

WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYING** GUIDE

MAY 2024



THIS MONTH

23	NEW YORK	88	TUSCANY
33	CALIFORNIA	103	BORDEAUX
59	OREGON	109	SPAIN
65	WASHINGTON	113	PORTUGAL
70	CHILE	119	GERMANY
84	PIEDMONT	125	SPIRITS

NEW YORK STATE OF WINE

NY wines shine from Brooklyn to the Finger Lakes.

Writer-at-large Christina Pickard tastes New York, Australia, New Zealand and England, while Jeff Porter covers Piedmont and northern Italy.

Christina Pickard: Call it chutzpah. Or resourcefulness. Or resilience. Whatever it is, New York winemakers have it in spades. Despite working in a temperamental climate that seems to fail them as often as it blesses them, New York producers are crafting better and better wines each year. Add to this the fact that New York wines are generally very well priced, giving consumers lots of reasons to drink from the Empire State. As a born and bred upstate New Yorker, it was a joy it was to taste through the 225 wines from my home state for this issue.

Jeff Porter: Although I am not native, I have never been more excited to drink, serve and seek out New York wines. When I first moved to the city 12 years ago, having a glass of New York wine in a restaurant was not easy, but times have changed. Today, finding New York wines on lists, as well as escaping the city to explore our state's stunning wine regions, has never been better or more exciting. The pandemic pushed this exploration to the next level, when people who once visited Napa Valley or Italy and still had an itch to scratch, discovered that wine country is just a train ride away. Even in my Brooklyn backyard, the nearby Red Hook Winery expanded its tasting room, so I can grab a glass of North Fork Cab Franc or an electric Finger Lakes Riesling.

CP: I love that. And as you'll see in these pages, Riesling still rules, the dry styles, especially. 2022—from which I tasted 92 wines—was a great year for this variety. Highly rated exam-



Christina Pickard



Jeff Porter

ples across vintages (Hermann J Wiemer, Ravines, Anthony Road, Hillock and Hobbs, Fox Run and Silver Thread, I'm looking at you) struck a balance between vibrant fresh fruit, intriguing texture, a whisper of residual sugar, racy acidity and lip-smacking drinkability, with several capable of a long cellar life. Shout out to Wiemer, which, in 2023, became the east coast's only Demeter-certified winery, for proving with its 2022 Flower Day bottling that excellent farming and minimal winemaking can result in one of the region's most interesting and delicious Rieslings.

JP: As an avid lover of fizzy wine, I love being able to find local bubbles on lists across the city. Intrepid sommeliers such as Jhonet Faelnar of NA:EUN restaurant group and Miguel DeLeon of Pinch Chinese, to name a few, both champion New York wines and

are helping to change the tide, but there is still a gap. Pascaline Lepeltier, partner of Chambers Restaurant and the Finger Lakes project Chépika, summed it up best: "I think New York restaurants are doing a good job, yet we could do better." International clientele are the ones asking for New York wines, not locals, she says. "The question is, how to convince Americans to drink New York wines in New York." As we keep seeing wines like the ones you mentioned above, I think we're in a good place to have New York City restaurants become the unofficial tasting rooms for New York state wines.

CP: Absolutely agree. Drink local!

The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by Wine Enthusiast magazine's editors and other qualified tasters.

STAFF EDITORS

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

WRITERS AT LARGE

Michael Alberty: Oregon, Washington, Canada
Elaine Brown: Napa Valley
Danielle Callegari: Tuscany & Southern Italy
Tom Capo: Sonoma County
Mike DeSimone: Spain, Croatia, Israel, Turkey, Lebanon, Armenia
Matt Kettmann: Central & South Coast California
Kara Newman: Spirits, RTD
Christina Pickard: Australia, New Zealand, England, New York
Tonya Pitts: Northern California & California AVA
Jeff Porter: Piedmont & Northern Italy
Emily Saladino: Greece, Georgia, Hungary
Reggie Solomon: Beaujolais, Loire Valley, Languedoc-Roussillon
Jessica Vargas: South America & South Africa
Roger Voss: Portugal, France: Bordeaux, Champagne, Southwest & Other France
Aleks Zecevic: Alsace, Vin de France, Austria, Germany

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

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

ABOUT THE SCORES

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

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

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

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

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

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

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 86 points and a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark.

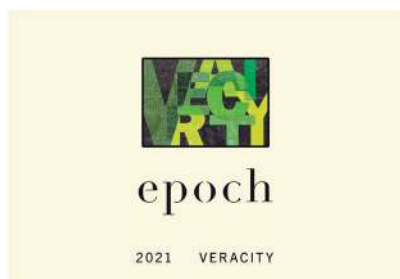
SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted as detailed in our FAQ, available online via wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating. Inquiries should be addressed to tastings@wineenthusiast.net. **There is no charge for submitting products.**

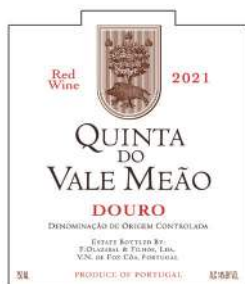
LABELS

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.net.

Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at wineenthusiast.com/ratings



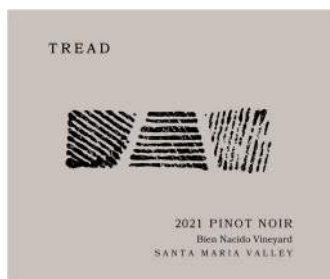
99 Epoch 2021 Veracity Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Wine-maker Jordan Fiorentini is using every tool in her belt, from the vineyards to the cellar, to create some of the best wines anywhere right now. This blend of 43% Mourvèdre, 34% Grenache and 23% Syrah is a lavish yet detailed package, offering layers of fruit, flower and spice on the nose. Expertly polished tannins are both suave yet structural, framing boysenberry, lilac, cocoa and cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75



98 Quinta do Vale Meão 2021 (Douro). The latest release of this top wine is as impressive as ever, a rich medley of flavors enhanced by 16 months in wood. The black fruits combine with structure to give a wine with a great future. Drink from 2028. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$119



96 Pinea 2018 Single Vineyard (Ribera del Duero). Inky garnet to the eye, this wine offers aromas of black plum, cherry cola and crushed violets. Produced in a high-elevation vineyard, its velvety tannins support blackberry, cassis, licorice root, dried thyme, dark chocolate and lavender flavors. A shimmering bright note lights up the palate from first sip through the satisfying finish. Winesmith. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$175



96 Tread 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This is a joyous, sunny style of Pinot Noir that will cause countless smiles to crack. Aromas of strawberry, cherry, citrus peel and ample baking spice enliven the nose. The palate pairs vibrant acidity and white pepper spice with the lush candied cherry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$52



95 Broadside 2020 Blackletter Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a complex expression, thanks in part to the 11% Cabernet Franc. Aromas of roasted plum, chocolate, mahogany and black olive recall a wooden booth in a classic bar. The palate hits with acid and then a tannic bite, offering strawberry, chai and mace flavors that are lively while rich. Tannins cling on for an extended finish, offering licorice spice to say goodbye. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75



95 Castello di Neive 2021 Santo Stefano Albesani (Barbaresco). Preserved black cherries alongside aromas of camphor, balsam, shiitake and rosewood lift from the glass. A solid palate with a firmness that does not overpower but stakes its claim while crushed red fruits both fresh and dried meld with notes of black tea, anise and crushed stone on the lingering finish. Drink 2025–2045. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA



95 Doubleback 2022 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). What a beautifully balanced, smooth sipping Merlot. Aromatically, the wine is a marionberry scone that is accented by wisps of lavender, iron and leather. Silky tannins and gentle acidity cradle flavors like Bing cherry, candied rose petals, Sumatran coffee and a trace of bacon fat. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$98



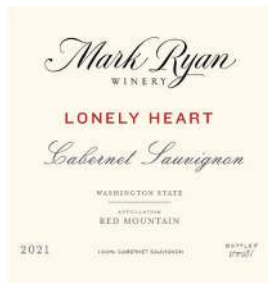
95 J. Lohr 2021 Cuvée Pom Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). A lovely core of ripe berry makes for a creamy and approachable nose on this bottling, which is just the start of its pleasures. The density immediately impresses on the palate, where firm tannins and a persistent acidity balance plush flavors of black cherry, cappuccino and caramel. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50



95 LucidWild 2021 Chosen Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Bella Vida Vineyard in the Dundee Hills was recently renamed LucidWild. The new owner's Chosen Pinot Noir represents the best barrels, blocks and clones of their vineyard. The wine's aromas of strawberries, Stargazer lilies and vanilla make for a nice perfume. The Chosen is balanced, with bright raspberry, mineral and jasmine tea flavors. The texture is as smooth as percale sheets. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$310



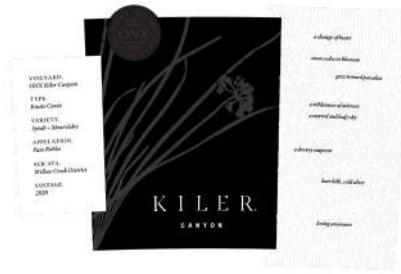
95 Madson 2022 Ascona Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's an approachable layer of blueberry on the nose of this bottling, but it's the tense earth and herb elements, from forest duff to asphalt, that are most alluring. The palate is crisp, bright and tightly wound, and should relent a bit with time to showcase stunningly pure fruit. Drink 2025–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48



95 Mark Ryan 2021 Lonely Heart Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). One sip and you, much like the fellows in Yes, will want to be the owner of a Lonely Heart. This superb 100% Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon strikes first with aromas of huckleberry pie, lilacs and bacon fat. Surprisingly brisk acidity and husky tannins showcase flavors like blackberries, rhubarb tarts and a cup of black coffee. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$100



95 McGrail 2020 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley). This wine is full-bodied, concentrated, rich with aromas of boysenberry, blackberry confiture, spearmint, fresh florals on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are black plum, star anise, black olive intertwined with dried chicory, sweet mint chocolate and long supple finish. Aerate, hold or cellar 2024–2030. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52



95 ONX 2020 Kiler Canyon Syrah-Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Thick, opulent dark fruit aromas are wrapped in baked pastry scents of caramel and vanilla on the nose of this blend of 83% Syrah and 17% Mourvèdre. Feathery tannins float through the intensely intriguing palate, where baked blackberry, caramel, milk chocolate and peppercorn flavors lead into a minty finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$48



95 Quinta do Vale Meão 2021 Monte Meão Vinha dos Novos (Douro). This richly juicy wine made from single-vineyard Touriga Nacional is dense, while full of succulent acidity. The smoky character of the wine is sustained by black fruits and a core of solid tannins. Drink this wine from 2026. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45



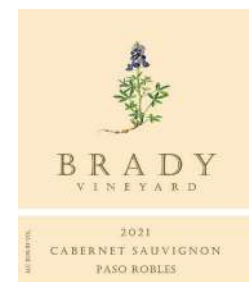
95 Roederer Estate 2015 L'Ermitage Brut Rosé Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine is salmon-hued with aromas of Rainier cherry, raspberry, strawberry, orange cream and pink grapefruit zest on the nose. The bubbles are fine and the midpalate has semifirm creamy mousse with flavors of white strawberry, white peach, Golden Delicious apple, dried fine herbs, toasty butter brioche on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$110



95 Tread 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Winemaker Kristin Bryden is proving to be a savant in the Burgundian grape game. This county cuvée is delicious from start to finish. Vibrant, fresh and juicy aromas of strawberry, Bing cherry and earthy chaparral lead from the nose into a grippy, energetic palate of red fruit and brown spices. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40



94 Bodegas Escudero 2019 Logos II (Navarra). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has aromas of purple plum and crème brûlée with a touch of baking spice. Cassis, black plum, cocoa powder, lavender and black-pepper flavors are encased in a layer of silky tannins that dissolve into a slightly spicy finish. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50



94 Brady Vineyard 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Seamlessly integrated aromas of dark berry, freshly cut mahogany, baking spice and dark chocolate make for a very inviting nose on this bottling. Firm tannins frame a hefty, rich palate that's layered in black cherry, blackberry and baking spice flavors, with ample acidity to refresh the sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27



94 Brassfield 2019 Perspective Syrah (High Valley). This wine is opulent, dense, black-hued with aromas of black currant preserve, blueberries, fresh brewed coffee, dried chicory, fragrant incense on the nose. The flavors on the palate are concentrated black cherry cream soda, clove, crushed vanilla bean, leading into a juicy, savory, dark, sultry finish reminiscent of an adult fruit roll. Use your big red-wine glasses and enjoy with your favorite dish or person. —T.P.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$65



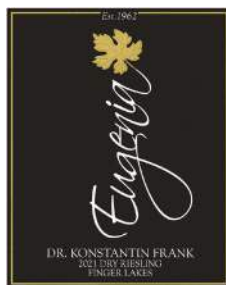
94 Ca'Romè 2020 Chiaramanti (Barbaresco). Reserved and very pretty on the nose, offering high-toned red fruits and spiciness. While dark and firm, it needs time to reveal its really good qualities and exceptional potential, showcasing a wine with depth, elegance, and a promising future. Drink now–2035. Demeine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$103



94 DAMA 2021 Lonesome Spring Syrah (Yakima Valley). A fresh aroma of clean, cold well water packed with minerals transitions into notes of roadside blackberries, freshly turned soil and a wisp of cranberry. Black cherry, orange zest and dark chocolate flavors glide along a smooth palate, unimpeded by velvety tannins and accented by gentle acidity. I appreciate the wine's restrained alcohol. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50



94 Doubleback 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). The ride begins with blueberry and black olive aromas graced by anise and thyme notes. Grippy tannins and a full-bodied mouthfeel accompany the wine's red raspberry, pomegranate and cedar flavors. There's also a wee spice note that's difficult to pin down. Enjoy with steak and portobello mushrooms from 2024–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$155



94 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2021 Eugenia Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Beautifully integrated aromas of lime zest and lavender, with a hint of white peach, lead to a racy, bone-dry palate that is laser-focused with a sturdy backbone and tingly citrus drive. Drink now and over the next decade. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35



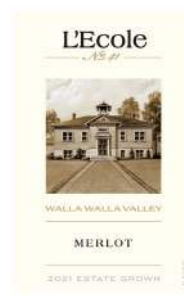
94 Feudi di San Gregorio 2016 Serpico (Irpinia). The savory nose features the weathered sophistication of leather, cigars, soil and pepper, while undertones of oregano, tomatoes and cherries provide a burst of energy. On the brighter palate, the cherry element is emphasized by raspberries, but a savory balance persists. Acid crackles around gleaming yet firm tannins. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$94



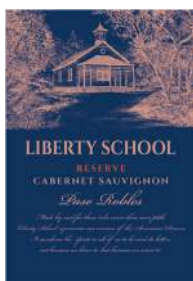
94 Harvey & Harriet 2021 Red Blend (San Luis Obispo County). Lightly caramelized aromas of black cherry, asphalt, crushed rocks and toasted hardwood show on the nose of this bottling, which is built for aging. The structure is leathery and tense on the palate, where toasted wood and cocoa bean flavors meet with black olive, graphite and dark berry. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28



94 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Flower Day Riesling (Seneca Lake). Wild fermented with minimal winemaking intervention, this is remarkably clean and downright delicious. Bright, delicate aromas of lemon-lime, apple skin and lavender talcum powder lead to a crisp, refreshing palate that pops with vibrant citrus and nervy acidity, with textural intrigue and a superlong finish to boot. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27



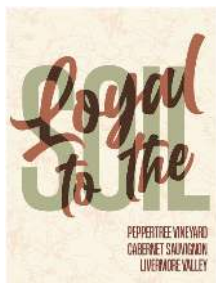
94 L'Ecole No. 41 2021 Estate Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). This is one enticing Merlot. It starts with the wine's perfume of blackberry, chamomile and rose petals. Then a blueberry jam made with thyme flavor seals the deal. The wee black tea and nutmeg flavors in the background are a bonus. Lemon acidity pairs with fine-grained tannins. Pour with any British rom-com. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



94 Liberty School 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). The nose on this bottling is clean, fresh with blackberry fruit and yet still quite savory with wood and earth aromas. The palate is rich and ripe with black cherry, cocoa and caramel flavors that make for a very comforting and well-structured sip. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25



94 Loyal to the Soil 2020 Peppertree Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This wine is opulent, dense, with aromas of dark berries, blueberries, violet, dried eucalyptus on the nose. The palate leaps into blackberry confiture, Earl Grey tea, cinnamon chocolate cream, intertwined tobacco leaf, sweet cigar, dark berries, pomegranate with a dry finish to complete. Hold or drink until 2034. —T.P.

abv: 14.5%

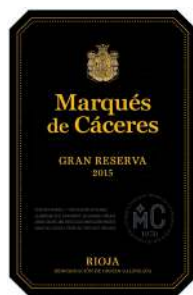
Price: \$23



94 LucidWild 2021 Hidden LucidWild Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). This is a Goldilocks wine where everything is just right. Dried straw and catmint aromas provide a nice backdrop to a heaping helping of Anjou pears and cantaloupe. The flavors run from lemon and shortbread to a nice bit of basil and toasted hazelnuts. The Hidden is medium-bodied, with energetic acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$95



94 Marqués de Cáceres 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep red-violet to the eye, this wine has aromas of black cherry, mocha and violet. It opens with bright flavors of raspberry and Mission fig that are backed by licorice, dark chocolate and dried sage flavors. Sinewy tannins and a note of orange zest endure on the palate. Vineyard Brands. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

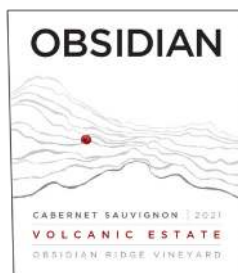
Price: \$40



94 McGrail 2020 Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This wine is opulent, dense, with aromas of blackberries, huckleberries, Chinese five spice, wintergreen spearmint on the nose. The palate is concentrated blackberries, olallieberry, maple syrup, savory dried herbs, gliding into sweet cigar, chocolate mousse and a wallop of black fruit and dry tannins to finish. Clone 30 is a heritage Disney Silverado clone, which thrives in Livermore Valley. This a full, rich Cabernet Sauvignon. Hold or drink until 2034. —T.P.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$56



94 Obsidian Wine Co. 2021 Volcanic Estate Obsidian Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). This wine is dense opulent deep purple with aromas of unripe blackberry, blueberry, olallieberry, fresh bay leaf, vanilla scented potpourri on the nose. The midpalate is black olive, green olive, rosemary, orange zest, transmitting into ripe black fruit, dried tobacco leaves and salted truffle chocolate. —T.P.

abv: 14.5%

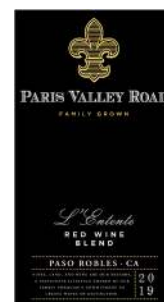
Price: \$40



94 ONX 2020 Mad Crush Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Lovely aromas of strawberry and red cherry are lifted by chai spice on the nose of this blend of 71% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre and 14% Tempranillo. The tannins are feathery and mouthfilling, delivering flavors of fresh raspberry, cherry and rosewater. —M.K.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$48



94 Paris Valley Road 2019 L'Entente Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). This blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 14% Petit Verdot is very dense and serious yet playful on the nose, showing aromas of black cherry, strawberry and milk chocolate. The tannins are firm yet polished on the palate, where dense blackberry flavors are awash in ample acidity. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$77



94 Pinea 2020 17 (Ribera del Duero). This deep-violet Tempranillo has a nose of blackberry pie with a touch of nutmeg. It is simultaneously spicy and fresh, with brilliant acidity and mint tea, star anise, cherry and raspberry flavors wrapped in a sheath of opulent tannins. Winesmith. —M.D.

abv: 15%

Price: \$65



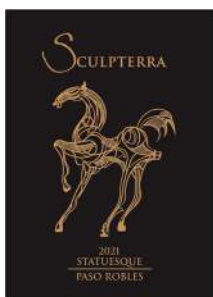
94 Roco 2020 RMS Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). This *méthode traditionnelle* mix of 75% Chardonnay and 25% Pinot Noir spent 30 months en tirage. The wine's floral nose includes carnations and white clover, joined by aromas of yellow apples and pronounced mineral qualities. The RMS delivers energetic bubbles, lively acidity and flavors like Gravenstein apples, honey and lemon. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65



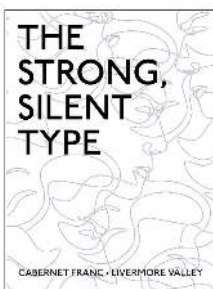
94 Roco 2021 Private Stash No. 18 Wits' End Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Private Stash Pinot Noir is a numbered series made with fruit from winemaker Rollin Soles's personal vineyard. The 18th vintage is excellent, beginning with aromas of blackberry, Damson plums, chalkboard dust and fennel. Dark raspberry and bergamot tea flavors are supported by boisterous acidity and fine-grained tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110



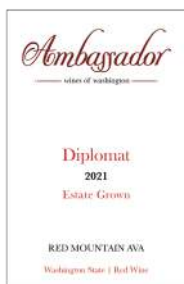
94 Schramsberg NV Mirabelle Brut Rosé, 32nd Bottling Pinot Noir-Chardonnay (North Coast). This wine is rich, lush, with aromas of strawberry, red plum, raspberry cream, orange-blossom honey on the nose. The palate is firm creamy mousse, tangerine, vanilla buttercream, strawberry rhubarb compote, gliding into Kaffir lime cream, crystalized ginger and a dry mouthwatering finish. —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$33



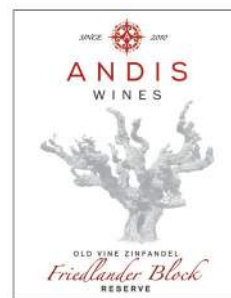
94 Sculpterra 2021 Statuesque Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dark blueberry and cassis aromas are balanced by crushed granite on the stony nose of this blend of 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Syrah and 30% Petite Sirah. The palate is firmly structured with more of those stony edges, as peppercorn and baking spice flavors pair well with the ripe fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



