black tea. If the wine's acidity was electricity, it would power a neighborhood. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$35

93 Ricochet 2023 Jubilee Vineyard Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The aroma of a strawberry pie, complete with a butter crust, is matched by notes of vanilla and cedar. Tart red cherries dominate the palate, with herbal notes of oregano and sage mingling with cedar. What really surprised me here is the wine's significant tannic structure. Pair with air and a portobello mushroom tart. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

92 Love & Squalor 2023 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). When I smell and taste this wine, I can't help but think of spring. Its tart red-raspberry aroma is flecked with bursts of black pepper and the herbaceous scent of daisies. The light-bodied wine's soft texture and silky tannins are joined by boisterous acidity. Its tangy flavors include hibiscus flower tea, raspberries and coriander. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$32

91 Björnson 2023 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). A fresh and fruity nose packed with

raspberries, mint and lavender makes a fine first impression. After that, a level of acidity equal to a splash of cold water to the face animates flavors of raspberries, orange zest and the nuttiness of genmaicha green tea. The wine's tannins and texture are equally velvety. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$29

91 Westmount 2023 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). Yowza. The wine's blackberry and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas flex as notes of earth and strawberry watch in admiration. This is a juicy treat, as an electric-fence level of acidity amplifies tart dark raspberry and cedar flavors. Pour with ham and butter sandwiches; pour with confidence. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$20

PINOT NOIR

95 Winderlea 2022 Legacy Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This biodynamic jewel is a study in grace and balance. Legacy opens with a powerfully floral aromatic combination of orange blossoms and gardenias, followed by bright red-cherry and sage notes. The wine's zippy acidity and fine-grain tannins support its flavors of red cherry, balsa and saline mineral water. Legacy's texture is pure silk and sass. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$105

94 Björnson 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$29

94 Bryn Mawr 2022 Zenith Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The Zenith's red-cherry and baked goods aromas are like an amazing cherry pie spiced with cinnamon. The wine feels rich and luxurious on the palate, with a nice balance of lemony acidity and velvety tannins. The pastry theme continues as the flavor of a raspberry tart with caramelized filling dripping over the edge mingles with ginger and caffe latte notes. Spice, spice, baby. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$50

94 Compris 2023 Given to Fly Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). There are times where you stop taking notes in order to just enjoy the wine. This is one of those wines. Its fruit aromas, red raspberry and orange, do a subtle dance with notes of melting candle wax and sandalwood. The wine's body is light, its texture ethereal, with velvety tannins that herd flavors of strawberry, boysenberry and lemon. This Pinot Noir is seductive stuff that's easy to get lost in. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$100

94 Compris 2021 Given to Fly Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is a rich and wondrous Pinot Noir where blackberry and pomegranate flavors coat the palate, seasoned by marjo-

ram and thyme notes. The tannins are beginning to loosen their grip while the wine's acidity remains bright. And the aromas of Bing cherries, lilac and straw are no slouch, either. Partial proceeds from this label are donated to charitable causes so that others may fly high. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$100

94 Domaine Drouhin Oregon 2023 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Each glass swirl propels smoked raspberries, cool cellar floor earth, Darjeeling tea and talc aromas. Velvety tannins exercise a subtle grip, and lemony acidity makes the mouth water. The wine's flavors are a mix of black cherry, bergamot orange and light touches of oak spice. There's a purity of fruit here that, when combined with an elegant mouthfeel, makes for a memorable sipping experience. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$48

94 Domaine Serene 2021 Aspect Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A tart red-fruit medley with raspberries and cherries leads to an aromatic vanguard featuring rose hip tea and allspice. The wine's sweet, concentrated blackberry flavor is matched with notes of dark chocolate, orange zest and a trace of thyme. A combination of fresh acidity and firm tannins suggest you can enjoy this wine until 2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$130

94 Lange 2022 Assemblage Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). I loved the sampling flight of multiple earth aromas, as the earthy scent of a cup of blackberry tea mingled with earthy oregano, wet brick, and blackcap raspberry aromas. The wine's lively, crisp texture is matched by its frisky acidity. Look for raspberry-pie and sage flavors supported by velvety tannins. The Assemblage bounces like a Coltrane sax solo. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$80

94 LucidWild 2022 Chosen LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 7. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$330

94 LucidWild 2022 Fusion LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 7. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$95

94 Nicolas-Jay 2022 Nysa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Fruit from one of the top vineyards in the Dundee Hills was used to make a wine that will be hard to forget. A perfume of red cherries and sweet pea flowers envelops your head as puffs of nutmeg and pepper fight for attention. A winning combination of cassis and orange-zest flavors go hand-in-hand with firm tannins and acidity worthy of an electric fence. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$95

94 Open Claim 2021 Fauna's Wood Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). I guess it's only fitting for a wine named fauna to have a savory aroma simi-

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lar to pulled pork garnished with a mole sauce to accompany a pronounced black-cherry note. Chalky tannins and vibrant acidity support the wine's Bing cherry, cinnamon and black-tea flavors. The wine feels like it is holding back at the moment, but its potential is hard to miss. Enjoy now through 2034. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$90

94 Soter 2022 Mineral Springs Ranch Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This wine reminds me that I live in Oregon. It smells like the loamy soil and pine needles I encounter on forest walks. At the same time, the cherry-flavored pipe tobacco and well-worn Pendleton wool shirt aromas remind me of campfire sessions at the beach. The wine's elegant texture befits its nice acidity and firm tannins without being harsh. Ripe blackberry and sour-dough bread flavors are spiced up by Thai basil and black pepper. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$80

94 Stoller 2022 Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A combination of dusty blackberries, violets and earthy forest floor aromas gives you the feeling that you are picking fruit from wild vines at the edge of the woods. The beautiful balance between energetic acidity and firm tannins is the backdrop for blackberry-pie, black-tea and sage flavors. Texture as elegant as a silk glove is the blackberry on top for this impressive reserve wine. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$60

93 Big Table Farm 2022 Sunnyside Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This silky smooth Pinot Noir is the poster child for finesse, beginning with a perfume of blackberries, violets, beeswax and freshly turned garden soil. Gentle acidity and velvety tannins provide balance, with the wine's flavors of black cherry, black pepper and a savory hint of roasted pork rubbed with cumin. This year's Sunnyside offers a rich texture worth savoring. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$72

93 Björnson 2022 Edward Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). I picture Edward in one of Tom Wolfe's signature white suits because he is one silky-smooth cat. This is one of those wines where you forget about fruit and focus solely on its satiny texture and how that makes you feel. Sure, there's dark fruit, coffee and cacao here, but it's Edward's velvety nature that compels you to take sip after sip. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$62

93 Boedecker Cellars 2021 Athena Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A smooth, supple texture, gentle acidity and silky tannins invite you to take sip after sip of Athena. It is packed with aromas and flavors of dark-chocolate-covered Bing cherries, loamy soil and orange zest. Be sure to have friends on hand because it will be difficult to resist opening a second bottle of Athena. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$45

93 Boedecker Cellars 2021 Stewart Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Stewart's sweet black-cap raspberry, straw and anise aromas bring back childhood memories of snow cones and black licorice whips at the carnival. A nice combination of brisk acidity and velvety tannins backs the wine's blackberry, rose water and bittersweet dark-chocolate flavors. If you have a good mole sauce recipe on hand, open this bottle and make enchiladas. —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$45

93 Brigadoon 2023 Pinot Noir (Lower Long Tom). Lower Long Tom is a relatively new Oregon appellation nestled within the larger Willamette Valley AVA. It is definitely long on acidity and chewy tannins. The wine's opening aromatic foray of dark raspberries, saline and meadow flowers is a fine introduction to its blackberry, black-tea and cedar flavors. Hold tight on this one for now. Drink 2026–2037. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$36

93 Carlton Hill 2022 Tournament Reserve Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). For full review see page 8. **Editor's Choice.**

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

93 Compris 2023 Mountain Echo Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Hunger pangs are triggered as the wine's aromas of marionberries and raspberries served on pound cake swirl up from the glass. There's no escaping dessert on the palate, either, as rich raspberry coulis, cardamom and white-tea flavors hold court. This is lighter-bodied fare, with plush tannins and enough acidity to make your neighbor's mouth water. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$55

93 Domaine 524 2022 Lucky 13 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 8. **Editor's Choice.**

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$32

93 Domaine Drouhin Oregon 2023 Origine 36 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Origine 36 offers aromas of cherry pie, complete with crust, and a cup of dark-roast black coffee, like a scene from "Twin Peaks." The wine's tart red-raspberry, walnut, orange pekoe tea and thyme flavors are balanced by silky tannins and crisp acidity. Try this wine with your next batch of pork-filled soup dumplings. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$55

93 Domaine Serene 2021 Jerusalem Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Jerusalem Hill Vineyard is an Eola-Amity Hills outpost for Domaine Serene. It feels light and graceful on the palate, with blueberry, green-tea and orange-zest flavors. Incredibly fresh aromas of blueberries, dark raspberries, garrigue and lime zest will bring you back for more sniffs. With its snappy acidity and sturdy tannins, you can look forward to enjoying this wine for another 13–15 years. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$105

93 Drouhin Oregon Roserock 2023 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This youngster is only beginning to strut its stuff. A fresh combination of raspberry, cinnamon and saline aromas brings back memories of buying raspberry or cherry-flavored saltwater taffy at the coast. Firm tannins flex their grip as the wine's red-apple, cranberry, nutmeg and English breakfast tea flavors fill the mouth. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$44

93 Elizabeth Chambers 2022 Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). With fruit from one of the top vineyards in the Eola-Amity Hills AVA, Elizabeth Chambers crafts a dark beauty that starts with Damson plum and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas. Snappy acidity amplifies ripe boysenberry and cedar flavors, with fine-grain tannins offering ample support. It's hard to go wrong with Temperance Hill fruit. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$60

93 Et Fille 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Willamette Valley fruit from six vineyards is used to present a beautiful snapshot of the region. Raspberry, earth and a mildly meaty note kick off the aromatic show, with a whisper of rose petals floating in the background. The wine feels smooth and round on the palate as silky tannins support flavors like tart red cherries, cinnamon, thyme and cedar. If you need to brighten a dreary day, open this bottle. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$34

93 Furioso 2022 Pietro Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). A bowl of raspberry and strawberry aromas makes a sweet perfume, with added help from notes of hyacinth and red apple. Pietro packs some boisterous acidity to enhance its rich cherry, pipe-tobacco and orange-zest flavors. I give this bouncing Pinot Noir a 93, and you can absolutely dance to it. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$62

93 La Crema 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The loamy soil and ripe black-berry aromas trigger happy summertime gardening memories. There also this interesting savory note floating about that reminds me of a cross between hoisin sauce and black pepper. The blackberry flavor is tart, and this time it is matched with earthy oregano and black tea. The tannins are firm, but not chewy. —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$28

93 Lange 2022 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This is a fuller-bodied, more richly textured wine than I expected, but what a pleasant surprise. Ripe blackberries play off a leather aromas accented by a pinch of thyme. Look for velvety tannins and snappy acidity as you wade through tangy citrus, saline and dark-raspberry flavors. This is that velvet glove people are always talking about. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$80

93 Lange 2022 Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). From the foothills of

Mount Pisgah comes a wine so filled with aromas and flavors of ripe blackberries and blackcap raspberries that you'd swear you were at a summertime Saturday market. Violets, sage, dark-chocolate and roasted pork-shoulder notes make cameo appearances. While the wine's silky tannins mostly escape notice, its vibrant acidity steals the show. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Left Coast 2021 Right Bank Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). Lilacs and leather make a lovely aromatic couple, but the Right Bank's dark chocolate-covered blueberry scent is downright delicious. Jangly acidity gets the juices flowing, as orange-zest, blackcap raspberry, and marionberry-tart flavors shoot the curl. Those cooling, late afternoon Van Duzer Corridor maritime winds did a great job thickening these grape skins to create structure. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$55

93 LucidWild 2022 Beast LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Most beasts don't maintain a sense of poise and grace. This Beast isn't a raging lion; it is a pussy cat with mildly elevated acidity and softly purring tannins. Blackberry jam and sage aromas are a nice introduction, with flavors of cranberries, boysenberries and a hint of basil inviting you to sit down and stay awhile. Try the Beast with a portobello mushroom pizza to tame that hunger. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$155

93 Phelps Creek 2021 Regina Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge). This is my favorite Regina this side of Saskatchewan. It opens with aromas of ripe black cherries and loamy soil, followed by a small amount of mint. It smells like a post-rain meadow walk. A darker blackberry-fruit flavor arrives on the palate, where it unites with notes of balsa and freshly cut grass. There are some seriously stout tannins at play here, so perhaps decanting is in order. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$54

93 Pike Road 2022 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Fruit from one of the valley's best-known vineyards is used to make this aromatic Pinot Noir, which is filled with the scents of raspberries, a mocha latte and a touch of grilled portobello mushrooms. The wine's flavors are a mix of Bing cherries and pine needles, with traces of freshly tilled soil and coriander. Firm tannins and elevated acidity give the wine a sense of balance. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Roots 2023 Crosshairs Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Get ready to take a walk on the rich side. The stroll begins with cassis and gingerbread aromas guaranteed to break a diet. Adding even more hedonistic tones, the cherry-pie, lime-zest and black-tea flavors thoroughly coat every nook and cranny of the palate. Best of all, firm tannins are the equal of all this fruit. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

93 Stoller 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Looking for something to savor for the next decade or more? Then settle down with this reserve wine, which coaxes you with its aromas of bright red raspberries, strawberries, saline and lemon. The wine's gentle acidity, silky tannins and elegant mouthfeel are at home with ripe cherry, earthy oregano and bittersweet dark-chocolate flavors. Enjoy now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Violet Vines 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This fruit and citrus combination reminded me of a blueberry scone sprinkled with orange zest that was accompanied by a worn leather note. Sandy tannins that rub the roof of the mouth the right way surround flavors of boysenberries, bitter cacao nibs and an herbal one-two punch of sage and thyme. This medium-bodied wine is a very nice Pinot Noir value. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

93 Yamhill Valley 2021 Tall Poppy Pinot Noir (McMinnville). At first, the Tall Poppy seems closed and rather unremarkable. Slowly, with some swirling, the wine rises above your initial impression. That's when blackberries and anise aromas collide with notes of anise and freshly turned earth. Cranberry, raspberry and green-tea flavors are backed by the wine's brawny tannins. Enjoy now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Yamhill Valley 2018 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (McMinnville). Now that this wine has spent some time in the bottle, savory seared steak and balsamic aromas have joined red raspberries, dark plums, rosemary and violets. You could spend the evening just trying to decode this wine's aromas. Blueberry, lemon verbena and thyme flavors fill the mouth, backed by still sturdy tannins. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Adelsheim 2022 Ribbon Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). A sweet, aromatic combination of raspberries and molasses is tempered by earthy marigolds and forest-floor notes. A sunburst of acidity lights up a sweet ripe red-cherry flavor that is joined by traces of orange zest and wet slate. This is lighter-bodied fare, with a texture as light and graceful as gossamer. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

92 Bells Up 2021 Jupiter Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is the only Pinot Noir I know of that is named for Gustav Holst's *The Planets* orchestral suite and Symphony No. 41, *Jupiter* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Jupiter's wet concrete, saline and mulberry aromas are a mineral-driven symphony. Brisk acidity and velvety tannins massage the wine's tart cranberry and orange zest flavors. Pucker up Puccini, the Jupiter rises to a tangy crescendo. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Cardwell Hill 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is an excellent wine from a strong vintage in the Willamette Valley. Bright marionberries are accented by bursts of sweet pea flowers and the loamy scent of freshly tilled garden soil. The fruit gets darker on the palate, with blackberry and black-walnut flavors melding with notes of rosemary and lightly toasted rye bread. This is a lighter-bodied wine marked by jangly acidity and smooth tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Chehalem 2022 Ridgecrest Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Bittersweet Amarena cherries play nicely with aromas of dark plum, hyacinth and anise. The medium-bodied wine with an elegant texture exudes black-cherry and caramel flavors ably supported by beaming acidity and silky tannins. Ridgecrest rested for 10 months in primarily neutral French oak barrels before being placed in neutral barrels for four months before bottling. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Chosen Family 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). What a refreshing and balanced Pinot Noir. Its aromas of dark raspberries and spice swirl up from the glass, followed by bits of orange peel and leather. The wine feels fresh and lively, as red-cherry, hibiscus-tea and saline flavors zip across the palate. The acidity is crisp, with silky tannins holding court. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$39

92 Compris 2023 As One Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). At first, As One's solo aroma is the cool, damp earth of an old-fashioned root cellar. After a few swirls of the glass, a combination of black cherry and rosemary emerges. Juicy acidity makes it easy to take sip after sip, as the wine's boysenberry, dark-chocolate and herb flavors coat the palate. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$55

92 Compris 2022 Given to Fly Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Blackcap raspberry and boysenberry aromas as dark as blackbirds fly high, with ground support provided by flavors of boysenberries, tangy raisins, thyme and espresso shots. The wine's silky texture, gentle acidity and silky tannins are in harmony. Pair with Coltrane and beef cheeks. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$100

92 Cortell Collection 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A lovely swirl of red raspberries and violets hits the nose first, followed by wisps of caramel and black coffee. This is one of those cases where the acidity is as amped up as the tannins, with a texture that combines juiciness and chewiness. The flavors are a tangy duo of pie cherries and lemon zest, flanked by a bit of cedar. This wine is a tremendous value. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

92 Cortell Collection 2022 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). After inhaling these aromas of marionberry pie, violets and coriander, you may want a cup of coffee. The black fruit gets tarter on the plate as tart blackberry flavors meld with lemon zest, lemon basil and a trace of black walnut on the finish. Lemony crisp acidity dominates the wine's gentle tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

92 Domaine 524 2019 Micheline Reserve Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). It's nice to taste a wine that has had some time to rest in its bottle. Micheline rewards that patience with a silky texture and resolved tannins. The wine's aromas are a perfume of black cherries and sandalwood, with a touch of earthiness. A rich, ripe blackberry flavor coats the palate, joined by a small amount of spicy clove. This is a plush party waiting to break out. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$75

92 Domaine Serene 2021 Mark Bradford Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The fruit bowl of aromas (including strawberries, boysenberries and red apple) mixes with floral notes of violets and lilacs. There might even be a trace of mango in there. On the palate, it is all black cherries, with accenting touches of cedar, aged balsamic and root beer-like sassafras. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir with modest acidity and fine-grain tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$165

92 Elizabeth Chambers 2022 Lazy River Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). A nice red-fruited set of aromas includes strawberries and red raspberries layered over notes of rosemary, pine needles and poppies. The kind of acidity that brings forth goosebumps adds the juice to the Lazy River's raspberry and cinnamon. The wine feels crisp and fresh on the palate. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

92 Furioso 2022 La Linea Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This combination of dark-cherry and white-chocolate-covered almond aromas should really be a holiday candy. A clean sea-breeze salinity makes a nice counterpoint to those sweet notes. A balanced set of restrained alcohol, fresh acidity, silky tannins and plenty of red-cherry and lemon citrus-fruit flavors await. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$86

92 Gradient 2023 Pinot Noir (Lower Long Tom). This is a nicely balanced wine with a silky, elegant texture that nearly steals the show. Bing cherry and bittersweet dark chocolate flavors are counterpointed by a tangy bit of orange peel. The cherries are red and tart on the palate, joined by black-tea and dark-chocolate notes. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Hamilton Russell Oregon 2022 Zena Crown Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Aromatically, the wine is a red-fruit paradise that mixes Bing cherry and raspberry aromas with wisps of violets, leather and cinnamon. The wine's impressive tan-

nic structure roughs up the roof of the mouth while supporting rich boysenberry-pie, licorice, cedar and black-tea flavors. I'm eager to try this wine with a bowl of rustic cassoulet. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$86

92 Lange 2022 Lucky River Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Lazy River's aromas are bright and floral, with violets, sweet pea flowers and marionberries melding with an earthy note similar to a freshly tilled garden. A formidable tannic structure and boisterous acidity offer more than enough support for flavors of blackberry, black tea and the suggestion of a rhubarb amaro. Enjoy now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Open Claim 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). After 18 months in 35% new French oak, Open Claim's estate wine leads with boysenberry and black-tea aromas accented by a trace of melting vanilla-scented candle wax. There's a lively bit of acidity here, with bright red-raspberry, lemon-zest, rosemary and clove flavors bouncing along the palate. What a spicy treat to sip with your next roasted chicken. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

92 Raptor Ridge 2023 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Fruit meets savory as a ripe, dark-raspberry aroma wraps itself around a meaty note similar roasted pork shoulder. The Barrel Select feels crisp and clean on the palate as blackberry, Bergamot orange and cedar flavors lean on stout tannins and gentle acidity for support. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$29

92 Seiji 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The wine's earthy aromas of duff and dried maple leaves skittering across a fall lawn are joined by bursts of raspberries and orange blossoms. Brawny tannins support the flavors of earthy blackberry tea and macerated strawberries sprinkled with black pepper. I'd give the oak another year to integrate more. Enjoy 2026–2026. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 Sokol Blosser 2023 Avery Alexander Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Avery Alexander is made with fruit from Croft Vineyard near Salem. It is a plush wine with soft tannins and a sense that its flavors of blueberries, peaches and dark chocolate float along the palate. The wine's fresh blackberry and saline aromas accompany an earthy forest-floor-like aroma, similar to fallen leaves and moss growing on a boulder. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Soter 2023 Estates Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Estates is an invitation to walk in the garden to smell aromas like blackcap raspberries that are ready to pick, pine needles from that tree that's too close to the house and catmint. This medium-bodied venture has a sturdy tannic structure and all the black cherries your palate

can handle. A bittersweet horehound-candy flavor shows up on the moderately long finish. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 Stoller 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The combination of brash smoked Bing cherries and fresh pine needles is an aromatic triumph, especially with a few violets for good measure. This is a nicely balanced wine with velvety tannins, perky acidity and flavors like dark raspberries, sage, espresso and dark chocolate. What a great value. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Violet Vines 2023 Ultra Violet Reserve Pinot Noir (McMinnville). Ultra Violet's red-cherry snow-cone aroma is nicely counterpointed by hints of tart cranberry, grilled steak and cedar. The wine's modest alcohol, silky tannins and "just right" acidity provide a sense of balance and restraint. Rich black-cherry and lemon-zest flavors are served with two ristretto espresso shots. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

92 Winderlea 2022 Winderlea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A decadent, aromatic combination of strawberry gelato and bittersweet dark chocolate makes for quite an introduction. This medium-bodied wine spent 10 months in French oak, 25% new. It is a balanced mix of silky tannins, crisp acidity and flavors like red-raspberry jam and hibiscus tea. Whip up a batch of bouillabaisse and pour a glass of this Pinot Noir. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$80

92 Winderlea 2022 Worden Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This wonderfully summer-like aromatic set of dark raspberries, red apples and watermelon is joined by wisps of cedar and roasted pork. Dessert is a tart pie cherry served with hibiscus tea flavor combination that is counterpointed by pine needle and balsa flavors. Fine-grain tannins and crystalline acidity make this wine a joy to sip with steelhead salmon tostadas. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

91 Bryn Mawr 2022 Johan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). Fruit from this certified biodynamic vineyard was used to make a mouth-watering Pinot Noir with enough acidity to make your knees weak. The wine opens with sweet red-cherry, wet slate and bay leaf aromas complemented by a spicy sandalwood note. With a snappy texture and flavors like raspberries, cumin and black tea, this is a refreshing Pinot Noir to match with a pork-tenderloin sandwich. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Cardwell Hill 2022 Old Vines Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). These old vines are a single block of own-rooted Wädenswil clones planted in 1983. This majestic wine's aromas center on red cherry, with supporting notes of lilacs, hay, wet slate and a small amount of mint. Zippy acidity illuminates tart red-cherry, basil, and black-tea flavors with a juicy, fresh, lively mouthfeel. Self-rooted

vines are becoming scarce in the valley, so revel in this wine. —M.A.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

91 Carlton Hill 2022 Carlton Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This tart and tangy, lighter-bodied Pinot Noir is a joy to sip. Its aromas of blackberries, violets, and a hint of braised pork make a case for continuing on to flavors like blackcap raspberries, thyme and a cup of black coffee. There's some juicy acidity here, with tannins that feel unobtrusive. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Chehalem 2023 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). A roller coaster ride of aromas begins with a sweet-tart swing of cranberry muffins and raspberry pastilles. Then, an earthy turn reveals the aromas of freshly tilled soil and meadow flowers. The wine's crunchy acidity outpaces the velvety tannins, providing a bit of juice to flavors of dark raspberries, white tea, molasses and salt-water crackers. This texture is so crisp that you can almost hear it snap. —M.A.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

91 Cortell Collection 2022 Black Bobcat Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The Bobcat's loamy soil and sage aromas are like a stroll in the herb garden, with a sweet perfume of boysenberries floating in the air. Elevated acidity and modest tannins support flavors of Bing cherry, pie crust, dark chocolate and a bit of basil. This Bobcat purrs with its rich texture and smooth sipping. —M.A.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$75

91 Domaine 524 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The aromatic mix of tart boysenberries, lilacs and pine needles should be bottled and sold as a perfume. The red-raspberry, roasted fennel, and lemon-zest flavors are no slouches either. This is a nicely balanced wine with a smooth and velvety texture. Lounge with this wine, a favorite robe and an in-house movie. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Furioso 2022 L'Altra Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Flowers and herbs battle for scent supremacy as sweet pea flowers and rosemary go head-to-head with red raspberries and lemon zest. The L'Altra's tart red-cherry and earthy oregano flavors surf a silky smooth texture. Mouthwatering acidity and gentle tannins make for a pleasurable Pinot Noir experience. —M.A.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$62

91 King Estate 2023 Artisan Series Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Boisterous boysenberries hop first, followed by lemon zest, wet granite and thyme aromas. The palate showcases a wall of dark-plum and crunchy cacao-nib flavors, all backed by modest acidity and firm tannins that only just begin to rough up the roof of your mouth. Pour this on a rainy day with Dizzy Gillespie on the turntable. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Klee 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Klee paints a rich picture, beginning with aromas of dark raspberry and dark chocolate accented by a wisp of mint. Full-throttle tannins provide ample backing for flavors that include boysenberry pie, orange zest and a cup of black coffee. What an outstanding value for a Willamette Valley Pinot Noir.