94 The Strong Silent Type 2020 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley). This wine is rich, concentrated, with aromas of blackberries, olallieberries, black licorice, sandalwood, spearmint on the nose. The palate is strawberry, blueberry, black cherry, clove, star anise, bittersweet chocolate, vanilla cream intertwined with blood orange zest, dried chicory round out the lingering dry finish. Aerate for an hour. Enjoy with steak, burger or on its own. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27



93 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Diplomat Estate Red Blend (Red Mountain). This inky black Red Mountain beauty is 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, with 21% Syrah and 15% Malbec. It oozes ripe black cherry and dried cranberry flavors, accented by bits of meat fat and orange zest. The aromas are a floral showcase of lilacs, sweet freesia and blueberries. The Diplomat's zippy acidity is paired with brawny tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52



93 Andis 2021 Friedlander Block Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). This wine is rich and concentrated with baked red plum, blackberry and cinnamon. Other notes waft through, including boysenberry, black cherry cream soda, Earl Grey tea and cardamom. Layers of creamy molten chocolate, dried herbs and minerality bring it together for a mouthwatering finish. Pair with braised beef cheeks. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40



93 Bledsoe 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This is a rich yet elegant Cabernet Sauvignon that delivers optimal pleasure the minute it is opened. You are greeted by ripe black cherry aromas that are encircled by notes of black coffee, leather and sandalwood. This is a medium-bodied wine with velvety tannins that delivers lengthy blackberry pie and anise flavors. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55



93 Bonterra 2022 Estate Collection Chardonnay (Mendocino). This wine is zesty, lush, with aromas of pineapple, cantaloupe, apricot, white peach, white flowers, white tea, citrus blossoms on the nose. The palate is baked apple, pears, dried apricot, fresh caramel, sliding into orange zest, fresh mint, Key lime pie and a dry, mouthwatering finish. Pair with a grilled sturgeon with citrus salad. —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$22



93 Bonterra 2022 Estate Collection Red Blend (Mendocino County). This wine offers opulent aromas of blackberry confiture, black currant and vanilla spice. The midpalate is boysenberry pie, brown sugar and cardamom with hints of orange slices and dried herbs leading to a mouthwatering finish. Pair with braised oxtail. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



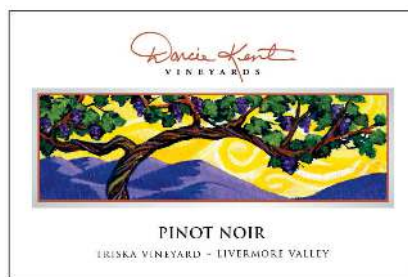
93 Bonterra 2022 The Roost Blue Heron Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). This wine is fresh, luscious, youthful stone fruit, citrus blossoms, interlaced baking spices, fried banana, melon, white flowers, zipping into zesty lemon, Kaffir lime, baked apple with a minerally finish. Enjoy with the sunshine and seafood. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30



93 Brassfield 2021 Estate Merlot (High Valley). Supple with blackberry, blueberry, black licorice, violet, sandalwood, sweet tobacco leaves on the nose. The fruit is concentrated blueberry, huckleberry compote, star anise, dried fennel seed, pink peppercorn on the palate rolling into toasted vanilla cream, supple tannins and a dry finish. Pair with braised lamb shank. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50



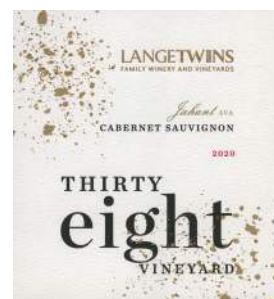
93 Busy Signal 2022 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a spice bomb of a Pinot Noir, starting with smooth waves of star anise, black cardamom and root beer aromas that show on the nose alongside black cherry fruit. That formula extends to the palate, where cola and chai spices enliven the dense black cherry compote, as acidity pumps the spicy sip into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39



93 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 Triska Vineyard Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley). This wine is dark, with aromas of dried cranberry-pomegranate, raspberry, savory dried herbs on the nose. The palate is juicy black strawberry, huckleberry, black cherry confiture, chicory, bittersweet chocolate interlaced with gripping tannins and a mouthwatering finish. Hold or drink until 2028. Pair with roasted pork tenderloin. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50



93 J. Lohr 2021 Cuvée Pau Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dark and rich aromas of baked cherry pick up woody and forest floor scents of tree and soil on the nose of this blend. The palate pairs mahogany and iodine with cola and black cherry flavors, as lingering acidity leads into a pepper-spiked finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50



93 LangeTwins 2020 Thirty Eight Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Jahant). This wine is rich and opulent, with aromas of black currant preserve, allspice and violet. Other notes waft through, including boysenberry, blackberry, bittersweet chocolate, star anise and cedar. Layers of dark fruit, toasty oak, dark chocolate, graphite and earth bring everything together. Pair with bison. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38



93 Lava Cap 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (El Dorado County). This wine is zesty, with aromas of green apple, apricot, potpourri, clove, orange sherbet on the nose. The palate is baked Golden Delicious apple, candied orange, cinnamon, allspice, interlaced with cardamom baked apple pie, caramel and vanilla spice. Pair with pistachio-crusted salmon. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$24



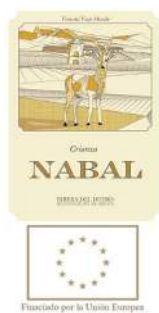
93 Mark Ryan 2021 Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromatic combination of blueberries, pecans toasted with a bit of honey, coffee and crunchy dried oak leaves reminds me of my favorite fall camping breakfasts. Then you get boysenberry and dark plum flavors laced with nutmeg and espresso. Enjoy this full-bodied goodness from 2024 through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80



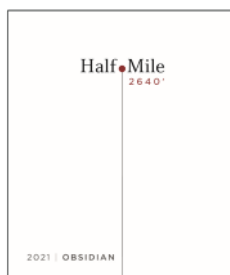
93 Mark Ryan 2021 Water Witch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain). The Water Witch leads with rich, thick aromas of blackberry jam, lavender and a savory note similar to charcoal-grilled eel. Flavors like black cherry, black tea with milk and cacao nibs glide along a creamy smooth texture. This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend is definitely a good witch. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70



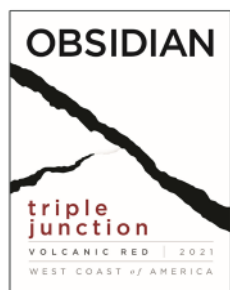
93 Montecillo 2015 Gran Reserva Tempranillo-Graciano (Rioja). Aromas of black cherry and butterscotch set the stage for further black cherry, pomegranate, caramel and coffee-bean flavors with a hint of cured bacon. Plush tannins build in volume and slowly drop away to showcase a violet-strewn finish. Evaton, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33



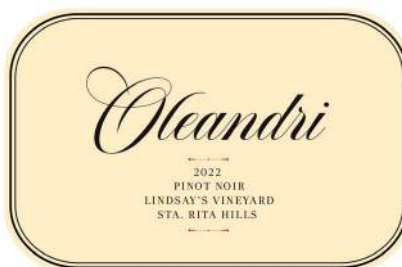
93 Navarro Balbás 2019 Nabal Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of purple plum and dark chocolate with a touch of coffee bean. It is smooth at first sip, offering elegant tannins, gorgeous acidity, and black cherry, raspberry, mocha and dried-sage flavors. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



93 Obsidian Wine Co. 2021 Half Mile Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). This wine is rich garnet-hued, aromas of red plums, red raspberry, brûléed brown sugar, clove spiced oranges on the nose. The midpalate continues with flavors of red stone fruit, huckleberry, baking spices stirring in dried herbs finishing with silky vanilla cream morphing into mulled spices and grippy tannins. Pair with pork belly tacos. —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75



93 Obsidian Wine Co. 2021 Triple Junction Volcanic Red Blend (California-Oregon). This wine is opulent, rich with aromas of blackberry confiture, blueberry, black molasses, violets on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are black currant preserve, black plum, black licorice sliding into sweet cigar, mocha vanilla cream and silky tannins to finish. Great example of volcanic wine-growing regions. —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32



93 Oleandri 2022 Lindsay's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a very delicate yet ultimately quite satisfying bottling. Light in the glass, this wine opens with tightly wound raspberry and scarlet rose petals on the nose. Those same bright fruit and elegant flower elements dance across the palate in engaging ways. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$70



93 Pinea 2021 Korde Rosé (Ribera del Duero). This deep-hued rosé has a bouquet of cantaloupe, cherry and pomegranate. It is full in the mouth and offers raspberry, red plum, fennel frond and dried-sage flavors with a note of orange zest that lingers on the taste buds. Winesmith. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59



93 Quady North 2021 GSM Red Blend (Rogue Valley). For those scoring at home, 46-38-16 are the Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre percentages. Those numbers equal red apple and blueberry fruit aromas that are accompanied by notes of fennel, cedar and loamy soil. Earthy elderberry and thyme flavors are the perfect accompaniment to a taste of grilled steak. Serious tannins here, so prepare to decant. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$27



93 San Silvestro 2019 Patres Nebbiolo (Barolo). Delicate scents of rose petals, tar and dried herbs intertwine with hints of cherry and truffle in this captivating Barolo. On the palate, flavors of red berries and licorice are embraced by firm tannins, while lively acidity adds vibrancy. This Nebbiolo reveals a velvety texture, leading to a lingering, complex finish. Drink 2025–2040. Kindred Vines. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA



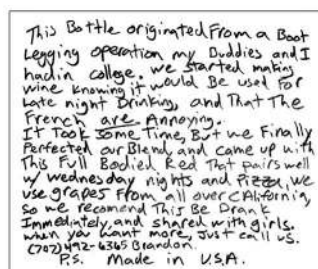
93 Scott Harvey 2021 Mountain Selection Zinfandel (Amador County). This wine is dense, complex, with aromas of black currant, black cherry, black plum, pink grapefruit, dried potpourri, cardamom on the nose. The palate is red plum, strawberry, pomegranate, mulled spice, mandarin orange, wafting into cracked black pepper, clove, bittersweet chocolate, and sweet cigar. The finish is juicy and invites you to keep drinking. Pair with mole sauce. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



93 Sextant 2020 Kamal Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Smooth aromas of black cherry and blackberry are lifted by generous and comforting mulling spice aromas on the nose of this bottling. Those mace and clove spices are well-integrated on the palate, where braised plum and berry flavors form the core. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$56



93 Sextant 2020 Octant Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Cassis and lilac aromas are impressively lush and intense on the nose of this blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Petit Verdot and 16% Malbec. Soft, leathery tannins give textural depth to the palate, where blackberry sauce, cocoa dust and lightly bitter woodspice flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$80



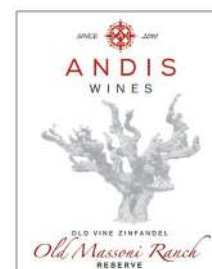
93 Sexual Chocolate 2021 Red Blend (California). This wine is rich, supple, full-bodied with aromas of boysenberry, huckleberry, potpourri, mocha vanilla cream, on the nose. The flavors in the midpalate are black currant preserve, chili infused dark chocolate, orange marmalade intertwined with sweet cigar, dried herbs and grippy dry tannins. I wonder if this winery saw the movie *Coming to America*. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28



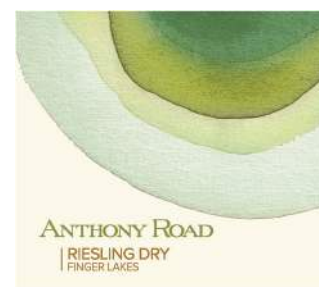
93 Six Sigma Ranch 2020 Marianne's Reserve Syrah (Lake County). This wine is opulent, concentrated, black fruits, dried herbs intertwined with orange zest, green olives, Kalamata olives, rosemary, rounding out into elegant ripe blue fruits, molasses, dried juniper sprigs and espresso crema. Aerate for an hour and enjoy. Pair with tomahawk steak or your favorite protein. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$54



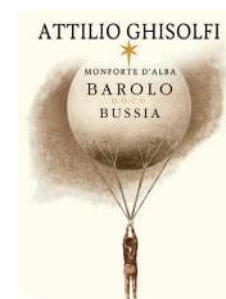
93 Umani Ronchi 2021 Plenio Riserva (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). This unique white sees 60% of the wine fermented in steel and 40% in large barrels. The wine opens with aromas of pineapple, roasted citrus, pressed yellow flowers and fennel. The rounded palate is mouthfilling with notes of lemon, lemon oil, bitter almond and crushed stone minerality. Drink now–2035. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40



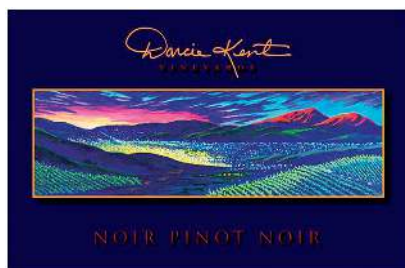
92 Andis 2021 Old Massoni Ranch Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). This wine is opulent and full-bodied, with aromas of black cherry, olallieberry and paprika. Other notes waft through, including blueberry jam, black strawberry and tangerine. Layers of dark fruit, dark chocolate, cracked black peppercorn, earth and silky tannins bring it all together. Pair with your favorite takeaway. —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40



92 Anthony Road 2021 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Old school opulence in the form of kerosene, raw honey and melted wax dominates here, with the yellow stone fruit and citrus taking a back seat. The palate is equally rich and textural with a lovely lift of tangy acidity. Unmistakably of its place and variety, this will deliver in spades if paired well, perhaps with a salty cheese. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$30



92 Attilio Ghisolfi 2019 Bussia (Barolo). Crushed cherries hit with a touch of sea salt to bring out their aromas more fill the glass of this old-school classic. Earthy, leafy with a musk note that surrounds the core of dried red berries on the elegant and fine palate. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA



92 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2022 NOIR Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley). This wine is bright, juicy, with aromas of raspberry, Bing cherry, pomegranate, orange blossom on the nose. The palate is strawberry, jellied cranberry, cardamom, intertwined with savory herbs, dried florals, gliding into strawberry cream soda, blood orange zest and a dry finish. Enjoy with Peking duck. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40



92 J. Lohr 2020 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This top-shelf bottling is very dark in the glass and intense on the nose, all hallmarks of what was a warm vintage in Paso Robles. Aromas of cassis, spicecake, oak and black plum pudding lead into a dense, rich and viscous palate of roasted fig, raisin and caramel icing flavors. Acidity refreshes the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$100



92 Justin 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Very direct aromas of candied violet, açai and Concord grape invite the nose into this bottling, which then unveils hints of wood and herb. The purple fruit flavors persist on the palate, where the tannins and acidity ensure a long life. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$78



92 Lamole di Lamole 2018 Vigneto di Campolungo Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). On the nose, the fresh sweetness of cherries and strawberries is balanced by the lightly bitter astringency of orange jam and fennel. The fruit sweetens and deepens on the palate thanks to a rich, full mocha flavor, but strict, imposing tannins and acid preserve order. Santa Margherita USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



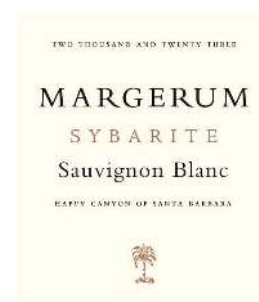
92 Lamole di Lamole 2019 Lareale Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose leads with fruit aromas of cherry and strawberry, then turns savory and herbaceous with notes of tomato leaf, sage and oregano. On the palate, that tension between sweet and savory continues, with an earthy undertone anchoring everything. Acid bounces around firm yet refined tannins. Santa Margherita USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32



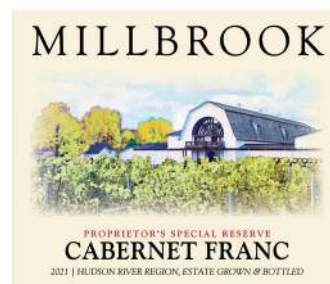
92 Le Vigne 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Black olive, dried mushroom, forest floor and black plum aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. There's a lot of herbs to the palate, including marjoram and anise, as well as some baked fruit, charred meat and toasted walnut that add depth to the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$28



92 LucidWild 2021 Fusion LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The grassy-woody aroma of freshly turned garden soil is nicely complemented by the Fusion's dark raspberry and lavender scents. Juicy acidity and muscular tannins frame flavors like cassis and hibiscus tea served with lemon. All the pieces are here for graceful aging. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95



92 Margerum 2023 Sybarite Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Very place in the glass, this always excellent bottling explodes on the nose with greasy, lime pith and delicate peach aromas. The palate is grippy in texture yet mellow in flavor, presenting easy-to-enjoy grass, peach and wet stone flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$26



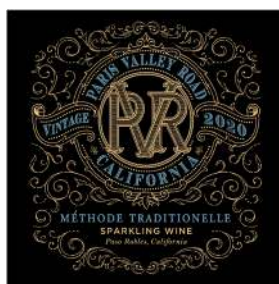
92 Millbrook 2021 Proprietor's Special Reserve Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). This plum-colored Cab Franc, from a warm, wet vintage in the mid-Hudson Valley, is juicy and aromatic, the savory herbs woven between brambly dark berry fruit. A big lift of acidity is grounded by plump fruit and herb-flecked tannins that add structure and texture. This is a lovely example of the variety from one of its long-standing wineries. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45



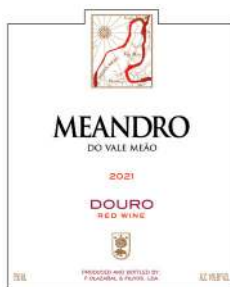
92 ONX 2020 Caliber Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Clean lines of blackberry meet with intense black olive, tobacco and mahogany on the nose of this blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Petit Verdot and 5% Malbec. The palate's blueberry and cassis core are layered in toasted wood, black pepper and soy sauce flavors, with a lingering tannic grip. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$65



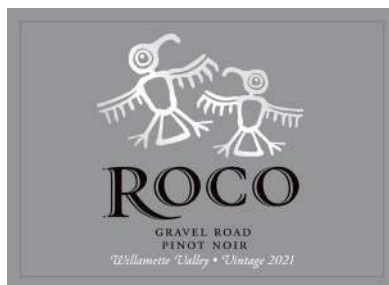
92 ONX 2020 Reckoning Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Dark berry, wood chips, cocoa bean and light leather aromas show on the nose of this blend of 60% Syrah, 16% Zinfandel, 12% Petite Sirah, 10% Petit Verdot and 2% Malbec. The palate's herbal array offers anise and thyme to complement the bittersweet cocoa and ripe berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$58



92 Paris Valley Road 2020 Sparkling Blend (Paso Robles). The nose on this bottling is quite detailed and dynamic, offering lemon and lime pith alongside Asian pear, finger lime and chalk. The palate's foam is persistent and soothing, carrying flavors of apple, honeydew and lime, maintaining sharpness into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% Price: \$36



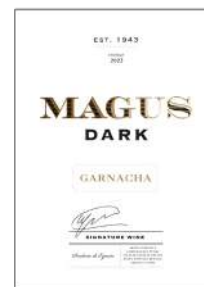
92 Quinta do Vale Meão 2021 Meandro (Douro). Named after the massive meander of the Douro river that surrounds the Meão vineyard, this wine is powerful with dense tannins. It already has hints of the softness that will be its future as the structure softens. Give this fine wine at least until 2026. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25



92 Roco 2021 Gravel Road Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Indulgent aromas of Marasca cherries and chai tea spices lift off into the air, followed by bursts of talc and the vanilla lignin note I love about old books. The wine's bright red cherry flavors dominate the accompanying traces of cedar and rosemary. Expect modest acidity and silky tannins, with a fairly long finish. —M.A.
abv: 14% Price: \$30



92 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Muns Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dark plum and thyme aromas make for a subtle but highly polished nose on this single-vineyard expression. A chalky texture surrounds the sip, where rounded and full flavors of baked plum are nuanced in rosewater elements. Powerful but smoothly elegant at once. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$52



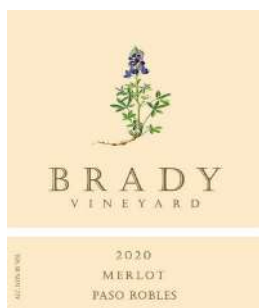
92 Valdeorite 2022 Magus Dark Garnacha (Extremadura). A nose of black and red fruits of the wood and dried Mediterranean herbs set the scene for blackberry, Mission fig, baking spice, milk chocolate and black-olive flavors. Mid-weight tannins and well-matched acidity linger on the palate. Ventura Selections LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$30



92 Viña Tabalí 2021 Talinay Pinot Noir (Limarí Valley). This wine shows strength and has a delicate nose of nutmeg and cinnamon. It's fresh and fruity, with flavors of oak spices, thyme and licorice adding layers to the palate. Nice acidity lifts notes of orange peel in the finish. A good sample of the complexity in Pinot Noir from Limarí. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$33



91 Allegretto 2019 Ayres Family Reserve Tannat (Paso Robles). The bottle age is helping this dense wine find a solid expression, as the nose offers subtly integrated aromas of stewed strawberry, baking spice and sumac. The palate is framed by tannins that remain firm enough to wrap around the black currant, pepper and turned-earth flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$45



91 Brady Vineyard 2020 Merlot (Paso Robles). Dark blueberry aromas are cut with pencil shaving elements on the nose of this bottling. Slightly bitter chocolate and strawberry flavors meet with mahogany, mushroom and amaro elements on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25



91 Brassfield 2022 Estate Pinot Gris (High Valley). This wine is fresh, vibrant and zesty. Concentrated Bosc pear, green papaya and honey-suckle on the nose. The midpalate flavors are crisp white nectarine, grilled pineapple, vanilla extract and dried herb. Layers of sedimentary rock and minerality bring things together. Good example of high-elevation white wine. —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$22



91 Covalli 2022 Nebbiolo (Monferrato). Aromas of macerated cherries stepping with clove, cinnamon and rosebud waft from the glass of this perfumed red. Ripe on the palate with a satin softness that pops with a mouthwatering acidity on the earthy finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60



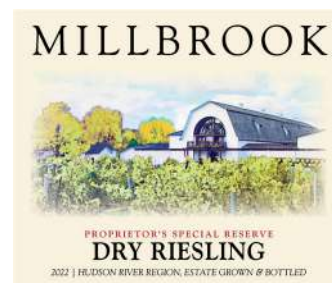
91 Diora 2021 La Petite Grace Pinot Noir (Monterey). There's a lot of powerful woodspice on the nose of this bottling, which also offers baked berry, cola and caramel aromas. The palate shows more of the same, pairing that rich berry sauce with that toasty oak spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



91 J. Lohr 2021 Cuvée St. E Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Rounded red berry aromas meet with dried tobacco and woodspice on the nose of this St. Emilion-inspired blend. Prominent cigar leaf and mahogany flavors meet with dark berry and black plum on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50



91 Miguel Torres 2018 Cordillera de los Andes Old Vines Carignan (Maule Valley). The winery has worked for many years to position wines made from the Carignan grape variety in Chile. Today, Carignan is one of the most distinctive reds in the country. Flavorful and firm, this wine exhibits a delicious mix of oak spice with maraschino cherry on the nose. Tight tannins hold a fruity palate that delivers cranberry, vanilla bean and pink pepper. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21



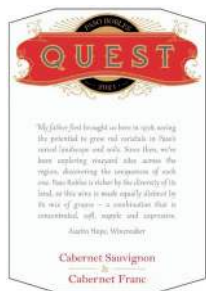
91 Millbrook 2022 Proprietor's Special Reserve Dry Riesling (Hudson River Region). Lemony freshness is underpinned by a whiff of honey, herbs and beeswax on this Riesling, a variety that sometimes struggles in the Hudson River region but shines on this vintage. There's an ease to the palate, a harmony of acidity, chalky texture and fruit flavor that makes this an easy drop now, with or without food. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25



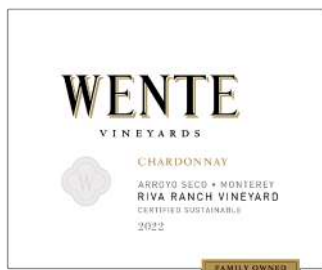
91 ONX 2021 A.V.A. Trix Christie Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). This Paso Robles estate heads pretty far north to source this Pinot Noir, then presents a heavier style of the grape. Aromas of black raspberry, loamy soils and minty herbs show on the nose, while the palate packs in roasted berry, incense and oak spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$48



91 Pierre Brune 2022 (Saint-Émilion). Wood aging with rich tannins give this wine a polished character. At the same time, juicy black-currant fruits and a layer of tannins all give this wine both structure and aging potential. Drink from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80



91 Quest 2021 Cabernet Franc-Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Melted licorice, clove, nutmeg and strong oak spice aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very rich, lush and heavily flavored, with those baking spice elements dominating the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27



91 Wente Vineyards 2022 Riva Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Warm aromas of Lemonhead candies, lemon curd, Asian pear and wet rocks invite the nose into this bottling. The palate combines zesty lemon peel flavors with creamier notes of toasted almond, butter and honeysuckle while leading into a salty finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



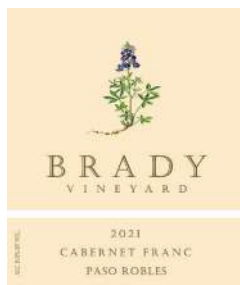
90 Allegretto 2019 Allegretto Vineyard Ayres Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). There's a compelling freshness of blackberry gelée on the nose of this bottling, which also shows violet and lilac aromas. The palate snaps with that fresh fruit as well, with white pepper and a tart purple flower element adding nuance. The tannins are sticky into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55



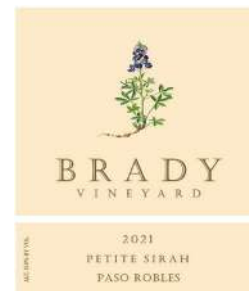
90 Allegretto 2019 Willow Creek Vineyard Ayres Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dried cherry, toasted oak and tobacco leaf aromas make for a familiar nose on this bottling. A similar array cruises across the palate, where baked red fruit, woodspice and minty chocolate flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65



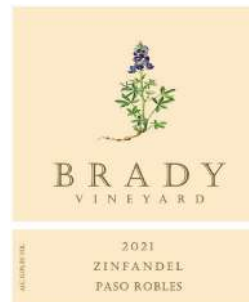
90 Antiche Terre Venete 2020 Baorna (Amarone della Valpolicella). This red is driven by its spice aromas as cracked pepper, anise, clove and cinnamon lead the way with crushed red berries and dried violets in the rear. Light on the palate with a very lifted and fresh nature, the wine shines with notes of cherry, dried leaf and cocoa powder finishing with a pop of savory herb and spice on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60



90 Brady Vineyard 2021 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Tobacco and cigar box aromas give an aged spice to the berry extract scent on the nose of this bottling. The palate is packed with dark cherry and chipped wood flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27



90 Brady Vineyard 2021 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Very minty aromas of tarragon enliven the boysenberry syrup and lilac aromas on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up that spearmint kick alongside chocolate and ripe cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27



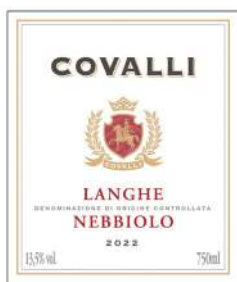
90 Brady Vineyard 2021 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Strawberry jam and cracked pepper aromas make for a straightforward nose on this bottling. The palate picks up toasted oregano that gives depth to the slightly rustic red plum core. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27



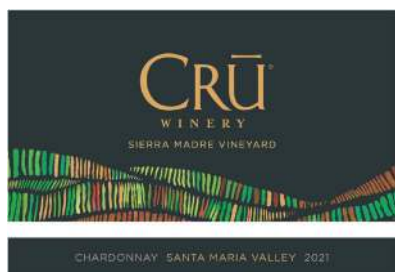
90 Brassfield 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley). This wine is crisp, sumptuous, with aromas of Bosc pear, honeydew melon, dried apricot on the nose. The palate is sugar snap peas, lemongrass, Kaffir lime, green papaya, chili flake, crisp green bell pepper, good acidity and a dry finish. Pair with green papaya salad. —T.P.
abv: 13.74% **Price:** \$22



90 Canard 2021 The Resurgence Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Subdued, reductive hints of tar and earth meet with cherry on the well-integrated nose of this bottling. The palate shows more savory carob and cocoa bean elements, with firm tannins framing the red plum and cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45



90 Covalli 2022 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Fresh raspberries, turned earth and black tea aromas define the nose of this very pretty Nebbiolo. The striking palate pops with crunchy red-fruit flavors and mouthwatering acidity as classical Nebbiolo tannins strut their stuff, giving the wine a firmness that requires a bowl of pasta or roasted meat. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24



90 CRU 2021 Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Browned butter and lush peach aromas make for a voluptuous nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate is creamy and fat with baked peach and French toast spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Firepit Red Blend (California). This wine is deep purple-hued, aromas of boysenberry, fresh dark plum, dried potpourri, dried fine herbs on the nose. The midpalate is fresh, raspberry, dried cherry, cinnamon, red licorice sliding into silky tannins. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40



90 Famiglia Rivetti 2022 Arneis (Langhe). Aromas that transport you to a sunlit garden filled with notes of citrus blossoms, green apple trees and the waft of fresh honey. The palate is refreshing with flavors of lemon, peach and a revitalizing minerality. Riboli Family Wine Estates. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22



90 Feudi di San Gregorio 2020 Rubrato (Irpinia). The nose starts slightly sweet, with aromas of black cherries, dried figs and vanilla, then leans into savory, faintly medicinal notes of herbs and earth. On the palate, that waltz between dark fruit and earth is emphasized by a current of milk chocolate and chalky, structuring tannins. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24



90 Killer Drop 2021 Red Blend (California). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of baked blackberry, blueberry preserve, cinnamon and cedar. Other notes waft through, including boysenberry compote, cardamom, dried bay leaf, grilled orange, and dark chocolate. Layers of earth and minerality bring everything together for a dry, smooth finish. Pair with jerk chicken. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



90 Lamole di Lamole 2020 Maggiolo (Chianti Classico). An elegant nose features aromas of cherry, cranberry, sweet tomato and orange peel, along with a balancing undertone of earth. The palate is full of bright red fruit, elevated by that sunny orange citrus note, while tannins and acid provide structure without intruding. Santa Margherita USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25



90 Lamoreaux Landing 2019 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). An earthy, autumnal nose of cherry, dried mint and baking spices leads to a mid-weight palate that's ultrafresh, with rapier acidity, well-tucked oak and chalky, somewhat drying tannins. Drink at room temperature beside a plate of fatty cured meats and cheeses. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25



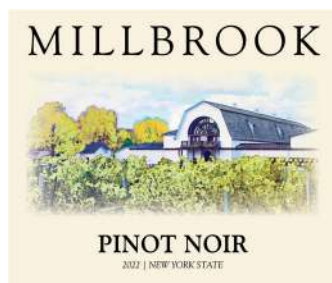
90 LangeTwins 2023 Merrill Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). This wine is fresh, vibrant and zesty. Concentrated pear, yellow apple and cantaloupe on the nose. The midpalate flavors are crisp nectarine, pineapple, vanilla bean and dried sage. Layers of sedimentary rock and minerality bring things together. Good example of aromatic white wine coming out of the region. Pair with fish stew. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27



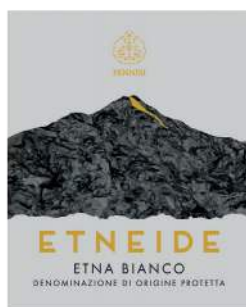
90 Lava Cap 2022 Estate Grenache (El Dorado). This wine is fresh, lively with bright aromas of Bing cherry, youthful strawberry, rhubarb, potpourri, dried rosemary on the nose. The flavors in the midpalate are juicy strawberry, cherry, allspice, dried fine herbs, pink peppercorn intertwined with dark cherry-covered chocolate, mushroom and a dry finish. Enjoy with poultry, fish and baked pasta dishes. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28



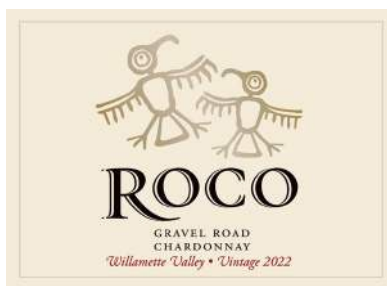
90 Lava Cap 2022 Estate Viognier (El Dorado). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of white peach, pineapple, honeysuckle and dried herbs. Other notes waft through, including orange cream, white nectarine, allspice, white grapefruit zest and chamomile blossom. Layers of rock and minerality bring everything together. Pair with soft cheese. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28



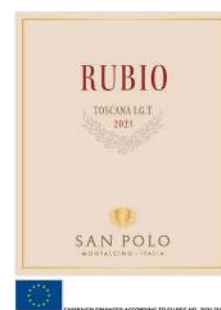
90 Millbrook 2022 Pinot Noir (New York). Lively wild strawberry, flower stem and amaretto aromas are tied to a palate that's feathery light with al dente acidity and red berry freshness. Herb-flecked tannins creep in on the midpalate, adding structure and some bite to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26



90 Pennisi 2022 Etneide (Etna). The fresh, clean nose features white flowers, lemons, limes, wet stone and a pinch of salt. The palate is sweeter and more fruit-forward, with a richer lemon element and a touch of pear candy, but nonetheless preserves the latent salinity. Riboli Family Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30



90 Roco 2022 Gravel Road Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The Chardonnay that sounds like a Steve Earle song is lithe and lean, with an aroma similar to tonic water with a lemon twist. Lemon and lime flavors collide on the palate, accompanied by a trace of gin botanicals. The wine's acidity is as refreshing as a shaved lemon ice on a hot day. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

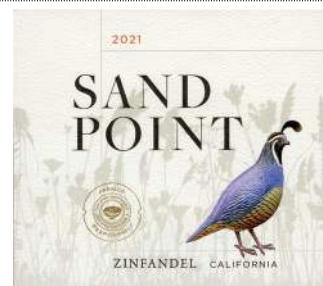


90 San Polo 2021 Rubio (Toscana). The nose is smoky, sanguine, peppery and earthy, but then opens up with aromas of blood orange, blackberry and black cherry. More pepper and earth with red plum on the palate preserve the overall sanguine feel, while the bitterness of an enduring blood orange note bites back against taut tannins and bright acid. Trincheri Family Estates. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23



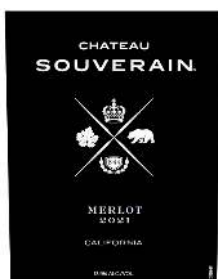
90 Vionta 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Light yellow in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of Bartlett pear, lemon-lime and fennel pollen. Vivid acidity and fresh flavors of pineapple, mango and passion fruit evaporate into a finish marked with soft notes of mint leaf and orange blossom. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

BEST BUYS



93 Sand Point 2021 Zinfandel (California). This wine is fresh and vibrant, with aromas of baked black cherry, strawberry-rhubarb jelly and dried sage. Other notes waft through, including blackberry confiture, black tea and allspice. Layers of mocha, sweet cigar, chicory and minerality lead to a dry, supple finish. Pair with mole. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$12

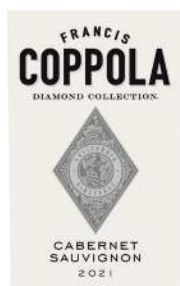
BEST BUYS



92 Chateau Souverain 2021 Merlot (California). Fresh with black plum, blueberry, mulled spices, dried rose petals, black tea, black licorice, sweet cigar on the nose. Dried red currants, red plums, raspberry, dried eucalyptus, chicory root, black licorice, white grapefruit zest, sliding into pink peppercorn, coffee beans, dried tobacco leaf and a dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$12



92 Chateau Souverain 2021 Pinot Noir (California). Superfresh raspberries, strawberries & cream, cranberry jumping out the glass. The fruit on the palate is fully concentrated yellow plum, red plum, pomegranate, orange zest, dried herbs. The finish is more red berries, bittersweet chocolate and a dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$12

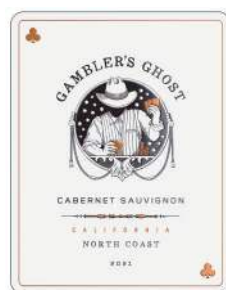


92 Francis Ford Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is rich and opulent, with aromas of black currant preserve, cinnamon and violet. Other notes waft through, including boysenberry, black cherry, mint chocolate, pepper jam and dried herbs. Layers of dark fruit, toasty oak, dark chocolate and earth bring together a supple finish. Pair with steak, pasta and poultry. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

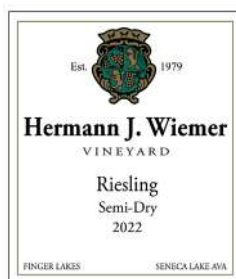
BEST BUYS



92 Freakshow 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). Magenta-hued, this deep wine is opulent with aromas of black cherry cola, boysenberry and candied spiced pecans. The palate boasts flavors of blackberry confiture, fresh peaches, baked graham cracker crust, allspice and vanilla wafting through to the finish. Pair with braised beef cheeks. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



92 Gambler's Ghost 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). The wine is deep violet-hued with aromas of huckleberry-laced bourbon, black molasses, aromatic florals on the nose. The midpalate is maple syrup-enriched blackberry, black currants, cardamom-scented blueberry wafting into espresso crema and a mouthwatering finish. Pair with your favorite hearty proteins or good conversation. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5 **Price:** \$18



92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Semi-Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). This is a wine that both dry white lovers and those with a sweet tooth can get behind. Heady notes of honey-dipped pear and citrus blossom flow from nose to palate right to the last lemon-orange creamsicle sip. There's mouthwatering acidity and oodles of crowd-pleasing flavors, and it's just 10.5% abv to boot. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$20

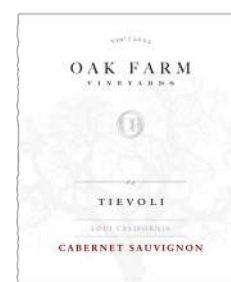
BEST BUYS



92 Mon Frère 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Dried red plums, red currants, orange marmalade, savory herbs, chicory greens on the nose. Fresh raspberry, cranberry-pomegranate, dried peach, apricot, fresh herbs, silky juicy tannins to finish. Pair with grilled teriyaki-glazed salmon. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$12



92 Mon Frère 2022 Chardonnay (California). This wine is bright, concentrated, ripe, stone fruit, melon, intertwined fresh green bell pepper, lemon zest, dried lemongrass, wrapping around blood orange, pink grapefruit, white pepper, finishing with mineral and good acidity. Pair with white fish in butter sauce. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$12

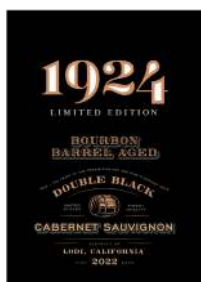


92 Oak Farm 2022 Tievoli Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of black currant preserve, cassis and cardamom. The midpalate flavors are juicy black cherry, pomegranate, Satsuma orange and dried herbs. Layers of dark fruit, chocolate and earth bring together the smooth dry finish. Pair with BBQ chicken. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



92 **Peirano 2022 The Other Red Blend (Lodi).** This wine is rich, full-bodied, with aromas of baked blackberry, boysenberry compote, cardamom and grilled bacon. Other notes waft through, including black cherry, vanilla cream, black licorice, dried herbs and cracked black pepper. Layers of sedimentary rock and minerality bring everything together. Pair with grilled sausages. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

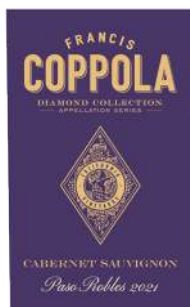


91 **1924 2022 Bourbon Barrel-Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of bourbon-soaked black cherry, blackberry compote, molasses and violet. Other notes waft through, including strawberry cream soda, orange zest, Earl Grey tea, spiced dark chocolate, truffle honey and vanilla cream. Layers of dried herbs, earth and minerality bring everything together for juicy dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15



91 **DFJ Vinhos 2020 Aluado Reserva (Lisboa).** This is a serious, dense, yet balanced wine. Its smoky flavors allied to the black-plum fruits give it a solidity and enhance the firm tannins. The wine is still developing; drink from 2025. Lionstone International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

BEST BUYS



91 **Francis Ford Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Pleasant aromas of blackberry and lavender make for a very straightforward, easy-to-like style on this bottling. The palate properly balances flowers, fruit, pepper and herb into a harmonious, happy sip. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19



91 **Freakshow 2021 Red Blend (Lodi).** This rich wine is concentrated, with aromas of black cherry, black plums, cherry cola, root beer, white pepper and dried orange peel. The palate has flavors of baked black plum, black cherry cream soda, orange cream and blood orange zest that tumbles into salted dark chocolate with a long, dry finish. Pair with smoked brisket. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

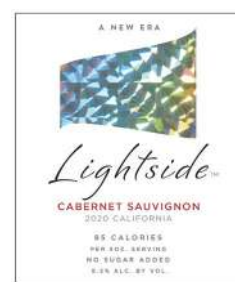


91 **Freakshow 2022 Chardonnay (Lodi).** This bright wine is luscious, yellow stone fruits and baking spices intertwine with white grapefruit, white tea and fresh herbs on the nose. It glides onto the palate with flavors of zesty citrus and jalapeño with a minerality that accompanies a long juicy finish. Pair with fried fish, creamy pasta, and semihard cheeses. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

BEST BUYS



91 **Heron Hill 2022 Classic Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Hiding its power beneath a dainty exterior, there's a lovely lime, floral and kerosene delicacy to start. A bright, bone-dry palate brings racy, limestone-driven acidity that slices through the glycerol texture. This could cellar nicely for several more years but proves a tasty drop now for those acid-hounds among us. It's under 12% abv and a bargain to boot. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$16



91 **Lightside 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This wine is full-bodied, with aromas of fresh dark-red berry, black plum preserve and dried herbs. The midpalate has flavors of black strawberry, rhubarb and dried herbs that morph into coco with dry silky tannins. Enjoy with your week-night meal. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$15

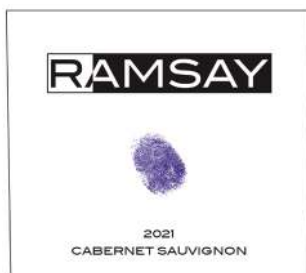


91 **Mon Frère 2022 Pinot Noir (California).** This wine is dark, concentrated, complex, with fresh yellow plums, black cherries and baking spices. The sumptuous midpalate promises baked red apple, strawberry jam, clove and cardamom citrus zest. The finish delivers youthful plum, citrus skins, and dried florals. Enjoy with your favorite dish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$12

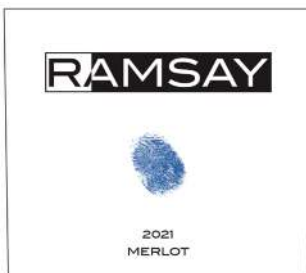
BEST BUYS



91 Peirano 2022 The Other White Blend (Lodi). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of ripe yellow apple, roasted peach, Lily of the valley and allspice. Other notes waft through, including baked Golden Delicious apple, vanilla-scented orange cream, caramel, white grapefruit zest and cardamom. Layers of white chocolate, earth and minerality bring together a good alternative for sweet wine. Pair with cioppino. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$14**