Best Buy. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Knudsen 2022 Family Series Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Violets and warm scones slathered in blackberry jam fill the air as you pour this wine into your glass. After that, sweet, ripe blackcap raspberry and bittersweet dark-chocolate flavors fill the mouth. The tannins are firm, and a pronounced cedar flavor rounds out the fun. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Knudsen 2021 Founders Series CCK Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This Pinot Noir is a worthy tribute to the memory of C. Calvert Knudsen, a true Willamette Valley pioneer who cofounded Knudsen Vineyards in 1971. CCK is a whirlwind of raspberry jam, thyme and coriander aromas. The wine's grippy tannins support rich red-cherry and raspberry fruit-leather flavors that pick up a bit of hibiscus flowers on the finish. —M.A.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$90

91 Lange 2022 Three Hills Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Master gardeners will love the way this wine smells like dark plums, raspberries and a note similar to a rusty trowel piercing garden soil. This medium-bodied Pinot Noir's blackberry compote, anise and black-tea flavors are hoisted upon a sturdy wall of tannins. Those tannins will rub your palate the right way. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Love & Squalor 2021 Reserved Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Reserved in name only, this medium-bodied Pinot Noir strikes first with its aromatic cherry-pie, eucalyptus and leather ensemble. A high level of acidity is matched by a significant tannic structure and a round-in-the-mouth feel. The flavors combine dark plums and blueberries with a sweet black-walnut flavor similar to a well-made nocino. —M.A.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Ricochet 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Really ripe dark raspberries and a touch of newly shined leather shoes meld with a blueberry-jelly-bean aroma that brings back childhood memories. An almost chewy texture and fine-grained tannins provide the backdrop for cherries, licorice, orange-zest and black-tea flavors. A tad more acidity would have been nice. —M.A.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

91 Shumaker 2022 Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills). I loved the way this Pinot Noir dazzles up front with fresh orange-peel and dark-raspberry aromas, only to be surprised after a bit of glass swirling by a spicy bit of fennel and black pepper.

This is lighter-bodied, acid-driven fare, where the cranberry-orange and saline flavors make you pucker up in a good way. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

91 Sokol Blosser 2023 Redland Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Redland's cranberry and raspberry aromas meld effortlessly with wisps of red apple and campfire smoke. While the wine's texture is elegant and smooth, there is enough tannic structure to support rich cherry and unsweetened dark-chocolate flavors. Redland is a comforting Pinot Noir that is easy to spend an evening with. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

91 Trinity 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This estate wine might be light in body, but it is long on fruit. Its aromas of red currants and blueberries are accented by tiny wisps of lilacs and shea butter. Concentrated black-cherry and blackcap raspberry flavors join forces with a texture as silky as a Tom Wolfe suit. This wine is ready to drink now. —M.A.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$45

91 Valley View 2021 Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). The majority of the fruit used to make this wine came from the cooler, high-elevation Irvine & Roberts estate located outside Ashland. The wine's blueberry, toasted walnuts and butterscotch aromas lead to flavors of Bing cherries, espresso and a touch of maple. It is a balanced wine where gentle acidity and integrated tannins intersect with restrained alcohol. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Winderlea 2022 Imprint Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). After smelling this wine's tomato-butter-sauce scent, my cravings for pasta went through the roof. Raspberry and saline aromas complete the winning trifecta. Tart red-cherry and cranberry flavors are complemented by seared steak and espresso notes. The wine's tannins are pronounced, with a blazing bit of acidity for company. —M.A.

abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$70

91 Yamhill Valley 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (McMinnville). This is a spicy little number that brings pepper and nutmeg to an aroma set that includes raspberry jam and a trace of citrus. Silky tannins and moderate acidity escort flavors of blackberry and allspice across the finish line. I'd love to try this wine with bahn mi and a side of sweet potato fries. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 99 West 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Forget about getting your kicks on Route 66. It's mighty fine on Highway 99 when it comes to Pinot Noir. An earthy aroma of flint and oregano kicks things off, followed by pie-cherry and cedar notes. The wine's tart blackberry and black-tea flavors are lightly sweetened by a bit of brown sugar. You can expect a rich mouthfeel and firm tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Bells Up 2021 Titan Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This Pinot Noir should be named “Titan II,” because its dark-raspberry, earthy forest-floor, thyme and sage aromas erupt from the glass like a missile. Titan’s elegant, gentle mouthfeel is at ease with its boysenberry jam and black-tea flavors. The wine is named for the Gustav Mahler symphony, so I’d recommend serving it with his favorite dish: apricot dumplings. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$46

90 Boedecker Cellars 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Balanced and juicy, this Pinot Noir bursts out of the gate with aromas of blackberries, red-apple peel and straw. Tannins with a subtle grip unite with boisterous acidity to support the wine’s boysenberry and dark-chocolate flavors. A wee bit of lemon citrus arrives on the moderate finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Brigadoon 2022 Taproot Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Taproot lives up to its name, as its aromas put me smack dab in the middle of the garden. There, the scent of blackcap raspberries fresh from the vine mingles with aromas of freshly troweled soil and a hint of sun-warmed tomato leaf. The flavors are darker, with blackberries and orange pekoe tea supported by silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$46

90 Broadley Vineyards 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A deep inhale brings memories of summers spent cruising dirt roads in the country to pick wild roadside berries. Berries that had a dusty quality if you ate them straight from the vine. A faint cedar aroma joins the earth and fruit aromas. More blackberries pop up on the medium-bodied palate, joined by orange pekoe tea and maple notes. Serve this wine with a view and turkey sandwiches on a roadside picnic. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Browne Family 2023 Forest Project Pinot Noir (Oregon). The wine’s orange-peel, raspberry and cranberry aromas led me to believe something tangy and bright was about to pass by my lips. Boy, was I wrong. Instead, my mouth was filled with sweet marionberry-jam and sage flavors tempered by a dollop of black tea served with cream. Never have I been so happy with a bait-and-switch. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Coelho 2023 Atração Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A ripe Bing cherry aroma is spiced up by mint and black pepper, as dried rose petals and loamy soil notes hover in the background. The wine’s juicy mouthfeel, aided by zingy acidity, is joined by flavors like cherry preserves, lemon zest and a hint of earthy oregano. This is a very nice buy for less than \$30. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 ConurWines 2023 Sote Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Dusty roadside wild-berry and tangy rose hip aromas mix with notes of saline

and wet slate. Rich, ripe mulberries dominate the palate, joined by molasses and black-tea flavors. This richness is counterpointed by the kind of acidity that gives you goose bumps. Serve with a plate of empanadas stuffed with chicken. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Cortell Collection 2022 Cortell Rose Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The aromatic combination of vanilla and cherry blossoms is positively spring-like. Aromas of marionberries, earth and orange pekoe tea quickly join the fray. Plush tannins provide a pillow for sweet cherry-clafouti, tart orange-zest and woody cedar flavors. The wine’s texture is as effortless as a Steph Curry jump shot. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

90 Daniel-Ford 2022 Hyland Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville). The earthy aromas of blackberry tea and loamy soil are flanked by the smell of a freshly brewed cup of dark-roast coffee. Mildly elevated acidity gives a modest bump to the wine’s tart dark plum, allspice, anise and orange pekoe tea flavors. The tannins are a disinterested bystander. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

90 Domaine Rogue 2022 Pinot Noir (Applegate Valley). A smoky cup of blackberry tea and ripe black cherry aromas duke it out with daphne, orange peel and leather for aromatic supremacy. This is a balanced wine where gentle acidity and silky tannins are an equal match for tart blackcap raspberry, coffee and black-molasses flavors. Never forget that you can find excellent Pinot Noirs in southern Oregon. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

90 Garageland 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). What a great Pinot Noir value from the good folks at Love & Squalor. The Garageland opening aromatic notes feature a perfume of day-lilies, raspberry pastilles and mandarin oranges. This is a light-bodied wine, with acidity you can dance to and tannins that won’t get in the way. Tart blackberry, balsa and maple notes bring it all home to the garage. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Gemini 2022 Lebeau Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Blackberry and fresh straw aromas are accented by the wine’s dark-chocolate and blackberry notes. Flavors of tart blackcap raspberries, thyme and orange pekoe tea fill the mouth. Lebeau also packs a tannic punch that will rough up the roof of your mouth, so be prepared to give its brawny majesty some air time. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

90 Kate Arnold Wines 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The winemaker’s restraint in alcohol and oak, all neutral barrels, is appreciated. There are fresh aromas of red raspberries and the saline quality one associates with a crisp sea breeze or the lining of a freshly shucked oyster. The ripe red-cherry fruit on the palate gives the wine a

sweetness similar to a cherry phosphate or a childhood drink made with those fizzy tablets. This is a light and refreshing Pinot Noir experience. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$34

90 King Estate 2023 Inscription Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Inscription’s blackberry aroma is so ripe that you can almost feel juice on your chin. That sweetness is counterpointed by lemon-zest and savory rye-bread notes. The fruit on the palate is equally dark, but tart, playing off a fatty-meaty flavor that will make you crave pastrami. Nice acidity and firm tannins offer ample support. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Kudos 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The aromatic duo of raspberries and herbs, which would make an excellent name for a musical act, perfectly accompanies the wine’s mouthwatering scent of a savory meat pie. Blackberries then unite with cinnamon and black-tea flavors in fine fashion. These brawny tannins will dry the mouth, no questions asked. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

90 Lange 2023 Classiqué Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). While the Classique is light in body and texture, its acidity tickles the palate in the same way jazz legend Red Garland used to tickle the ivories. The wine’s aromas conjure up memories of a cherry pie, complete with a butter crust, cooling in the kitchen. Saline and lemon notes swirl about a cherry-jam flavor worthy of spreading on toast. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$32

90 Lujon 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Be warned—this wine’s dark-chocolate and cherry aromas will put you in the mood for a Tootsie Pop. There is also a nice floral note similar to gardenias in the background. Flavor-wise, the wine flashes black-cherry, black-tea and lemon flavors. With elevated acidity and velvety tannins, this is a well-balanced Pinot Noir. —M.A.
abv: 25% **Price:** \$25

90 Maidenhair 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). There’s a nice balance here between restrained alcohol, bright acidity and tannins that gently massage instead of roughing up the roof of your mouth. Maidenhair’s tart blackberry and spicy cinnamon aromas transition to flavors like briary blackcap raspberries, orange zest and black tea. This is a pretty good package for such a modest asking price. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Phelps Creek 2021 Beehive Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge). Hello dark fruit, my old friend. The blackest of cherries dominates an aromatic set that includes brown-sugar and sweet apple-blossom notes doing their best to get some attention. Tart blackberries, cedar wood and grilled steak flavors are powered by the wine’s buzzing

acidity. I would love to try this wine with a bowl of *pollo guisado*. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$54

90 Raptor Ridge 2023 Perspective Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). From my perspective, the aromatic combination of black fruit and anise is a good thing. Those same features reappear on the palate with ripe blackberry and black-licorice-whip flavors vying with vanilla and oak spice notes for attention. There's a nice bit of acidity here to pair with silky tannins. The Perspective is one smooth ride. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

90 Soter 2023 Planet Oregon Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Fresh aromas of mint, saline, fresh and dark raspberries form a perfume worthy of summer. Tingly acidity then joins forces with integrated tannins and the smoothest texture this side of cashmere. The wine's boysenberry, orange-peel and dark-chocolate flavors cement the deal. Good value here. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$24

90 Stoller 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The first swirl of the glass unleashes blackberry and black-tea aromas. But this lingering mineral note conjures memories of elementary school sessions working the modeling clay. The wine feels light and elegant on the palate, with just enough acidity to keep up with its raspberry, red-apple, lemon-zest and mint flavors. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

90 Sweet Cheeks Winery 2022 Triple Block Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The saline scent of a freshly shucked oyster-shell-lining mingles with tart red raspberries and a touch of thyme. Triple Block sports chewy tannins and mouthful of briary blackberries matched by powerful orange pekoe tea and balsa flavors. Decanting is recommended if you open this bottle any time soon. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$48

90 Vitae Springs 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A perfectly ripe cherry-aroma makes a nice counterpoint to spicy and floral scents of gingerbread, violets and a cup of Assam tea. Tangy boysenberry and spicy clove flavors are backed by silky tannins and enough acidity to make your mouth water. Sip at will on a lazy Sunday afternoon. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

90 Vitae Springs 2022 Fleur du Ceil Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Fleur de Ceil's aromatic blackcap raspberry and violet perfume is enough to make you dab this wine on your pulse points. A mildly earthy oregano note floats about in the background. The wine's tannins are rounded and smooth, with more than enough acidity to hold interest. Black-cherry and mint flavors are accented by a modest oak influence and a wisp of orange zest. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$90

90 William Marie 2022 Dion Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Sweet and ripe red-cherry and raspberry aromas are accented by a touch of cinnamon spice. Nicely balanced, this Pinot Noir shows restraint in terms of alcohol, silky tannins and just enough acidity to keep things lively. On the palate, the fruit flavors are darker and tarter as blackberry tea, blackcap raspberry, balsa and a small amount of anise hyssop flavors hold court. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$39

90 Winderlea 2022 Meredith Mitchell Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The wine's aromatic combination of blackberry tea and cherry Life Savers is joined by an appealing amount of oak spice. Dusty wild brambleberries picked roadside collide with a pronounced cedar flavor, all backed by a wall of sturdy tannins. There's also a wee bit of blueberry on the long finish. Talk about "mouthfilling." —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

90 Wine by Joe 2023 Pinot Noir (Oregon). The code word for this Pinot Noir is "rich." It has a ripe Bing cherry aroma that wraps itself around a ball of butterscotch. Mild acidity that stays out of the way is assisted by the wine's velvety tannins. An opulent mouthfeel and flavors of black cherry and toffee team up to infiltrate every nook and cranny of your olfactory system. I'd like to try this wine with a dish that has some spice and heat.

Best Buy. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

89 Adelsheim 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A sweet and yeasty aroma similar to blueberry pancakes is accented by notes of cola and orange. The wine's lively acidity is way out in front of unobtrusive tannins. Sweet cherries are joined by lemon-zest and thyme flavors on the palate. Light and lean are the code words for the texture. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

89 Adelsheim 2022 Laurel Leaf Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Cherries wrapped in dark chocolate form an aromatic pact with mild notes of lavender and seared steak. The wine's firm tannins provide plenty of support for blackberry-jam and cedar flavors that cruise the wine's waxy texture. Acidity levels are on the modest side. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

89 Argyle 2022 Nuthouse Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The wine, named in honor of the property's filbert selling history, opens with aromas of sweet raspberries and blueberry fruit leather. The Nuthouse's ethereal texture is like a gentle massage. Soft acidity and plush tannins escort the wine's dark cherry and caramel-covered espresso-bean flavors in fine fashion. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$55

89 Björnson 2022 Reserve Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A mix of blackberry and black-cherry aromas fill the local airspace with each swirl

of the glass. Chalkboard-dust and black-pepper scents stand off to the side. The wine's lighter body and airy texture accompany flavors like marionberries, lavender tea and coconut. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$50

89 Boedecker Cellars 2022 Portland Wine Project PDX Pinot Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The smells of summer swirl lazily from the glass, as aromas of boysenberry pie and freshly cut grass take center stage. Boysenberries return as flavors, joined by dollops of black coffee and orange peel. For the moment, the wine's firm tannins are outpacing acidity that is on the shy side. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$28

89 Brigadoon 2023 Lylee Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Lylee's sweet raspberry-coulis aroma is complemented by puffs of wood smoke and anise. The combination puts me in the mood for a Pendleton wool shirt and a campfire cookout. A pronounced black-cherry flavor dominates all but a bit of black coffee on the palate. The wine's restrained alcohol, lifted acidity and ethereal texture are the highlights. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

89 Bryn Mawr 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). An earthy combination of loamy soil and the saline and smoke from a beach campfire almost obscures a ripe raspberry aroma. With acidity guaranteed to pucker lips and grippy tannins, the wine sallies forth with flavors of blackberries, molasses and fennel seeds. The wine feels rough around the edges at the moment, so be patient. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$50

89 Cardwell Hill 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). I enjoyed the wine's dark raspberry, chamomile and dried rose-petal aromas, which made me feel like I was having a cup of herbal tea in the garden. Bright acidity and silky tannins support flavors of ripe boysenberries, freshly cut grass and the caramelized surface of a *crème brûlée*. There's great value here. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$28

89 Coelho 2023 Bunny Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The outline of a bunny on the label qualifies this wine as a "no-brainer" for the Easter dinner table. The wine inside the bottle is also table-worthy. It leads with tart raspberry and cranberry aromas that meld with touches of lavender and baker's yeast. The medium-bodied wine then hits with tangy cranberry, raspberry and cherry tomato flavors that are buttressed by smooth tannins and soft acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$25

89 Daniel-Ford 2022 Cleo's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Dark chocolate and mint flavors nearly eclipse the wine's blackberry aromas. After that, bright acidity combines with firm tannins to corral flavors like blackberries,

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cacao nibs and nutmeg. This is a solid Pinot Noir where aromas and flavors closely match. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 **Domaine Loubecac 2023 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The aromas of elderberries, elderflower syrup and purple flowers remind me of a smoking violets cocktail. In a bit of a 180, the Barrel Select's flavors are tart, with tangy, almost-ripe raspberries mixing with pickled cherries and wet stones. The texture is lean, the tannins are firm, and the acidity is gentle. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$31

89 **Elizabeth Chambers 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** There's an earthiness to this wine that is similar to a recently tilled garden or a walk in the woods after a good rain. Aromas of bright red cherries and raspberries lead to darker cherry and bittersweet dark-chocolate flavors. The wine's tannins are soft, with citrusy acidity stealing the show. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

89 **Furioso 2022 Gina Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Blackcap raspberry and forest-floor aromas are nearly eclipsed by a savory combination of tapenade spread on rosemary ciabatta bread. The wine's fine-grain tannins form a leathery wall around Gina's red-cherry and lemon flavors. Decanting might be in order before you serve this with a favorite rustic dish, like cassoulet. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$86

89 **Kason 2022 Black Label Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Rich blackberry and devil's food cake aromas are tempered slightly by not-quite-ripe raspberry and hydrangea notes. In a massive gear shift, the wine's flavors are quite tart, with a lean texture. Look for a combination of red rooibos tea and plums, with brisk acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

89 **Kason 2022 Dijon 777 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Dessert lovers will rejoice in this wine's aromatic combination of dark chocolate and ripe dark cherries. Oak, black tea and cedar notes almost dwarf the wine's flavors of dark plums and chai-tea spices. While acidity struggles to raise its head, firm tannins make for a chewy texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

89 **Kate Arnold Wines 2022 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** An earthy aromatic combination of wet modeling clay and daisies almost overpowers the wine's cherry-flavored Life Savers scent. Bright acidity and gentle tannins back flavors like raspberry, lemon and a spicy note that will trigger cravings for ginger snaps or molasses cookies. A small black-coffee note appears at the finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 **King Estate 2022 Domaine Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Earthy notes of wild ginger and clove root lead the way for the Domaine's raspberry and dark-chocolate aromas. Acidity so brisk it

seems slightly out of whack with wine's silky tannins perfectly matches acutely tart cranberry and red-raspberry flavors. I'd sip this something fatty, like beef cheeks or a Wagyu burger. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$75

89 **Knudsen 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Made with fruit from the winery's estate vineyard and neighboring Tualatin Hills and Chehalem Mountains vineyards, this new Knudsen wine leads with aromas of marionberries and dried rose petals. The acidity is modest, the tannins plush, as flavors of blackberries, earthy oregano and black walnuts glide across the palate. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30

89 **Love & Squalor 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's primary cherry aroma is matched with an earthy saline note similar to a campfire at the beach. Silky smooth tannins and amplified acidity support the flavors of boysenberries, red apples, and lightly steeped black tea sweetened with demerara sugar. The wine's texture is juicy and fresh. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

89 **Phelps Creek 2022 Dijon 115 Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge).** A black-cherry aroma dukes it out with tart cranberries as notes of vanilla and graphite hang out to the side. A tart red-cherry flavor is almost obscured by the kind of tannins you get from a strongly brewed cup of Assam tea. The wine's texture is a bit rough at the moment, with grippy tannins and modest acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$54

89 **Primarius 2023 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** This rich Pinot Noir possesses a perfume-like aromatic set of sweet raspberries and a lavender sachet hidden away in a chest of cedar drawers. The wine's opulent texture allows flavors like dark plums and aged balsamic vinegar to feel like they are floating on air. While the tannins are nice and velvety, more acidity would be most welcome. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$15

89 **Sweet Cheeks 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A fresh and fruity aromatic set that includes plum, pomegranate molasses, and freshly cut grass kicks things off. Bright acidity and plush tannins help make this a gentle sipping experience. Tart, not-quite-ripe blackberries are joined by notes of grilled portobello mushrooms. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

89 **Trinity 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This is a balanced wine where mildly elevated acidity and plush tannins create an elegant, supple texture. Muted boysenberry fruit duels with an earthy aroma akin to wet modeling clay for aromatic supremacy. The flavors are a mix of cherry and bittersweet horehound candy. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45

89 **Winderlea 2022 Clos Vernier at Worden Hill Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** A red raspberry and strawberry combination is

joined by a wet slate note similar to the petrichor-like aroma of a slate patio after a summer rain. A light, elegant texture is at home with the wine's bright acidity and silky tannins. Tangy hibiscus tea and not-quite-ripe red-cherry flavors will wake up even the most fatigued palate. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$80

88 **Boedecker Cellars 2022 Solace Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This light-bodied Pinot Noir opens with aromas of sweet Rainier cherries and chocolate reminiscent of a Tootsie Pop. The combination is like a slice of Black Forest cake. Given that aromatic introduction, the wine's texture is surprisingly thin, with plush tannins and a limited acidity. Solace's flavors are a tart combination of red raspberries, cranberries and orange pith. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$28

88 **Cedar + Salmon 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A pronounced dark-plum aroma quickly gives way to notes of earth and blackberry tea. Red-cherry and sage flavors dominate the palate, along with bursts of cedar and orange zest. The wine's acidity is as soft as the tannins, making this a wine to quaff upon purchase. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 **Chapter 24 2022 Last Chapter Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** An aroma of boysenberry pie, with burnt filling ooze, mixes with notes of cinnamon and loamy soil. The fruit is just as rich on the palate as blackberry jam and roasted pork flavors collide with an oak-driven vanilla note. The wine's acidity is a bit too soft, with plush tannins adding support. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$91

88 **Cortell Collection 2022 Cancilla Vineyard Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills).** The fruit on the nose is muted, with faint hints of black currant battling with notes of leather and basil. Tart, not-quite-ripe blackberries are joined by a strongly brewed green-tea flavor. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir where modest acidity and integrated tannins seem at home. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$65

88 **Duck Pond 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's black-cherry aroma is given a run for its money by powerful notes of leather and spicy, sweet balsam. Flavors like unripe blackberries, maple and black tea glide along a velvety whipped texture. Acidity that is on the soft side and plush tannins make for easy sipping. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$22

88 **Duck Pond 2022 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The first swirl and sniff of the glass brings a sweet vanilla and toasted marshmallow aroma that reminded me of meadowfoam honey. Blackberries and violets follow closely behind. The wine's texture and structure are equally soft, with flavors of dark raspberries, cedar, and maple. I

would try to match this wine with spicy Thai take-out or a blackened fish dish. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

88 Left Coast 2021 Truffle Hill Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). Blackcap raspberry and violets aromas are accented by additional notes of marjoram and cedar. The fruit on the palate is darker, with blackberries and anise attempting to avoid being crushed by a wave of grippy tannins. Truffle Hill's chewy texture recommends decanting. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$55

88 Specially Selected 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A shy, dark-raspberry aroma has little chance against a savory wave of bay leaf and bone broth. The wine's red-fruit flavors are sweet, but there's enough lemony acidity to keep it from reaching cloying territory. A touch of rosemary joins in at the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Rascal 2023 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Rascal's raspberry aroma reminds me of a popsicle, with the wooden stick. It also has light touches of pipe tobacco and lemon peel floating in the background. The wine's soft mouthfeel, relaxed tannins and modest acidity make for a plush sipping experience. Flavors of raspberry, balsa wood and tomato leaf linger for a good long time. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Second Cheapest Wine 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

SYRAH

93 Les Chevaux Ivres 2023 WindHorse Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Gorge). This is a new producer for me, and if this Syrah is any indication, it is a winery to watch. It is balanced and restrained in terms of alcohol, with a lithe and nimble mouthfeel. The wine leads with aromas of violets, blackberries and a mild bit of pork fat. Fine-grain tannins and lively acidity provide ample support for the dark-raspberry, orange-zest and black-tea flavors. I can't wait to try more from this winery. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$39

93 Peter William 2020 "Lot B-42" Peter William Vineyard Syrah (Rogue Valley). The wine that sounds like a winning Bingo call is one heck of a nice Syrah. Its opening aromatic salvo of ripe black cherries and violets should be the flavor of a hard candy. B-42's blackberry, rosemary and mint flavors are equally enticing. This medium-bodied wine packs some seriously juicy acidity to keep things nice and nimble. Defy convention and serve with grilled rock lobster. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

92 Compris 2023 Midnight Journey Syrah (Chehalem Mountains). One does not normally think about the Chehalem Mountains when it comes to Syrah, but based on this wine, we should. Midnight Journey explodes with blackberry, earth, violets and beeswax aromas. Mildly chewy tannins and electric acidity, then herd tangy dark-raspberry, orange, black-pepper and pork-fat flavors across the finish line. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$55

92 Quady North 2021 Mae's Vineyard Syrah (Applegate Valley). The Mae's Vineyard Syrah is consistently strong. The 2021, however, is a stunner. Its black-cherry and dark-chocolate aromas unite with seared pork to create a mole sauce experience. The wine's body might be on the lighter side, but the boysenberry and oatmeal-scone flavors are not shy. There's enough acidity to hold everything together, with plush tannins making Mae's easy to sip. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$39

91 Dusted Valley 2022 Stained Tooth Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). I wonder if the wine's 3% Viognier has anything to do with this orange-creamsicle aroma? Other compelling scents include ripe boysenberries, violets and the earthiness of a wet meadow. Sturdy tannins and a toasty oak influence add some stuffing to flavors like orange zest and sweet blackberry pastilles. And yes, it will alter the color of your enamel. But it's worth it. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

89 Long Walk 2022 Syrah (Rogue Valley). An aromatic mixture of black cherries and black coffee laced with demerara sugar cubes is matched by an oats and brown-sugar scent that will make you crave a fruit-crumble dessert. The wine's tangy green-tea and cranberry flavor duo is joined by a trace of menthol and a pronounced oak presence. Firm tannins tiptoe up to the edge of chewiness. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30

88 Lujon 2021 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This is one dark Syrah, beginning with its aromas of blackberry, maple and something malty that reminded me of an English porter beer. Dark-chocolate-covered cherries dominate the palate, accented by lots of balsa wood. The wine's grippy tannins are still holding on for dear life, amaking for a chewy texture. —M.A.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$28

TEMPRANILLO

92 Compris 2022 Moonlit Sky Tempranillo (Chehalem Mountains). Bigfoot sightings happen more frequently in the Willamette Valley than Tempranillo vine sightings. This rare treat is packed with aromas and flavors of vanilla-scented pipe tobacco, tart red cherries and even tarter hibiscus

flower tea. Moonlit Sky is lighter-bodied fare that is lithe and graceful. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Peter William 2020 PWV Reserve Peter William Vineyard Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). The combination of significant tannic structure and mouthwatering acidity make this an exciting Tempranillo experience. The aromas are a heady mix of blueberries, leather, pipe tobacco and cinnamon. Blackberries hold court on the plate, with oregano and balsa flavors helping to coat the palate. This is a medium-bodied wine where everything is "just right." —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$42

91 Upper Five 2019 Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). A puff of sweet pipe tobacco opens the door for ripe black currants, cinnamon spice and leather aromas. On the medium-bodied palate, it's blackberries all the way, followed by notes of espresso, cedar and Old Bay seasoning. The wine's tannins are still substantial after several years of bottle conditioning. Prep thin slices of *jamón ibérico*, stat. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

OTHER RED WINES

98 Holocene 2022 The Black Square Cabernet Sauvignon (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). As black as squid ink, The Black Square is balance personified. A concentrated blackberry aroma seems as dark as the wine's name, with equally dark espresso, olive and charred steak notes joining it in the abyss. A dark plum and ripe boysenberry flavor combo is accompanied by traces of salty Mission olives, wet slate and silky smooth tannins. The one bright feature illuminating the way is the wine's amped-up acidity. None so black. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$300

93 Domaine Rogue 2021 Merlot (Applegate Valley). This is no shy and retiring Merlot. It's immediately in your face with potent, ripe black cherry and blueberry muffin-batter aromas. A touch of cedar plank hovers to the side. It is medium bodied, with firm tannins backing flavors like blueberry fruit leather, bittersweet dark chocolate and cedar. Powerful, and persuasive. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

93 Long Walk 2022 Grenache (Rogue Valley). A ripe, rich boysenberry aroma is a nice complement to the wine's notes of violets, bittersweet dark chocolate and black tea. Juicy acidity and firm tannins offer ample support for the Grenache's black cherry, dark chocolate and black-pepper flavors. Topping it all off is a silky smooth texture that feels like sliding about in silk sheets. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$35

92 Domaine Rogue 2021 Malbec (Applegate Valley). These black-cherry and dark-plum aromas romp while a touch of cocoa powder looks on with admiration. The wine's surprisingly lean and graceful texture is quite refreshing. The flavors of tart blackberries, west rocks and a tiny bit of lime last for a good long time. Pairing this wine with pork chops would be magic. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

92 Quady North 2020 Cabernet Franc (Applegate Valley). Sweet and boozy Amarena cherries provide a nice partner for notes of vanilla, cacao and a rib eye steak grilling over open coals. If that doesn't whet your appetite, wait for the wine's pie-cherry and buttery crust flavors. There's also a spicy note of fennel tea on the finish. With this one, you can expect the acidity to be lively and the tannins sturdy. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Upper Five 2022 Grenache (Rogue Valley). Upper Five is a biodynamic farm that deserves our attention. This Grenache, aged in amphora for 12 months, is a prime example of why. Its freshness and minerality are exceptional, with aromas like dark plums, orange zest, wet modeling clay and saline. With crisp acidity and flavors of ripe dark raspberries and candied violets, it is a joy to sip by itself or with a bowl of mushroom risotto. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Left Coast 2021 High Acres Pinot Meunier (Van Duzer Corridor). Discovering a Pinot Meunier where the fruit is grown in the Willamette Valley is rare. Do your best to find this one. A wispy raspberry-infused mineral water aroma, with a touch of cacao nib, does nothing to prepare you for the wine's tart red cherry and bergamot tea served with lemon flavors. The wine is light bodied and super tangy, which I wasn't expecting from a Pinot Meunier. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

91 Lujon 2022 Sangiovese (Walla Walla Valley). I don't get to taste Sangiovese with the word "Oregon" on the label very often. This one is a real treat, beginning with aromas of dark plums, mulberries, dried rose petals and a wisp of lightly seared *bistecca alla fiorentina*. The wine's boysenberry and black-cherry flavors are ripe, with a cup of Assam tea and cacao nibs adding interest. See above for a food pairing idea. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Lujon 2021 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). This is a ripe and ready Merlot eager to please the minute you open the bottle. Ripe cherry and tangy orange-peel aromas burst from the glass, followed by a touch of cranberry. Flavors like boysenberry and wet slate float along the wine's plush texture. The wine's acidity is fresh, and its tannins are silky. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Long Walk 2022 Mourvèdre (Rogue Valley). A mixture of red and blue fruit aromas suggest a bowl of raspberries and blueberries drizzled with a touch of brown sugar. Flavors of dark plums, anise and pork cracklings glide along a smooth texture, flanked by gentle acidity and plush tannins. What a great match this will make for a pulled pork sandwich. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

RED BLENDS

92 Domaine Rogue 2021 Cinquenta Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Applegate Valley). This blend of estate grown Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon opens with boysenberry and pluot aromas that are accented by cedar and vanilla. The fruit flavors are just as juicy, with black cherry and apricots melding with black tea and mocha powder. Surprisingly elevated acidity is matched by velvety tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Grosgrain 2022 Stonewashed Rhône-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This balanced blend of 75% Syrah and 25% Mourvèdre hails from the renowned Stoney Vine Vineyard in the Rocks District. Black-olive and saline notes join the wine's earthy black-cherry aroma. A silky texture is a platform for flavors of dark raspberries, black cherries, pork fat and a hint of black pepper. Pour with your next batch of meat stew. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$50

92 Long Walk 2022 Field of Stars Rhône-style Red Blend (Rogue Valley). This celestial Rhône blend of 39% Mourvèdre, 35% Syrah, 20% Carignane and 6% Grenache opens with perfume-like aromas of lilacs, ripe blackberries, vanilla and anise hyssop. Blueberry and blackberry flavors collide in a pleasing fashion on the palate, joined by bits of orange peel and balsa wood. Silky tannins make for a smooth sipping experience. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50

92 Virtue 2022 Unity Rhône-style Red Blend (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). This is one fine and funky blend of 50% Mourvèdre, 25% Syrah, and 25% Grenache. Its aromas of black-cherry fruit leather, grilled steak and a touch of loamy soil are an earthy mix that will put you in the mood for a backyard barbecue. Sturdy tannins prop up marionberry and blueberry flavors mixed with basil, mint and cedar. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

91 Peter William 2021 "Extravagance – PWV Reserve Red" – Peter William Vineyard Syrah-Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). PWV is a nearly equal parts blend of Syrah and Tempranillo that packs a mouthful of fruit and chewy tannins. The primary fruit aroma and flavor is black cherry, with supporting characters of dark chocolate, walnuts and cedar. Prepare to be patient when serving and allow for decanting time. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$42

91 Quady North 2022 GSM Rhône-style Red Blend (Rogue Valley). Is this a GSM or a stroll in a summertime garden? A ripe blackberry aroma kicks things off, followed by straw, lavender, balsamic and earthy oregano notes. Blackberries return as a flavor, but a black pepper, roasted pork shoulder and cranberry combination almost steal the show. This is an easy sipping exercise, as the acidity is gentle and the tannins plush. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

DESSERT WINE

95 Iterum 2023 Old Friend Buena Vista Vineyard Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). What a well-executed homage to Sauternes. The wine's lemon-curd, mango, wild grass and chamomile-tea with honey aromas offer a fair warning of the thick, viscous delights ahead. Rich, concentrated flavors like lemon tarts and apricot jam coat the palate in a decadent fashion. Aching brisk acidity is an important part of this wine's score. Enjoy now through 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$50/375 ml

WASHINGTON

CHARDONNAY

95 Abeja 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Walla Walla Valley). This is one of the best Chardonnays from Washington I've had in many years. It leads with lemon-and-lime zest and rosemary aromas that personify freshness. Hovering in the background is a mildly smoky flint scent. The wine's crisp mouthfeel and nervy acidity go hand-in-hand with tangy Granny Smith apple, Bosc pear, green tea and walnut flavors. Bring on the grilled halibut steaks—this wine needs company. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Abeja 2023 Chardonnay (Washington). The bold Chardonnay's aromas of lemon curd, honeycomb and cantaloupe fill a room faster than an open bar. It has enough zesty acidity to balance its plush Golden Delicious apple, nutmeg, toasted hazelnut and honey flavors. This wine is made with fruit from all over the state, proving the adage about a sum surpassing its parts. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Helix by Reininger 2023 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Royal Slope). This stainless steel beauty sports a surprisingly creamy texture that checks all the pleasure boxes. Its orchard-driven aromas include ripe pears, Golden Delicious apples and a trace of saline. The flavors leave the orchard behind to yell "cowabunga" with tropical notes of grilled pineapple and papaya. This is a delightful wine to sip while putting off weekend yard work. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$29

91 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Canoe Ridge Estate Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). Buckle up for a smooth-textured Chardonnay with acidity so gentle it purrs. There's a bit of earthiness to a nose that includes aromas of nectarines and chamomile flowers. The wine's lemon gelato, pear and walnut flavors coat the palate in a decadent fashion, with a whisper of saline on the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Cold Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). You couldn't ask for a more tempting aromatic combination than lemon curd and a baked yellow apple. The wine's buttery lemon shortbread, toasted almond and lemongrass tea flavors are equally bewitching. The midpalate has some weight, and a jolt of acidity maintains a sense of balance. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Dusted Valley 2023 Olsen Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). A lemon drop hard candy aroma, complete with that delicious white powder that coats them, is nicely balanced by a lemongrass tea note. There's some weight here as a slightly thick texture floats lemon curd, grapefruit and thyme flavors. With gentle acidity, this is a comfy Chardonnay pillow. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Benton Hills 2023 Chardonnay (Goose Gap). If there were such a thing as a tangerine dreamsicle, it would smell exactly like this Chardonnay. Additional aromas of fennel fronds and lanolin add more than a little interest. The wine's slightly elevated acidity accentuates flavors like lemon curd and Bergamot orange. This wine really overdelivers for its modest asking price. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$7

89 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2023 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Everything about this wine, from the fruit to its acidity and mouthfeel is crisp and clean. Pineapples and honeycomb stake out their claim on the aroma territory, while lemon zest, cinnamon and butter flavors hold court on the palate. Serve with sunshine and a backyard volleyball match. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Christopher Michael 2022 Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). This is an unexpected set of aromas—blood orange soda, buttered kettle corn and the melting wax of a lemon-scented candle. Light-bodied and packing gentle acidity, this is an easy-sipping Chardonnay. The wine's lemon, saline and vanilla cake icing flavors are quite pleasing. Drink now. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

89 Powers Winery 2023 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This is a good, quaffable Chardonnay that justifies its existence with aromas of peach and cantaloupe wrapped in a swirl of saline and smoky flint. An earthy, slightly sweet flavor that suggests

roasted butternut squash glides with lime zest and melon notes on a slippery, smooth texture. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Indian Wells Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The Indian Wells is a Chardonnay so creamy, its butter toffee flavor seems redundant. The wine's oak spice and pineapple aromas lead to that toffee flavor, as well as flavors of lemon sorbet and a sprig of mint. Fans of Chardonnays on the big and rich side need to track a bottle of this wine down. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Hogue 2023 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The crack of the screw cap releases fresh aromas like honeydew and lime zest, as well as an earthy oregano note. The wine's acidity is modest, and its pear, lemon butter and white grapefruit flavors slip and slide all over the palate. The texture is as plush as a throw pillow, but way more fun. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$10

RIESLING

92 Chateau Ste. Michelle & Dr. Loosen 2023 Eroica Riesling (Columbia Valley). I'm almost tiring of writing this every vintage, but the Eroica has to be one of the best Riesling bangs for the buck. A tart peach aroma is juxtaposed with a sweet candied orange slice note that makes your mouth moisten up in anticipation. Then comes the sweet orange marmalade and tart tangerine combination that seals the deal. Go long on Eroica—use Bitcoins if you need to. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

91 Canvasback 2023 Royal Slope Riesling (Royal Slope). Ginger and the saline qualities of a fresh maritime breeze tickle the nose first, followed by aromas of chamomile flowers, lemon sorbet and a touch of lychee. The Riesling feels almost creamy, with peach, nectarine, lemongrass and almond flavors swirling about. The wine aged eight months in stainless steel and oak casks, 20% new and 80% neutral. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Sin Banderas 2022 Riesling (Columbia Valley). After the initial whiff of petrol blows off, you are left with a baked Golden Delicious apple and brown sugar aroma worthy of dessert. It's enough to fool you into thinking you are about to drink a sweet or off-dry wine. You would be wrong. Tangy acidity escorts this bone-dry wine's lemon, cut grass, beeswax and talc flavors in winning fashion. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2023 Dry Riesling (Columbia Valley). Dry as advertised, this Riesling is packed with aromas and flavors of fleshy tangerine wedges, lemon zest, honeycomb, passion fruit and chilled yellow apple slices. It feels clean

on the palate, with sprightly acidity that is energizing without being bracing. An excellent value and an excellent selection for any beach blanket. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2023 Harvest Select Sweet Riesling (Columbia Valley). The rich, thick honeycomb and honeysuckle aromas are the wine's honest tip-off of sweetness ahead. Wisps of cut grass and wet slate floating in the background help to temper the sweetness. Sweet is what you get as lemon drop hard candies compete for attention with candied apple and cantaloupe flavors. More acidity would have pushed this score higher. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$9

88 Hogue 2022 Riesling (Columbia Valley). Break out the English muffins because this Riesling has aromas of orange marmalade lightly sprinkled with sea salt. Whether you call it off-dry or medium-sweet, it features modest acidity to complement sweet lemon curd and guava candy flavors. It's a fun wine that will fuel many a backyard barbecue party. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$10

88 Hogue 2022 Sweet Riesling (Columbia Valley). The wine's aromas frustrated me as I tried to think of what it reminded me of. Then, as I sniffed the aromas of lime zest and orange-flavored chewable vitamins, it hit me. This Riesling reminds me of pulverized SweeTarts, my "go-to" movie candy as a kid. After that, flavors of lemon soda and coconut candy floated on a plush texture. There's just enough acidity here to keep things from becoming cloyingly sweet. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$10

SAUVIGNON BLANC

95 Dossier 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). I enjoyed how the wine's sweet Mirabelle plum and honeysuckle aromas played off freshly cut grass and tangy, not-quite-ripe peach notes. DEFCON 4-level acidity drives this flavor engine, as sliced donut peach slices drizzled in lime juice flavor is accented by flecks of white pepper and saline. You can brighten your day and your palate with this zippy little number. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$42

92 Dusted Valley 2023 Olsen Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley). Pleasurable aromas of guava, chamomile tea and wet stones swirl around a core of lemon curd. The wine's passion fruit, lemon and fresh, mineral-laden well water flavors are as juicy as its acidity. Serve with freshly shucked oysters and use the wine as a base for the mignonette. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$38

89 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). It's like a luau with these aromas of lychee, pineapple, saline and the swishing of a fresh-cut grass skirt. The wine's white grapefruit, tonic water and mildly sweet guava flavors match well with gentle acidity and a nimble mouthfeel. Hit the beach with this one. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This ultimately refreshing Sauvignon Blanc will make you look twice at its price tag. A subtle lavender water aroma is joined by blasts of passion fruit and coconut. The wine's lithe and nimble texture is a good match for its crisp pineapple, lemongrass and saline flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

89 Hogue 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). At first, par-for-the-course grass and pineapple aromas hit the nose. Then, with some air time, a brisk combination of freshly picked carnations and spicy ginger pops up. The wine feels lithe and nimble on the plate as juicy acidity greases the wheels. Flavors of lime zest and green papaya seal the deal. This screw-capped Sauvignon Blanc is an excellent value. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$10

89 Pendulum 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Tart guava meets starchy corn masa and its an aromatic match made in heaven. Pendulum's flavor profile is a bit more complicated, as green tea, honey, lemon zest and wet slate flavors are illuminated by acidity so bright, you may have to don sunglasses. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$15

VIIGNIER

94 Liminal 2022 WeatherEye Vineyard High Canyon Series Viognier (Red Mountain). Viognier is my siren, and I fell hard for this one. Aromas of tangerines and green tea with lemon are just the start of this entrapment. The texture provided by eight months on the lees is an irresistible accompaniment to the wine's pineapple and lemon curd flavors. The wine's acidity snapped me out of my Viognier daydream. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Abeja 2023 Viognier (Walla Walla Valley). I love how this Viognier's orange marmalade aroma tricks my brain into thinking something sweet is headed my way. The first sip disabuses me of that notion, as orange zest and not-quite-rip white peach flavors make me pucker just a bit. There is lots of acidity here, with a nifty honeycomb quality on the wine's long finish. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

93 Dossier 2022 Flagship Viognier (Columbia Valley). This is a plush example of Viognier, where orange and ripe pear aromas mingle with honeysuckle and toffee notes. That is when

you realize that the part of your brain that regulates pleasure is on full alert. The flavors of orange marmalade made with chunks of ginger meld with a baked Honeycrisp apple done in brown sugar. Those flavors glide along a creamy texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$58

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Itä 2023 Sémillon - 2 of 2 Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). 2 of 2 is not a sequel, but if it were, it would be the Godfather 2 to the original. In other words, it is a spectacular stand-alone wine. A burst of Meyer lemon and fresh-cut grass aromas unite in dazzling fashion with notes of honeysuckle and sweet pea flowers. Enough acidity to raise goosebumps elevates the wine's lemon, white pepper, walnut and wet rock flavors. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Echolands 2023 Blue Mountain Vineyard Roussanne (Walla Walla Valley). A bouquet of flowers greets the nose, with gardenias and jasmine running the show. Additional aromas include a ripe Golden Delicious apple and the earthiness of a burlap bag filled with rice. The palate is the best of all worlds, as icy tonic water and rosemary flavors collide with a lanolin-like texture and a decadent lemon shortbread note. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

90 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2023 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). It's like Pinot Gris and Viognier had a love child. The wine's orange and passion fruit aromas intersect with notes of wet slate and lavender water. Soft acidity caresses flavors like pineapple, green tea and chamomile flowers. This is a light-bodied, satisfying wine that should be sipped at will. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

90 Brockmeyer Family 2023 Otis Vineyard Albariño (Yakima Valley). Is there such a thing as peach-flavored popcorn? If so, it smells just like this lively Albariño. The wine's lemon, not-quite-ripe pineapple and wet slate flavors are complemented by small amounts of earthy white button mushrooms and saline. Grilled octopus sprinkled with Spanish paprika mixed into paella would make for a fine pairing. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$21

87 Hogue 2022 Pinot Grigio (Columbia Valley). An earthy floral note that mixes marigolds and oregano is counterpointed by the wine's lemon pound cake aroma. The palate is more straightforward, with simple flavors of lemon verben tea, white grapefruit and a wee bit of grassiness. Twist off this screw cap with confidence on any picnic blanket in America. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$10