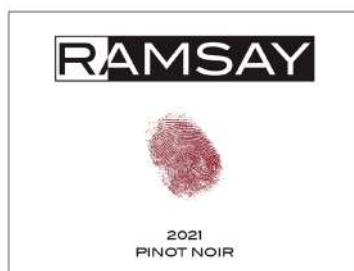


91 Ramsay 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine offers plush and supple aromas of blackberry jam, blueberry and pepperjam. Other notes waft through, including boysenberry, toffee, star anise, chinese five spice and toasty oak. Layers of sweet cigar, dried black cherry and bitter-sweet chocolate bring it all together for a mouthwatering finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$20**

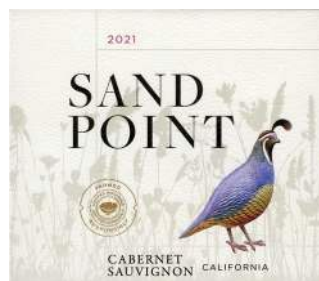


91 Ramsay 2021 Merlot (California). This wine is driven by boysenberry, huckleberry and vanilla spice. Other notes waft through, blackberry compote, pink peppercorn, star anise and bitter-sweet chocolate. Layers of dried tobacco leaves, earth and minerality bring together a mouthwatering dry finish. Pair with veal chops. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$20**

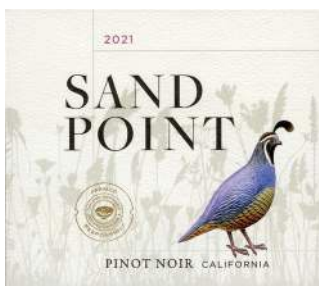
BEST BUYS



91 Ramsay 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This wine is fresh, lively with aromas of strawberry jam, morello cherry preserve, clove, toasty vanilla, on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are black berry cream soda, huckleberry, pink peppercorn, intertwined with mocha and dry silky tannins. Enjoy with fish and poultry. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$20**



91 Sand Point 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of blackberry, cassis, violet, smoky paprika and bittersweet chocolate. Other notes waft through, including spiced vanilla cream, blood orange zest, truffle chocolate and dried tobacco leaf. Layers of earth and minerality bring everything together for a dry, smooth finish. Pair with grilled meats. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price: \$12**



91 Sand Point 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This wine is fresh, vibrant with aromas of strawberry rhubarb jam, Bing cherry, dried herbs, toasty vanilla bean on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are cassis, strawberry coulis, pink grapefruit zest, gliding into dried cherry, cracked black peppercorn with a dry finish. Enjoy with fish, pasta, poultry. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price: \$12**

BEST BUYS



91 Three Finger Jack 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of blackberry, blueberry jam and allspice. Other notes waft through: boysenberry confiture, baked black plum, cardamom and dark chocolate. Layers of dried bay leaf, vanilla cream and dark fruit bring together silky tannins with a dry finish. Pair with BBQ pulled pork. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price: \$19**



91 Trim 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of blackberry, black cherry, dried floral and fresh spearmint. Other notes waft through, including blackberry, cassis, orange marmalade, pepper jam and bittersweet chocolate. Layers of earth and minerality bring everything together. Pair with stuffed bell pepper. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$15**



90 Cannonball 2022 Chardonnay (California). This wine is rich, sumptuous, Golden Delicious apple, pineapple, white nectarines, interlaced with baking spices, lemon zest, Key lime cream, white florals, floating into toasted pistachio, brioche and a crisp dry finish. Pair with your favorite ethnic takeout. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$16**

BEST BUYS



90 Cantine Leonardo Da Vinci 2020 Monnalisa (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The earthy, herbaceous nose features notes of soil, fennel, pepper and dried currants. On the palate, a foundation of chocolate anchors an emergent, luxurious fruit element, before the earth tones return, bolstered by chalky, weighty tannins and assertive acid. Flying Blue Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20



90 Carnivor 2021 Zinfandel (California). Opulent, concentrated blackberry jam, black currant, cardamom, dried florals on the nose. The massive blueberry, boysenberry compote, baked peaches, cinnamon, coats the palate falling into layers of dark chocolate, coffee, vanilla cream with silky tannins and a dry finish. Pair with grilled meats. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$12



90 Chateau Souverain 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This wine is lean under ripe peach, nectarine, apricot on the nose. The palate is replete with lush stone fruits, slivers of limestone, green melon, white pepper, dried potpourri shifting into baked stone fruit, dried savory herbs and a focused mineral finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$12

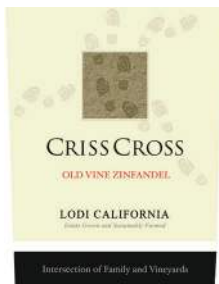
BEST BUYS



90 Christopher Michael 2022 Red Wine Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). The Christopher Michael Red Wine is a blend of 72% Malbec and 28% Cabernet Sauvignon that offers a big bang for the buck. Its aromas of sweet blackberries and ripe cherries is complemented by a savory note of grilled steak. The fruit flavors go the other direction, with tart red cherries and blood orange holding court. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

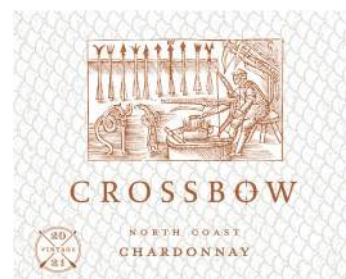


90 Coppi 2020 Siniscalco Primitivo (Puglia). The primarily savory nose features notes of tobacco, soil and pencil shavings, but raspberry undertones provide balance. The fruit is sweeter and richer on the palate, while smooth tannins and substantial acid spotlight a lingering bite of spice and bitterness. Wine 4 All. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13



90 Criss Cross 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi). This wine is sumptuous, dense, with aromas of boysenberry, brown sugar, sweet bacon, African violet on the nose. The palate glides into mouthwatering lingonberry, blueberries, orange-blossom honey, dried herbs and vanilla cream. The finish is dried sweet tobacco leaves, sarsaparilla and chili chocolate. Aerate and pair with pulled pork. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$14

BEST BUYS



90 Crossbow 2021 Chardonnay (North Coast). This wine is fresh, with aromas of orange blossoms, spice-baked apple, acacia honey on the nose. The palate is baked Fuji apples, apricot compote, white tea, zipping into orange zest and finishing dry. Pair with your weeknight meal. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

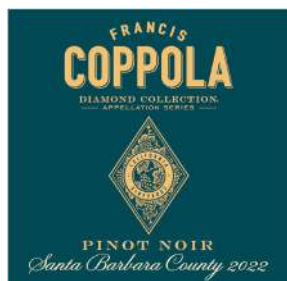


90 DFJ Vinhos 2021 Casa do Lago Grande Reserva (Lisboa). A structured black currant and spice wine, this is rich and concentrated. Its tannins are integrating with the ripe berry flavors to give a succulent wine that is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14



90 Fly By 2021 Chardonnay (North Coast). This wine is fresh, zesty and crisp. Concentrated Bosc pear, white nectarine, dried apricot weave into vanilla spice, orange zest, cinnamon and dried herbs. Pair with your weeknight meal. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5 Price: \$13

BEST BUYS

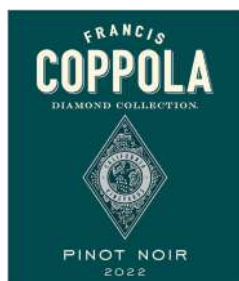


90 Francis Ford Coppola 2022 Diamond Collection Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).

Fresh and lively aromas of alpine strawberry, black cherry and chai spice are rich and comforting on the nose of this bottling. The palate snaps with black raspberry, clove and star anise flavors that are cut by a hit of lemon peel. **Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$19



90 Francis Ford Coppola 2022 Diamond Collection Pinot Noir (California).

This wine is fresh, lively with aromas of red raspberry, black strawberry preserve, pepper jam, dried fine herbs on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are fresh red plum, ripe Bing cherry, orange zest, intertwined with vanilla bean, espresso bean and a dry finish.

Best Buy. —T.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$18



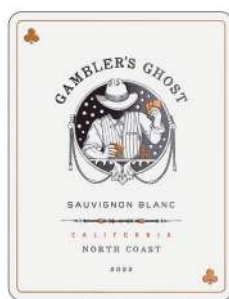
90 Freakshow 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).

This wine is concentrated, with aromas of baked red plum, raspberry, huckleberry, dried violet and sandalwood. Intense full-bodied flavors of black plum, blackberry, black licorice, allspice and maple linger across the palate and turn into simmering and warm spice with grippy tannins. Aerate and pair with hearty stew. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

BEST BUYS



90 Gambler's Ghost 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).

This wine is rich, concentrated with golden hues, and aromas of Golden Delicious apple, grilled lemon wheels, cinnamon-spiced Acacia honey on the nose. The palate delivers crisp green apple, apricot, caramelized banana, toasted almond rounded out with herbaceous acidity. This is a fuller style SB. Pair with Szechuan chicken. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

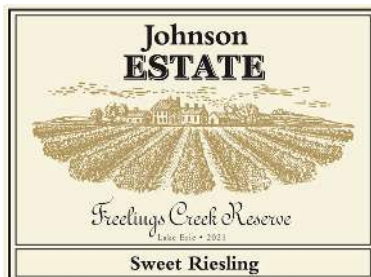


90 Gearbox 2021 Pinot Noir (California).

This wine is opulent, concentrated with aromas of black cherry, blackberries, clove on the nose. The palate is blueberries, huckleberries, dried roses, cranberry-pomegranate, cracked black pepper intertwined maple, red plums, juicy blood orange with a dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$18



90 Johnson Estate 2021 Freulings Creek Reserve Sweet Riesling (Lake Erie).

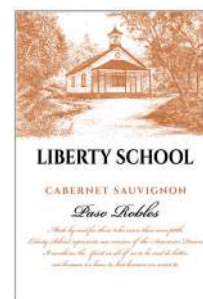
Floral aromas lend delicacy to the richer honeyed citrus and peach fruit notes. There's an intensity to the palate, and good deal of sugar, but it's well-integrated, with nice acidity and lots of stone fruit-driven flavor.

Best Buy. —C.P.

abv: 11%

Price: \$17

BEST BUYS

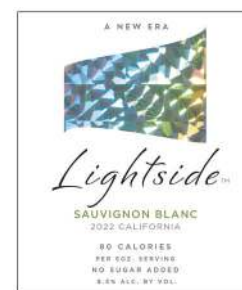


90 Liberty School 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).

Charred blackberry, violet and white peppercorn aromas make for a familiar and pleasing nose on this bottling. The palate is ripe with berry flavors that are cut by pinches of herb and more elegant spices. **Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$16

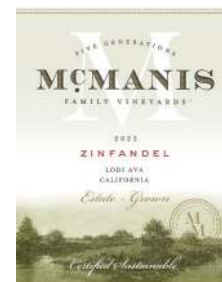


90 Lightside 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California).

This wine is bright and mineral-driven. The aromas are ripe citrus and crushed wet rock followed by crisp but crunchy texture and an orchard grove of stone fruits. It's surprisingly full-bodied in midpalate considering it's lightweight and low-alcohol. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$15



90 McManis 2022 Zinfandel (Lodi).

This wine is fresh, zesty, with aromas of orange, cranberry, mulberries, red plums, mulled spices, allspice, clove on the nose. The palate is confiture blackberry, strawberry-rhubarb, red currant, dried potpourri, blood orange zest, cardamom intertwined with silky tannins and a dry finish. Pair with braised short ribs. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

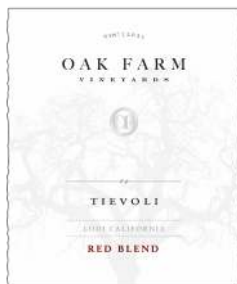
abv: 13.9%

Price: \$10

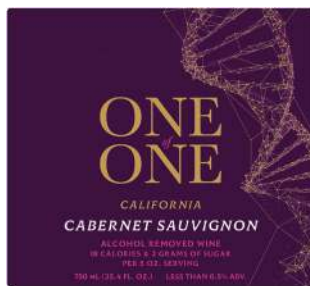
BEST BUYS



90 Noble Vines 2022 446 Chardonnay (California). This wine is fresh, crisp and lively. Concentrated green apple, yellow plum, cinnamon, allspice, wafting through vanilla cream pie, brown sugar and pink grapefruit. Layers of toasty oak, sedimentary rock and minerality bring everything together. Pair with grilled pork, creamed pasta and seafood. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12



90 Oak Farm 2021 Tievoli Red Blend (Lodi). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of red plum, cassis, fresh floral and salted dark chocolate. Other notes waft through, including vanilla buttercream, black raspberry, yellow plum, cinnamon, orange zest and bittersweet chocolate. Layers of earth and minerality bring together a juicy mouthwatering finish. Pair with cioppino. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



90 ONE of ONE NV Alcohol Removed Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This rich wine is the color of dark garnet, with red plums, red raspberry and potpourri on the nose. The midpalate continues with flavors of red stone fruit, youthful huckleberry and chicory. A bittersweet chocolate finish with dried herbs. Tasty example of NA wine. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$18

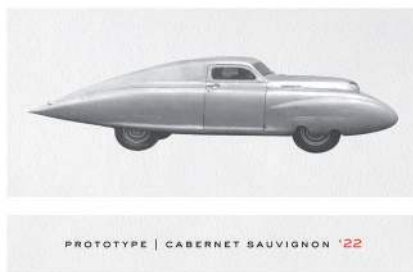
BEST BUYS



90 Piccini 2021 (Chianti Classico). The nose is warm, sanguine and herbaceous, with aromas of dried cherries, cranberries, oregano and sage. On the palate, the fruit turns darker and denser, while the herbs are spicier and set up a hot, peppery finish. Acid flows around firm yet accommodating tannins. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

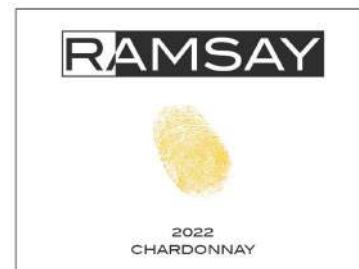


90 Pighin 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). This Pinot Grigio opens with aromas of ripe pear, lemon peel, white flowers and a touch of sea breeze. The palate offers zesty acidity, with flavors of green apple and a touch of mineral finishing with layers of textural notes that are really intriguing and draw you deeper into the wine. Kobrand. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

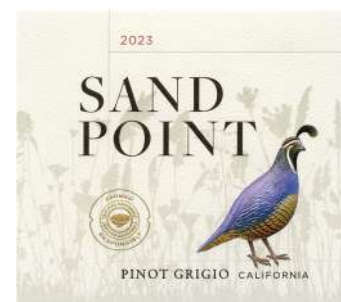


90 Prototype 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Intense, blackberry, black olive, iris, chili pepper, spearmint on the nose. Ripe red plums, pepper jam, dried bay leaf, blood orange zest, intertwined with silky tannins, chili spiced chocolate, tobacco leaf. Pair with braised chicken thighs and piperade (braised bell peppers). **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



90 Ramsay 2022 Chardonnay (California). This wine is bright, crisp and lively. Concentrated baked Golden Delicious apple, white nectarine and orange zest weave into vanilla cream, grilled peach, spearmint, allspice and orange sherbert. Pair with chicken noodle soup. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



90 Sand Point 2023 Pinot Grigio (California). This wine is fresh and lively with aromas of Meyer lemon, pineapple and orange zest. Other notes waft through, orange cream, spiced vanilla, green bellpepper and melon. Layers of pink peppercorn, sedimentary rock and minerality bring it all together. Pair with fish tacos. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

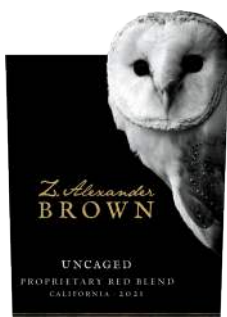


90 The Introvert 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Superfresh red berries, red plum, baked cranberries, green olive, spiced orange on the nose. Juicy red currant, black plum, Chinese five spice, black licorice, pink grapefruit zest, vanilla cream and mulled spices to finish. Pair with orange chicken. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

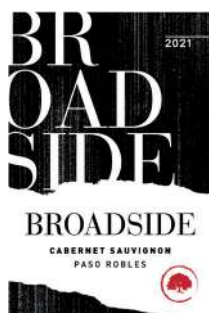
BEST BUYS



90 Vallformosa 2021 Freyé Karel-Lo & Chardonnay (Penedès). Light straw to the eye, this wine offers aromas of Gala apple, green pear and honeysuckle. It has a full texture, radiant acidity and nectarine, peach and passion fruit flavors that endure on the palate. Ecosur Group, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price: \$19**



90 Z. Alexander Brown 2021 Uncaged Red Blend (California). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of brandied black cherry, blackberry, sarsaparilla, mocha and violet. Other notes waft through, including blueberry jam, brown sugar, dried herbs and dark chocolate. Layers of toasty oak, dark fruit, dried tobacco, earth and minerality bring everything together for a smooth, long finish. Pair with your favorite burger. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$17**



88 Broadside 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Saddle leather, crushed lava and hints of dried fruit show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers a riper side with cassis and violet, as oak spices add a smoky note atop the firm tannins. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$17**

BEST BUYS



87 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards NV Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). Candied peach and melon aromas lead on this ultrafruity Riesling. It's sweet and tangy with a lift of acidity to deter from syrupville. Drink well-chilled with salty aged cheese or a citrus dessert. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price: \$14**

NEW YORK RIESLING

95 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Magdalena Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). Still a spring chicken, this top Riesling—if drunk now—needs a few good swirls in the glass before releasing delicate orange citrus, jasmine and honeysuckle aromas from the clutch of more reductive ones. There's richness and intensity on the dry, slippery palate, cut with citrusy acidity and a chalk dust minerality to the ultralong finish. This is a wine of complexity and class that should cellar until 2032 or longer. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price: \$45**

94 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2021 Eugenia Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 5. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 12% **Price: \$35**

94 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Flower Day Riesling (Seneca Lake). For full review see page 5. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 12% **Price: \$27**

94 Ravines 2019 Argetsinger Vineyard Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). From old vines on limestone soil, this is a wine of intensity and clarity that's showing little signs of age. Honeyed pear, lemongrass, rock dust and lamp oil come through at first sniff. There's lovely bright, mouthwatering acidity brocaded into the chalky, textural palate, with saline minerality and citrus pulsing to the long finish. This finessed and classy Riesling is true to its place. It should cellar gracefully for many more

years. The bonus? It's a total bargain. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$33**

93 Fox Run 2022 Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Fox Run's new winemaker Craig Hosbach is off to a galloping start with this delightful and very well-priced Riesling. With lovely depth of citrus, floral and chalk dust aromas, there's concentration on the palate and harmony of flavor, texture and acidity. It's bone-dry but with opulence tucked into its folds, allowing for both cellaring and food-friendliness. A top-notch example of Seneca Lake Riesling. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price: \$18**

93 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 HWJ Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). Keeping cards close to its chest, this vintage of Wiemer's home vineyard takes its time before offering up delicate yet ripe peach, melon and white floral aromas. They're succeeded by a dry, racy palate that shows lovely balance and finesse, with a peach pit and citrus blossom zing amid a gently chalky, textural palate. Still a baby, this shows excellent cellaring potential, until 2030 at least. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price: \$45**

93 Hillick & Hobbs 2021 Estate Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Restrained and elegant, notes of citrus, peach pit and ginger weave between waxy, honeyed richness. The palate is finessed, long and harmonious but speaks quietly, demanding thoughtful tasting rather than porch pounding. Drink now, just slightly chilled, with food, or up until 2031. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price: \$35**

93 Ravines 2020 White Springs Vineyard Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). From a single vineyard on limestone soils, this is a radiant and rich-but-balanced Riesling with vibrant aromas of fresh lemon-lime juice and peach blossom, with a warm stone mineral nuance. There's honeyed intensity to the palate. Crystalline acidity slices through the slippery texture, making this a harmonious and complex bottling that punches above its price point. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$25**

92 Anthony Road 2021 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Enticing white peach, lemon and pineapple juice aromas are etched in honey and dried herbal characters. They lead to an opulent palate that's lightly sweet but deftly balanced by racy acidity. There's a long, lemony finish. It strikes that fine Riesling-esque balance with precision and deliciousness. —C.P.
abv: 10.8% **Price: \$25**

92 Anthony Road 2021 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 10. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 11.3% **Price: \$30**

92 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A vibrant perfume of honeyed apple, citrus blossom and peach leap from the glass. Dry but with richness and oodles of fruit and floral flavor, this is an unmistakably Finger Lakes expression that finds balance and tangy freshness right to the end. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

92 Fox Run 2022 Semi-Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Rich aromas of honey and lamp oil mingle with peach pit and lemon rind. The mouth-filling palate offers delicate sweetness without veering into syrupy territory. It shows restraint and lovely prickly, citrusy acidity to a long, floral finish. Bravo to this estate's new winemaker, Craig Hoshbach, for delivering a beauty in a fine vintage. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Josef Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). This late-picked Riesling, from 50-year-old vineyards, takes its time opening but with a few good swirls reveals citrus, honey, ginger and floral nuances. The palate hits hard and fast with intense sweetness, but acidity rushes in to save the day, making this a refreshing drop in spite of itself, with concentration, layers of flavor and a long fruity finish. —C.P.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$45

92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Semi-Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Keuka Lake Vineyards 2021 Estate Grown Twenty Rows Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Made in an opulent, aged Riesling style (despite its relative youth), this single vineyard wine opens with lamp oil, beeswax and honeyed fruit aromas. It's dry with lovely weight, concentration and depth. This is a classy bottling for savoring solo or with a cheese-dominated meal. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$35

92 Lakewood 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A bright perfume of lemon and lime blossom—with a little pineapple juice—flows to a palate that shows weight and concentration countered by beautifully racy acidity that slices down the middle of the tongue, with the citrus and tropical fruit filling in the gaps. It would pair beautifully with a coconut curry or chilly-oiled fish. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$15