WHITE BLENDS

92 Echolands 2023 Albus Bordeaux-style White Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This blend of 76% Sauvignon Blanc and 24% Sémillon is a nice doff of the chapeau to the Graves district in Bordeaux. It leads with aromas of freshly cut grass, guava, wet stones and the ozone-like petrichor aroma that follows a summer rain. The mouthfeel is crisp and lean, with lemon-lime and papaya flavors driven by elevated acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$38

92 Liminal 2022 The Aerialist WeatherEye Vineyard Rhône-style White Blend (Columbia Valley). This blend of 70% Roussanne and 30% Marsanne is a waxy, tart white Rhône homage with aromas of waxy melon, freshly cut grass and wet rocks. A somewhat lean texture and nervy acidity highlight the wine's white peach, spicy ginger, macadamia nut, lemon and green papaya flavors. Pair with fresh goat cheese and a baguette while listening to Frank Morgan's "Lullaby." —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

90 Avennia 2023 Lydian Sb|S Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Columbia Valley). I refer to modestly priced white wines restrained in alcohol but high in acidity and flavor as "boat wines." I don't own a boat, but I'm daydreaming about sipping the Lydian on one at the nearest lake. Lydian's bristling acidity wakes you to aromas and flavors of Granny Smith apples, guava and lime zest. Prepare to board. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Grosgrain 2022 Tout Le Temps White Blend (Walla Walla Valley). "Tout le temps" is French for "all the time," and this blend of Grenache Blanc and Vermentino fills the bill. The wine's aromas of bergamot, persimmon and chalkboard dust will make you want to inhale it all the time. Bosc pear and lemon zest flavors combined with bold acidity will make you want to sip it all the time. —M.A.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$28

89 Curry Favour NV White Blend (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 20. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$17

SPARKLING WINES

93 Tirridis MV Blanc de Gris Rendition #4 Pinot Gris (Rattlesnake Hills). How often do you get to drink a sparkling Pinot Gris aged in large oak casks? Not nearly enough, based on this tasty example. It smells like a pear tart sprinkled with cinnamon and fresh sage. The wine's snappy texture and bodacious acidity will wake you right up, just in time to enjoy its grapefruit marmalade, lemon zest and rosemary flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$38

92 Tirridis MV Grand Rendition #1 Sparkling Blend (Rattlesnake Hills). This producer's first stab at an extended-tirage wine (28 months) is 96% Chardonnay and 4% Pinot Gris. It is a robust sparkling wine with energetic bubbles and aromas and flavors of brioche, lemon and Cosmic Crisp apple, as well as a perky allspice note. These guys should do this extended-tirage thing more often. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$58

92 Efesté 2021 Angie Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Lake Chelan). Angie is a traditional method sparkler made with Chardonnay from the Clos CheValle Vineyard overlooking Lake Chelan. The first thing to capture your attention is a marzipan note that plays nicely with aromas of warm sourdough bread, Granny Smith apples and beeswax. The wine's texture is as creamy as it is bubbly, with apple, lemon zest and honeycomb flavors slipping and sliding all over your mouth. Don't wait for a special occasion to pop this cork. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Tirridis MV Barrel Fermented Blanc de Blanc Rendition #4 Chardonnay (Rattlesnake Hills). Mildly frothy bubbles help deliver the wine's orange, cantaloupe and freshly cut grass aromas. There's also a smoky flint scent in the background. Tangerine and lemon curd make for a pleasing flavor combination, and the bits of rye bread and olive oil are nice bonuses. The acidity is so gentle, it's like a soothing lullaby. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

91 Echolands 2023 Poét-Nat Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). A sparkling Cabernet Franc with a label as bright and funky as a Peter Max print? Deal me in. The kind of wild berries you pick at the end of a dusty country road are joined by aromas of red apple, freshly baked bread and jasmine. Zippy acidity and frisky bubbles accentuate the wine's bergamot tea and brioche with peach jam flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$38

90 Gramercy 2023 Pet-Nat Picpoul (Walla Walla Valley). Lazy bubbles help deliver the pétillant naturel's aromas of lemon-infused mineral water, Granny Smith apples and saline. There's also a mildly earthy note hovering in the background. The Picpoul's texture is surprisingly creamy, with flavors like grapefruit sprinkled with sea salt and lemon verbena tea gliding merrily along. This makes for a perfect pairing for croquet and finger sandwiches. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

90 Holland America NV Brut Sparkling Wine White Blend (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$40

ROSÉ

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2023 Rosé (Columbia Valley). Peaches and strawberries are the day's aromatic special, served with sides of lemon zest and rose petals. Incredibly ripe raspberries trick you into thinking a liqueur is on tap, but a touch of lemon zest pulls it back from the edge of sweetness. This pink-hued wine's texture is nice and creamy. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

97 Passing Time 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This must be Horse Heaven because this Cabernet Sauvignon's crisp acidity and lively mouthfeel put some giddyap in my step. Cassis and violets fill the air with the first pour. Then, a roasted pork shoulder rubbed with brown sugar and spices kicks in. Silky tannins are on call to back flavors like tart blackberries, cacao nibs, anise and cedar. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$110

97 Passing Time Winery 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This must be Horse Heaven because this Cabernet Sauvignon's crisp acidity and lively mouthfeel put some giddyup in my step. Cassis and violets fill the air with the first pour. Then, a roasted pork shoulder rubbed with brown sugar and spices kicks in. Silky tannins are on call to back flavors like tart blackberries, cacao nibs, anise and cedar. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$110

97 Passing Time Winery 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The Red Mountain's boysenberry and graphite aromas were expected. The earthy, nutty, starchy note that reminded me of cassava was not, but I enjoyed it. Dark raspberry, Bosc pear, dark chocolate and pine needle tea flavors rumble over a chalky texture, supported by bright acidity and mildly grippy tannins. Serve with Yorkshire pudding. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$110

96 Dossier 2022 Flagship Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon demands patience, and I will not argue with it. Dark chocolate and black currant aromas fill the local airspace like jets during a Blue Angels flyover. Grippy tannins rough up the roof of your mouth as flavors of dark raspberries, blackberries, clove and wet rocks look for cover. Enjoy now, with decanting, until 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

96 Passing Time Winery 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Pretty aromas of violets, cedar chest drawers, thyme and intensely sweet blackberries and blueberries are joined by a saline and iron note similar to tasting blood when you bite your lip. Bright acidity and silky tannins

prop up full-bodied flavors like black cherries, dark roasted Indonesian coffee and dark chocolate. This is a wine to be savored over several hours with good conversation. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

95 Abeja 2021 Heather Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Earthy blackberry and espresso aromas strike first, with bursts of cherry blossoms, straw, thyme and saline following in rapid succession. Those scents tempt you to sit with the wine for a few minutes before tasting. A sweet baked good flavor similar to a blackberry tart dominates the palate. Lesser notes of bergamot tea and cedar are equally enjoyable. The wine's imposing tannic structure and noticeable acidity suggest you can enjoy it until 2040, perhaps longer. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

95 Passing Time 2022 Block 1311 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Boysenberries and kirsch form an aromatic bond that is hard to resist. Caramel and worn leather scents add even more interest. The wine's texture is elegant, with juicy acidity elevating ripe blackberry, black olive and cinnamon flavors. There's also a nice tannic structure that only just roughs up the roof of the mouth. Enjoy now until at least 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

95 Tenor 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). An initial puff of hyacinth is quickly followed by aromas of ripe, concentrated black currants, espresso shots made with aged Indonesian coffee beans, and lemon peels. It is a perfume I want to dab on my pillow at night. Full-bodied blackberry, cedar and coriander flavors are ably supported by elevated acidity and tannins as velvety as any underground. Drink now—2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$195

94 Abeja 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). I call this a "Goldilocks wine" because everything, from alcohol to tannins, is just right. Its black fruit aromas make a nice foil to scents of pine cones and maple that are like a stroll in the woods. The wine feels nimble and fresh on the palate, with Bing cherry, red apple, orange zest and fennel making a beautiful salad of flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

94 Ambassador 2022 Plenipotentiary Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Everything about this wine's aromas screams "fresh." The boysenberry aroma is so fresh that it feels like the juice is dripping down your chin. A mineral note appears that is like lemon-and-lavender-scented laundry powder. The palate screams "spicy," with flavors of ginger and nutmeg enlivening dark raspberry and orange zest flavors. Savor with salsa dancing. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80

94 Liminal 2022 Block 47 WeatherEye Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Made entirely with Clone 47 Cabernet Sauvignon from the illustrious WeatherEye Vineyard, Block 47 is a full-bodied wine with a robust tannic structure. Dark mulberry fruit lines an aromatic set that includes earthy notes of loamy soil, pencil lead and pipe tobacco. The wine's thick dark chocolate and nocino (traditional Italian walnut liqueur) flavor combination pairs with blueberry and cherry fruit leather notes. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125

93 Avennia 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The meaty scent of a suckling pig roasting over open coals is joined by a rich boysenberry sorbet aroma. Mildly grippy tannins help to support the wine's sweet blackberry compote, bay leaf, balsam and chocolate ganache flavors. I'd highly recommend trying this wine with a shredded barbecue pork sandwich, hold the pickle. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Avennia 2022 Sestina Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). How can anyone resist an aroma of black cherries coated with dark chocolate and a light sprinkling of sea salt? The wine's equally black fruit flavor is spiced up by wee bits of espresso, mint and nettles. The combination of vivacious acidity and chewy tannic structure suggests you can enjoy the Sestina for another 15 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

93 Canvasback 2022 Grand Passage Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Grand Passage's aromas are a mix of black cherries and a dark chocolate-and-spice combination worthy of the best Mexican chocolate. It's a balanced affair as snappy acidity and firm tannin structure back flavors of black fruit, orange and a faint whisper of spicy red pepper. A pairing with chicken mole should be part of your future. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Canvasback 2021 Klipsun Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This Cabernet Sauvignon gets by with a little help (3%) from its Malbec friends. A dazzling aromatic set includes blueberries, boysenberries, peaches and the sweet-scented flowers found in Hawaiian leis. The fruit gets darker on the palate as blackberries, rose water and lemon zest are illuminated by bright acidity and buttressed by silky tannins. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76

93 Flipturn Cellars 2021 Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Flipturn is an excellent new Oregon producer to add to your "must-try" list. Its Cabernet Sauvignon is a spicy affair that begins with dried rose petals and black pepper competing with dark raspberries and white chocolate for your aromatic attention. Tangy cranberry-raspberry and cardamom flavors are lively

and fresh, backed by firm black tea tannins. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

93 Pepper Bridge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This is a Cabernet Sauvignon to grow old with. Its black cherry fruit leather aroma intersects with orange peel and nutmeg notes. The grippy tannins are almost matched by pumped-up acidity that illuminates flavors like tart blackberries and strong black tea flavored with blackstrap molasses. Enjoy this full-bodied, full-throttle Cabernet Sauvignon until 2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Arenness Cellars 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine is a superb value. It is made with fruit from top vineyards such as Klipsun and Les Collines, and it spent 22 months in French oak, 40% new. Aromas of dark fruit, Stargazer lilies and earth are a nice introduction to flavors like boysenberries, nutmeg and smoked bergamot tea. A graceful texture, plush tannins and elevated acidity are mere bonuses. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

92 Avennia 2022 Justine Rhône-style Red Blend (Yakima Valley). Cherries laced with vanilla and cinnamon are almost matched by the earthy aroma of a recently tilled field. A bowl full of boysenberries and blueberries dominates the wine's flavor profile, nearly eclipsing whispers of basil and black tea. The acidity levels are adequate, and the tannins firm. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$45

92 Avennia 2021 Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain). In the here and now, this Cabernet Franc-driven blend's tannic structure is as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar. Blackberry, blueberry fruit leather, cedar and cacao nib aromas meld into flavors of kirsch and a chewy cup of Irish breakfast tea. Enjoy this wine with bacon burgers. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

92 Browne Family Vineyards 2021 Spymaster Series Homecoming Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A savory burst of bone broth opens the door for aromas like cranberries, orange zest and violets. The wine's tart blackberry and orange pith flavors are spiced up by a bit of coriander. It has muscular tannins and a rough-around-the-edges texture. The next time you make a batch of beef stew, consider pouring the Homecoming. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Browne Family Vineyards 2021 Spymaster Series London is Calling Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). London is calling to let faraway towns know about its rich cassis, nutty sesame oil and flint befitting the guns of Brixton aromas. After that aromatic opening act, dark cherry, anise and black pepper come out of the cupboard, which is cedar-lined. Happily, London is Calling's bright

acidity and velvety tannins don't clash. Pair with roast beef and reggae. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Canvasback 2021 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This mix of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Merlot hails from Ciel du Cheval, one of the region's oldest, most renowned vineyards. Its blackberry and blueberry aromas are punctuated by bursts of anise, saddle leather and sweet gardenias. The wine's elegant and silky texture makes flavors of blackberry, honeycomb and cedar feel like they are gliding. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76

92 River Crossing 2022 Barrel Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The wine's blackberry, dark chocolate, leather and cheery pipe tobacco aromas are as comfortable as an old pair of slippers. This is a nicely balanced Cabernet Sauvignon with a slick and slippery texture. A ripe black cherry and cacao nibs flavor combination is joined by a tannic note suggesting a cup of English breakfast tea. Superb value. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

92 Sparkman 2021 Rainmaker Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). Fall is in the air with the Rainmaker's aromas of crunchy fallen oak leaves, loamy soil, thyme and marionberries. A surprising amount of acidity provides a sense of balance to the wine's rich cherry ice cream and espresso macchiato flavors. This is a texture for hedonists, as it is silky and supple. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Sparkman 2020 Kingpin Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The Kingpin is as big as Vincent D'Onofrio's villain in the Marvel universe. It is packed with aromas and flavors of sweet blackberries, unsweetened dark chocolate, earth and a walnut liqueur. There is also a high level of grippy tannins at work here. Pair it with lamb burgers made on the backyard grill. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Avennia 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This is a massive bowl of ripe black cherries balanced on an equally massive wall of chewy tannins. With every sniff and sip, you can expect dark chocolate-covered espresso beans, hyacinth and cedar. This is truly Cabernet Sauvignon's take on "beast mode." Give this wine some air, or swirl your glass extra hard. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

91 Browne Family Vineyards 2021 Spymaster Series The Farm Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This is full-throttled Cabernet Sauvignon action, with massive tannic structure and thick, full-bodied flavors that coat the palate. The Farm's Damson plum and ripe huckleberry aromas are flecked by bits of espresso and cedar. The flavors are a blackberry tsunami that overwhelms notes of

citrus and cinnamon. A steak sandwich with A.I. sauce would be a nice pairing. —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

91 Canvasback 2022 Les Collines Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). The Les Collines presents a potent perfume of sweet blackcap raspberries and orange zest to accompany wild grass and sage notes. The wine's rich texture complements its blueberry compote, coconut water and almond flavors. Tannins that edge up to grippy are accompanied by restrained acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76

91 Efesté 2022 Taylor Mag Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). I enjoyed the way the wine's blackcap raspberry and lavender aromas are counterpointed by an earthy note of loamy soil. This is a nicely balanced wine with "just enough" acidity and plush tannins to accompany flavors like ripe black cherries, mint, espresso and barbecued pork. Sweet and savory, there's something for everybody here. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

91 Kate Arnold Wines 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). On this aromatic battlefield, the sweetness of blueberries meets the earthy funk of blackberry tea and fennel fronds. A juicy bit of acidity and velvety tannins provide more than adequate support for the medium-bodied wine's flavors of black cherry, cinnamon rolls and cedar. I'd pair this wine with a steak and call it a good night. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Avennia 2022 Lydian Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This delivers a pleasing combination of elevated acidity, sturdy tannins and an elegant texture that encourages more sipping. Black cherry and rye bread aromas complement the wine's tangier scents of hibiscus tea and dried cranberries. Rich cassis and bittersweet dark chocolate flavors are flecked by slivers of pine. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

90 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). What a great value in Cabernet Sauvignon. Its black fruit and dried oak leaves aromas blend with a savory note of roasted pork rubbed with sage and spice. Bold fine-grain tannins are more than enough support for the wine's thick blackberry jam, black tea and clove flavors. Burgers on the backyard grill, thy name is Boomtown. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

90 Browne Family 2022 Forest Project Shaw Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Such beautifully restrained alcohol deserves a round of applause. The wine is also nicely balanced, with bright acidity and velvety tannins. The show begins with floral aromas of violets, sweet pea flowers, Bing cherries and salted sunflower seeds. A strawberry, cream, anise and oats flavor combina-

tion suggests a granola for adults. A woody note of pine is also present. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$60

90 Canvasback 2021 Longwinds Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon that spent 20 months in French oak, 73% new and 27% neutral. The wine's ripe Bing cherry and earthy espresso aromas are joined by wisps of violets and dark chocolate. Sweet cherry, chocolate and gingerbread flavors make for a nice dessert, with a cedar note showing up on the finish. This is a medium-bodied wine with gentle acidity and velvety tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This excellent value in Cabernet Sauvignon opens with blackberry and blueberry aromas that are backed by notes of leather and caramel. The wine's velvety tannins and creamy texture feel right home with rich flavors of blackberries, cacao nibs and espresso. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Dusted Valley 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is a tannic beast that will require some air time before you sneak up on it. The aromas are on the rich and sweet side, with ripe black cherries laced with Madagascar vanilla. Black cherry, anise and sage flavors are just as rich, but they are supported by a wall of grippy tannins that dry the roof of the mouth. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

90 Efesté 2022 Lil Mama Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). My favorite Lil Mama since Niatia Jessica Kirkland hit the stage is a perfume of black fruit and rose petals laced with dark chocolate and a trace of vanilla. The wine version of Lil Mama shows restraint in alcohol and a deft touch with oak. It feels light and graceful on the palate, with flavors like blackberry-flavored lip gloss and orange pekoe tea ruling the roost. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

90 J. Bookwalter 2022 Foreshadow Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Foreshadow's black currant and orange-flavored pipe tobacco aromas are familiar and comforting. Black fruit and orange Curaçao flavors fill the mouth, joined by flecks of nutmeg, dark chocolate and cedar. This is a full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon with grippy tannins, so decanting may be in order. —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

90 Powers Winery 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 William Marie 2021 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). Sweet Amarena cherry and red apple aromas are wrapped up with a belt of worn leather. This is a full-bodied

ied Cabernet Sauvignon with sturdy tannins that hold together black cherry jam, cedar and orange-flavored pipe tobacco flavors. Throw a steak on the grill and invite the neighbors to share this wine. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

89 Benton Hills 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Goose Gap). I appreciated the wine's hyperactive acidity, crisp texture and lower alcohol percentage. Its aromas of blueberries and blackberry tea are flanked by burst of earth and wet slate. The wine feels and tastes like blackberry ice, offering a refreshing wake-up call to the palate. This is one of the best values I've stumbled across in years. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$7

89 Browne Family Vineyards 2021 Spymaster Series The Continent Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Talk about a meaty treat. The wine's aromas feature black cherries and red apples, but a mild barbecue pork note lurks on the edges. The flavors are similar, with blackberries and wet stones matching up with a saline and meaty note reminiscent of beef jerky. Gentle acidity is an even match for the wine's silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Canvasback 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A cherry aroma that may remind you of a roll of Life Savers is matched by notes of toffee and espresso. Ripe blackberries ooze over a thick texture, joined by touches of dark chocolate and balsa. These tannins are to the plush side, with only a hint of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

89 Cedar + Salmon 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Each deep inhale is like a post-rain meadow stroll filled with aromas of damp earth and wildflowers like sweet alyssum, sweet pea flowers and anise hyssop. The wine's blackberry aroma is almost secondary to that flowery perfume. Dark plum, lime and black tea flavors unite behind a wall of grippy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2021 Indian Wells Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This unpretentious Cabernet Sauvignon packs a lot of fun and flavor. An explosion of Bing cherries leads the way, followed in rapid succession by aromas of saddle leather, dark chocolate and a melting vanilla-scented candle. The wine's dominant black cherry flavor towers over a lesser note of orange pekoe tea served with coconut milk. Plush tannins and a smooth texture await. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Portlandia 2022 Big Believer Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A rich dollop of blackberry preserves served with roasted pork belly gets the show off on the right foot. Big Believer's big tannins corral rich blackberry, tangy orange peel, cedar and black tea flavors. I believe that this is a

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powerful wine worthy of the Bigfoot on the wine's label. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Reininger 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A distinct smoked cherry aroma is nicely complemented by a tangy note of orange zest and a puff of chalkboard dust. The wine's restrained alcohol, bright acidity and silky tannins provide a nice sense of balance. Then, a pie cherry flavor is matched by cedar and thyme, with a hint of maple syrup to cut that tart fruit. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$56

89 Sparkman 2021 Holler Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). While Cabernet Sauvignon rules the roost, Holler also includes small percentages of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. The primary aromas are pie cherries and white flowers, followed by flavors of sweet red raspberries, dark chocolate and a mild savory note similar to white button mushrooms. The restrained acidity complements plush tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Ambassador 2022 Sunset Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The wine's aromas have a distinct earthiness, something akin to powdery dry oregano and blackberry tea. Other aromas include black cherries and spicy cinnamon. Soft, silky tannins accompany a sweet black cherry pastille flavor mingled with spicy gingerbread. I didn't know whether to sip or nibble this wine. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$94

88 Browne Family 2022 Skull & Chain Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A ripe, fruity blackberry jam aroma joins forces with cinnamon spice and toasted wheat bread notes to suggest a new breakfast treat: blackberry cinnamon toast. Blackberries also dominate the palate, along with dollops of coconut and cedar. The wine's chewy tannins are way ahead of its soft acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

88 Helix by Reininger 2021 Phinny Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). The wine's sweet Amarena cherry aroma (joined by violets and a wisp of blackberry) made me think I was about to taste something big and rich. In a bit of a gear shift, I found the Helix to feel light and willowy on the palate, with black cherry and citrus flavors escorted by resolved tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

88 Sparkman 2020 Stella Mae Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). If you could make blackberry jam flecked with fennel seeds and spread it on rye bread, you'd have a sense of Stella Mae's perfume. Accompanied by soft acidity and integrated tannins, this blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Malbec features flavors of blackberry and saffras tea. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

87 William Marie 2021 J & S Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A walk through the forest in early fall might remind you of this wine's aromas of dried oak leaves, pine needles and chanterelle mushrooms. The syrupy blueberry fruit scent, however, is sweet enough to remind you of a pancake breakfast. Flavors like dark raspberry and earthy oregano are encircled by a wall of vanilla and spice. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

92 Ambassador 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Red Mountain). The simple tangy sweetness of a marionberry tart unites with sweet pea flowers and a trace of milk chocolate to form an inviting aromatic invitation. Acceptance of a sip yields flavors of boysenberries, sarsaparilla and black tea. This is a lighter-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon with an airy texture and pronounced acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

88 Browne Family 2022 Forest Project Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend hits the ground running with aromas of tart blackberries, vanilla gelato and, appropriately enough given the Forest Project name, a big burst of cedar. This is a medium- to full-bodied wine, and flavors like macerated strawberries, graphite and wood spices fill the mouth. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

SYRAH

96 Dossier 2022 Flagship Syrah (Columbia Valley). I took a sniff from the glass and wrote "Cornas" in my notes. The deep, ripe blackberries, violets and talc aromas are punctuated by the wine's glorious scent of pork fat dripping down onto hot coals. A slice of blackberry pie is served on the palate, along with flavors of rosemary and thyme. Amazingly lifted acidity lends a crispness to the wine's mouthfeel. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$80

95 Gramercy Cellars 2021 John Lewis Reserve Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This magnificent beast of a Syrah offers copious amounts of blackberries and boysenberries on the nose, along with bursts of saline, lavender, rosemary and bacon fat. The wine tastes like it smells, with a bit of wet slate thrown in for good measure. You can expect juicy acidity to match with a wall of tannins. John Lewis spent 21 months in French oak, 20% new. It's good to have him out. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

95 Liminal 2022 WeatherEye Vineyard High Canyon Series Syrah (Red Mountain). I love three things about this wine: the vineyard, concrete and steel fermentation and 4% added Viognier. Dark raspberry and rhubarb pie aromas start the show, accented by bittersweet dark chocolate and white pepper notes. A significant tannic structure

adds a bit of chewiness to the flavors of black cherries, anise and black tea. This Syrah is an ode to joy. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