92 Ravines 2020 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). From an excellent vintage and an equally acclaimed producer, this is an opulent and appealing bottling from first sniff. Gentle lamp oil and candlewax notes weave between green apple and lemon rind. The palate is crisp and dry, with less upfront fruit but a lovely tang of citrus acidity, a stony minerality and a waxy texture to the finish. It's a bargain for the quality. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

92 Standing Stone 2022 Timeline Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Renowned biodynamic winery Hermann J. Wiemer purchased this long-standing Seneca Lake property in 2017 and has taken the farming and winemaking up a big notch. This bottling is hugely likable, as richly honeyed and aromatic as the radiant gold hue suggests, all honeysuckle, jasmine flower and tangerine citrus. The palate is round and creamy, the acidity glides along for the ride. An opulent, cheese board-friendly wine. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Atwater 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Honeyed citrus, peach and florals comprise the nose of this aromatic Riesling. The mostly dry palate finds nice harmony between a creamy texture and acidity with a pleasant tangy bite to the finish that makes it easy to take another sip. —C.P.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$NA

91 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Late Harvest Riesling (Seneca Lake). Give this time in the glass to aerate. Then, delicate aromas of white peach, citrus and florals appear. The palate is, unsurprisingly, quite sweet, but with enough mouthwatering acidity to buoy it. Sip well-chilled with a salty blue cheese. —C.P.
abv: 8.6% **Price:** \$27

91 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Reserve Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Gentle aromas of white peach, guava and citrus blossom are flecked with honey. There's some textural, waxy richness on the bone-dry palate that's cut through with a lift of crisp acidity. This versatile, food-friendly wine should be drunk slightly chilled but not too cold. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$32

91 Heron Hill 2022 Classic Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$16

91 Lamoreaux Landing 2021 Round Rock Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). Waxy and honey-flecked aromas are concentrated and classic, with lemon rind, peach and a bit of spice. The palate offers an al dente crunch via crisp acidity and lovely fruit intensity that masks the small amount of sweetness. This is a well-made wine that could age gracefully until 2030. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$NA

91 Millbrook 2022 Proprietor's Special Reserve Dry Riesling (Hudson River Region). For full review see page 13. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

91 Silver Thread 2022 Doyle Fournier Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). From a 50-year-old vineyard near the winery, this opens with heady aromas of lime blossom, tangerine, pear and lychee. There are heaps of acidity at first sip, but it's balanced by a little residual sugar and lovely fruit weight. This is a characterful and quite pretty wine that's quite a pleasure to sip solo. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$28

91 Silver Thread 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). This is a lovely, aromatic Riesling from progressive environmentalists Shannon and Paul Brock. Floral aromas of orange blossom and honeysuckle are underscored by peach, lemon and Golden Delicious apple. The palate shows richness and concentration that's tempered by a gentle line of acidity. Delicate tangerine and stone fruit flavors linger on the finish. Drink beside a creamy goat cheese. —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Silver Thread 2022 Gridley Bluff Point Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). From a vineyard on Keuka Lake, this has a nose like nectar, all honeyed, floral and musky. It lands just barely on the off-dry side but never feels overly sweet. That's thanks to a lovely line of well-placed acidity amid a slippery (but not syrupy) mouthfeel. This is a tasty bottling to sip with extra-spicy Southeast Asian or Mexican fare. —C.P.
abv: 10.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Weis 2022 Winzer Select A Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's a lovely intensity to the honeyed nose, more grounded than the high-toned, candied fruitiness squeezed out in the winemaking process of some FLX Rieslings. It's sweet, viscous and concentrated, with just enough acidity to cut through the sugar. Drink well-chilled with a lemon sorbet. —C.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Boundary Breaks 2022 Ovid Line North Medium Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). With a floral, citrus and stone fruit perfume, the enticing nose leads to an off-dry palate that makes for well-balanced and still-fresh sipping, particularly with a coconut curry or spicy fish tacos. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

90 Glenora 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Heady florals, citrus and white peach aromas are edged in ginger. Zingy, tangy acidity leads in the mouth, those citrus and ginger flavors carrying to a long, lemony finish. Bone-dry and still youthful, this should evolve nicely over the next several years. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Bright and bouncy, from first fruity sniff it's reminiscent of melon sherbet, lemongrass and white florals. While a touch of residual sugar peeks through the cracks, racy acidity gives it a drier impression, making it suitable drinking for spicy Mexican, spring rolls or Thai green curry. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Heron Hill 2021 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes). Give this a few good swirls for the pongy reductive notes to dissipate, making room for lovely, intense peach, lemongrass and hay aromas to shine. The palate is almost surprisingly dry, the flavor more muted than the nose suggests. But there's lovely textural weight balanced by crisp freshness

making this Keuka Lake bottling a wine of personality and food friendliness. —C.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Hillick & Hobbs 2022 Estate Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). This is a fruity, opulent and aromatic bottling of Paul Hobbs's Seneca Lake Riesling. Heady notes of candied peach and ginger and green apple lollipop open. While the nose implies sweetness, the palate is dry, although richly textured, lifted by well-integrated, crisp acidity, the peach flavor lingering to the finish. This reviewer prefers the restraint of the previous vintage, but the 2022 will still find plenty of fans. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Johnson Estate 2021 Freulings Creek Reserve Sweet Riesling (Lake Erie). For full review see page 21. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

90 Keuka Lake Vineyards 2021 Estate Grown Evergreen Lek Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). From 25-year-old vines, this dry Riesling opens with opulent aromas of butterscotch and baked pineapple and a mushroomy underbelly. There's glycerol-like richness on the palate, too, but citrusy, laser-like acidity slices through it to keep the mouth watering. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$35

90 Lakewood 2022 Riesling (Finger Lakes). A bright fruity nose of lime, white peach and florals, with a feeling of crushed rocks beneath, is the beginning of a wine that is surprisingly sweet, based on aromas. The sugar gives a richness and weight, but a citrusy acidity buoys, making it easy to take another sip. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

90 Mazza Chautauqua Cellars 2020 Nutt Road Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Lucid aromas of pineapple and peach granita, with a woolly, waxy, white-spiced underbelly, lead to a palate that's just a touch sweet. The acidity is quietly present rather than shrill or pinched, gently lifting amid the weight of the sugar and concentrated fruit to a long finish. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

89 Boundary Breaks 2022 No.239 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). While quite young at the moment, the stone fruit, lime and florals flow from nose to palate on this slippery, mostly dry Riesling. When slightly chilled, it makes for food-friendly sipping. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Hosmer 2021 Patrician Verona Riesling (Cayuga Lake). Give this some aeration in a glass or decanter for it to reveal a peachy, floral, lime popsicle scent. It's made in a sweet style, but the hefty helping of tangy, citrusy acidity keeps the mouth watering and another sip an easy endeavor. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$18

89 Inspire Moore 2020 Timothy Moore Humphreys Vineyard Amphora Fermented Riesling (Seneca Lake). This is reminiscent of Cow Tales, the caramel and cream candy, if dipped in lemon and peach juice. Despite the toffeed edge to the nose, it's a dry bottling sans caramel on the palate, with mouthwatering, citrusy acidity and a distinctive al dente texture. It falls off fast but makes for tasty, characterful sipping. —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$25

89 Kelby James Russell 2021 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's a slight lamp oil reductive note at first sniff that's overtaken by ripe, intensely candied peach, lime oil and jasmine flowers. It's more filigreed on the palate, where a lovely tingy acidity and almost chalky texture provide a structure that suggests it'll age nicely over the next several years. —C.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$24

89 Keuka Lake Vineyards 2021 Estate Grown Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Concentrated aromas of honeyed apple, lemon drop candy and lime blossom are followed by a gently creamy palate that, thanks to a lovely tang of racy acidity, makes for salivating and cheese-friendly sipping. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$23

89 Keuka Lake Vineyards 2021 Estate Grown Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A vibrant gold color, this semi-dry Riesling commences with concentrated lemon cake and lime blossom aromas. The palate offers some sweetness, but it's almost unnoticeable thanks to the racy, lemony, thirst-quenching acidity. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$20

89 Keuka Spring 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A heady, musky perfume jumps from the glass at first sniff. There's orange oil, honey and grape preserves. The palate is almost surprisingly dry after the heady aromas, with some chalky textural weight, a touch of residual sugar, balanced acidity and flavor to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$20

89 Lakewood 2022 Full Monty Riesling (Finger Lakes). Lifted orchard fruit and toffee aromas are met with a slippery palate of intensity and sweetness, the lovely acidity lending mouthwatering refreshment and a citrusy finish. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 10.4% **Price:** \$15

89 Lamoreaux Landing 2021 Red Oak Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). Baked apple and lime notes open this semi-dry Riesling. It's honey-flecked with a crushed stone mineral nuance. A big lift of acidity akin to sucking on a lemon is counteracted by the gentle sweetness and honeyed apple and tart citrus flavors. Drink now, slightly chilled, with spicy Southeast Asian fare. —C.P.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$26

89 Three Brothers 2021 Third Degree Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). Honeysuckle, jasmine, beeswax and green apple Jolly Rancher comprise the nose of this ultraperfumed bottling. It's rich and sugary, with confected flavor, but with just the right amount of acidity to prop it up. Drink well chilled with blue cheese or a nutty dessert. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$17

89 Ventosa 2021 Riesling (Seneca Lake). Intense toffee and mushroom nuances blanket lemon and orange aromas. The palate is off-dry in style, although the sweetness only shows faintly, thanks to a big lift of citrusy acidity that brightens and sculpts. Drink chilled with a fresh fruit and custard dessert. —C.P.
abv: 10.4% **Price:** \$25

89 Weis 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). An opulent, fruity bottling, this wafts lime, white peach and honeysuckle aromas, with something a touch mustier at the back. The palate is bone-dry with racy, citrusy acidity charging through the flavor and textural richness to a long finish. Still young, it could evolve into something more complex in the coming years. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

88 Buttonwood Grove 2020 Big Hollow Block Riesling (Finger Lakes). This is a sweet, fruity little number with citrus sorbet and floral notes and a nice tingle of acidity to freshen it up. Drink well-chilled with a summer dessert. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 Fox Run 2021 Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Intensely rich and honeyed, with some lamp oil reduction at first sniff, this traditional Riesling shows concentration and roundness on the waxy textured palate. It's sliced down the middle with pointy-elbowed, citrusy acidity but could use a bit more fruit to prop up such a rich style. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$18

88 Goose Watch 2022 Peterson Block Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes). A nose of peach blossom, lime popsicle and honeysuckle proceeds an off-dry palate that's lifted by crisp acidity. It loses some of the fruit and floral appeal of the nose but shows a level of complexity and textural interest nevertheless. —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Heron Hill 2022 Semi Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). This musky, perfumed Riesling offers freshly pressed apple and pineapple juice on both the nose and palate, with a hint of spice. The sweetness in the mouth is brightened by tangy, high-toned acidity, which makes it feel drier than it actually is. This wine is rustic with charm and character. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 10.2% **Price:** \$16

88 Heron Hill 2022 Semi Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). A bright, fruity nose of green apple,

BUYINGGUIDE

grapefruit and peach leads to an off-dry palate that's lifted by mouthwatering acidity, with a lime popsicle tang to the finish. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$16

88 Heron Hill 2021 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Honeyed pineapple and citrus aromas are edged in lamp oil on the nose. The palate is dry with some richness, roundness and racy, lemony acidity buoying the plump fruit. It could age nicely for several more years. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Heron Hill 2021 Semi-Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). Lemon-lime, florals, honey and a slight kerosene note kick things off. The off-dry palate shows plenty of sweetness, but it's kept in check by vibrant, citrusy acidity that keeps the drinker salivating. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$16

88 Keuka Spring 2022 Humphreys Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). A honeyed, mushroomy note sits lightly atop essence of orange and apple nuances. Although labeled as mostly dry, there's detectable sweetness on the palate, with fresh acidity, too. Drink chilled with Southeast Asian cuisine. —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Knapp 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Fresh red apple peel and citrus is underscored by a honey and floral note. Razor sharp acidity is tempered by some textural weight. It's still young with the potential to age nicely over the next several years. —C.P.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$20

88 Lamoreaux Landing 2022 Estate Bottled Round Rock Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Honeyed citrus and stone fruit with a minty, mealy undercurrent open the wine. The palate shows gentle sweetness and some glycerol weight, buoyed by lovely tangy acidity and a lime popsicle flavor that keeps things fresh. —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$26

88 Lamoreaux Landing 2021 Yellow Dog Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). A delicate perfume of lime granita and orchard blossoms lead to a palate that shows only a whisper of sweetness, thanks to heaps of citrusy acidity. This reviewer would love more texture and complexity, but this is a solid, regionally expressive drop, nonetheless. Drink with fried shellfish. —C.P.
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$26

88 Silver Thread 2022 Estate Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). Yeasty, peachy aromas open with lime blossom notes behind. Racy freshness and a chalky texture prop up the stone and citrus fruit flavors on the palate. Despite the medium-dry labeling, the elevated acidity makes it feel dry overall. Sip not too cold with spicy fare. —C.P.
abv: 10.8% **Price:** \$28

87 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards NV Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 23.
Best Buy.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

87 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). A rich, heady bottling, this exudes crème brûlée, lemon sorbet and mushroom broth. On the palate there's what feels like a hint of residual sugar, despite the dry label, and it's a touch volatile, with the acetone notes getting jumbled up with the citrus ones. There's a mushroomy tinge to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

87 Living Roots 2020 Bone-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). This is a distinctive Riesling with lemony freshness, a minty, mushroomy undertone and a touch of volatile acidity. It's tart, crisp and, yes, bone-dry, with some softly slippery texture, muted flavor and lifted, crunchy acidity. —C.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$22

87 Sheldrake Point 2022 Estate Bottled Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Give this time in the glass after it's first poured for the trapped CO₂ to dissipate and aromas to gain ground. Once settled, it proves a fruity, floral bottling with citrus and green apple notes. The palate is fresh and likable with a whisper of sweetness and crisp acidity buoyed by a slippery mouthfeel. —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$22

87 Six Eighty Cellars 2021 Skin Fermented Riesling (Finger Lakes). The opulent nose is honeyed and intense but also shows a good deal of volatile acidity, which adds interest and brightness more than it detracts on the nose. The palate is a different story. Here there's drive and concentration, but the volatile acidity shows up more, with an acetone tinge. It's right on the edge for this reviewer and may prove divisive for drinkers. —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$32

87 Three Brothers 2021 Second Degree Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). An intense perfume of honeyed citrus and florals lends crowd appeal to this sweet dessert wine that shows lovely freshness to buoy the quite intense sweetness on the palate. Sip well-chilled beside a fruit tart or sorbet. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$17

87 Wagner 2022 Caywood East Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Lifted lime, kiwi and lemongrass notes are tinged in honey and a lamp oil-like reductive character. Racy, lemony acidity on the palate puckers the cheeks but is tempered by a slippery texture. It's a tad young and lean at the moment, but acidity should soften with time. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Wagner 2022 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A heady perfume of peach, citrus and florals, like hotel soap, is followed by a dry, crisp palate that's less bombastic than the nose and more acid-dominated. It's quite shrill at the moment but may

settle into itself with another year or two in the bottle. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$16

86 Hermann J. Wiemer 2021 Late Harvest Riesling (Seneca Lake). Quite volatile, those acetone aromas distract from the lemon and peach fruit. It's very sweet on the palate, but there's a lovely lift of lime-like acidity that pulses to the finish to keep things lively. —C.P.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$27

86 Hosmer 2022 Semi-Dry Riesling (Cayuga Lake). If drinking in the short term, be sure to give this some aeration in a glass or decanter for those pungent reductive aromas to blow off. Once they do, a pleasant wine is revealed, with a textural mouthfeel and nice bit of fruity freshness to counter the subtle sweetness. —C.P.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$18

86 Three Brothers 2021 First Degree Off-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Bright and bombastic—if somewhat confected and synthetic—aromas of green apple Jolly Rancher and dried peach are succeeded by a dry palate that is zingy, fresh and fruity. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

86 Ventosa 2021 Semi Sweet Riesling (Seneca Lake). Enticing—if slightly soapy—aromas of lime blossom, pear and honeysuckle are on the nose, with some apple cider vinegar nuances. The palate is off-dry with bright fruit, but the crackling line of lime-like acidity makes it feel drier than it is. The Burgundy-shaped bottle and “Semi Sweet” label are somewhat misleading. —C.P.
abv: 10.4% **Price:** \$25

85 Billsboro 2022 Sawmill Creek Vineyards Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). This yellow-hued Riesling is intensely honeyed, with a rich butter-scotch note overlaying the citrus flower and stone fruit. That sweet-feeling intensity of the nose is obliterated on the palate by a searing line of shrill acidity and an apple-y finish. While the dryness is welcome, it's a wine in two parts that never really join together. —C.P.
abv: 10.8% **Price:** \$22

85 Heron Hill 2021 Ingle Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's a heady, spicy perfume of cedar, honey and toasted vanilla bean, with the white fruit at the back. It's appealing if a bit synthetic, like a lotion scent. The palate is a bit aggressive with pinch acidity, a distinctive woody spice and a short finish. —C.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$25

85 Inspire Moore 2022 Love Riesling (Finger Lakes). Ultraperfumed with intense candied fruit notes, this is a slippery, midweight bottling with sugary sweetness that's countered by just enough acidity to keep things fresh. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

85 Keuka Spring 2022 Classic Riesling (Finger Lakes). Confectured citrus and stone fruit, edged in white florals, open. There's a tingly lift of acidity that nearly cancels out the sweetness. It's a bit disjointed, with lots of winemaking and a short finish. —C.P.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$20

85 Sheldrake Point 2021 Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). A rich, heady combo of butterscotch, candied fruit and mushroom, this is saved by a big lift of lemony acidity on the palate, which obscures the sweetness, but it never quite harmonizes. —C.P.
abv: 9.1% **Price:** \$18

84 Glenora 2021 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Confectured fruit aromas, like pineapple and peach ring gummies, start. The palate is quite sugary and lacks the bright acidity to freshen it. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

84 Inspire Moore 2022 Joy dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Intense aromas of honey cake and lime sherbet are met with a palate that's dry with citrusy freshness. It veers a touch bitter and synthetic toward the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

83 Glenora 2021 Select Harvest Riesling (Finger Lakes). Rich tropical and stone fruit aromas have a synthetic tinge to them. Despite falling into the "sweet" category, the palate feels more off-dry, with a creamy texture and piercing acidity, but the fruit is never quite woven in. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

SAUVIGNON BLANC

89 Billsboro 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Finger Lakes). A firecracker of bombastic aromas, from fresh pressed pineapple juice and peach to dried herbs leads to a lightweight palate that offers a slightly vicious texture, buoyed by tangy, citrusy acidity and that tropical fruit juice flavor to the end. It's as refreshing as this variety ought to be, with New York personality to boot. —C.P.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$24

87 Hector Wine Company 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Seneca Lake). Bright lemony aromas are underpinned by honey and ginger on this dry, crisp and refreshing white from Seneca Lake. —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$20

87 Three Brothers 2022 Stony Lonesome June Arlene Block Sauvignon Blanc (Finger Lakes). A bombastic combo of fruit aromas bursts from the glass, followed by a more subdued palate, where the fruit is there, but it takes a back seat to the creamy texture. There's just enough acidity to keep things fresh. —C.P.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$18

86 Hosmer 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Cayuga Lake). There's a musty overlay at first sniff

here. Just below lurks more pleasant stone and citrus fruit. The palate is lightweight with delicate fruit. Lifted acidity lends freshness to the softly slippery mouthfeel. An easygoing warm weather drop. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$22

85 Glenora 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Seneca Lake). A slight bit of oniony reduction overlays the citrus and stone fruit aromas. The palate offers some nice tangy acidity alongside a gently creamy texture, and it finishes quickly. Straightforward, weeknight summer sipping. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

85 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Finger Lakes). Intensely fruity aromas of candied citrus and peach are met by a more tempered palate that offers some textural weight with a big lift of acidity and a lemony finish. —C.P.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$18

85 RGNV 2022 Scielo NY Sauvignon Blanc (North Fork of Long Island). There's a hefty helping of ripe, slightly sweaty peach and grapefruit here, with ginger and pressed buttercup nuances behind. The textural palate is cut through by shrill acidity. It never quite finds its groove. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$29

GRÜNER VELTLINER

89 Weis 2022 Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). Bright lemon, white peach and tropical fruit aromas float to the fore, followed by a gingery spice. The palate is pricked by high-toned acidity with vibrant fruit concentration and an intriguing texture. This bottling ekes out flavor and personality in what can be a quite neutral variety in these parts—just be sure not to drink it too cold. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

86 Three Brothers 2021 Stony Lonesome Estate Produced Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). Gentle aromas of candied peach and apple blossom are succeeded by a lightweight palate that shows a slight bit of textural weight and delicate candied fruit and floral notes to the finish. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 10.7% **Price:** \$15

85 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). A rich, nectary nose of honeyed pear and apple blossom leads to a slippery textured palate that's mostly dry, with just enough acidity to buoy it. It loses much of that honeyed fruit flavor, making this an easy if rather neutral bottling. —C.P.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$12

85 Millbrook 2022 Proprietor's Special Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Hudson River Region). Young and somewhat reductive at the moment, this should be drunk just below room temp for oniony aromas to make room for orchard fruit ones. The

palate is crisp and light with a slight bit of textural interest, pinched acidity and muffled flavor. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

PINOT GRIGIO

90 Bedell 2022 Pinot Gris (North Fork of Long Island). Vibrant lemongrass, pear and kiwi fruit open. There's some slippery textural weight to the palate, with orchard fruit acidity and a saline edge to the finish. This Pinot Gris is distinctively Long Island in style and begging for buttery or fried seaside fare. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Mazza Chautauqua Cellars 2021 Pinot Grigio (Finger Lakes). A heady, honeyed nose full of confected orchard fruit and florals leads to a more tempered palate that comes with some weight and creamy texture, a spicy, gingery backbone and lifted acidity. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