94 Canvasback 2022 Funk Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The Funk brings the complete Syrah party package to the table. It is packed with aromas and flavors of blackberries, gardenias, saline, orange zest and black pepper. A black olive note hides out at the finish. The wine feels lush and full on the palate, with enough acidity and firm tannins to offer balance. The Syrah spent 16 months in French oak, which was 24% new and 76% neutral. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76

94 Echolands 2021 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42

94 Liminal 2022 Block 16 WeatherEye Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley). These Block 16 Syrah grapes clearly like it high up on Red Mountain. There's a nice balance here, with bodacious acidity teaming with velvety tannins. On the nose, mulberries collide with Mediterranean spices, joined by a bit of earthy forest floor. The wine's blackberry and orange peel flavors complement notes of roasted meat and the spicy sumac, sesame seed and oregano-laden za'atar. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

93 Brockmeyer Family 2022 Francisca's Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Brockmeyer brings the north Rhône funk with a Syrah that pumps out dark raspberry, roasted pork shoulder and lavender aromas like a Pez dispenser. As a bonus, the wine's blackberry, peach, black tea and bay leaf flavors are amplified by firm tannins and a laser beam of acidity. Bring on the cassoulet! —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$39

93 Virtue 2022 Sincerity Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills). A distinct earthiness runs throughout this wine, as aromas and flavors of Damson plums, orange zest and a New Orleans muffuletta form a winning team. Those mouthwatering attributes are supported by elevated acidity and silky tannins. The Syrah feels slick and slippery as it coats the palate. Now I need to find a muffuletta loaded with homemade olive salad. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 William Marie 2021 Syrah (Yakima Valley). This Oregon-based winemaker has produced one mighty fine example of Washington State Syrah. Fans of the savory side will flip for the wine's seared steak aroma and the bacon fat on its finish. In between, look for aromas and flavors of blackberries, dried black cherries, dark plum, leather and fresh sage. It is also beautifully balanced, with restrained alcohol, bouncy acidity and tannins that are beginning to integrate. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

92 Avennia 2022 Arnaut Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). With its venison steak, cherry compote, rosemary and sage aromas, Arnaut is like a great meal at a remote hunting lodge. Rough-around-the-edges tannins back concentrated black cherry, orange zest, clove and cedar flavors. Try this decadent, spicy treat with a chunk of 70% cacao chocolate. —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 Sparkman 2021 Untamed Syrah (Columbia Valley). Black fruit and powdery sweet pea flowers make for an enticing perfume, but then again, so do its aromas of pencil lead and cedar. The wine's tart blackberry flavor and bright acidity make for a juicy experience, with sage and strong black tea offering a counterpoint. The Untamed feels silky and slippery on the palate. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Sparkman 2021 Darkness Syrah (Yakima Valley). Darkness erases the day, but it cannot erase these kindred aromas and flavors of boysenberries and sweet black cherries. Joining the night are a roasted pork loin enhanced by notes of coriander, nutmeg and coffee. This spicy treat is backed by brisk acidity and fine-grain tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Sparkman 2020 Ruckus Syrah (Red Mountain). Ruckus is as fun to sip as it is to say out loud. The Red Mountain rumble begins with aromas of blackberries, violets and a hint of grilled steak. The wine's mouthfeel is smooth and elegant, with elevated acidity and plush tannins in harmony. Black fruit, dark chocolate, bergamot tea and cedar flavors bring it home. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Ambassador 2022 Estate Syrah (Red Mountain). This nicely balanced Syrah is made entirely with Ambassador Vineyard fruit. It leads with aromas of blackberries, lemon peel, lilacs and dried pine needles that crunch underfoot. The wine's smooth texture allows flavors like black cherry, marjoram and a hint of pork fat to feel like they are gliding along. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$52

90 Ambassador 2022 Plenipotentiary Estate Syrah (Red Mountain). A plenipotentiary is a diplomat with the power to sign papers and treaties on behalf of their government. While it can't sign anything, this Syrah is on a mission to win you over with its aromas of blackberries, violets and a trace of bacon fat. Black cherry and blueberry flavors hold a conference on the palate to negotiate with espresso and a bitter radicchio note. Ample tannins effectively support all that fruit. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2022 Syrah (Columbia Valley). Rich macerated strawberries drizzled in balsamic vinegar and black pepper make you want to eat this wine's aromas. After that appetizer, it is a black cherry flecked

with cardamom flavor backed by grippy tannins. This medium-bodied Syrah, with its thick texture, invites you to bring a spoon to the tasting. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

89 Virtue 2022 Loyalty Reserve Syrah (Red Mountain). Blackberries as dark as night mingle with an herbal note that crosses Thai basil with sage. Astonishingly brisk acidity and burly tannins add stuffing to the wine's black cherry, cacao nibs and balsa flavors. A caramel note arrives on the finish. Pork chops may be the ticket for this bold Syrah. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

88 Dineen 2021 Syrah (Yakima Valley). Blackberries, dark chocolate and espresso aromas are pierced by notes of earth and oak spice. Medium-bodied and bolstered by fine-grain tannins, this Syrah's tart blackberry and grilled pork flavors are somewhat obscured by oaky caramel notes. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Spring Valley 2021 Nina Lee Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). These sweet Bing cherry and vanilla aromas conjure memories of soda fountain drinks from days of yore. This wine's ripe cherry flavor is just as sweet, but it is tempered by notes of tobacco, earthy oregano, bittersweet dark chocolate and a pronounced oakiness. The wine's tannins are grippy, its texture leathery. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

GRENACHE

95 Liminal 2022 WeatherEye Vineyard High Canyon Series Grenache (Red Mountain). Fermented in concrete with 25% whole cluster, this Grenache feels surprisingly fresh and nimble on the palate for a wine with 15.2% abv. Heady kirsch and charred steak aromas are spiced up by a little freshly cracked white pepper, lavender and thyme. A slippery mouthfeel is wed to elevated acidity and plush tannins. These flavors of fig and black tea laced with honey are a decadent treat. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$85

93 Echolands 2023 Rocksy Music Grenache (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 8. **Editor's Choice.**
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

93 Virtue 2022 Enthusiasm Grenache (Red Mountain). This joyful Grenache is elegant and smooth, with a sense of balance fueled by restrained alcohol, velvety tannins and lemony acidity. Raspberry pie, lavender and wet slate aromas are dessert-like, followed by tart blackberry, brown sugar and black pepper flavors that seem to glide on the palate. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

91 Echolands 2023 Grenache (Walla Walla Valley). Everything about this wine is fresh and lively, down to its boisterous acidity and a mouthfeel as crisp and clean as an icy Blue Mountains stream. The Grenache's boysenberry gelato aroma is accented by touches of lemon peel and thyme. The wine's equally tangy flavors include blackcap raspberries, strawberries and sweet tea with lemon. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$38

89 Ambassador 2022 Estate Grenache (Red Mountain). Made entirely with Ambassador Vineyard fruit, this Red Mountain Grenache features aromas of crushed strawberries, violets, wet slate and a cup of Assam tea. A light, lean texture and soft acidity accompany velvety tannins and flavors like black cherries, ginger and carob. This Grenache left me craving just a bit more acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$55

CABERNET FRANC

93 Tenor 2021 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). This big and rich Cabernet Franc strikes first with aromas of roasted pork, mole sauce and cassis that smack of total hedonism. The wine's equally rich black cherry, orange cake and paprika flavors are kept in line by brawny tannins and bright acidity. I'd like to try this wine with a lamb gyro while watching Penelope Spheeris's "The Decline of Western Civilization: The Metal Years." —M.A.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$185

92 Flipturn Cellars 2021 Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). Flipturn's Cabernet Franc is garigou personified. By that I mean that in addition to bright red raspberries, this wine is packed with aromas and flavors of lavender, rosemary, thyme and the saline found in a Mediterranean Sea breeze. To top it all off, there's a wonderful combination here of jazzy acidity and silky tannins. My next bratwurst in a bun with pickle relish will accompany this wine. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Kate Arnold Wines 2021 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$34

89 Echolands 2022 Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). The wine's primary aromas of blackberries and earth are spiced up by a note similar to juicy peperoncini. This is a lighter-bodied Cabernet Franc with a willowy mouthfeel and black cherry, bay leaf and black tea flavors. I will sip this the next time I attempt to make ratatouille worthy of Anton Ego. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$42

89 Spring Valley 2021 Katherine Corkrum Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). The wine's blackberry and damp earth aromas are sweetened by a faint note of maple syrup. Mulberries and strawberries sprinkled with brown sugar dance on

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a solid platform of tannins that rough up the roof of the mouth. An espresso note arrives on the wine's somewhat long finish. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

MALBEC

92 Canvasback 2022 Malbec (Red Mountain). A rich, dark raspberry aroma is wrapped in a combination of pipe tobacco and vanilla cake. The dessert theme continues with a warm blackberry pie flavor that engulfs notes of cedar and white pepper. Everything about this wine is plush, from its texture to its tannins. Revel in the richness. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$58

90 Sparkman 2021 Preposterous Malbec (Red Mountain). A mix of 85% Malbec and 15% Syrah is 100% Red Mountain joy. Pomegranate seed, leather and grape hyacinth aromas lead to flavors of dark plum, blueberry compote, espresso and more pomegranate. This is a rich mouthful of wine with just enough tannic structure to hold it together. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$48

89 ConurWines 2023 General Admission Malbec (Columbia Valley). A sweet floral note that mixes sweet pea flowers and hyacinth teams up with the aroma of dark plums and baked bread to create a comforting perfume. The wine's ripe boysenberry and aged balsamic flavors create a powerfully sweet taste sensation that is mildly tempered by black tea tannins and modest acidity. I'd give this Malbec a whirl with pulled pork on corn tortillas. —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$35

87 Browne Family 2022 Forest Project Conservation Collection Malbec (Columbia Valley). The wine's dark plum aroma is matched with a savory saline note that put me in the mood for tuna belly sushi. Bruising tannins that rough up the roof of your mouth and then take your lunch money prop up flavors of black cherries, red apples, black tea and balsa. I recommend decanting this Malbec and pairing it with steak. —M.A.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$25

MERLOT

95 Passing Time 2022 Champoux Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills). Pour, sip, repeat. This is the kind of Champoux rhythm that I can get into. The dark plum, blueberry and date aromas are worth the price of admission by themselves, joined by leather and gardenia notes. The smoked blackberry and vanilla flavors are a mere bonus. This is a fuller-bodied wine with a supple texture. Repeat often. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$64

93 Itä 2022 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). A piquant aroma of cranberry ice and orange zest mixes with a fresh note of pine needles and mint. Facemelting acidity and silky tannins back

flavors of cranberry relish and white tea served with lemon. This one is for acid thrill-seekers looking for a new wine rush. I would like to try this wine with three things: Bad Bunny live, because this wine makes you dance, a harvest moon, and chili with cornbread. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.1%

Price: \$48

92 Abeja 2022 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This is an excellent version of Merlot. Its blueberry and dark raspberry aromas are cut by tart orange zest, wet stone and vanilla notes. The medium-bodied wine's tangy mouthfeel is matched by its solid tannic structure, which provides strong support to blueberry, pear and strong-brewed coffee flavors. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$55

92 Efesté 2021 Upright Estate Merlot (Red Mountain). Upright aromas of dark plums and a cedar cigar box are joined by a compelling saline, savory note that made me hungry for tuna belly sushi. Flavors of black cherries and blueberries were then flanked by bits of espresso, cacao nibs and nutmeg. There is plenty of crisp acidity here, with velvety tannins and a smooth, graceful mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

91 Browne Family 2022 Forest Project Conservation Collection Merlot (Columbia Valley). The wine's aromatic duo of birch bark and lavender creates a brilliant perfume that swirls around notes of black cherry and nutmeg. Grippy tannins amp up the chewiness and support a wonderful one-two punch of blackberry jam and orange zest. This Merlot would make a fine match with any Coleman Hawkins record and a bowl of homemade chili. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

91 Dineen 2021 Merlot (Yakima Valley). I am smitten with this Merlot's dark raspberry and blueberry aroma combination, which takes me back to the Pop-Tarts days of my youth. This medium-bodied wine has a significant tannic structure, with boysenberry strudel and orange pekoe tea flavors better than any brunch. Pair with a charcuterie plate and any Rex Pickett novel. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$42

91 Luke 2022 Merlot (Wahluke Slope). This is a fresh and lively Merlot with jangly acidity that makes the mouth water. Its aromas of tart blackcap raspberries, spicy sandalwood and dried rose petals are equally invigorating. Dark plum and English breakfast tea laced with honey flavors are supported by silky tannins. The next time you make lamb kebabs, be sure to invite this Luke over. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$28

90 Ambassador 2022 Estate Merlot (Red Mountain). It's dessert time with these aromas of a cherry vanilla ice cream scoop that's been sprinkled with blueberries and graham cracker dust. The wine's flavors are a mix of black cherry and white

chocolate served with a cup of black coffee. This is a plush-textured Merlot with gentle acidity and tannins as silky as any sheet. Hedonists, unite. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$52

88 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2022 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This savory Merlot is a meat lover's special. It starts with an aromatic set, where dark boysenberries and loamy soil are pitted against a note that will have you hankering for lamb barbacoa. Then, black cherry, cedar, pork chop and paprika flavors rub against tannins as firm as a cold stick of butter. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$20

OTHER RED WINES

92 Itä 2024 Carbonic Zinfandel (Walla Walla Valley). This unicorn wine undergoes one week of whole-cluster carbonic maceration and two days of post-foot-stomping skin contact. Fermentation and malolactic fermentation are completed in neutral French oak. The Zinfandel's aromas of lavender and a blueberry muffin with a touch of lemon icing are hunger-pang-inducing. A laser beam of acidity lights up the wine's strawberry and hibiscus flower flavors. What a tangy treat! *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$30

91 Dusted Valley 2022 Stone Tree Vineyard Petite Sirah (Wahluke Slope). Aided by 5% Primitivo and 5% Syrah, this wine strikes a blow for Petite Sirah supremacy. White pepper and as many violets as your nose can handle form a perfect union with sweet strawberry and blueberry aromas. A rich cherry sorbet flavor melds with tobacco and tart walnut nocino-like notes. Soft acidity is the match of plush, silky tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$45

91 Itä 2021 Pinot Noir (Walla Walla Valley). This neutral French oak beauty is a study in finesse and balance. The wine's aromas are a yin-yang duel of raspberry coulis on one hand and earthy/funky blackberry tea on the other. Tart blackberries rule the palate, joined by black tea and saline flavors. The smooth and easy texture makes this wine a joy to sip all by itself. —M.A.

abv: 11.9%

Price: \$48

90 Tenor 2021 Pinot Noir (Columbia Valley). Nearly 15% abv and 20 months in oak, 93% of which was new, means this is a Pinot Noir for fans of a bigger style. Blackberry and chalk aromas mingle with the wine's notes of salmon rubbed with brown sugar grilling on a cedar plan. The flavors are all about tart cherries, pulled pork and espresso, with restrained acidity and sturdy tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$95

89 Virtue 2022 Wisdom Mourvèdre (Red Mountain). Made with whole-berry fermented fruit from Ciel Du Cheval Vineyard, this Mourvèdre opens with persimmon and sweet gardenia aromas that play off of saddle leather and a big-time dose

of saline. Its flavors speak of black cherry, unsweetened cocoa and cedar plank. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$45

RED BLENDS

95 Dossier 2022 Flagship Index Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon- and Merlot-driven blend strikes first with rich cassis and dark plum aromas. Hints of wet slate, cedar and a fresh, clean note, similar to sheets washed in lilac-scented laundry powder drying on the clothesline, follow. Ripe blackberry, anise, thyme and lavender water flavors linger on the palate. Sturdy, drying tannins hold everything together. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$110

95 Liminal 2022 The Mountain Tower WeatherEye Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). A Cabernet Franc-driven blend, this wine aged for 20 months in new, twice-filled and neutral French oak barrels. The fruit comes from three blocks located on the steep north-facing slopes of WeatherEye Vineyard. The medium-bodied wine's aromas mix boysenberries, blueberries, sagebrush, sandalwood and dark chocolate. Grippy tannins bolster the wine's black cherry, allspice, orange pekoe tea and cacao nib flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$90

93 Grosgrain 2022 Petit Grosgrain Rhône-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This superb value exudes ripe blackberry and black currant aromas that will take your olfactory system by storm. Savory scents of roasted pork shoulder and sage lurk behind the wall of black fruit. This SGM blend also features a dollop of Charbono. Its blackberry, orange zest and pipe tobacco flavors coat the palate, backed by firm but not chewy tannins. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$26

93 Liminal 2022 The Barbarous Heart Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Lavender and sweet clover form a floral ball around the ripest, sweetest mulberries. Tannins that rough up the roof of your mouth and juicy acidity back rich flavors of blackcap raspberries, dates and a touch of something meaty. This Grenache- and Mourvèdre-driven blend comprises fruit from the illustrious WeatherEye Vineyard. —M.A.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$60

93 Passing Time 2022 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Ripe blackberries open the aromatic show, with violets and seared steak serving as supporting actors. The densely textured wine features flavors of black cherries, anise and balsa that ache to be matched with something meaty from the grill. This Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated blend is a tannic beast that will require patience or decanting. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$65

93 Spring Valley 2021 Frederick Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). My favorite Fred since Rogers leads with a floral display that features meadow flowers, hyacinth, sandalwood and framboise aromas. Lemony acidity then lights up the blueberry, green tea and candied lavender flavors. Pair with steamed pork buns for a real treat for a wonderful day in your neighborhood. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$60

92 Ambassador 2022 Minister Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain). This is an estate blend of 56% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Syrah and 6% Cabernet Franc. It opens with black cherry and dark chocolate aromas punctuated by a bit of dried herbs. The wine's graceful texture accompanies black fruit and cardamom flavors, joined by traces of roasted pork. The wine's firm tannic structure and zesty acidity suggest enjoying it until 2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$48

92 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2021 Artist Series Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). A ripe raspberry aroma that borders on cassis territory leads to notes of violets, cedar bark and freshly tilled earth. The flavors are similar, with crushed blackcap raspberries, cedar and earthy oregano performing an energetic waltz. What makes this wine such a pleasure to sip is its brash acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

92 Rocky Pond 2022 11 Dams Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Rocky Reach). Ripe boysenberries are almost outdone by savory aromas of garlic beef and a saline quality reminiscent of squid ink risotto. This is a smooth and silky mouthfeel, where dark plum, strawberry sorbet and pine needle flavors float like a hovercraft. The wine's acidity and tannins are equally plush. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$48

92 Rocky Pond 2022 Double D Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rocky Reach). Heads up hedonists, a most pleasurable Cabernet Sauvignon is on its way. Ripe boysenberry and blueberry aromas are pierced by flecks of black pepper and the tang of orange zest. A slick and slippery texture accompanies blueberry jam, espresso and anise flavors that go on forever. The wine rested on its lees for 22 months in French oak, 45% new. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

91 Ambassador 2022 Diplomat Estate Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Red Mountain). The Diplomat's aromas are a walk in the rose garden as rose petals and rose hip scents encircle a bowl of dark raspberries. The wine feels lush and almost viscous on the palate, with enough acidity to maintain a sense of balance. Blackberries and blueberries sprinkled with powdered sugar make for a pleasing sip. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$52

91 Avennia 2022 Valery Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This is powerfully floral, with aromas of gardenias, honeysuckle and basil joining a ripe blackberry note. The wine's sour cherry, dark chocolate and clove flavors are tart but in a good way. Nice, crisp acidity and firm tannins provide balance. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$60

91 Browne Family 2022 Mural Collection GSM (Columbia Valley). This regal blend introduces itself with aromas of wild strawberries, raspberries, violets and a meaty wisp of prosciutto. The wine features a rare combination of stiff tannins and electrifying acidity to pair with a medium body and rich texture. Black fruit flavors are accented by notes of black pepper and orange zest. A flavor similar to smoked sturgeon swims in the background. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$42

91 Echolands 2021 Rubrum Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend will make your day with black cherry and saline aromas joining forces with a savory note that will have you craving Yorkshire pudding. In fact, the wine's velvety tannins and smoked cherry and anise flavors would make a fine pairing with that traditional British dish. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$42

91 Reininger 2021 BDX Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley-Walla Walla Valley). This is a luxuriously textured blend of 29% Merlot, 29% Malbec, 21% Cabernet Franc and 21% Petit Verdot. Its cherry clafoutis and caramel aromas are accented by bits of wood spice and a meaty note similar to bacon fat. Velvety tannins support the wine's rich dark plum, ginger and dark chocolate flavors. Match it with turkey burgers from the backyard grill. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$40

91 Sparkman 2021 Wilderness Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Syrah makes up 70% of a blend that includes 15% Petite Sirah, 10% Grenache and 5% Mourvèdre. Sweet, dark cherries and roasted pork shoulder aromas are accented by talc worthy of a gymnast on the parallel bars. The wine's flavors are equally rich, with dark plums, espresso and bacon fat. The acidity is as gentle as the tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

91 Ste. Chapelle 2022 Voyager GSM (Columbia Valley). The Rhône-style Voyager is a nice combination of fruit and funk, with raspberry and lavender aromas mixing with the savory goodness of oxtail soup. The medium-bodied wine's blackberry flavor is achingly tart, with a lightly smoked paprika note mingling with oregano and thyme. Pour with a slice of pepperoni pizza and Netflix. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$48

91 Virtue 2022 Fortitude Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This full-bodied classic five-varietal Bordeaux-style blend spent 18 months in a combination of American and French oak, 22% of which was new. Powerful black cherry, blueberry, duff and graphite aromas take control. Then, tart boysenberries and cedar rumble across a leathery texture as grippy tannins ride herd. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

90 Ambassador 2022 Envoy Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain). This is a classic Bordeaux-style blend made entirely with Ambassador Vineyard fruit. Its dark raspberry and cherry blossom aromas are accented by a touch of wet stones. A nice balance between bright acidity, restrained alcohol and firm tannins supports flavors like black cherries, bittersweet dark chocolate and a trace of vanilla. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$52

90 Echolands 2020 Seven Hills Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon rules the roost with this blend, beginning with its black cherry, cigar box and cacao aromas. The wine's flavor profile is similar, with Bing cherries uniting boldly with English breakfast tea, cedar and bittersweet dark chocolate flavors, all backed by integrated tannins and gentle acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

90 History 2021 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This wine blends 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and smaller amounts of Malbec, Merlot, Zinfandel and Cabernet Franc. The fruit comes from well-known vineyards such as Cold Creek and Canoe Ridge. It has a perfumed nose of cherry, orange blossom, lilac water and a puff of talc. The wine's mouthfeel is smooth and graceful, with flavors of black cherries, orange zest and coffee served with cream. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

90 Pepper Bridge 2021 Trine Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). A perfume of grape hyacinth and anise is graced by a ripe black cherry aroma. The wine has a fresh and lively texture that is a tribute to its brisk acidity and silky tannins. Blackberries, root beer and balsa flavors unite in fine form. Enjoy this wine with a grilled portobello steak drizzled with aged balsamic vinegar. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Sparkman 2022 Greater Than Some G-S-M (Yakima Valley). This wine is as balanced as its nearly equal parts blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. A cool earth scent similar to a root cellar floor is wrapped in aromas of boysenberries, violets, black tea and bittersweet dark chocolate. On the palate, there's a mixture of vanilla and dark chocolate, along with plenty of black cherries. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Spring Valley 2021 Uriah Merlot-Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). Uriah offers a heap of blackberries and violets on the nose, not to mention a wisp of steaks grilling over hot coals on the hibachi. It is a repeat show for sweet blackberries in terms of flavors, but that sweetness is pierced by a tangy orange citrus note. For the moment, these tannins make for a chewy texture, so prepare to decant. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

89 Avennia 2022 Lydian GSM Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). The black fruit, wet slate and milk chocolate aromas are interrupted by a mildly bitter note that reminded me of an arugula salad. Ripe, sweet black cherries reverse course, accompanied by firm black tea tannins and strawberry pastilles on the finish. More acidity would have been welcome. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$25

89 Pepper Bridge 2021 Pepper Bridge Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). A nearly equal parts blend of Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon is joined by 9% Petit Verdot. It is a muscular wine with firm tannins and a leathery texture. It smells like a blackberry pie cooling on the counter, with puffs of cinnamon and butter crust keeping it company. A dark cherry and espresso flavor combination is joined by maple and oak spices. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

89 Portlandia 2021 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Forget a bird; Portlandia put a Sasquatch on it with its cryptozoology-inspired label. This blend's aromas are as earthy and pine needle-laden as the deep woods. Blackberry, thyme and marigolds round out the aromatic set. When it comes to the wine's chewy tannins and flavors like boysenberries and espresso, this is as big and brawny as the wild man of the forest. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Sparkman 2020 Ruby Leigh Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). A blend of 67% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc and 11% Malbec, this wine opens with Bing cherry, blueberry and cocoa powder aromas. The fruit is darker on the palate, as blackberries, dark chocolate, orange and clove flavors slam against a wall of firm, chewy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

88 Reininger 2022 Mr. Owl's Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). Mr. Owl's wild ride begins with a fluttering of muted red cherry, black tea and cedar aromas. Restrained acidity and firm tannins accompany the wine's earthy forest floor, including cremini mushrooms, and faint black cherry, spice and vanilla flavors. The oak influence is noticeable. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

IDAHO

RED WINES

89 Sawtooth 2022 Classic Fly Series GSM (Snake River Valley). What a refreshing aromatic introduction of macerated strawberries sprinkled with black pepper and aged balsamic vinegar. A tiny puff of saffras brings it all together. The wine's bright red cherry and lemon citrus flavors are accented by its bright acidity. I wouldn't wait too long to open this bottle, but it's offering some pleasant sipping right now. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Ste. Chapelle 2022 Panoramic Series Petite Sirah (Snake River Valley). Jet black with a matching demeanor, this full-bodied, highly structured Petite Sirah is one big blackberry. There are blackberry aromas accented by garrigue and dark chocolate, and there's a jammy blackberry flavor spiced up by black pepper and vanilla bean. This wine may be chewier than the steak you serve it with. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

87 Sawtooth 2022 Trout Series Petit Verdot (Snake River Valley). An intense perfume of blackberries, nutmeg and patchouli hit the nose right off the bat. The wine feels round-in-the-mouth, with plush tannins and acidity that struggles to make itself known. Flavors of black currant and anise are almost overpowered by oak-driven vanilla and cedar notes. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

MINNESOTA

WHITE WINES

91 Rolling Forks 2023 Allegro Brianna (Minnesota). For full review see page 14. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$23

89 Rolling Forks 2023 Lady Slipper La Crescent (Minnesota). This supremely floral expression of the La Crescent grape reminds me of several Swiss white wines I have enjoyed. Aromas of freshly cut grass, pineapple and passion fruit are matched with flavors like peach slices drizzled in honey and a trace of orange sorbet. The wine is lightly sweet, with just enough acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$21

88 Rolling Forks 2022 Reserve Frontenac Blanc (Minnesota). Talk about a tropical paradise. This creamy reserve wine is filled to the brim with aromas and flavors of lemon curd and coconut with a wisp of papaya. Hovering in the background is a warm, spicy note similar to a melting vanilla-scented candle. A tad more acidity would have been welcome. —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$29

RED WINES

90 Rolling Forks Vineyards 2021 Melodia Marquette (Minnesota). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

88 Rolling Forks 2022 Rolling Red Marquette (Minnesota). The scent of a dusty road, baked apples and wild lavender is like a summertime drive in the country. The wine's mouthfeel is on the thin side, with muted acidity and integrated tannins supporting flavors of cherries and cocoa powder and an herbal note that was difficult to pin down. —M.A.
abv: 14% Price: \$24

MICHIGAN

88 Brengman Family Wines 2022 Crain Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Leelanau Peninsula). There is a bountiful purity of red fruit in this Brengman family Pinot Noir that is enticing. Cherry, strawberry and cranberry imbue the palate. Orange zest, rose and balsamic notes linger. An oxidative fruit quality encompasses the finish as the buoyant acidity offers a lift. Drink now. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

TEXAS

WHITE WINE

88 Grape Creek Vineyards 2022 Viognier (Texas). This lavish Viognier displays aromas of candied peach, citrus and honeysuckle on the nose. The palate is very round, with flavors of canned peaches, lemon curd, whispers of flowers and hints of spice. While this isn't a sweet wine, it will scratch that itch for some folks. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$39

RED WINE

90 Invention Vineyards 2022 Conflation Red Blend (Texas). This nimble blend delivers fresh raspberry, violet and strawberry aromas on the nose, while the palate dances with lively acidity and a notable sour cherry-cinnamon vibe. Give this a slight chill and crush it with slow-cooked pork tacos. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$54

NEW YORK CHARDONNAY

89 Lakewood Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). A bright yet rich and gently honeyed stone fruit character opens with caramel, mushroom and toasty, vanillin notes behind.

There's lovely texture and weight. Flavor is on the quiet side, but the mouthfeel makes for food-friendly sipping. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

88 Fox Run Vineyards 2022 Kaiser Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Seneca Lake). Made from grapes grown on vines that are over 40 years old, this is a clean, well-groomed Chardonnay that, in this reviewer's mind, could use more wild yeast and lees-y funk to muss up its hair. Nonetheless, it's a solid wine with creamy texture and, particularly on the nose, notes of honey-drizzled citrus, grilled pineapple, toasted coconut and mushroom. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$18

88 Ravines Wine Cellars 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Seneca Lake). This well-regarded Seneca Lake winery makes its Chardonnay in an unusual way—it partially sun-dries the fruit, appassimento style. The result is a rich, raisin-y bottling bursting with honeyed orchard fruit and candied ginger aromas, which send a message that this wine will be sweet or at least off-dry. But it's actually dry with textural richness, well-placed acidity and somewhat muffled flavor. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

86 Six Eighty Cellars 2023 Sandstone Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). This Chardonnay offers bright lemon and melon fruit and dried ginger with a lick of something mustier. Despite being dry overall, there's something sweet-feeling to the creamy palate that sits rather oddly alongside the lemony fruit flavors. Its time in stone vessels brings a unique texture. —C.P.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$32

85 Damiani Wine Cellars 2023 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Honeyed peach with a hint of florals leads to a palate that's bone-dry and quite bracingly acidic but lacking the fruit to pad it out. Sip beside a cheese board or something equally creamy and fatty. —C.P.
abv: 10.5% Price: \$24

RIESLING

92 Ravines Wine Cellars 2022 Estate Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). A vibrant, golden hue, this smells of summer in America's Northeast: lemon sorbet, freshly washed sheets hung to dry on a clothes line, a windowsill of herbs, freshly turned earth. It's dry with lovely flavor concentration, textural weight and crisp acidity freshening it all up. It's somehow curvy but linear at the same time—and a total bargain for the quality. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$21

92 Ravines Wine Cellars 2020 Glint Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Straw-colored and intensely aromatic, this Riesling is starting to show a bit of bottle age. Something earthy and herbal flanks

honey-drizzled citrus, pear and white peach. And you can almost smell the chalky limestone warmed by the sun. The palate is more about texture than fruit: opulent, dry, slippery. Drink now with an assortment of young tangy goat cheeses. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$33

90 Boundary Breaks Vineyard 2023 Ovid Line North Medium-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). This smells of a summer herb garden with distinctive fresh basil aromas wafting from the glass, followed by cilantro, with a lemon wedge on the side. It's off-dry, but the sugar is judicious, with just enough acidity to keep things fresh, ending as it started on a delicate basil note. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$20

90 Damiani Wine Cellars 2023 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's oodles of fruit on this dry Riesling, starting with white peach and lemon sherbet, with spring floral and wet stone aromas below. It's crisp and fresh with gentle textural elements and a peach pit finish. It could gain lovely honeyed complexity with a few more years in the bottle. —C.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$22

88 Lakewood Vineyards 2023 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Lifted aromas of honeyed citrus and ginger spice—with a core of something more mineral and earthy—lead to a palate that is dry and vibrant with a ping of high-toned acidity and somewhat muffled flavor that ends on a gentle spiced citrus note. It manages both power and delicacy. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 11.1% Price: \$15

87 Boundary Breaks Vineyard 2023 #239 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Delicate yet persistent aromas of candid citrus and stone fruit—with a mushroomy underbelly—kick things off nicely. The palate is dry and fresh, with a lovely lift of acidity countered by textural padding. The flavor falls away somewhat, veering a touch sour at the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

87 Lakewood Vineyards 2023 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Rich and honeyed (if a tad musty), this opens with baked stone fruit and candied lemon. It's quite sweet from first taste—lacking the racy acidity cut through the sugar. Nevertheless, there's still a measure of freshness and lovely orchard fruit flavor on the finish. Drink well chilled with a fruit-based dessert. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 11.8% Price: \$15

87 Living Roots 2023 Bone-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's a lick of volatile acidity on display here, which gives an acetone edge to the wine. Nevertheless, it's dry and refreshing with a lovely textural element. It walks to its own beat. —C.P.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$24

SPARKLING WINES

93 Ravines Wine Cellars 2019 Sparkling Riesling (Seneca Lake). Well-crafted Riesling—but with fizz—what joy! Heady, hard-to-stop-smelling aromas of honeyed orchard fruits, lemon thyme and hibiscus flower culminate in what could be the next great popsicle flavor. It's dry and prickly with a slight pithy texture, tangy acidity and citrusy succulence to the finish. Yum. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Buttonwood Grove Winery 2022 Pét-Nat Riesling (Finger Lakes). A cloudy apricot color, this rustic pétillant naturel smells like the winery at crush time, or a just-squeezed medley of citrus fruits. It's bone-dry with crisp acidity, pithy tannins and prickly hedgehog-like fizz. This is a picnic wine if there ever was one. —C.P.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$20

87 Damiani Wine Cellars NV Bollicine Sparkling Blend (Finger Lakes). Intense strawberries-and-cream notes assail the nose on this pale salmon-hued nonvintage bubbly. More confected than the nose implies, the flavor disappears somewhat on the palate. Nevertheless, it's dry and refreshing with vigorous fizz. Chill it down and knock it back on a summer's day and all will be forgiven. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

ROSÉ

88 Barnstormer 2024 Blaufränkisch Rosé (Finger Lakes). A vibrant strawberry hue, there's a firecracker of fruit, like watermelon and strawberry Jolly Ranchers mashed together and sprinkled ever-so-lightly with white pepper. It's rich, mouthfilling by rosé standards, but dry and crisp too. There's less fruit on the palate, and it's wanting for a bit more flavor and length, but is a crowd-pleaser nonetheless. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

CABERNET FRANC

90 Lakewood Vineyards 2022 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). A bright, tangy lift of red berries, fennel fronds and a medley of dried herbs awaits, with a cocoa powder note behind. The palate is light- to medium-bodied and strikes a balance between silky berry fruit, fresh acidity and chalky tannins. A well-made cool climate example of this barbecue-friendly style for an everyday drinking price. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$20

90 Ravines Wine Cellars 2022 Estate Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake). The crimson color suggests a richer, more mouthfilling Cab Franc, but while it's definitely on the fuller end by Finger Lakes standards, it still finds a sense of prettiness and delicacy via plump berries, cloves, dried flowers and herbs. Tannins have a tight, chalky grip. Acid-

ity is, of course, never lacking in these parts, so sip beside a plate of protein. It could cellar a few more years too. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Boundary Breaks Vineyard 2023 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Lovely plump raspberry and plum aromas are edged in dried herb and licorice nuances. There's a tightness to the light- to midweight palate, thanks to a very-present frame of raspy, chalky tannins. But there's enough fruit to flesh it out. Sip on the first cool autumn dates with duck, pork or root vegetables. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Living Roots 2022 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). The carbonic element here lifts all the fruit and spice notes without feeling bubblegummy. There's spice-laden succulent blueberry-cherry notes from first sniff with a medley of dried herbs, licorice and flowers on their stalks. Raspy tannins and a fresh zip of acidity make this a solid pairing for fattier meats or grilled mushrooms. —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$34

88 Damiani Wine Cellars 2023 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Mint chocolate and dried herbs mingle with cherry and raspberry fruit aromas. Sappy tannins frame crunchy, herb-flecked red fruit. There's a lovely lightness here despite the tannin structure. It'd be lovely with Thanksgiving fare or duck with cherry sauce. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

86 Barnstormer 2023 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Similarly to this producer's Cabernet Sauvignon, a musty note perches atop more pleasant cherry fruit, dried mint and dusty spice. There's a nice succulence to the red fruit when it first hits the mouth, but it's quickly enveloped by drying tannins that commandeer the spotlight. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

85 Glenora 2022 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Drying red fruit is edged in dried herbs, cloves and soapy vanillin oak influence. Raspy tannins somewhat take over the palate, especially alongside the racy acidity. The red fruit and savory herbal notes peak through the cracks. —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$20

OTHER RED WINES

87 Damiani Wine Cellars 2023 Lemberger (Finger Lakes). There's just-ripe cranberry-raspberry aromas to start, with chocolate mint notes tucked behind. Razor-edged acidity slices through the palate, but there's just enough tangy red fruit and chalky tannins to flesh it out. Drink at room temperature with fatty cured meats to temper the tartness. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Fox Run Vineyards 2022 Lemberger (Seneca Lake). A pleasant zing of red cherry and raspberry opens this Seneca Lake Lemberger—aka Blaufränkisch—with leather dried herbal nuances, and a lick of minty vanillin influence behind. Acidity pierces the tongue from first sip—there's just enough red berry fruit weight to prop it up. A sappy tannin forms a raspy, austere spine. A bit on the lean and mean side, but it's a solid sipper with a charcuterie platter. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

85 Barnstormer 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Finger Lakes). There's a musty overlay to this Cab that sits just atop the drying plum, savory dried herb and pencil shaving notes. Shrill acidity slices through the palate, the fruit just barely ripe enough to flesh it out. It creates a feeling of cheek-sucking austerity that even the fattiest of protein may not be able to counter. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

82 Glenora 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Finger Lakes). A deep inky hue, this is a showy, old school styled Cab that leans heavily on oak, making the toasty, vanillin qualities the dominating force. As the color suggests, it's very extracted on the palate, resulting in rough, aggressive tannins that overpower all else. —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$25

RED BLENDS

92 Living Roots 2022 Red Rizza Riesling-Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Riesling juice fermented on Cabernet Franc skins isn't something you see every day, but the creative Aussie-American couple behind this label make it work, creating a succulent, aromatic wine that walks a tightrope between fun and seriousness. It smells of roses (stems and all), cherry chocolate cake with a garnish of mint and lemon peel, and something altogether earthier, more mushroomy. It's light on its feet with crunchy, tangy appeal. Then in sweep the tannins—chalky, tight, almost austere. Thankfully the fruit holds its own. Drink chilled on the first warm days. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

88 Damiani Wine Cellars 2023 MC² Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Finger Lakes). A lighter version of Bordeaux, there's appealing high-toned fruit, dried florals, peppery spice and desiccated coconut aromas to start. The palate shows the big lift of tart acidity typical to this chilly climate, padded out by tangy red and dark berry fruit and framed by quite big, chiseled tannins. A solid attempt for such a chilly climate. Protein required. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

NEW JERSEY

CHARDONNAY

91 Auburn Road Vineyards 2023 Barrel Reserve Chardonnay (Outer Coastal Plain). The barrel aging elevates nuance here. Breyer's vanilla and acacia floralness marry lemon curd and green apple. A slight oxidation of fruit is exposed on the palate. There is also a broadness on the palate that could pair with fatty fish (salmon anyone?) or roasted pork chop alike. Drink now. Food friendly or solo. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$35

91 Auburn Road Vineyards 2022 Featherbed Vineyard Chardonnay (Outer Coastal Plain). Purity unfolds and blossoms into a lengthy and lingering finish. Lemon and underripe pear marry chamomile and crème brûlée. There is a sultry voluptuousness and taut linearity that yearns for food. Lobster in a lemon-butter-herb sauce. The wine needs a moment to open, but when it does the palate is magnetic. —C.G.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Beneduce Vineyards 2023 Estate Grown Chardonnay (New Jersey). Delectable and sumptuous with finesse, this is a Chardonnay with broad character. Apple pie and ripe pear emanate from the glass. Brioche and almond follow. The palate matches, and yellow florals linger on the finish. The texture is creamy, and the acidity is vibrant. Very polished. Enjoy with poultry, creamy sauced dishes or hearty vegetable ragus. —C.G.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

ROSÉ

89 Auburn Road Vineyards 2023 Dry Rosé (Outer Coastal Plain). The apertif and food-friendly rosé, Auburn Road 2023 Dry is linear in expression on the palate. White cherry and fresh rose petal marry in flavor. The finish is invigorated by a brininess and minerality. An underlying herbal note, thyme, persists through out. Suitable to accompany light raw dishes, oysters, scallop crudo with citrus segments or tuna tartare. —C.G.C.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$21

RED WINES

90 Beneduce Vineyards 2022 Estate Grown Blafränkisch (New Jersey). This wine is polished and generous in expression. Red fruit dominates the palate and nose. Ripe cherry, red plum and strawberry prevail. Cinnamon and clove linger. On the midpalate, rose petal emanates. This is well-made and structured with a lasting finish. Pair with duck or other poultry. Duck à l'orange, anyone? —C.G.C.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$48

89 Beneduce Vineyards 2022 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (New Jersey). Structure and fine tannins are perceptible at the onset of this Beneduce Pinot Noir. Red plum and cherry tantalize the palate. A hint of sage offers a savory balance. Orange zest and rose petal linger. This is a food-friendly wine that pairs nicely with lightly roasted game, veal sweetbreads or poultry with a robust vegetable sauce. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$46

MARYLAND

87 Boyd Cru Wines 2023 Sparkling Vidal Blanc (Maryland). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

VIRGINIA

WHITE WINES

90 Barboursville Vineyards 2023 Reserve Viognier (Virginia). Voluptuous and complex, the Barboursville Viognier 2023 is seductive. The palate evokes pear and a florality on the front palate. Orange blossom, wet rocks and a subtle herbal component in the form of sage linger on the tongue. A brininess punctuates the finish. A wine that would do well with spicy food to diffuse or counter the heat. —C.G.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Barboursville Vineyards 2022 Reserve Vermentino (Virginia). This delivers an elegant, refined expression on the palate. Pithy apricot bursts from the onset. Lemon verbena follows, and a minerality lingers in the finish. The texture is lean and the acidity vibrant. This is a wine that could appeal to many palates. —C.G.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Crimson Lane Vineyards 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Fauquier County). This white is both approachable and graceful at once. Plush yellow grapefruit, chive, chive blossom and menthol emanate on both the nose and palate. The menthol is lengthened and provides lift in the finish. The typical spicy elements of Sauvignon Blanc are shy here. It is a refreshing white for myriad palates. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$48

89 Slater Run 2022 Rosé Pétillant Naturel Méthode Ancestrale Sparkling Blend (Virginia). An alluring and even but vibrant mousse glides on the palate. Bursts of white cherry and bruised peach scintillate on the tongue. Almond, sage and a faint rose petal are invigorated by the bubbles. A subtle brininess and fennel seed linger in the finish. This is a fun, easy-drinking pétillant wine that can easily appease many palates. —C.G.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$34

88 Crimson Lane Vineyards 2021 Barrel Aged Chardonnay (Fauquier County). The wine is

jaunting in its approach. The pronounced almond and clove spice give way to guava, papaya, mango, orange marmalade and orange blossom on the palate. The Chardonnay starts wide and ends wide. It yearns for food: grilled chicken, grilled pork chop or charred root vegetables. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$50

ROSÉ

89 Veramar 2023 Rosé Chambourcin (Virginia). This rosé is not just deep in color but also broad on the palate with viscous texture. Cherry and bruised peach take center stage here. On the palate, Mandarin orange and ginger exude. It is a peek of spring in a glass. While easy-drinking, it moves beyond quaffable and could easily be paired with a spring roasted vegetable salad. Roasted rhubarb salad, anyone? —C.G.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

RED WINES

92 Barboursville Vineyards 2019 Reserve Nebbiolo (Virginia). While some of the first grapes brought to Virginia were Italian, this Barboursville Nebbiolo sets the precedent for the grape to thrive here. Black plum, blackberry, cassis, pencil lead, sage and rosemary reverberate on the palate. The texture is creamy, and the tannins are prominent but velvety. There is energy and vibrant acidity. The finish lingers. This is a domestic pillar of the Nebbiolo grape profile outside of Italy. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Barboursville Vineyards 2022 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Virginia). This red is a generous mouthful of harmony and balance. Red and black plum lead the palate. Violet follows, along with plush tannins. Cedar emanates on the back palate. The texture is lean, and the acidity is prominent. Drink now. —C.G.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 8 Chains North 2019 West Tempranillo (Virginia). This winery sets the stage for an emboldened Tempranillo. The wine presents jammy fruits. The nose emits dates, figs, boysenberry, blueberry pie and candied raspberry. The fruit on the palate is jammy, as well, but the fig and boysenberry turn to prune and blackberry compote. The wine is well-structured with an ease to drink alone or be paired with food. It calls for roasted duck or quail or something with a slight gaminess to balance the jamminess on the palate. —C.G.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

89 Crimson Lane Vineyards 2021 Parral Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Fauquier County). Coconut and dill envelope stewed cherry, ripe raspberry and beets. The red apple on the palate is a reflection of oxidative fruit. The wine starts with power and leans out into elongated tannins. Finesse

BUYINGGUIDE

is key here. Drink now or hold for another five years.
—C.G.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$98

NORTH CAROLINA

WHITE WINES

90 Biltmore 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (North Carolina). Biltmore Reserve North Carolina Chardonnay 2022 is unapologetic in its evolution on the palate. Nectarine and pithy peach meet Breyer's French vanilla and crème fraîche. Nuance stands in the shadow of oak presence. The nuttiness is bold and broadens in the finish. The creaminess is pervasive. There is a want for more balance, but the boldness invites a want for food pairing. I reminisce of grilled chicken or grilled poultry. The power does not disappoint. —C.G.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

90 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2023 Superiore Vermentino (Swan Creek). Vibrant and enticing, this is an expressive icon of the grape! Peach, lemongrass and orange zest marry a sage herbalness. Lemongrass lingers. The finish is briny, long and expansive. The acidity is refreshing. Drink alone or pair with sprightly dishes. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$28

87 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2023 Golden Hallows Reserve Vidal Blanc (North Carolina). Jolo Vineyards Golden Hallows Reserve Vidal Blanc 2023 delivers resounding opulence of spirit. Breyer's Vanilla, lemon verbena and pear dance on the palate in tangent. Pear emerges with more prominence. The finish is eclipsed with toasted almond. A creamy texture entices and a hint of orange zest reverberates. The wine is cohesive in expression, but there is a want for more depth on the midpalate. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$34

87 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2024 Golden Hallows White Blend (North Carolina). Aromatic and herbalness emerge as the hallmarks here. The Jolo Golden Hallows White Wine Blend 2024 reveals fennel seed, yellow florals and acacia. Underripe pear and lemon linger on the palate, while chamomile, lemon verbena and gooseberry unveil in contrast. A hint of sugar remains on the tongue. Pair with spicy cuisine or fresh spring veggies. —C.G.C.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$22

ROSÉS

89 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2024 Twinkles Rosé (North Carolina). For full review see page 16.
abv: 12.3% Price: \$47

88 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2024 Pink Rosé (North Carolina). Fluorescent in appearance and character, JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2024

Pink Rosé titillates the tongue. White cherry reverberates on the palate. Delicate rose is pervasive on the midpalate. The wine is fresh, fruity, quaff-able and easy drinking. This is the crowd pleasing, office party anecdote all are enticed by. —C.G.C.
abv: 11.7% Price: \$24

RED BLENDS

92 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2022 Grande Riserva Red Blend (Swan Creek). A massive wine with smoldering tannins, this red blend is sultry and seductive. Ripe raspberry fruit marries lavender, rhubarb and Earl Grey on the palate. The finish is briny. The texture is creamy. It finishes brighter than anticipated, but it only leaves one wanting another sip. The wine warrants a nicely grilled lamb rack with decadent accoutrements! —C.G.C.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$65