85 Mazza Chautauqua Cellars 2020 Pinot Grigio (Finger Lakes). An apple cider vinegar note is present at first sniff, the citrus and floral elements behind. The palate is off-dry with a creamy textural element and just enough acidity to cut through the sweetness. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

84 Sheldrake Point 2022 Estate Bottled Pinot Gris (Finger Lakes). Highly honeyed and a touch confected, like hotel soap, the palate is rich and viscous with elevated acidity that only somewhat brightens the residual sugar. It finishes short. —C.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$18

82 Adirondack Winery 2022 Break by the Lake Pinot Gris (New York). Nutty, almost oxidative, with a buttery note and a chemical tinge, like lemon furniture polish, the palate shows lifted, citrusy acidity and finishes short and synthetic. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

CHARDONNAY

91 Fjord 2022 Chardonnay (Hudson River Region). From Hudson Valley winemaker and grower Matt Spaccarelli, this is a classy bottling of a variety that's notoriously fickle in the Northeast. It strikes a fine balance between citrus and stone fruit concentration with toasty, spicy, flinty oak and lees characters. The palate is fruit-driven, with melon-y fruit and subtle barrel influence. The acidity plows through the middle, sculpting this into a finessed and food-friendly bottling. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$25

91 Fox Run 2021 Doyle Family Chardonnay (Seneca Lake). This comes from one of the oldest Chardonnay vineyards in New York. Peach and lemon aromas are underpinned by a subtle lees-y toasted coconut note. There's lovely texture to the

BUYINGGUIDE

midweight palate, and that signature cool-climate acidity. A balanced, versatile and food-friendly drop for a bargain price. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$14

89 Glenora 2022 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). This is a bombastic Chardonnay that opens with a combo of fruity aromas, from melon to stone to tropical, and with a well-placed frame of lightly toasted, vanillin oak. The palate is juicy and fresh with mouthwatering acidity and a gently creamy texture. The oak plays a supporting role. It's straightforward but balanced and varietal. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Keuka Spring 2022 Winemaker Select Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). There are heaps of fruity appeal (think peach, Mandarin orange and honeydew) and a clean, balanced palate that's lifted by citrusy acidity with oodles of citrus, stone fruit and floral flavors. Drink up. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Lamoreaux Landing 2021 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). A flinty, toasty note weaves between delicate melon, citrus and vanilla aromas. The midweight palate is well-balanced with a lovely slippery texture and mouthwatering acidity. A versatile food wine. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$17

89 Standing Stone 2022 Barrel Select Chardonnay (Seneca Lake). Vibrant citrus, melon and ginger are grounded by buttery, toasty base notes. The midweight palate is slippery with some vanillin richness brightened by concentrated fruit. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

88 Fox Run 2021 Kaiser Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Seneca Lake). From nearly 40-year-old vines on Fox Run's Seneca Lake property, this Reserve Chardonnay nods to Burgundy with its reductive, gun smoke and seashell characters. Beneath lurk lemon oil, nectarine and a lactic, toasty oak influence. The midweight palate shows oaky richness, sliced through with crisp, lifted acidity. The cooler climate has resulted in less fruit than is preferred for this style, but it's a solid wine, nonetheless. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$18

88 Milea 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Hudson River Region). This is a gentle creature of a wine. After plenty of swirling, white stone fruit, florals and gingery spice peep through the cracks. It's equally introverted on the palate. The slippery texture and tangy acidity balance each other nicely, making for a food-friendly bottling that could age another few years. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Heron Hill 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). After some swirling in the glass, this offers rich, fruity aromas of pear, apple and lemon

in a toasty frame. There's weight to the palate that's lifted by vibrant acidity, and a tangy citrus note floats above the creamier, oak-derived ones. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

87 Mazza Chautauqua Cellars 2021 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Very perfumed, especially by Chardonnay standards, this evokes lychee, white peach, jasmine and grapefruit. The palate is dry with some textural weight—it's more medium than full-bodied—and is more muted than the nose, but with balance and crowd appeal. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

87 Millbrook 2022 Unoaked Chardonnay (New York). This is a bright, fruity Chardonnay with notes of peach, lemon and white florals. It's midweight with some textural weight, freshness and a long peachy finish. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

86 Atwater 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). With an intensely fruity perfume of candied lemon and grapefruit with subtle toasty oak influence, this is a full-throttle, richly styled Chardonnay with stone fruit and lactic characters to the finish, and fresh acidity to lift. —C.P.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$28

86 Knapp 2022 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Subtle mealy, citrusy aromas lead to a palate that shows some textural roundness, cut through with quite elevated acidity. It's young and muted at the moment but could show more character with a poultry or butter pasta-based meal. —C.P.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$20

85 Hosmer 2021 Chardonnay (Cayuga Lake). This Chardonnay is fruity and buttery all at once, with confected melon, lemon and tropical fruit notes beside creamy oak influence and a mushroomy base note. The mouthfeel is equally lactic with dialed-down fruit and a toffee barrel note to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$18

85 Lamoreaux Landing 2022 Estate Bottled Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Pungent sulfide aromas of struck match dominate. The palate is rich and creamy with a lift of tangy acidity. —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$16

85 Six Eighty Cellars 2021 Terracotta Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). A light honey color, this offers up heady aromas of damp wool, flower stems, tropical fruit and a dollop of cheesy, mushroomy, hands-off funk. The palate is muted compared with the bombastic nose, with a creamy mouthfeel and a slightly bitter finish. —C.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$38

85 Ventosa 2021 Chardonnay (Seneca Lake). Confecting peach and popcorn aromas are amplified on the palate. It's midweight with some oak giving a toasty, vanillin edge to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

84 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2021 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Candied lemon, peach and Mandarin orange notes open, followed by a midweight palate that offers lemony acidity and finishes quickly. —C.P.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$17

84 Six Eighty Cellars 2021 Clayver Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Gold-hued and somewhat volatile, there are rich, sweet-fruited aromas of candied lemon, lime granita and peaches and cream with an apple cider vinegar tinge. Acidity is a touch shrill, and although the rich texture is mouthfilling, there isn't enough flavor here to make it work. —C.P.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$34

82 Adirondack Winery 2020 Barrel Aged Chardonnay (New York). It's as rich on the nose as you'd expect from the nectar color, with baked apple, candied melon, burnt buttered popcorn and mealy oak notes. The lactic palate is weighted down in oak, slight sour acidity and a short finish. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

88 Thirsty Owl Wine Company 2022 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). This is as richly honeyed as the light golden color suggests. The palate, however, is surprisingly dry, with subtle spiced apple and beeswax flavors, a viscous texture and lovely acidity to prop it up. This needs a savory pastry with a buttery shortcrust or a tangy, fruit-studded cheese beside it. —C.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

88 Toast Winery 2021 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Heady aromas of nutmeg and clove, ripe pineapple and candied lime lead to a bone-dry (almost jarringly so after the perfume) palate with a slippery texture and mouthwatering acidity. Sip with spicy Mexican or Southeast Asian cuisine. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

87 Silver Thread 2022 Gewürztraminer (Seneca Lake). A honeyed apple, pear and ginger combo on the nose flows to a palate that's mostly dry with gentle sweetness, a creamy texture and lightly ginger-fruited finish. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

86 Adirondack Winery 2021 Million Dollar Beach Gewürztraminer (New York). A heady, rich, honeyed perfume is slightly marred by a synthetic funk that flickers in and out of focus. A pointy-elbowed citrusy acidity lifts the creamy, mouthfilling palate. It's an intense, off-dry style that needs a salty, umami cheese to balance it. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

86 Boundary Breaks 2022 Medium Dry Gewürztraminer (Seneca Lake). Honeysuckle and citrus notes on the nose are heady, offering an appealing start. The palate is sweet and mouthfill-

ing. There's not as much acidity as this reviewer would like for such a rich dessert style, but if drunk chilled it could be buoyed by a tangy citrusy dessert. —C.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

86 Lamoreaux Landing 2021 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Aromas of candied ginger, honeysuckle and citrus abound in this pale gold Gewürztraminer. The palate is mostly dry with a round shape. It's wanting for some freshness and fruity verve but is generally balanced and food-friendly. —C.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

85 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2021 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). A lemon shortbread, ginger and nutmeg combo on the nose leads to a dry palate delivering a punch of acidity and a short finish. —C.P.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$19

85 Keuka Spring 2021 Classic Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). There's a slight struck match sulfuric note at first sniff of this medium gold-colored Gewürz. It's quickly followed by ripe, candied tropical and citrus fruit, ginger and floral aromas. The mouthfeel is round and rich with freshness but with a synthetic tinge that somewhat muffles the fruit. —C.P.

abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$20

84 Point of the Bluff 2020 Rooftop Reds Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Candied citrus, subtle florals and some reductive Band-Aid aromas open (aeration will help the latter blow off). There's very little in the way of flavor on the palate, more a combo of acidity and some textural weight, so drink this with richly flavored food to compensate. —C.P.

abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Bedell 2022 Melon de Bourgogne (North Fork of Long Island). Pear, ginger and beeswax aromas are underpinned by a saltier nuance. The palate is muffled flavor-wise but makes up for it in mouthfeel. It's rich and rounded but with well-integrated acidity to buoy it. This is a versatile, food-friendly drop that delivers year after year. —C.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Fjord 2022 Albariño (Hudson River Region). From the mid-Hudson Valley, north of NYC, this is an appealing Albariño from first sniff, offering up honeyed floral-citrus aromas like lemon-grass, honeysuckle and lime blossom. The palate is drier than the nose suggests, with well-integrated acidity and a slippery texture, and a spicy, almost saline flicker at the finish. —C.P.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$25

91 Milea 2022 Hudson Heritage Vignoles (Hudson River Region). Made by winemaker Bruce Tripp in collaboration with J. Stephen Casscles, one

of the Hudson River region's most respected grape historians and viticulturists, this Vignoles offers vibrant white peach, pear and citrus blossom aromas flecked in honey. The palate is where it really shines. While the flavor is muted, a silky, creamy texture and well-integrated acidity make up for it. This food-friendly tippie cries out for a cheese platter. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Sheldrake Point 2022 Beta Series Blanc de Gamay Noir Gamay Noir (Finger Lakes). This unusual white Gamay, from Sheldrake's experimental range, clocks in at just below 10% abv. The nose is fruity but restrained: white peach, grapefruit, lemon and floral aromas are succeeded by a dry, slightly creamy palate that shows drive, well-integrated, lime-like acidity and a stony mineral nuance. Yum. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 9.9% **Price:** \$24

90 Bedell 2022 Albariño (North Fork of Long Island). Zippy lime popsicle, peach sorbet and honeysuckle notes lead, followed by a slippery textured palate that's off-dry, the gentle honeyed sweetness buoyed by citrusy acidity. Drink now. —C.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

89 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2021 Amber Rkatsiteli (Finger Lakes). This skin contact white, from the Georgian grape variety Dr. Frank is known for, offers a rich, heady combo of floral, peach, citrus candy and tropical fruit perfume to start. The palate is almost surprisingly dry, with a glycerol texture cut through by crunchy acidity. This is an opulent white for the colder months, and an easy tippie for food pairings. —C.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

89 Goose Watch 2022 Viognier (Finger Lakes). A nose full of heady aromas hits straight away: grilled peach, citrus and green apple fruit with a dried herbal underbelly. The palate is lifted by tart apple-y acidity within a medium frame composed of chalky texture and fruit weight. This is a solid expression of a variety rarely seen in the Northeast. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Bedell 2022 Small Batch Series Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). This unusual white Cabernet Franc, made by Bedell's assistant winemaker, Marin Brennan, is bombastically fruity, with notes of watermelon Jolly Rancher and peach gummy rings to start. It's much quieter on the palate, with an intriguing texture, a salty edge and gentle fruit flavor. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$30

88 Milea 2022 Hudson Heritage Vidal Blanc (Hudson River Region). The brainchild of Hudson River grape historian J. Stephen Casscles and made by winemaker Bruce Tripp, this French hybrid white is a light gold color. Quite young and reductive at the moment, it needs more time in the bottle for the funk to subside and the tropical and

citrus fruit to shine. If the richly textured, spicy palate—with its jolt of fresh acidity—is anything to go by, it should settle into a fine, food-friendly bottling soon enough. —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Fox Run 2022 Simmons Vineyard Traminette (Finger Lakes). With time aerating in the glass, gentle notes of ground ginger, honeyed lemon and stone fruit lend a pleasant perfume to this slippery, slightly sweet-but-fresh bottling of Traminette. Sip well-chilled solo or with spicy Southeast Asian fare. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2021 Rkatsiteli (Finger Lakes). Currently quite reductive, the nutty, oniony notes perch atop confected citrus aromas. The palate is unexpectedly off-dry, the sugar noticeable at first sip, then freshened by mouthwatering acidity, with a peachy finish. —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

85 Millbrook 2022 Proprietor's Special Reserve Tocai Friulano (Hudson River Region). While dry overall, this rich, toffeed Tocai Friulano is reminiscent of a variety of desserts, from crème brûlée to baked apple crumble and lemon swirl. These characters only vaguely translate into flavor on the palate, where pinched acidity cuts through the light- to medium-bodied palate. What little flavor is there falls flat quickly. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

85 RGNV 2021 Viognier (North Fork of Long Island). This is as intensely honeyed as the medium-gold color suggests, with pear, kiwi and peach notes beneath. The slippery texture is buoyed by just enough acidity, although it's wanting for more drive and supple fruit flavor. —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$41

83 Goose Watch 2021 Dry Traminette (Finger Lakes). With an oniony, reductive start, this takes some swirling in the glass before the confected orchard fruit and honey start to show. There's viscous texture to the palate and shrill acidity amid a slight sweetness and a whisper of fruit. —C.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

83 Heron Hill 2021 Single Vineyard Reserve White Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). This honey-colored white Pinot Noir opens with subtle pressed yellow flower and melted butter aromas but virtually no fruit. The palate offers a gently creamy texture and a small lift of acidity. Props for creativity, unfortunately it's lacking flavor. —C.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

WHITE BLENDS

90 Heron Hill 2021 P-Three Reserve White Blend (Finger Lakes). Pale gold in hue, this unique white blend of Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir is pleasingly perfumed with floral, peach, honey and citrus aromas. It's midweight and almost

BUYINGGUIDE

surprisingly dry—even raspy—and tangy on the palate. While slightly rough and tumble, and lacking some of the nose’s charms, it’s still a solid drop for sipping with creamy young cheese or summery fare. —C.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$25

90 Keuka Spring NV Celebrate! White Blend (Finger Lakes). This blend of hybrid varieties deftly demonstrates that it’s not always the premium, “noble” varieties that can impress. It’s a highly perfumed drop with heady notes of honey and citrus blossom. There’s racy acidity that counteracts the hint of sugar, and an orange-and-lime flavor that lingers long on the finish. This would be a knockout with spicy fish tacos or shrimp ceviche. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$16

88 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards NV Schooner White White Blend (Finger Lakes). The color of runny honey, this is highly floral with orchard blossom and white peach aromas. The palate is mostly dry with a flicker of sweetness and more floral flavors flowing through to the finish. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$15

87 Keuka Spring 2021 Crooked Lane White White Blend (Finger Lakes). A nose of candied peach and lemon-lime with some white florals and ground ginger spice leads to a palate that’s slightly sweet with racy acidity and zesty, lime-driven flavors. Drink chilled with spicy Southeast Asian or Mexican cuisine. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$16

86 Ravines 2022 Field Notes White Blend (Finger Lakes). A blend of aromatic varieties makes for an intensely floral perfume of honeysuckle, lime blossom and jasmine. The dry palate is slippery with a prickle of tangy, lemongrass acidity and more floral notes to the finish. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$19

83 RGNV 2022 Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (North Fork of Long Island). This lemon juice-hued Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon blend, aged in amphorae, opens with aromas of vanilla and lemon-scented furniture polish. The palate is sliced with shrill acidity and a gently creamy texture, but it lacks the fruit to hold it all up. —C.P.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$41

SPARKLING WINES

94 Ravines 2017 Brut Champagne Blend (Finger Lakes). Made from traditional Champagne varieties (Chardonnay and Pinot) from the limestone soils of Argetsinger Vineyard, this is an opulent and complex bottling. A honeyed, grilled apple and pear note is brocaded with almond oil and toast. There’s exceptional concentration and acidity here, particularly for its age. A lovely texture is seamlessly integrated with tart apple-y acidity and

gentle fizz. Pair with honey-drizzled goat cheese and a fruit platter. *Editors’ Choice.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$40

93 Sparkling Pointe 2014 Séduction Brut Méthode Champenoise Champagne Blend (North Fork of Long Island). Opulent, intriguing aromas of honey roasted nuts, buttercups and grilled pineapple lead to a palate of equal intensity. There’s lovely textural weight that’s cut through by apple-like acidity and persistent fizz, with a salt-flecked buttered toast character to the long finish. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$70

92 Ravines 2017 Sparkling Riesling (Finger Lakes). Bright and fruity—even after four years on the lees—this is a likable bottling from first sniff, with an intriguing melon rind and green herbal edge to the candied citrus peel and bitter almond aromas. The richness of the palate is countered by mouthwatering acidity and persistent, prickly bubbles. A classy and distinctive style. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

90 RGNV 2022 Scielo Sparkling Riesling (North Fork of Long Island). A pale lemony color, this bright and bouncy bubbly Riesling smells of summer: lemon sorbet, white flower blossom and a wild field of grass and herbs. It’s bone-dry with a pithy mouthfeel, citrusy acidity and gentle fizz to the finish. —C.P.

abv: 10.9%

Price: \$31

90 Wild Arc Farm 2021 Mars Sparkling Rosato of Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). The color of freshly squeezed cherries, this is a raw, wild wine with summery vibes that recalls crimson-stained hands after berry-picking, and a field of herbs and wildflowers. The palate is dry and fruity, with a grip of skiny tannins, gentle carbonation, crunchy acidity and rain-soaked plant-and-damp earth nuances to the finish. Drink chilled and barefoot on a warm summer’s day. —C.P.

abv: 11.8%

Price: \$22

87 Sparkling Pointe NV Carnival Rosé Méthode Traditionnelle Sparkling Blend (North Fork of Long Island). This delicately pink *méthode traditionnelle* bubbly offers candied strawberry and red cherry notes, with a saline-and-spice edge. The fruity sweetness on the palate is buoyed by just enough acidity to prop it up, and there’s a mushroomy note at the finish. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$36

86 Boundary Breaks 2022 No.356 Bubbly Dry Sparkling Blend (Finger Lakes). Intensely fruity aromas of candied pineapple and melon lead to a palate that’s dry with a gentle prickle of fizz, more ripe fruit and fresh acidity to the finish. This makes for easy drinking when well chilled. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

86 Mazza Chautauqua Cellars NV The Perfect Bubbly Sparkling Blend (Lake Erie). An intensely perfumed, floral nose leads to an off-dry palate that whizzes and pops with fizz. The flavor

falls a little flat, but the bubbles and acidity make this an easy one to knock back. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$NA

83 Boundary Breaks 2021 GB Glitz Bubbly Gewürztraminer (Seneca Lake). Green apple candy, honey and Band-Aid aromas open this forced-carbonated fizz. The palate is off-dry with soft prickles of acidity and a short finish. —C.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$20

ROSÉS

83 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2021 Dry Rosé (Finger Lakes). Muffled and volatile, with a few good swirls this pink drink shows candied strawberry and cherry lozenge aromas with a yeasty, synthetic tinge. The palate is lightweight and watery, with a hint of berry cough syrup flavor. —C.P.

abv: 11%

Price: \$18

83 Rosina’s Winery 2022 Rosato Merlot Rosé (New York). The muted, yeasty nose offers faint aromas of red berries, florals and spice. It’s light-bodied with crisp acidity, muffled flavor and a short finish. —C.P.

abv: 11.9%

Price: \$NA

CABERNET FRANC

93 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Magdalena Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake). All the hallmarks of well-made Finger Lakes Cab Franc are here: dried herbs and ground pepper spice woven between raspberry and cherry fruit. It shows lovely ripeness and concentration. There’s a silky texture and intensity on the palate. The savory, herb-flecked tannins call for a plate of fatty cured meats or barbecue. A stellar effort. *Editors’ Choice.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

92 Millbrook 2021 Proprietor’s Special Reserve Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). For full review see page 11. *Editors’ Choice.*

abv: 13%

Price: \$45

92 Ravines 2021 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). There are some charred meat and mushroom undertones to this plump brambly berried Seneca Lake Cab Franc, with a dried herbal edge. Lovely plump cherry fruit concentration balances the tart acidity and austere, sappy tannins on this midweight red that’s perfect for in-between-season sipping. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$23

91 Hosmer 2022 Cabernet Franc (Cayuga Lake). This cherry juice-hued red dishes up pleasant varietal notes of white pepper, dried herbs and softly succulent red berries. It’s midweight with a silky mouthfeel, crisp acidity and a soft, savory spiced spine of tannins. A lovely, cool-climate expression. —C.P.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$26

90 Lamoreaux Landing 2019 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 15.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

90 Milea 2021 Sang's Estate Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). There's a sweet-and-spicy oak note, like cherry cola, cedar and cinnamon chewing gum, that, along with macerated black currant and herb aromas, comprises the nose. A lift of tangy berry acidity on the midweight palate rushes the satiny palate, the raspy tannins and wood influence framing. While the heavy bottle is unfortunate, and the oak a little heavy-handed, there's a sense of place and personality, nonetheless. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$45

88 Barnstormer 2020 Limited Production Series Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). A translucent strawberry color, this is a delicately perfumed bottling with spiced red berry, dried herb and rose aromas that lead to a similarly flavored, featherlight palate with pointy-edged acidity but just enough fruit to stand up. Tannins are gentle if a bit astringent. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$48