92 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2019 Patrimonio Red Blend (Swan Creek). This red exudes stature and prominence. The nose and palate reveal black plum, sage, sandalwood, rose petal and French vanilla. The texture is creamy and broad on the palate. Tannins are muscular. "Patrimonio" translates to legacy. There is longevity here. Pair with lamb and meats with hearty sauces. Drink now or hold for 10 years. —C.G.C.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$105

91 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2021 Grande Riserva Red Blend (Swan Creek). Tall, broad and handsome wrapped in velvet, this red blend is an experience unto itself. Black raspberry, cherry and cedar are at the core of this wine. The wine is creamy and the tannins, assertive. Shelf for another 10 to 15 years or drink with heartier dishes such as filet mignon, beef stew or veal chops in a blueberry compote. —C.G.C.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$65

91 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2021 Patrimonio Red Blend (Swan Creek). Big, bold and beautiful, this blend exudes harmony and power. The palate reveals dark chocolate, blackberry, black plum and violet. The texture is creamy, and the finish is long. The components are well-balanced. It's a wine that warrants food. Porterhouse or rib eye, anyone? —C.G.C.
abv: 15% Price: \$105

88 JOLO Winery and Vineyards NV Jolotage Reserve Red Blend (North Carolina). Fruitness and fun guides this wine. The nose reveals black pepper, red cherry, cranberry and strawberry. The fruit turns more candied and jammy on the palate. The black pepper dissipates, and orange zest and rose petal emerge. Balsamic notes offer a stark contrast to a slight sweetness on the palate. Definitely a bottle accessible immediately upon opening. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$55

88 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2023 Jolotage Bordeaux-style Red Blend (North Carolina). This is supple and gentle in its approach. Rose, clove and cinnamon marry bright, red fruit. Portobello mushroom emerges on the back palate. The fruit dominates, but the evolution into the other aspects is seamless. Tannins are present but fine. Drink now. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$32

88 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2022 Cuvée Selection Bordeaux-style Red Blend (North Carolina). A dichotomy of expressions that balance on the palate. Jolo Cuvée Selection 2022 reveals cantaloupe on the front palate. Cherry and red plum also emerge and unfold. Tannins are moderate, but gritty. A candied element reverberates in the finish. Drink now, alone or pair with slightly gamey dishes that have an element of spice. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$56

87 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2022 Carolus XII Red Blend (North Carolina). Fun, fragrant and approachable, this offers a candied element unique to the experience. The fruit—cherry and raspberry—dominates. There is almost a jam component, as the fruit is both prominent and the wine off-dry. The wine coats the mouth and appeals to being paired with something to offset that candied aspect. Spicy Korean-style pork, anyone? —C.G.C.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$56

OTHER RED WINES

90 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2022 Sagrantino (Swan Creek). Plush and extracted, this is all-enveloping with its expansive tannins. Black plum, blackberry, clove, black raspberry, cinnamon and cedar emanate. There is a rhubarb bite upfront. Oak takes precedence. Fruit evolves to a prune-like quality on the midpalate. As the wine dissipates on the palate, tannins stand firm and leave a lasting grip. Pair with hearty dishes. Beef, yes, but a nice hearty meatloaf is calling. —C.G.C.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$39

90 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2019 Sagrantino (Swan Creek). This is a testament to the ageability of a rustic grape. Black cherry and roasted shiitake mushroom emerge on the palate. Red cherry dissipates to a glint of cinnamon on the finish. Pencil lead lingers. The texture is lean but well-structured, and the tannins are supple. Pair with roasted meats, opulent proteins or hearty stews. Drink now. —C.G.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

90 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2017 Riserva Montepulciano (Swan Creek). A wine of many facets, this is plush, spicy and complex. Candied black fruit takes prominence. Black plum marries black licorice and black pepper. Paprika emerges on the finish. Velvety tannins persist. The structure is generous. Drink now. —C.G.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$37

89 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2022 Riserva Montepulciano (Swan Creek). Montepulciano has a new home. Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery 2022 Riserva Montepulciano offers a juicy expression that rivals Abruzzo. Ripe cherry and black plum balance clove and cinnamon. A stemmy quality emanates. Chocolate covered hoisin and cherry linger on the finish. The wine is huge and a well marbled steak is warranted here. Allow another 10 years for cohesion of elements. —C.G.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$37

88 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2023 Crimson Creek Chambourcin (North Carolina). Fruit and spice and everything nice. Jolo Crimson Creek Chambourcin 2023 is a joyous mouthful of delight. Raspberry and cherry pie balance green and red pepper on the palate. The fruit is jammy and flamboyant in its voluptuousness. There is a wanting for other elements to balance the sweetness and ripeness of fruit. Food pairing is alluring here, spicy Korean barbecue anyone? —C.G.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$44

87 JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2022 Pilot Fog Cynthiana (North Carolina). JOLO Winery and Vineyards 2022 Pilot Fog Cynthiana compels with its fruit and floral balanced components. Candied boysenberry and lavender persist on the palate. Violet marries blueberry pie on the midpalate. Cedar lingers in the finish. The texture is creamy. Aerate an hour before drinking. —C.G.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

AMERICA

WHITE WINES

91 Heath Sparkling 2021 Adoration Sparkling Blend (America). For full review see page 14.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$61

90 Cuvée 89 NV Brut Rosé Pinot Noir-Chardonnay (America). This salmon-peach-pink-hued sparkling rosé boasts a nose of fresh lemon and Rainier cherry aromas with a dash of pastry thrown in for good measure. The vivacious palate displays flavors a mélange of blood orange, strawberry, lemon zest and white flower as well as lacy texture. —T.R.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Evolution by Sokol Blosser 2023 Lucky No. 9 White Blend (America). There are too many varieties in this blend to list here, but Lucky No. 9 is a cornucopia of guava, tangerine, lemon sorbet and spicy ginger. While a touch of residual sugar takes the wine to the edge of off-dry, there's more than enough zippy acidity to maintain a sense of balance. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

88 Biltmore Estate NV Blanc de Noir Brut Pinot Noir (America). This wine is surprising and delightful! Biltmore Estate Blanc de Noir is effusive

in its generosity of easiness! White cherry and rose petal emanate on the palate. The bubbles and fruit intersperse and frolic on the palate. Acidity is vivacious. This is an approachable wine for myriad palates. A refreshing introduction to summer on the patio. —C.G.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

RED WINES

90 Sawtooth 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (America). I'm guessing this is a mixture of Cabernet Sauvignon fruit from Idaho and Washington. What I know for certain is that this is a fantastic value. Blackberries with a hint of rhubarb kick off the aromatics, joined by wet slate and a fresh sea breeze saline note. The wine's smooth and easy texture and velvety tannins accompany sweet mixed berry flavors that are pieced by a bitter walnut note that reminds me of nocino, a traditional Italian walnut liqueur. I may have a new wine for my family's burgers-on-the-backyard-grill night. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$13

89 Biltmore Estate NV Cardinal's Crest Red Blend (America). Accessible at opening, this wine is meant to be enjoyed immediately from the bottle. Aromas of black pepper, red cherry, cranberry and creamsicle perfume the glass. Notes of balsamic vinegar, rose, orange zest and candied strawberry follow. "Candied" is the key term here. This quaffable, easy-drinking wine is a crowd-pleaser that can easily be enjoyed without food. —C.G.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

89 Biltmore Estate 2021 Limited Release Tempranillo (America). Robust and abundant, Biltmore's Tempranillo 2021 (limited release) has structure that invigorates and enlivens the palate beyond the two-dimensional sensory components. While the palate reveals rhubarb tea, cedar and rose petal, the tannins are expansive and broaden the midpalate to add depth. Pairings include mild to full flavored dishes, braised and confited duck leg, lamb shank and beef stew. Shelf or drink within five years. —C.G.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

ARGENTINA

CHARDONNAY

93 Trapiche 2022 Terroir Series Finca El Tomillo Chardonnay (Gualtallary). This delicate and savory Chardonnay from Gualtallary in the Uco Valley opens with a bouquet of white blossom, lime and a touch of herbs. Delicious flavors of chamomile, honey, citrus fruit and thyme merge on a mineral-textured palate, adding depth to the close. Enjoy with a creamy mushroom risotto or on its own. Grupo Peñaflor. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Trapiche 2022 Gran Medalla Chardonnay (Mendoza). This medium-bodied Chardonnay never disappoints with its aromatic nose of well-integrated wood spices and apricots. The palate is creamy and balanced, offering hints of quince and ripe lemon that linger in a leafy finish. Grupo Peñaflor. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

AUSTRALIA

CHARDONNAY

96 Vasse Felix 2023 Heytesbury Chardonnay (Margaret River). From an excellent vintage and from the distinctive "Gingin" clone, Vasse's top Chardy is an opulent but extremely well woven wine that drinks beautifully now but could cellar for decades. Roast nuts, flint and beach shells are at the fore, alongside subtle salted citrus and melon. There's weight, power, texture to the palate, with length and poise. This vintage is an excellent example of this world class Western Aussie style. Vasse Felix. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

94 Vasse Felix 2023 Chardonnay (Margaret River). For full review see page 7. Vasse Felix. **Editor's Choice.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Cape Mentelle 2023 Marri Chardonnay (Margaret River). Bright citrus, green-tea and lemongrass notes are rounded and tempered by richer ones like nougat and cashew. The palate is equally rich and mouthfilling but is lifted by a lovely line of acidity—the fruit and nut flavors lingering to the finish. Sip beside buttery seafood, poultry or creamy pasta dishes. Cape Mentelle. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Vasse Felix 2024 Filius Chardonnay (Margaret River). A young, fruity, toasty Chardy from a highly regarded producer in Australia's west, this features lemon balm, melon and grapefruit notes mingled with saltier, flintier, toastier nuances. There's a slippery feel in the mouth with a delicate line of acidity; those barrel and lees influences padding out the bright fruit. Vasse Felix. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Grant Burge 2024 5th Generation Chardonnay (Barossa). There's richness here but bright fruit, too. Pink grapefruit and lemon drops are underpinned by creamier, toastier notes. The ripe, vibrant fruit carries through to the full figured palate, which coats the mouth, almost viscous in texture. The oak flares up a little on the finish but not enough to distract. Grant Burge Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$15

85 Hugh Hamilton Wines 2023 The Scallywag Chardonnay (McLaren Vale). There's a mushroomy reductive quality here that sits above

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the creamy nougat and stone-fruit aromas. There's pinched acidity to the palate that never quite gels with the creamy mouthfeel. Hugh Hamilton Wines. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$23

RIESLING

94 Jim Barry 2024 The Florita Riesling (Clare Valley). An elegant, poised and still-young Riesling from a historic vineyard, this opens with lavender and pear aromas, with flickers of honey and white spice adding opulence. The palate is, for now, less about flavor and more about shape. There's gentle richness and power, sculpted by a long, lingering, laser beam of acidity. It's approachable enough to be food friendly now with sashimi and other delicate Japanese cuisine. But it'll more than reward cellaring. Hold for a decade or more—it'll be worth the wait, promise. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$50

92 Jim Barry 2024 Lodge Hill Riesling (Clare Valley). This is a delicate, assured and precise Clare Valley Riesling with lovely acidity, a chalky texture and soft floral and citrus notes to the finish. It could cellar for several years but makes for a beautiful food pairing wine now—sushi springs to mind. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

92 Jim Barry 2024 Watervale Riesling (Clare Valley). From one of Australia's most famous regions and subregions for Riesling, this is a delicate, dry wine. A zing of tongue-tingling acidity lends brightness to the lavender-soap and lime-blossom characters. It's light on its feel but carries the acid structure to age in bottle for several more years. It's a bargain for the level of deliciousness. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 11%

Price: \$15

SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Bec Hardy 2024 Garden Series Sauvignon Blanc (South Australia). Fresh basil and cilantro notes mingle with lemon balm, yeasty pear and hay. There's bright, refreshing acidity and textural interest on the palate and lovely citrusy fruit concentration to the long finish. It walks to its own beat. Bec Hardy Wines. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

90 Bec Hardy 2024 1885 Sauvignon Blanc (McLaren Vale). Oodles of melon, passion fruit and lemon-lime are padded out by something a little greener, more herbaceous. All that bouncy fresh fruit continues on the palate where some textural weight adds an element of food friendliness. Knock back well chilled. Bec Hardy Wines. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

90 Byron & Harold 2024 Rags to Riches Sauvignon Blanc (Margaret River). Veering

towards the Marlborough Sauvy B style, there's heady aromas of passion fruit and grapefruit with dried herb and snow pea notes just beneath. It's crisp and refreshing with a big ping of acidity and a lemon and stone-fruit finish. A crowd-pleaser. Byron & Harold. —C.P.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$32

89 Bec Hardy 2024 Pertaringa Belonging to the Hills Sauvignon Blanc (South Australia).

A heady, rich perfume of lemongrass, fennel fronds and kiwi fruit make for a distinctive SB, especially on the nose. The palate is more tempered, fresh, lightly fruity and gently slippery. There's a crunchy summery ease here. Bec Hardy Wines. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$28

87 Altus Rise 2024 Wildlight Sauvignon Blanc (Margaret River). Relatively quiet, for this variety, there's delicate white-peach and floral aromas, and just a hint of the green grassy notes this variety is famed for. The palate shows a bit of waxy weight and pinched acidity. Byron & Harold. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$21

86 Banrock Station 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Riverland). Summer herb-garden and citrus-orchard aromas are evocative and crowd-pleasing. The palate is slippery, slightly weighty, but without the fruit concentration, it veers a bit watery. Banrock Station. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$10

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Hugh Hamilton Wines 2024 The Black Sheep Fiano (Clare Valley). Honey-flecked stone fruit—underpinned by floral, hay and mushroom notes—opens this Fiano, a southern Italian variety that's happy growing in the South Aussie sunshine. It's mid weight, with texture and subtle stone and citrus fruit and waxy, herbal nuances towards the finish. Sip with a cheese board. Hugh Hamilton Wines. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

90 Jim Barry 2024 Assyrtiko (Clare Valley).

Aromas of citrus and white-peach skin kick off this Assyrtiko—one of the only wineries Down Under to grow the Greek variety. There's a whisper of something more herbal, too, but this is far from bombastic in style. It's light weight, with lovely mouthwatering acidity, gentle stone-fruit flavors and subtle texture. Think more along Pinot Grigio lines than Sauvignon Blanc ones. Loosen Bros. USA. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

WHITE BLENDS

89 Cape Mentelle 2023 Marri Sémillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Margaret River). Bombastic, and hard not to compare to the famed Marlborough SB style, there's some flinty, oniony reduction, punchy stone and citrus fruit, jalapeño and bell pep-

per notes to start. A lovely waxy texture to the palate is more distinguishing. It's cut through with crisp acidity and peachy fruit concentration to the finish. Cape Mentelle. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

88 Fox in the Henhouse 2024 Fox Hunt Sémillon-Sauvignon Blanc (South Australia).

Bright, fruity and crowd pleasing, the citrus, stone-fruit, beeswax and dried herb aromas flow from nose to palate. Tingly acidity on the palate makes the mouth water, and a slightly pithy texture adds interest. Sip solo or with summery cuisine. Australia in a Glass. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$12

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Vasse Felix 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). For full review see page 5. Vasse Felix. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$45

94 Vasse Felix 2021 Tom Cullity Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). The rainy 2021 vintage wasn't the easiest for reds in Margaret River, but Vasse Felix's top Cab prevails with a wine that won't, perhaps, go down as its longest lived, but delivers heaps of elegance now. There's a pop of herb-macerated raspberry cordial and red currants from first sniff, with a dusting of pencil lead, coca powder, nori and dried lavender. It's more mid weight than full, despite a sturdy frame of chalky, ultrafine tannins, thanks to the lucid fruit and lifted acidity. Vasse Felix. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$165

92 Byron & Harold 2022 Rags to Riches Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's a lovely ease and balance to this wine. It weaves succulent berries, dried herbs and Cab's signature pencil lead character seamlessly together. Despite a firm frame of tannins in the mouth, the juicy fruit is ever-present, offering drink now appeal with protein at hand. Byron & Harold. —C.P.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$32

92 Vasse Felix 2023 Filius Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). An excellent intro to this famed Western Australian Cab style, this vintage is, compared to the previous two, on the richer, denser side. Supple dark-berry fruit with salt-flecked herbs, seaweed savoriness and a dark-chocolate underbelly are woven with powdery, chiseled tannins and tangy black-currant acidity. Drink now with plenty of protein or age for several more years. Vasse Felix. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$28

88 Cape Mentelle 2023 Marri Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Aromas of raspberry and black currants sprinkled with dried mint, coca powder and underscored by black olives and graphite float from the glass of this Cab, from one of the region's long-standing producers. There's a lightness here that's welcome amidst the sturdy tan-

nins, which take over the mouth. The fruit squeaks through the cracks but falls off quickly. Cape Mentelle. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$18

87 Cape Mentelle 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Housed in a heavy bottle, this Cab's red and black berries is somewhat raisiny, with potpourri dish, graphite, and an old library character at the edges. The fruit gets a little lost on the palate, where raspy, drying tannins feel austere; overall it's a little tired with a good deal of extraction. Cape Mentelle. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

SHIRAZ

90 Wakefield 2019 St. Andrews Shiraz (Clare Valley). Lucid aromas of spiced blackberry cordial weave with cedar, dried violets and chocolatey mint notes on the almost potpourri-like nose. There's a lift of acidity evident from the relatively cool climate. The tannins pull tightly and a little toughly around tongue. In a somewhat quiet phase, this should unravel more with another few years in bottle and should last in the cellar another decade. Palm Bay International. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Jim Barry 2022 Lodge Hill Shiraz (Clare Valley). Currently keeping cards close to its chest, this needs plenty of aeration if drinking now. Once open, it offers succulent dark fruit threaded with ground pepper and violets. It offers lovely freshness on the palate and chiseled tannins. Break out the protein or give this a few years in the cellar. Loosen Bros. USA. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Grant Burge 2022 Fisell Shiraz (Barossa). A dense, brooding, old school style of Barossa Shiraz, this offers dusty notes of blood plum and dark cherry, plus a mocha and minty toasted-oak influence. Acidity is sharp edged, made more austere by the tightly wound, granularly textured tannins and raspy, drying finish. This could cellar, but it won't go down as one of Aus's great age-worthy reds. Grant Burge Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

87 Barossa Valley Estate 2023 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). A rich nose of plum, currants, peppery spice and sweet toasty oak influence flows to a mouthcoating palate of tangy red and black fruit framed by dusty, savory, structured (if somewhat chunky) tannins. Barossa Valley Estate Pty Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 Fox in the Henhouse 2022 Fox Hunt Shiraz (South Australia). A sweet fruited perfume of spiced stewed plums, blackberries and earthy undergrowth notes opens. It's juicy, with tangy acidity. Dark-berry richness abounds, but it's also quite tannic, with a

short finish. Break out the barbecue fare, stat. Australia in a Glass. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

86 Thorn-Clarke 2020 Shotfire Shiraz (South Australia). A bit reductive to start, with aeration, this still-young Barossa Shiraz opens on a savory, bone-broth note, with cherry fruit and a good lick of oak just behind. It's tightly wound, with chunky, raspy tannins that suck the saliva from the tongue. This austere bottling wants for more succulent fruit to absorb the heft. Kysela Pere et Fils LTD. —C.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$27

GRENACHE

90 Hugh Hamilton Wines 2024 The Disrupter Grenache (McLaren Vale). Bombastically aromatic, this pops from the glass with strawberry Jolly Rancher and Violet Crumble (a floral-scented Aussie chocolate) note. There's a good lick of acidity to freshen. White pepper adds a welcome savory element to the intense fruitiness. There's richness here, but chill down a little to emphasize the acidity, and it's bound to be a crown pleaser. Hugh Hamilton Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

RED BLENDS

88 Grant Burge 2023 Little Kings GSM (Barossa). There're dusty, broody vibes to this famed Aussie red blend, but there's also no shortage of sweet-smelling cherry and blackberry fruit, with savory spice and chocolate-vanilla undertones. The supple fruit in the mouth is tempered by study tannins. It's a mouthfilling wine for the big red lovers amongst us. Grant Burge Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Hardys 2022 Tintara GSM (McLaren Vale). Ripe mixed berry-jam aromas open, with subtle spice beneath. It's rich and luscious in the mouth but with rather chunky, drying tannins that make their way in by the midpalate, leaving a rather raspy, drying feeling on the tongue. A dense and quite old fashioned style, this needs serious protein to cut through the heft. Hardys. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$15

86 Barossa Valley Estate 2023 GSM (Barossa Valley). This fruity GSM opens with aromas of blackberry jam underscored by a funkier undergrowth character and a hint of florals. The palate is more tempered on the fruit front. Tannins are dry and raspy, and while dark, luscious fruit still dominates—the tannins and acidity never quite gel, leaving a feeling of chunkiness rather than one of harmony or ease. Barossa Valley Estate Pty Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

NEW ZEALAND SAUVIGNON BLANC

96 Clos Henri 2024 Waimaunga Windblown Clays Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). French winemaker Damien Yvon and his team have a knack for lucidly expressing site in their Sauvignons (the biodynamic farming helps, too). The power from the weathered clay soils of Waimaunga is on full display in this complex wine. There's herb-flecked lime and passion fruit, with salt-and-stone mineral notes tucked behind. The depth and generosity can really be felt on the palate. It's sculpted with a laser beam of acidity, an almost talc-like texture and an ultralong finish. One of this famed region's top Sauvys Bs. Clos Henri. **Editor's Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

95 Clos Henri 2024 Otira Glacial Stones Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). There's a gentleness to this single-site Sauvignon, from a top French-owned biodynamic estate. It's concentrated, flavorsome, but never forced or overmade. There's pronounced minerality—like stones, shells and freshly cut meadow crunching underfoot—and salted margarita vibes, with pineapple-rind garnish. Bright, tangy acidity and herb-and-citrus flavors aren't shy on the palate, but they never shout their presence. Mouthwatering and textural enough to be food friendly; the mineral core anchors a ship of flavor. Clos Henri. **Editor's Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

93 Te Mata 2024 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Hawke's Bay). Lemon-lime sorbet leads on this heady Hawke's Bay Sauvvy B—the pineapple, fennel and green herbal notes following just behind. It's bright and fresh with lovely texture to juxtapose the crisp acidity, flavor concentration and a long finish. Up a good notch from your average SB. Te Mata Estate. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

93 Te Mata 2023 Cape Crest Sauvignon Blanc (Hawke's Bay). Made with a touch of Semillon and Sauvignon Gris, this oak-aged Sauvvy B is made more in the white Bordeaux vein than the Marlborough one. The nose shows flinty, toasty reductive notes. But the winemaking technique can't fully obscure SB's bombastic nature. There's lemon-lime, pink grapefruit and pineapple with seashells, fennel fronds and summer herbs on the fringes; lovely richness and concentration on the palate, with salted grapefruit acidity and structure to make this a food-friendly drop now, but one with the potential to age for several more years. Te Mata Estate. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

90 Ant Moore 2024 Signature Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 18. AMCB Wines LLC. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

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90 Off-Piste 2024 The Horologist Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Like first taste of a margarita, this is all salt-flecked limey refreshment, with tropical-fruit garnish. There's a slippery texture and bright acidity for easy water-side sipping. W. Direct. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Arona 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A sweetly fruity nose of passion fruit and lime-drop aromas are backed by fennel seed and green-pepper nuances. It's fresh and fruity right to the long, tingly finish, which makes taking another sip an easy endeavor. Barker's Marque Waverley Vineyard Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

89 Vinafore 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Bright lime popsicle with honey-suckle and green garden veg vibes are chased by a tangy, zingy palate that ends on a perky citrus note, making it easy to take another sip. MACH Flynt, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Ant Moore 2024 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). There's a good deal of vegetal pungency at first sniff, but the pineapple-lime come quickly to the fore, too. It's young, with lots of crisp, cheek-sucking acidity, but there's enough fruit weight to balance the scales. Another several months to a year in bottle couldn't hurt. AMCB Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Earthsong 2024 Dillon's Point Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Heady guava, pineapple and black-currant-leaf aromas waft from the glass from first sniff, chased by a palate that's light, crisp and (mostly) dry, with a black currant finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Off-Piste 2024 Elmstone Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is richer and rounder your average perky, upright Marlborough Sauv B. Grilled pineapple and lime take the spotlight, and a green herbal backdrop. It's fresh with some textural opulence and a somewhat abrupt finish. W. Direct. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Three Brooms 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Distinctive yeast-dusted melon and pineapple aromas open. There's lovely mouth-watering acidity on the palate which freshens and brights the more confected fruit notes. It is an easy chill-down drop for warm weather sipping. Barker's Marque Waverley Vineyard Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Off-Piste 2024 The Retreat Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). More perfumed than punchy, all the classic vibrant lime, passion fruit and snap pea characters are on display here. It feels a little forced on the palate, with a slight acidity

burn, but overall it's a straightforward summery drop. W. Direct. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

87 River Farm 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). All the classic Marlborough SB aromas are here: lime, passion fruit, a lick of green herbs, fennel and bell pepper. There's a ping of citrusy, mouthpuckering acidity on the palate, tempered by a whisper of sugar, oodles of fruit and some gentle slippery texture. Vino Del Sol. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Sea Pearl 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Lime sherbet, passion fruit and fresh sliced green bell pepper (or capsicum, if you're a New Zealander) and dried summer herbs scream Marlborough Sauvignon. The palate is rounder than the more typical upright and perky shape of this style. It finishes quickly but is nonetheless a pleasant, refreshing drop. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Wai Wai 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). All tropical and passion fruit with a green herbal pungency, this shows a touch of residual sugar on the palate but, especially if well chilled, is a refreshing drop nonetheless. AMCB Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Nick Goldschmidt 2024 Boulder Bank Fitzroy Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Lemon-lime and tropical-fruit notes open, with greener pineapple rind, snap pea and dried herbs fringing. There's a touch of sweetness to the palate which lends a little richness. It's fresh but not quite as zippy as many in this NZ SB boat. Goldschmidt Vineyards. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

86 Tiraki 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A pungent feline note is out in full force, the just-ripe white grapefruit and somewhat underripe passion fruit notes behind. It's crisp with some pithy texture and a herbal edge to the finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

85 The Loop 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A medley of peppers—bell, jalapeño, shishito (take your pick)—have a front row seat to the show, here. It's only after a multitude of sniffing and swirling does the grapefruit aroma show. Young, crisp and quite acidic, with a synthetic tinge to the finish, it makes for straightforward sipping. Barker's Marque Waverley Vineyard Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

84 Seaside Cellars 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (New Zealand). There's what feels like quite a lot of sulfur here, and besides making the insides of nostrils tingle, it somewhat masks the brighter lime, pink-grapefruit and herbal notes. There's some noticeable residual sugar on the palate which

creates textural viscosity and crisp, citrusy acidity. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

84 Taonga 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A confected, yeasty note opens, like bananas Foster and lime tart, with heady jasmine flower nuances, too. The palate is mildly fresh and fruit and finishes quickly. Vino Del Sol. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

84 Woolpack 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Fruity and fragrant, there's rather pinched acidity and a synthetic finish to this Sauv B. Lots of winemaking here, and, seemingly, sulfur too. Barker's Marque Waverley Vineyard Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

PINOT GRIS

94 Huia 2023 Pinot Gris (Marlborough). A spicy, waxy, herbal combo fringes a core of lemon-grass and ginger on this single-vineyard wine from a long-standing, high quality Marlborough estate. The palate is slippery, textural, with crystalline crunch. A standout bottling, and distinctively different to the Sauv Bs of the region. It's food-friendly, serious yet delicious, even cellar worthy. Huia Estate Vineyards. **Editor's Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Loveblock 2023 Pinot Gris (Marlborough). Zippy with vibrant fruit straight from first sniff, this, like the region's famed SB, is bombastic and fruity, with the variety's characteristic pear, apple and citrus-blossom notes. There's a subtle glycerine texture to the palate, sliced through with crisp, lemony acidity, with lingering orchard-fruit flavors to the end. Drink up. Terlato Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

88 OTU 2024 Otawhero Estate Pinot Gris (Marlborough). Gently honeyed and floral, with ginger, vanilla bean and orchard fruit that glides along a lazy river ride. There's weight, roundness and creamy texture to the palate, finishing with a crunch of pithy citrus and stone fruit. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

PINOT NOIR

95 Rockburn Winery 2023 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Central Otago and Pinot go together like cats and naps, and this premium bottling deftly displays as much. There's concentration and richness, from the heady nose of blueberry and cherry, toasty, winter warming spices, cedar and graphite to the round, mouthfilling palate. It's a polished, layered wine—acidity, fine, beautifully structured tannins, flavor intensity—it's all here. You could drink this now with protein but it should continue to age

for another decade. American Estates Wines, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Nautilus Estate 2019 Clay Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Marlborough). From a distinctive clay-dominated site in Marlborough's star Pinot subregion, the Southern Valleys, this is an unashamedly perfumed Pinot. Bombastically fruity, the sweet berry-jelly aromas jump from the glass. Then you notice subtler savory spice, anise and florals. It's silky, even slinky, and fresh on the mid-weight palate, with oodles more fruit flavors and a soft frame of fine tannins. This style may not be everyone's jam (ahem), but it's hard to deny its crowd appeal. Drink now through 2029. Nautilus Estate. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 Cloudy Bay 2021 Te Wāhi Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Supple blueberry and blackberry fruit is well at the fore on this premium Pinot, followed by far subtler dried herb, cedar and licorice notes. There's a level of round richness and concentration to the palate, a silky texture and a lovely tangy acidity. Tannins are fine grained, with a sandpaper texture, supporting rather than dominating. Drink now through 2031. Cloudy Bay. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Te Mata 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (Hawke's Bay). A potpourri dish of dried herbs, spices and flowers weaves its way between tart cherry fruit. A snap crackle of acidity feels like biting into that very same cherry, fresh off the tree—the savory, sappy tannins along for the ride. Drink anytime over the next five to eight years: there's solid winemaking here which means this will be fairly bulletproof over time. Te Mata Estate. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Ant Moore 2023 Signature Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Some swirling in glass will help relieve the funkier, mushroomy notes from their duties standing sentinel and make room for a rowdier bunch of dark cherries, plum cordials and green peppercorns. Tart, fresh and mouthfilling with a bite of bitters to finish. AMCB Wines LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Cloudy Bay 2022 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Heady—almost bombastic—grape-jelly and raspberry-cordial aromas burst from the glass. They're fringed in cedar, cloves and dried herbal nuances. The palate is mid weight, fresh and still quite fruity, but with the volume turned down a notch here, weaving neatly into the silky texture and seamless tannins. Drink now through 2030. Cloudy Bay. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

92 Huia 2020 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). A heady perfume of fresh blackberry, currant, potpourri and earthy spice—with something more mineral at the core—opens this five-year-old Pinot. It's still superfresh on the palate: the tart crunch

of acidity and chalk dust tannins feel a bit austere side-by-side, but, particularly with aeration, the succulent blue and black fruit and delicate herb-and-floral flavors characters soften and beautify. Drink at room temperature with decanter at hand. Huia Estate Vineyards. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

91 Ant Moore 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Distinctive forest undergrowth aromas, like wild mushrooms and damp leaves sit just above red-berry and herb nuances. There's vibrancy and an al dente crunch to the lightweight palate. Here, the fruit takes more of the spotlight, with a prominent frame of savory, talc-like tannins. It's solid sipping with a weeknight price tag. AMCB Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Hunky Dory 2023 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Dark cherry cordial etched in earthy spices and herbs (think: cumin and oregano) and dried violets—with a lick of something more chocolatey—opens. Fairly light weight, it's tart and fresh, that acidity zapping the tongue while still leaving room for the chalky tannins and succulent fruit. Drink solo (not too cold) or beside a charcuterie for a well-priced weeknight red. Huia Estate Vineyards. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Wairau River 2023 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Earthy spice and red-fruit characters unite to form a mid-weight, crunchy little number with pencil tip tannins and an amaro-like bitterness to the finish. Terlato Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Growers by Isabel Estate 2023 Common Vine Pinot Noir (Omaka Valley). Part of Isabel's single-vineyard range, this Pinot, after a few good swirls in glass, offers heady aromas of sweet, spiced red and black fruit and black olives. The cat's tongue tannins on the palate are a touch astringent, especially when combined with the lifted acidity. But drink at room temperature with plenty of aeration and the brambly fruit and dried herbs and spices shine. Isabel Estate. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 King Maui 2024 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). The color of cranberry juice, this starts off with juicy currant and cherry-cordial aromas, backed by savory herb and subtle floral nuances. As the color suggests, it's a light and juicy style, with a zing of black-currant acidity and leathery tannins. Mouth-watering, summer sipping, chill-down-red appeal. King Maui. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Tiraki 2023 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). There's a good lick of coconut oak sweetness here amidst the red-fruit, floral and cinnamon spice vibes. The palate offers lovely fresh acidity

and juicy fruit with a woody edge to the tannins and finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

87 Kato 2022 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Some mushroom and bacon notes overlay plump red fruit, cedar and spice. A big lift of tart acidity and sappy, chewy tannins somewhat overwhelm on the palate, but the supply berry flavors peep through the cracks. Kato Wines / Torpy Brands. —C.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$25

83 Seaside Cellars 2022 Pinot Noir (New Zealand). There's a bitter, green, herbal edge, and something yeastier, more cereal-like here, too. In getting to grips with the odder aromas, it's hard to see much else. The palate has a tannic bite to it and the fruit doesn't really show up to the party. A somewhat hard-edged, disjointed bottling overall. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

92 Te Mata 2024 Estate Gamay Noir (Hawke's Bay). With a vibrant cherry juice tint, this North Island Gamay pops with raspberry and blackberry gumdrops, the vanilla, ground spice and undergrowth notes tucked below. Feather light, it's far from the most complex wine in the Te Mata red stable, but there's a juicy drinkability here that we wine geeks too often underrate. Slurp slurp. Te Mata Estate. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Oyster Bay 2023 Merlot (Hawkes Bay). This is all about the aromas. The chocolate-covered-cherries laced with mint and spice reel you in. The palate doesn't wow in the same way. It's light, red-fruit fresh, and a little tannic, finishing quickly. A simple but perfectly pleasant drop. Delegat Limited. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

RED BLEND

97 Te Mata 2023 Coleraine Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Hawke's Bay). 2023 will forever be remembered in the North Island as the year of Cyclone Gabrielle. Fortunately, Te Mata's vineyards escaped relatively unscathed. In fact, Coleraine, the historic estate's top wine, is singing. Unmistakably Cab aromas of black currant, dried mint, pencil lead and rhubarb are out in full force from first sniff. The palate shows precision and balance with a beautiful rush of tangy, currant-like acidity tempered by fine, dusty tannins. It's perfumed and svelte with charm and appeal now, but a promise of even greater things to come. Te Mata Estate. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$119

SPIRITS



93 Conniption Kinship Gin (USA; Durham Distillery, Durham, NC). Butterfly pea powder provides this gin with a beautiful violet hue, as well as a mildly floral, faintly spicy scent. The palate opens with flickers of cayenne and cinnamon, leading into violet, iris and coriander midpalate, finishing long and spicy, with a final lemon-peel exhale. Would be nice to sip/mix even if it wasn't eye-catching purple. **abv:** 46% **Price:** \$38



93 Fid St Gin (USA; Hali'imaile, Makawao, HI). This Hawaiian-made, London Dry-style gin nods to the arrival of English ships in Honolulu harbor. Each sip unfurls bold lemongrass, star anise, fennel and pine. Pink pepper sparks accent the finish. Botanicals include cardamom, fennel, cedar leaf and grains of paradise. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 45% **Price:** \$35

95 Acronimo Gin (Mexico; Acronimo Spirits, Miami, FL). Agave spirits enthusiasts, take note: This gin is made with a cane neutral spirit and finished with sotol (the agave-like spirit comprises 17% of the blend). The result is unusual, exciting, complex. Bold, zesty lemon-peel aromas mix with a faint smoky waft. On the palate, citrus mixes with grassy and lightly honeyed tones, while a floral tinge suggests lychee and piquant pink pepper ties it all together. A smoky hint returns on the exhale. **abv:** 42% **Price:** \$54/700ml

95 Tarsier Southeast Asian Dry Gin (England; Barbera Imports, Phoenix, AZ). Inspired by

GIN

Exotic botanical gins lead to creative cocktails.

In April, a deer crashed through the window of The Gin Room, a St. Louis bar and restaurant with a collection of 2,000 gin bottlings.

"This thirsty forest friend busted in like it had a rezzy for a Negroni and no time to wait," Gin Room owner Natasha Bahrami wrote on social media. "Ran around, broke some bottles (rude), and left us all shook and slightly impressed."

The skittish animal was safely shepherded back outdoors, where it might have a better chance of finding juniper berries, the piney botanical that's a key flavoring in gin.

It's an exciting time for those who enjoy gin (and not just because deer are randomly bursting into gin bars). When things calmed down in her bar, we called on Bahrami to weigh in on what's new in the world of gin.

One of the trends on her radar: gins that spotlight specific botanical profiles, which in turn, bartenders use to play up specific flavors in drinks.

"Exotic citrus botanicals in gin have been becoming very popular—yuzu, calamansi,

kumquat, Asian pear, things like that," Bahrami explains. "We have a drink on our menu called Yogurt, which uses a gin with French yuzu, along with labneh and roasted coconut cordial. People try it and ask, where are all these tropical notes coming from? It's from the gin."

Among the gins reviewed here that fit that trend: Tarsier Southeast Asian Dry Gin, made with calamansi, and Second Sip, a low-proof bottling accented with bergamot.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have the rising popularity of savory gins, such as those distilled with olive, tomato or other

umami-forward ingredients. For example, Staple Gin is made with Castelvetro olive and extra-virgin olive oil for an unctuous, almost fat-washed texture.

Again, bartenders are eager to build drinks around these flavors. "Every time I tell a group of bartenders that there's a new tomato-distilled gin in their market, they say, 'How do I get it?'" Bahrami says. "That's what's sparking interest right now."

—Kara Newman

Exotic citrus botanicals in gin have been becoming very popular—yuzu, calamansi, kumquat, Asian pear.

the producers' travels around Southeast Asia, the not-quite-familiar botanicals may be hard for some Westerners to place. That blast of lime-lemongrass-lemon verbena? It's actually calamansi. The spicy, mouthwatering finish? A mix of earthy galangal, similar to ginger, and Kampot pepper. But the distinct sea-salt note will be easy to recognize.

abv: 45% **Price:** \$38/700ml

94 Bartram's Gin (USA; Universal Brands, Princeton, MN). Named for Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia, this fresh, herbaceous gin is a veritable bouquet of spearmint, basil and tarragon. Light almond sweetness midpalate leads to a bracing, forest-y pine exhale framed with white pepper tingle. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$26

94 Pollinator Spirits Beespoke Gin (USA; Catskill Provisions Distillery, Long Eddy, NY). This complex, G&T-worthy gin mixes fruity, floral and grassy aromas. The lightly sweet palate shows

lavender and honeysuckle, finishing with earthy coriander seed lifted by grapefruit peel. **abv:** 45% **Price:** \$45

94 Staple Gin (USA; Do Good Spirits, Roscoe, NY). Backed by culinary personality Rachael Ray, botanicals in this gin include bitter orange, coriander and Castelvetro olives. A barely there lime-peel scent amplifies on the palate with a burst of citrus, plus star anise and juniper and a subtly saline finish. Mix into martinis garnished with olives, of course. **abv:** 47% **Price:** \$38

94 Streeter Flynn Gin (USA; Denver Distillery, Denver, CO). Distilled from sugar cane, this gin offers mild lime peel and lime-blossom aromas. The lively palate opens with pink peppercorn sting, soothed by lime peel and lime flesh. The juicy, mouthwatering finish sings with juniper and tarragon. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 45% **Price:** \$31

94 Wild Roots London Dry Gin (USA; Cascade Spirits, Clackamas, OR). A delicate, lightly floral scent introduces this Pacific Northwest twist on a classic London Dry. The assertive palate offers zingy lemon peel and lime blossom, finishing with white pepper heat. Distilled from corn. *Best Buy.*
abv: 46% **Price:** \$27

93 An Dúlámán Irish Maritime Gin (Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Expect bold star anise on nose and palate. Each sip is layered with lemongrass, lemon verbena and fresh tarragon, winding into a long, herbaceous finish accented with a final lime-peel exhale and a burst of alcohol heat. Mix into gin and tonics.
abv: 43.2% **Price:** \$46

93 Fid St Gin (USA; Hali'imaile, Makawao, HI). For full review see page 132. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45% **Price:** \$35

93 Krobar American Dry Gin (USA; Krobar Craft Distillery, San Luis Obispo, CA). Bright citrus introduces this limited-release gin made with nine botanicals. Each sip is pure citrus start to finish, showing perky lemon peel and lemon verbena. The finish offers pine and cracked black peppercorn. Mix into martinis; lemon peel garnish recommended.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$45

93 Muff Irish Gin (Ireland; Lucas Bols USA, Princeton, MN). Distilled from potatoes and flavored with botanicals including lemon, Mandarin orange and rosemary. Overall, the citrus component reads as grapefruit peel and flesh on the nose and a distinctly sweet palate, where it mingles with raspberry, pink peppercorn and candied ginger, plus a faint floral exhale. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$35/700ml

93 Parlour Gin (Canada; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). Green apple and honeysuckle perfume this gin made by Eau Claire Distillery. The distinctly floral palate opens with white flowers, plus sprigs of lavender and violet. Grapefruit peel and coriander mingle with a final floral exhale. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

92 Archipelago Navy Strength Gin (The Philippines; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). High proof also means bold flavor. A veritable pine forest leads the nose, plus warm hints of anise and coriander. The palate shows bold anise, black licorice and sweet-tart lime flesh, plus peppery singe and a final pine-y exhale.
abv: 58% **Price:** \$60

92 Distillery of Modern Art Nouveau Gin (USA; Distillery of Modern Art, Chamblee, GA). Mix G&Ts with this robust, lime-scented gin. Bracing pine, spearmint, fennel and star anise wind into a long finish that warms all the way down. *Best Buy.*
abv: 46% **Price:** \$35/700ml

92 Silent Pool Gin (England; William Grant & Sons, New York, NY). A mild white-floral aroma entices, while the palate opens with sweet licorice and star anise. The long, lip-smacking finish is brushed with vanilla, cardamom and clove. Mix into drinks with a bit of sweetness to them.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$60

92 Sun Ranch Gin (USA; Cascade Spirits, Sisters, OR). Distilled from corn, this gin has an assertive star-anise aroma. The palate opens with a lightly sweet licorice hint, leading into a floral mid-palate and brisk, drying finish with black-pepper pinpricks. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$11/1L

91 Conniption Gin Barrel Aged Series (USA; Durham Distillery, Durham, NC). Aged 10 months in emptied High West bourbon barrels, expect a pale straw hue and mild almond aroma. Each sip opens with spicy ginger, winding into mild vanilla and anise, finishing with eucalyptus and brisk, lemony astringency. Martinez material.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$50

91 Gardener Gin (France; Famille Perrin, Paso Robles, CA). An all-star gin backed by actor Brad Pitt and made by Tom Nichol, a former master distiller at Tanqueray. Each sip opens with mild lemon and grapefruit peel, winding into a powdery white-floral note framed by warming lemon-pepper. Distilled from organic wheat. Save the pretty sea-green bottle to re-use as a vase.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$39/700ml

91 Shadehouse Botanical Gin (USA; Universal Brands, Princeton, MN). This gin has a faint floral scent and distinctly sweet palate showing lime peel and lime oil. The long floral finish is warmed with white and black pepper tingle. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$21

91 White Mountain Gin (USA; Tamworth Distilling, Tamworth, NH). Named for the White Mountain range, which covers about a quarter of New Hampshire, this complex gin is made with wild hops among its botanicals. That means pine and lemongrass aromas, plus an unexpected hint of funk. The citrusy palate also unfolds layers: lemon peel leads into kumquat, a floral note gives way to a resin-y tinge, all sprinkled with tingly white peppercorn.
abv: 48% **Price:** \$45

90 Archival Gin (USA; Archetype Distillery, Gypsum, CO). Vanilla and toasted almond warm the aroma of this gin distilled from wine grapes. On the palate, that translates as tinges of salted caramel and brown sugar, winding into a bracing finish accented with white pepper, ginger and mint. Ideal for those who don't love juniper, as that's muted here. Botanicals include teas, herbal roots, lavender and cassia bark.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$46

90 Krobar Gin (USA; Krobar Craft Distillery, San Luis Obispo, CA). A nearly neutral aroma leads into a lightly sweet palate showing marshmallow and candied-lemon peel, while cinnamon glow warms the long finish. This is a limited release made with 12 botanicals, including coriander, angelica root, licorice root, orange peel and cassia.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$45

90 Second Sip Gin (USA; New York Distilling, Brooklyn, NY). This is a low-proof gin, a worthy innovation made in the London dry style. A bright lemon-peel scent leads the nose. The palate is mild and light-bodied, showing hints of anise and juniper, landing gently with grapefruit peel and pith and faint salinity.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$40/700ml

88 Archrebel Smoked Gin (USA; Archetype Distillery, Gypsum, CO). Smoky and honeyed aromas intertwine, amplified on the palate as cigarette smoke and butterscotch. Each sip finishes with a smoky, bacon-y exhale and distinct sea salt that makes the mouth water. Distilled from wine grapes.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$49

PINK GIN

89 Krobar Pink Gin (USA; Krobar Craft Distillery, San Luis Obispo, CA). Look for a pale, peachy hue. Savory spices on nose and palate suggest cayenne, cumin, cardamom, clove and a hint of mesquite, softened by hints of stone fruit and honey, then leading into a tingly, spicy finish. Botanicals include grains of paradise, orange peel and elderberry.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$45

88 Harmony Gin (USA; Origen Holistic Spirits, Petaluma, CA). A floral motif on the label is true to the liquid inside, which resounds with honeysuckle, powdery violet and brushes of peach nectar and hot honey. The long, slightly juicy finish includes cinnamon and cayenne, plus a final floral exhale.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$41

SPECIALTY GIN

93 Conniption Kinship Gin (USA; Durham Distillery, Durham, NC). For full review see page 132.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$38

91 Krobar Butterfly Pea Gin (USA; Krobar Craft Distillery, San Luis Obispo, CA). You can't miss the striking cornflower blue. The spicy-sweet aroma and flavor includes prickly black pepper and lemon peel, winding into a pleasantly floral exhale.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$45

FLAVORED GINS

94 Wild Roots Orange & Bergamot Gin (USA; Cascade Spirits, Clackamas, OR). The juicy orange scent leads into a fairly sweet, citrusy palate. The orange flavor lingers pleasantly, accented by black pepper and clove pinpricks. Mix with soda water or tonic. *Best Buy.*

abv: 44%

Price: \$30

91 Krobar Orange Flavored Gin (USA; Krobar Craft Distillery, San Luis Obispo, CA). Made with citron, plus bitter and sweet orange peels, this gin has a mild, citrusy scent and dry, bracing palate. Astringent lemon peel lingers into the warming, ginger-accented finish. Consider this a head start on any gin drink garnished with citrus peels.

abv: 45%

Price: \$45

90 Wild Roots Cucumber & Grapefruit Gin (USA; Cascade Spirits, Clackamas, OR). The lightly vegetal scent suggests fennel seed, while the palate opens with plenty of lemon verbena and lime, winding into a tingly, refreshing finish that reads like cucumber water spiked with white pepper. A waft of grapefruit emerges on the finish. *Best Buy.*

abv: 44%

Price: \$30

86 Bartram's Strawberry Rhubarb Flavored Gin (USA; Universal Brands, Princeton, MN). Named for Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia, this flavored gin has a pretty, pale pink hue. Juicy but ersatz berry shows on nose and palate. Each sip is lightly bitter and mouthwateringly citric, reading as raspberry-ish. White pepper lights up the slightly fiery finish.

abv: 40%

Price: \$26