88 Hermann J. Wiemer 2022 Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake). A lift of cranberry and cherry fruit and peppery spice and dried herbs open, with some vanillin oak just below the surface. The palate is midweight with tangy, succulent fruit, lively acidity and a tug of raspy tannins. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$27

88 Rosina's Winery 2021 Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). Sweet-fruited bramble berry aromas open this Hudson River region wine, etched in dried herbs, dusty spice and vanilla notes. There's weight and richness to the palate, with chalky tannins and a tang to the macerated fruit flavors. —C.P.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$NA

87 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Plump red berry and dried herb aromas are coated in a sheen of sweet, vanillin oak. There's fruity succulence, lifted acidity and raspy, drying tannins on the midweight palate. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$43

87 RGNV 2021 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). This translucent, brick-colored Cab Franc kicks off with a heady, spice-and-floral combo of rose hand soap, cloves, ground pepper, dried strawberry and orange peel. The palate is more subdued with a slippery texture, gentle tannins and whispers of fruit and spice flavor. —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$55

86 Inspire Moore 2021 Wisdom Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). A translucent cherry color, this juicy Cab Franc offers strawberry, rhubarb and peppery spice with a featherlight frame and crunchy acidity. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

85 Freedom Run 2020 Estate Reserve Cabernet Franc (Niagara Escarpment). The cracked pepper, bay leaf and dried herbal aromas on this Cab Franc get jumbled together with the prominent, sweetly spiced oak influence. Black cherry and raspberry fruit peek through the cracks. It's comparatively dense on the palate, with raspy and drying oak muffling the fruit freshness. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

85 Lamoreaux Landing 2022 Estate Bottled T23 Unoaked Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Currently quite reductive, those sulfide aromas of onion and Band-Aid cling on even after vigorous swirling, and it's hard to get at the crunchy red fruit and peppery spice beneath. As a result, the palate is muted, with rough-hewn tannins but some nicely fresh acidity. Decant first if drinking now, but it might be better to wait a year or two. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

85 Millbrook 2021 Cabernet Franc (New York). Medicinal herbs and plush cherry notes are supported by quite prominent sweet, toasty oak influence. The palate shows some creamy texture, but it's overall thin with drying, oak-derived tannins and notes of spiced cherry cordial. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

BLAUFRÄNKISCH

93 Barnstormer 2022 Nutt Road Vineyard Blaufränkisch (Finger Lakes). Heady aromas of spiced plum, cranberry, white pepper and bay leaf lead on this perfumed bottling, which shows lovely concentration. There's a prominent tug of chalk dust tannins and a large helping of acidity, but the tangy fruit and savory characters hold their own to the long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

90 Milea 2021 Blaufränkisch (Hudson River Region). Spiced cherries and oranges, with chocolate, pepper and herbal undertones, open this appealing Hudson River region red. It's midweight with a tug of raspy, slightly astringent tannins and tart, elevated acidity. This rustic, between-seasons tippie stays true to variety. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

90 Weis 2021 Blaufränkisch (Finger Lakes). Plump red and blue berry aromas pop, underpinned by herbal, vanilla and smoked meat oak nuances. The lightweight palate lives up to the nose, offering fruit ripeness that fleshes out the tart cherry acidity and gentle thread of savory tannins. This makes for easy sipping with or without food. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$26

89 Barnstormer 2021 Blaufränkisch (Finger Lakes). A vibrant cherry juice color, this light and vibrant wine showcases wild herbs, flower stems and cherry jus vibes. It's made in an ultra-fresh, al dente style with porch-pounding appeal

but enough tannin structure to make it protein-friendly, too. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

85 Keuka Lake Vineyards 2022 Blaufränkisch (Finger Lakes). At the time of tasting, there was a prominent note of sweet butterscotch oak atop the red and black fruit and herb aromas. The palate shows nicely tangy fruit weight and freshness but again the oak flares up in the form of drying, raspy tannins. —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$30

PINOT NOIR

90 Millbrook 2022 Pinot Noir (New York). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

90 Millbrook 2021 Pinot Noir (New York). Gentle herb-flecked red berry aromas lead to a palate that's lightweight and refreshing, with a lift of tangy acidity, soft savory tannins and supple red berry fruit to the finish. There's some oak on display that could be better tucked, but overall this is a solid cool-climate Pinot from a long-standing Hudson Valley producer. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

90 Ravines 2020 Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Aromas of ground white and black pepper and cloves weave between cherry and raspberry fruit in this rose petal-colored Pinot. It's light on its feet with punchy acidity and a fine, taut line of savory, chalky tannins. This is a lean, cool-climate expression that should be drunk at room temp, and no colder. It would be lovely with a plate of fatty meats like charcuterie or duck. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$29

89 Wagner 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Tart, crunchy red fruit and peppery spice lead on this ultra-cool-climate Pinot. It's lightweight (almost skeletal) with mouthwatering acidity, red fruit and savory tannins that provide much needed structure and mouthfeel. —C.P.
abv: 12.1% Price: \$30

88 Heron Hill 2021 Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). A fire brick hue, this offers plenty of spice, stems and red berry cordial aromas. The bony palate is held together with tart cherry acidity and a balanced frame of chalky tannins. Drink with a plate of charcuterie on an early autumn or spring day. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$16

88 Rosina's Winery 2021 Pinot Noir (Hudson River Region). Gentle notes of plump strawberry and cranberry, a flicker of peppery spice and some creamy vanillin oak influence open this Hudson Valley bottling. There's a red berry tang to the midweight palate that offers lovely freshness and easy drinking—just be sure to sip this at room temperature and not too cool for optimum flavor. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

BUYINGGUIDE

88 Six Eighty Cellars 2021 Concrete Diamond Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). This translucent, raspberry-hued, super-cool-climate Pinot opens with medicinal herb and cherry lozenge aromas. It's featherlight with just a whisper of tannins, fresh acidity and a medicinal tinge to the gentle red berry fruit flavors. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$24

87 RGNV 2022 Pinot Noir (North Fork of Long Island). Housed in an unfortunately heavy bottle, this opens with notes of macerated red fruits in cinnamon and other baking spices. The palate doesn't quite follow through on the distinctive perfume of the nose, but there's still a nice tannin structure, lifted acidity and a short, spiced cherry finish. —C.P.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$50

86 Six Eighty Cellars 2021 Sandstone Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). The color of macerated cherries, there's a similar cherry-in-cooking-wine aroma mingled with notes of white pepper, dried herbs and a sun-warmed sidewalk. The light-bodied palate is ultrafresh with very soft tannins, more red berry flavor and a slight funk to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$42

85 Weis 2021 Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Rhu-barb and cherry preserves aromas are tinged in more acetone notes, with a good lick of green stemmy characters, too. The palate is lightweight but cinched in powerful, drying tannins, and the fruit seems to have left the party. —C.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

84 Adirondack Winery 2020 Barrel Aged Pinot Noir (New York). This brick-colored Pinot is showing quite a bit of both age and oak via drying fruit and spice and a sweet vanillin note. The lightweight palate offers lovely acidity and drying, oak-driven tannins. Drink up. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

OTHER RED WINES

88 Lakewood 2021 Lemberger (Finger Lakes). A light and pleasant nose-full of herb-flecked red berries and white pepper spice is followed by an even lighter weight palate that's fresh and crunchy with a gentle frame of tannins and spicy, tart red fruit appeal. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$20

87 Mazza Chautauqua Cellars 2019 Lemberger (Lake Erie). There are still some brambly red fruit notes on this wine, but the bottle age is showcasing the toasty, sweet oak influence quite prominently. There's some fruit weight and tannins that place the palate in the medium-bodied spectrum, but a lift of acidity keeps it fresh and drinkable on its own or alongside fatty meat dishes like pork belly. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Rosina's Winery 2021 Gamay Noir (Hudson River Region). A few good swirls in the glass unlock the cranberry-cherry jus, dried herb and mushroomy umami aromas. There's a good deal of sweet, coconut oak influence here, too. That oak-and-fruit combo vibe continues on the palate, where crunchy acidity and savory tannins add cool-climate energy, but the fruit holds its own, despite the overt oak. —C.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$NA

86 Keuka Spring 2021 Saperavi (Finger Lakes). A fruity nose of candied strawberry and cherry, with soft spice notes behind, leads to a light and juicy palate that's soft and squishy around the edges, with a line of acidity to brighten it. Drink up. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

85 Three Brothers 2020 Bourbon Cask Estate Barbera (Finger Lakes). This smells of cherry ChapStick, with some savory herbal notes and minty, toffee oak influence just below the surface. The midweight palate offers fruit concentration and tangy acidity, with soft tannins and a pungent tart red berry finish. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

RED BLENDS

90 Keuka Spring 2021 Crooked Lane Red Red Blend (Finger Lakes). There's a crowd-pleasing sweet berry aroma at first sniff of this hybrid-led red blend, like strawberries and cream or blueberry muffins. The palate is lightweight with lovely tangy, mouthwatering acidity that lifts the small amount of residual sugar. It's a straightforward, fruit-driven wine, but one that's very easy to knock back. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Ravines 2020 Maximilien Red Blend (Finger Lakes). When given time in the glass or decanter to open, this Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot blend offers gentle, dusty aromas of dark chocolate, raspberry cordial, black olive and baking spices. There's a lovely lift of acidity on the linear palate, the tart red fruit, savory spice and herb notes brocaded with sappy, cat's tongue tannins. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Milea 2021 Vincenza Reserve BDX Red Blend (New York). With a cherry-vanilla soft drink appeal to the nose, this is an ultrafresh, midweight red with mouthpuckering acidity and tart red berry flavors—fringed in herbs—to the end. A valiant effort in what was a cool, difficult vintage. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$45

88 RGNV 2022 Scielo Bordeaux-style Red Blend (North Fork of Long Island). There's a cool minty edge to this big Bordeaux blend. Tobacco, licorice and more dried herbal aromas follow. The currant and raspberry fruit are the last to show, after some aeration in the glass. The austere palate is full bodied (by New York standards), with ultrasavory,

sappy tannins and tart red fruit to the finish. Sip with a plate of fatty cured meats. —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$31

86 Heron Hill 2020 Reserve Cabernet Franc-Cabernet Sauvignon (Finger Lakes). Plump cherries edged in minty herbs and earthy spices are overlaid with a light gauze of sweet-and-sour oak notes. Tannins are drying and a touch aggressive on the full-bodied palate, but the fruit is just barely ripe enough to hold its own. It shows both varietals in a cool-climate style that may hold up another few years in the bottle. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Inspire Moore 2021 Truth Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Finger Lakes). A translucent brick color, this featherlight Bordeaux blend offers delicate wild strawberry, white pepper and dried herbal nuances. It's fresh with gentle tannins and a quiet macerated red berry flavor. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

86 Ventosa NV Saggio Series XIII Red Blend (Finger Lakes). Frankly, nonvintage bottlings aren't a bad idea in a climate as volatile as that of the Finger Lakes. For this wine, however, the blend of older wine makes it feel tired. Macerated cherry and raspberry aromas take a back seat to mint and roasting spices. The palate is a bit thin, the fruit on its way out. But there's still plenty of acidity and an herb-and-spice combo woven into the taut tannins. Drink up. —C.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$44

85 Buttonwood Grove NV Farm Blend Red Red Blend (Finger Lakes). There's some volatility here on the nose, which adds an acetone lift to the sweet cherry and raspberry fruit. The acidity is quite aggressive, but the fruit is ripe enough to offer a little weight and a silky texture. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

85 Inspire Moore 2021 Synchronicity Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Finger Lakes). This lightweight red blend opens with whispers of raspberry cordial and white pepper with a mealy note behind. There's more textural weight on the palate, gentle refreshing acidity and a tug of tannins in the background. This is an easy sipper for light red fans. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

85 Keuka Spring 2021 Miller's Cove Red Red Blend (Finger Lakes). Dense, raisiny fruit opens, with spice and minty oak notes behind. It's drier than the nose suggests. The residual sugar present acts as a thickener, making the wine feel dense and mouthfilling, but with a flavor that lacks the concentration to match. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$23

84 Ventosa NV Saggio Series XII Red Blend (Seneca Lake). This nonvintage red shows old wine characters of fading red fruit with cedar, dried mint and woody, baking spice notes. The palate isn't lacking in freshness or sappy, herbal tan-

nins, but it is in fruit and flavor, which seems to have fallen away. —C.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$39

83 Keuka Spring NV Clara's Red Red Blend (Finger Lakes). The color of strawberry juice, this New York red blend is closer to a northern Spanish rosé. It smells of cherry ChapStick and watermelon bubble gum. It's sweet and syrupy on the palate, with just enough acidity to buoy it. A wine for Kool-Aid drinkers. —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

88 Rosina's Winery 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Hudson River Region). This is a solid effort, particularly in a tough vintage for the Hudson River region, with fresh red berries edged in smoky, cedar-y spice, tobacco and graphite. There's succulent fruit and herb-flecked tannins amid racy acidity. Oak shows a touch more than this reviewer would like at first, but this wine will change after hours and days once open, so keep revisiting it for a different experience every time. —C.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

85 Adirondack Winery 2021 View from the Point Cabernet Sauvignon (New York). There's an appealing, distinctive smoked herb and spice on the nose, like a sage smudge stick, with tobacco and red cherry aromas. The palate is light and a bit thin, lacking some of the flavor the nose suggests might come, with very soft tannins and a pinch of acidity and oak. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

85 Fox Run 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Seneca Lake). This is a subdued cool-climate Cab showing whispers of mint and oak spice notes amid red fruit. The midweight palate is equally quiet, with lifted acidity and spicy, chunky tannins. It's hard to get much varietal character here. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

85 Knapp 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Finger Lakes). There's a sweet toasted coconut oak gauze atop the red fruit and spice notes on this cool-climate Cab. The tangy berry flavors hold their own on the palate, cinched by raspy, drying tannins and plenty of wood and acidity. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

SYRAH

91 Atwater 2022 Syrah (Finger Lakes). An unapologetically spicy Syrah, it explodes with ground peppercorn, clove and bay leaf. Only later do you notice the fresh cranberry and cherry fruit is very much there, too. A seam of racy acidity slices and dices the midweight palate. Here the tart red fruit really shines, succulent with a cool-climate crunch, tied in a bow with sappy, spice-flecked tannins. —C.P.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$42

89 Glenora 2021 Syrah (Finger Lakes). This is a tangy, lightweight, cool-climate Syrah. Just-ripe red berries, pepper and toasted spice flow from nose to palate. It's ultrafresh with a thread of sappy tannins that provide structure to the plump red fruit. Sip with a charcuterie board. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

89 Knapp 2021 Syrah (Finger Lakes). A toasted coconut note at first sniff mingles with cracked pepper, florals and fresh cranberry-blueberry aromas. The berry fruit continues on the palate amid mouthpuckering acidity and sappy tannins. This is a lightweight, ultra-cool-climate expression of this variety but not an underripe one. —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$26

88 Hector Wine Company 2020 Syrah (Seneca Lake). There's lovely dark berry fruit concentration on the nose, although a fair bit of toasty vanillin oak is on display, too. A peppery edge lets you know you're in cool-climate Syrah territory, as does the lift of crisp acidity on the palate. Tannins are a little barrel-driven and therefore astringent and drying, but the fruit intensity is there, too. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$34

MERLOT

90 Mazza Chautauqua Cellars 2019 Merlot (Long Island). A combo of raspberry, cherry and savory oak spice comprises the nose, while the ultrafresh palate, medium in weight, threads savory, almost smoky tannins through dark cherry flavors. This is solid pasta-with-red-sauce fare. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Knapp 2021 Merlot (Finger Lakes). An intriguing combo of aromas pop from the glass of this aromatic Merlot, from minty herbs to woody, cedar-y spice and a whisper of cranberry-raspberry fruit. A tart blueberry acidity and savory, drying tannins preside over the nose, but the fruit stands its ground. This is not your typical Merlot (it screams cool climate and cool vintage), but an appealing red for the warmer months, nonetheless. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

87 Keuka Spring 2021 Merlot (Finger Lakes). Quiet strawberry aromas whisper, while the featherlight palate is fresh with some viscosity to the texture and a red berry and spice touch at the finish. Chill it slightly to enjoy easy summertime sipping. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

85 Adirondack Winery 2021 Lake George Fireworks Merlot (New York). Candied red berries, pressed red flowers and spiced hand soap comprise the nose of this pleasant if somewhat synthetic aroma profile. The palate is lightweight with quiet flavors leading a short finish. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

85 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2020 Merlot (Finger Lakes). This is as dense on the nose as the crimson color (darker than your average New York Merlot) suggests. Raisiny fruit and spice, like Christmas cake or spiced mixed berry jam, lead. There's a little minty oak showing. That oak influence ramps up on the palate. It makes the tannins feel dry and raspy and wrestles out all the succulent fruit. —C.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$31

DESSERT WINES

89 Three Brothers 2017 Stony Lonesome Tawny Port (Finger Lakes). Conjure a milky iced coffee both in color and aroma, with some chocolate and date notes, too, and this is what you get in color, aroma and flavor on this Tawny Port-style wine. There's a burn of alcohol and plenty of sweetness, but lots of acidity to boot. —C.P.
abv: 21% **Price:** \$50

87 Barnstormer 2022 Sheldrake Point Vineyard Late Harvest Riesling (Finger Lakes). An intensely rich and slightly volatile nose of orange custard, lemon drop candy, butter shortcrust, marzipan and mushroom leads to a sweet, concentrated palate. The acidity is there, but it's still wine for the sweetest of sweet tooths among us. Drink well-chilled with salty blue cheese, and only by the thimble-full. —C.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

86 Millbrook 2021 Late Harvest Vineyard Selection Traminette (Hudson River Region). This toffee-colored dessert wine is bold and volatile in style, with notes of acetone, resin and dried pineapple. It's both intensely sweet and intensely acidic. Amid the richness and concentration, tangy fruit flavors do make their way through. —C.P.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$38

85 Adirondack Winery 2021 Frozen Over Vidal Blanc (New York). A lemon cake and candied lime nose flows to a palate that's intensely saccharine. There's just enough acidity to keep this from nose-diving into sickly sweet territory, but it's not for the faint of heart. Drink well-chilled with a citrusy dessert or very salty aged cheese. —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

96 Mindego Ridge 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). This bottling begins with a fantastically dynamic nose, offering shiso, lemongrass, water chestnut and white flower aromas on a tightly woven frame. The palate pops with a minty sense of yuzu and more lemongrass, leaving a sensation in the mouth as flavors of crisp, white-fleshed fruit shine. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$48

BUYINGGUIDE

95 Testarossa 2022 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Complex aromas of lemon glaze and green melon meet with verbena and wild herb on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is spritzy in lemon peel and flesh flavors, with warmer hints of nectarine fighting in compelling ways against the tightly grained structure. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$57

94 Ernest 2021 Edaphos Alder Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino County). This wine is exuberant, lush, with aromas of Pink Lady apple, orange blossom, Kaffir lime, on the nose. The palate is pink grapefruit, freshly crushed green herbs, descending into green apple, spearmint, lemon honey, finishing with orange zest and mineral. This is a classic example of fruit from this vineyard. Beautiful. Pair with steamed crab and butter. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

94 Hartford Court 2021 Radian Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Aromas of lemon peel, wet stone, waxy apple and a hint of chalk show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very chalky in texture, giving a firm platform to present flavors of buttered nectarine, sea salt and coconut flake. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

94 Marbeso 2021 Kessler-Haak Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Buttered nectarine and peach aromas show up front on the nose of this bottling, and then come compelling waves of stone and plaster of Paris. The palate is high-acid and high-texture, presenting complementary flavors of zippy lime zest, oyster shell and just a hint of lemon curd. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$36

94 Paul Lato 2021 Le Souvenir Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). The nose of this single-vineyard expression excites on all fronts, showing chiseled stone and grapefruit peel against a more generous Meyer lemon curd element. The palate is focused and direct, delivering citrus peel and wet stone flavors that cut through the sea salt and apricot core. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 ACE 1542 2020 Arroyo Grande Valley Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast). Fresh and easygoing aromas of peach, buttercream and wet stone are full yet delicate on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense in structure and dusted in earthy elements, as lemon and nectarine flavors lead into a salty finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Bonterra 2022 Estate Collection Chardonnay (Mendocino). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$22

93 Bonterra 2022 The Roost Chardonnay (Mendocino). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

93 Copain Wines 2021 Brosseau Vineyard Chardonnay (Chalone). One of the few brands proudly proclaiming ingredients on the bottle, this bottling reflects the stony, rocky nature of Chalone, starting with aromas of crushed rocks, Meyer lemon curd and Asian pear. It's tightly woven and restrained in that regional style, as lemon rind, almond and light honey take a backseat to the impressively rocky mineral flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$70

93 Lava Cap 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (El Dorado County). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$24

93 Madson 2022 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). This brand is one of the most exciting in California right now, and this appellation cuvée's slightly higher production numbers should provide more with a chance to try it. The sharp, focused nose offers aromas of lemon peels and tangerine pith on a dusty orchard floor. The palate is layered in dust, rock and citrus peel flavors, with a clean, crisp sense of lime flesh on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$36

93 Madson 2022 Ascona Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Pithy aromas of lemon peel meet with earthy hints of plaster of Paris and crushed rock on the nose of this bottling. The rocky texture of the palate frames more rock, dust and clay flavors with an underlying base of light lime tonic also arising. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$48

93 Outward 2022 Bassi Vineyard Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast). Lively aromas of pomelo and lime peel undercut the warmer hints of popcorn and lemon syrup on the nose of this bottling from an oceanview vineyard. The brisk, acid-driven palate is extremely pithy in texture, offering yuzu peel and underripe Asian pear flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Prima Materia 2022 Chardonnay (Kelsey Bench). This wine is rich, sumptuous, with aromas of baked peaches, grilled oranges, brioche, clove, allspice on the nose. The palate is peaches, vanilla cream, white grapefruit, dried savory green herbs intertwined with toasted vanilla oak, stony rocky to finish. Pair with fried catfish. —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

93 Red Stitch 2022 Sierra Mar Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Enticing layers of Meyer lemon, softened butter, white flower and blanched almond show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression produced by professional baseball proprietors Rich Aurilia and Dave Roberts. The palate is sharp in acidity and stony in minerality, with a creamy, rich core. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

93 Sinor-LaVallee 2021 White Label Bassi Vineyard Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo County).

Preserved lemon and crisp apple flesh flavors are balanced by hazelnut and a flinty minerality on the nose of this bottling. The briny palate reflects the oceanview setting of this vineyard, showing salty flavors of white peach and lime-soaked jicama, with a touch of macadamia nut on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$42

93 Testarossa 2022 Rincon Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley). Clean aromas of coconut, jasmine, peach and plumeria are quite prominent on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fleshy with nectarine and melon flavors that are balanced by lemon zest and a savory sea salt note. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$57

92 Albatross Ridge 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Monterey). A golden hue in the glass, this bottling offers white flower, dried apricot and crushed rocks on the nose. There's a chalky tension to the palate, where golden apple and citrus peel flavors meet with a flinty minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$72

92 Butter Knife 2021 Chardonnay (California). Electric, Golden Delicious apple, fresh caramel apple, spiced orange on the nose. The palate is orange cream, vanilla cream, brandied peaches, clove, orange-blossom honey, dropping into ripe apricot, vanilla spice and a dry finish. Pair with your favorite charcuterie board. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

92 Doctor's Orders 2017 Meadow Farm Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). This is a truly hidden vineyard on an estate in the tony region of Santa Barbara known as Hope Ranch. This vintage offers wet chalk and sharp lemon blossom aromas on the nose. The palate shows tart lemon peel and flesh, with more rounded nectarine and hazelnut flavors emerging by the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$35

92 Hartford 2021 Chardonnay (Marin County). This wine is zesty and lively, with aromas of yellow apple, sweet pear, Meyer lemon and vanilla cream. Other notes waft through, including white grapefruit, tangerine, guava and allspice. Layers of dried herb, rock and minerality bring everything together. Pair with skate wing in brown butter sauce. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

92 La Crema 2021 Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Rounded pear aromas are cut by sharp apple skin and lime pith elements on the nose of this energetic bottling. The palate is very tightly wound and chalky, with mouthwatering flavors of lime and orange pith. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

92 Lula 2021 Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of Fuji apple, Bosc pear, fresh pineapple and orange zest. The wine is crisp, with white nectarine, Golden

Delicious apple, pink grapefruit and dried herbs. Layers of lightly toasted oak, rock and minerality bring everything together. Pair with grilled salmon. —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

92 McGrail 2022 Charlie Rae Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This wine is rich, lush, ripe stone fruits, citrus, white flowers, intertwined cinnamon, clove, orange zest and white tea. The final sip concludes with baked pear, fresh butterscotch, caramel bundled in good acidity. There is barrel aging, which gives the wine lots of complexity and room for aging. Drink now–2028 —T.P.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$38

92 Mon Frère 2022 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$12

92 Summerland 2021 Spear Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Honeyed, lightly tropical aromas of green melon and pineapple show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is generous in pineapple flavors and a fleshy texture, yet remains well-structured and acid-washed throughout the sip. —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$55

92 Testarossa 2021 Brosseau Vineyard Chardonnay (Chalone). Hazelnut, sandalwood and honeysuckle aromas meet with a slightly tonic scent on the nose of this bottling. The palate is chalky at first, opening into flavors of apricot, nectarine and lemon with nutty warmth on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$55

91 Diora 2021 La Grande Lumière San Bernabe Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey). Warm aromas of hazelnut, cashew cream, salted peach and butter show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is creamy in texture but sports a lemon peel edge, offering apricot and toasted almond toward the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

91 Freakshow 2022 Chardonnay (Lodi). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

91 Summerland 2021 Unoaked Hilltop Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Crushed rock and gravel aromas meet with lemon and melon on the earthy nose of this bottling. The palate is tightly woven with a mineral-driven flavor set of more stone and dust, as almond and cream touches arise into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$50

91 Testarossa 2022 Rosella's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Lightly buttered popcorn and lemon curd aromas meet with oak spice on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the sip, offering lean flavors of lemon pith, crisp apple and delicately soft butter. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$57

91 Wente Vineyards 2022 Riva Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). For full review see page 14.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

90 Albatross Ridge 2019 Cuvée Beaudry Chardonnay (Monterey). Clean and light aromas of nectarine, apricot, sea salt and almond cream on the nose of this zesty bottling. The palate's apple and pear flavors are cut by a slightly tart citrus kick. —M.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$55

90 Altisima 2021 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Stony aromas meet with lime balm and buttered brioche on the nose of this bottling. The palate is lean and subtle with almond, lemon peel and white melon flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$42

90 Cannonball 2022 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

90 Crossbow 2021 Chardonnay (North Coast). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

90 CRU 2021 Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

90 Fly By 2021 Chardonnay (North Coast). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5

Price: \$13

90 Grevino 2013 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). This estate brand, whose vineyards recently sold, is releasing older vintage bottlings, and this decade-old Chardonnay is standing the test of time. Golden in the glass, it offers cashew paste, paraffin and honeyed pear on the nose. The palate is hefty in flavors of toasted hazelnut and butter cookie, retaining ample energy. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$35

90 Kirkland Signature 2022 Chardonnay (California). This wine is juicy, concentrated yet surprisingly dry with tropical notes of pineapple, papaya, white nectarine drifting into fresh stone fruit, hints of florals, baking spice and finishing dry with lemon zest and vanilla crème brûlée. This is a Chardonnay lover's dream for everyday imbibing. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$9/1.5 L

90 Noble Vines 2022 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$12

90 Oro Bello 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi). This wine is driven by Golden Delicious apple, orange vanilla cream and green papaya. Other notes waft through, including lemon honey, cardamon, orange zest and pineapple. Layers of rocky sediment

and minerality bring it together. Pair with grilled tombo tuna. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

90 Ramsay 2022 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

90 Saint K 2022 Never Really Loved You Anyway Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).

Warm aromas of hazelnut, baked peach, toasted coconut and sandalwood are inviting on the nose of this bottling. The palate kicks off with grippy tension and zesty acidity before opening into white peach, toasted macadamia nut and coconut flavors, reminiscent of a Hawaiian vacation. —M.K.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$30

90 Scheid 2019 Escolle Road Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey). Lemon peel and tangerine rind aromas are cut by dust on the nose of this bottling. Dried lemon peel and peach flavors meet with more earthy tones on the pleasant palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$50

90 Theopolis 2022 Theo-patra's Cuvée Blanc Chardonnay (California). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of baked stone fruit, apricot, melon and lemon merigue. Other notes waft through, including cantaloupe, grilled orange, brûléed banana and dried chamomile. Layers of toasty oak, earth and minerality bring everything together. Pair with fish, seafood or creamed pasta. —T.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$25

90 Tlo 2022 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Clean aromas of nectarine, peach blossom and buttercream make for a complex though familiar nose on this bottling. The texture is chalky as is the entry to the flavors, though then comes a buttery richness as well as hints of salted peach and pound cake. —M.K.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$40

90 Tlo 2021 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Toasty aromas of peanut, popcorn and salted butter are pleasantly rich on the nose of this bottling. The palate follows a similar track, offering flavors of baked apple and cinnamon-laced pie crust. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$40

90 Wellsley Farm 2021 Chardonnay (California). This wine is zippy! The aromas are fresh pineapple, cantaloupe, white grapefruit, honeydew melon on the nose. The palate repeats ripe melon, pineapple, crushed apples, cinnamon, vanilla pastry cream sliding into peaches and cream with orange zest. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$7

89 Blue Canyon 2022 Chardonnay (Monterey). Sharp lime aromas cut through warmer hints of nectarine and white flowers on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bouquet of jasmine, plumeria and white melon flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

BUYINGGUIDE

89 Daou 2022 Bodyguard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Very golden in the glass, this ripe style of Chardonnay starts with hazelnut, honey and apple juice aromas on the nose. The palate pairs baked apple with cinnamon stick and vanilla dust flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

89 La Crema 2022 Chardonnay (Monterey). Baked peach and almond brittle aromas make for a toasty, warm entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate is waxy and viscous in texture, showing generous peach and lemon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 La Fata 2021 Pillars & Principles Chardonnay (Santa Ynez Valley). Salted Pink Lady apple aromas meet with Asian pear and pithy chalk tones on the nose of this bottling. Warm flavors of macadamia nut and baked pear meet with toasted marshmallow on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$54

89 Peltzer Family 2022 Chardonnay (Monterey). Quite aromatic in the glass, this bottling offers tropical notes of plumeria, pineapple, coconut and lemongrass on the nose. Those same elements pop on the sip, leveled by a tighter hit of citrus peel. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Scheid 2022 Isabelle's Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey). Toasted coconut, banana and plumeria aromas make for a very tropical bottling from this vineyard named after late founder Al Scheid's mother. The palate is more vibrant and pinpoint in flavors, with banana being most prevalent. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Austin NV Barrel No. 22 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). A darker golden hue in the glass, this bottling is very rich and familiar in the California style, showing yellow peach, vanilla and marshmallow aromas on the nose. The palate is enlivened by a lively acidity that cuts into the creamy baked pineapple and salty marshmallow flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Grevino 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Nutty, wooly and earthy aromas make for a unique nose on this bottling, which offers citrus peel and baked pecan scents. The palate is loaded with acidity and wrapped in an earthy grip, offering citrus peel and wet soil flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36

88 Le Vigne 2022 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Toasty aromas of hazelnut meet with melted butter and jasmine on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very rich and expansive, offering plumeria, tuberose and toasty almond flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

88 Z. Alexander Brown 2022 Uncaged Chardonnay (Monterey). This is a very clean and enjoyable Chardonnay for those who seek out tropi-

cal styles. Aromas of coconut, peach, pear and light caramel lead into a zesty palate of candied pear and jasmine. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Apaltagua 2022 Estate Grown Unoaked Reserva Chardonnay (San Antonio Valley). This unoaked Chardonnay is austere in character. The nose displays citrus fruit aromas that echo on the palate. Gentle kiwi, lemon and stone fruit flavors are pleasant and lead to a short finish. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

SAUVIGNON BLANC

93 Castoro Cellars 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Impressively submitted for review in the same year that it was made, this bottling is, not surprisingly, superfresh, but it's also just a great Sauvignon Blanc. Lively aromas of lime peel, chopped grass, kiwi and rainy concrete decorate the nose, while the palate is boosted by a zesty, citrus-powered acidity and a stony grip, with grass clippings most prevalent. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

93 Grimm's Bluff 2020 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). This biodynamically planted vineyard is really starting to shine, especially in this vivid, stony Sauvignon Blanc. Brisk aromas of lime peel and crushed cement meet with a mossy seashore vibe on the nose. The palate has a granite-like grip and a steadily sizzling acidity, offering more lime, briny seashore and cut grass flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$58

92 Margerum 2023 Sybarite Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). For full review see page 11. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$26

92 Thal Vineyards 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lamorinda). The wine is opulent, lush with aromas of apricot, candied peaches, pomelos, perfumed white flowers on the nose. The palate is fresh, crisp white nectarine, yellow plums, pink grapefruit wafting into cracked white pepper, fresh herbs and a juicy dry finish. Pair with whole salt-crusted black cod. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Brassfield 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 13.74% **Price:** \$22

90 Chateau Souverain 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). For full review see page 20.
Best Buy.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$12

90 Fly By 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). The wine is fresh, bright, with aromas of orange blossom, mangos, pineapple with zippy acidity. The palate is tropical fruits, lemon meringue

pie, white flowers gliding into firm white nectarines, allspice, brine and a mouthwatering finish. Pair with grilled gulf prawns. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Gambler's Ghost 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). For full review see page 21.
Best Buy.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Lightside 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). For full review see page 21. **Best Buy.**
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Peltzer Family 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley). Wet rocks, mild peach and cut grass aromas make for a mellow nose on this thirst-quencher. Lime peel and ripe stone fruit flavors are lifted by a pinch of white pepper on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$38

89 Treana 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Familiar aromas of cut grass and lime peel meet with rainy sidewalks on the nose of this bottling. Granny Smith apple peel and lime pith flavors show on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Villa San-Juliette 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Very pale in the glass, this bottling is subdued on the nose with aromas of peach, lime and grass. The palate proves refreshing if simple, with lime peel, Key lime pie and a hint of peach on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

88 Lucas & Lewellen 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Very light in the glass, this bottling is very subtle on the nose, offering light apple, white flower and wet stone aromas. The palate is also very subtle, showing hints of citrus and stone fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

87 La Fata 2021 Awakened Joy Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). This is a surprisingly rich style of Sauv Blanc, starting with aromas of baked apple, honey and toasted nuts, almost like a buttery Chardonnay. The palate offers baked apple, sea salt and oak smoke flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

PINOT GRIGIO

91 Brassfield 2022 Estate Pinot Gris (High Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$22

90 Sand Point 2023 Pinot Grigio (California). For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

90 The Simple Grape 2022 Pinot Grigio (California). This wine is superfresh, ripe citrus, dried herbs, white pepper, gliding into zesty pink

grapefruit, dried cumin, and fennel seed. The finish is long, strong with cracked black pepper. One of the movements in wine is “less is more.” This one does not disappoint. It is offering low-alcohol, low carbs, sustainable production and a charity component. Pair with fish tacos, seafood and lighter fare. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

89 La Crema 2022 Pinot Gris (Monterey). Nectarine, Asian pear and Meyer lemon peel converge for a pleasant, easygoing nose on this bottling. The palate snaps with citrus and apple flesh flavors, proving flavorful if a bit simple. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

ALBARIÑO

94 Monochrome 2022 Barrel Distortion Albariño (California). This is a very accessible and easy-to-enjoy wine, yet one that’s serious in all the right ways. Aromas of citrus, stone fruit and lemongrass, which seems to pervade the vintage for this producer, draw the nose into the glass. The palate is wrapped in a chalky grip, presenting flavors of apple, lime and pear, with a hint of white flower on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$48

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2022 Albariño (San Francisco Bay). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of cantaloupe, guava, green papaya and dried herb. The midpalate is juicy with flavors of tangerine, Kaffir lime, English cucumber and green almond. Layers of sedimentary rock and minerality bring this together. Pair with salmon. —T.P.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$23

90 Peltzer Family 2022 Albariño (Temecula Valley). This is a very subtle, delicate style of Albariño, starting with aromas of lemon blossom and light peach flesh. The palate is also pleasantly subtle, with peach and candied pear flavors that are bolstered by a pinpoint, lemon-like acidity and a peppery spice that pops on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 12.1%

Price: \$34

90 Wine Without Borders 2022 Albariño (San Francisco Bay). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of cantaloupe, guava, green papaya and dried herb. The midpalate is juicy with flavors of tangerine, Kaffir lime, English cucumber and green almond. Layers of sedimentary rock and minerality bring this together. Pair with salmon. —T.P.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$23

89 Wiens Cellars 2022 Albariño (Temecula Valley). This is a denser style of Albariño, starting with aromas of peach jam, almond flake and grass on the nose. The palate offers warmer white peach flavors cut by green apple and lime. —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$28

88 Bolero at Europa Village 2022 Albariño (Temecula Valley). A light hue in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of lime peel and grass on

the slightly vinous nose. The palate is crisp with more lime peel and just a hint of grass. —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$40

CHENIN BLANC

93 Madson 2022 Old Vines Chenin Blanc (Santa Barbara County). The nose on this bottling intrigues enough that it requires repeated sniffs to unveil the waves of preserved lemon, wool and lightly toasted aromas. There’s a leathery grip to the palate, where baked lemon and apple pie spices meet with a stony streak. —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$32

93 Thacher 2022 Shell Creek Vineyard Own-Rooted Chenin Blanc (Paso Robles Highlands District). Tightly wound aromas of pear flesh, Key lime peel, wet wool and crushed rocks show on the nose of this bottling from own-rooted vines. It’s zippy and fresh on the palate, where pineapple rind, fresh citrus and ample wet stone flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 11.9%

Price: \$45

92 Outward 2022 Shell Creek Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Paso Robles Highlands District). Bright lemon peel and a faint hint of nectarine meet with earthy wool aromas on the nose of this bottling. There’s a very tight, even leathery grip to the sip, where a zippy acidity cuts through rounded citrus flavors that linger long and stay fresh in the fridge for days. —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$34

91 RZN 2022 The Lightning Issue Tres Hermanas Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Barbara County). This 0:0 bottling, meaning absolutely no additions at all, including sulfur, appears a touch cloudy in the glass, offering tart aromas of lemon preserves, Asian pear and crisp stone fruit. There’s a very stony grip to the palate, where a range of citrus aromas, from lemon to lime to grapefruit peel, show a wild side. —M.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$30

90 LangeTwins 2023 Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). For full review see page 16.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$27

CLAIRETTE BLANCHE

94 RZN 2022 The Love Letters Issue Nolan Ranch Vineyard Clairette Blanche (Santa Barbara County). This is one of the more exciting white wines of late, and possibly the best stab at Clairette Blanche yet from the Central Coast. Clean aromas of nectarine, blanched almond and lemon glaze lead into a grippy palate that simmers with acidity, adding pear peel and brisk apple to the mix. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

93 Fulldraw 2021 Drift Clairette Blanche (Paso Robles). This bottling, which includes 8%

Grenache Blanc, is the more bold of this estate’s white wines, and takes Clairette Blanche in excitingly rich directions. Aromas of macadamia nut, marzipan and spice-dusted baked apples show on the nose. The rich body would be an epic alternative for bold Chardonnay, with sea salt caramel, crème brûlée and peach meringue flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$65

91 Acquiesce 2022 Clairette Blanche (Mokelumne River). This wine is rich, lively and supple. The wine has aromas of unripe yellow apple, pear and dried herbs. Other notes waft through, including orange blossom, pink grapefruit zest, jasmine tea and dried bay leaf. Layers of earth and minerality continue throughout the palate to create a long, dry finish. The varietal is originally grown throughout France. It is used in still and sparkling wine because of its great minerality. —T.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$34

VIOGNIER

92 Acquiesce 2022 Viognier (Mokelumne River). This wine is fresh, bright and supple, with aromas of white nectarine, dried apricot, yellow apple and white floral. Other notes waft through, including white tea, white grapefruit zest, honeysuckle blossom and dried bay leaf. Layers of earth and minerality bring everything together to create a long, silky finish. Pair with lobster roll. —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$42

91 Sunstone 2022 Viognier (Santa Barbara County). Ripe peach, pineapple and banana flower aromas meet with a steely edge on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines fleshy, creamy coconut and tropical fruit flavors with just enough white-flower finesse. —M.K.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$35

90 Lava Cap 2022 Estate Viognier (El Dorado). For full review see page 16.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$28

86 La Fata 2021 Anna’s Breath Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley). Smoked chicken and apricot sauce aromas show on the very woody nose of this bottling, which also includes 20% Roussanne. Baked peach flavors arise on the palate, which is dense in oak and caramel flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$45

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Monochrome 2022 Center Tone ONX Estate Vineyard Grenache Gris (California). If ever planted more, Grenache Gris stands to be a superstar grape, and this bottling reveals its wonders. Quite pale in the glass, it begins with vibrant aromas of just-ripe cantaloupe and tangerine peel. The texture is extremely tense on the palate, where Meyer lemon, apricot and melon rind flavors work in harmony. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$48

93 Fulldraw 2021 Bamboo Grenache Blanc (Paso Robles). A golden hue in the glass, this bottling, which includes 4% Clairette Blanche, represents the lighter white blend for this estate, but it still brings weight to the table. Aromas of nectarine, melon, grated almond and Meyer lemon lead from the clean nose into a robust palate with flavors of yellow apple and more light almond. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Giornata 2022 Fatto a Mano Falanghina (Paso Robles). Falanghina is an ideal grape for orange wine, able to retain many edgy elements even through the skin fermentation. This bottling offers green apple, lemon verbena and kumquat aromas on the nose. The palate sizzles with a precise acidity that cuts through the fun flavors of apple, lime and, somehow, rosemary. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Giornata 2022 Bianco Fatto e Mano Serie Barbera (Paso Robles). This white wine made from red Barbera grapes is quite eye-opening. Showing a slight fizz in the glass, the wine begins with aromas of wet clay and Bosc pear. The palate is zippy and fun, offering citrusy lime, lemon and mandarin peel flavors, with Asian pear at the core. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

92 Markus Wine Co 2022 Nativo Kerner (Lodi). This wine has aromas of yellow apple, Granny Smith apple, white peach, white flowers while the midpalate transitions into orange cream, dried spices and fresh herbs. The finish is dry but beckons the drinker to take another sip. Lodi has long been a best-kept secret for aromatic white wines. This one does not disappoint. Kerner is usually grown in Northern Italy. Pair with lighter fare, pasta and poultry. —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$24

92 Saint K 2022 Flower Bomb Malvasia Bianca (Paso Robles Highlands District). Malvasia Bianca can be a bombastic variety, but winemaker Chris Kiranbay uses his multivintage experience with the grape to tone down the flowers and up the textural minerality. The palate sizzles with acidity as lemon blossom, orange rind and white pepper flavors align. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30

91 Acquiesce 2022 Picpoul Blanc (Mokelumne River). This wine is zesty and lively, with aromas of Golden Delicious apple, pear, white grapefruit zest and dried marigold. Other notes waft through, including kiwi, Asian pear, pepper jam, white tea and orange-blossom honey. Layers of sedimentary rock and minerality make this an excellent pairing for oysters and any fresh seafood. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

91 Giornata 2022 Fatto a Mano Fiano (Paso Robles). A yellowish shade of orange in the glass, this skin-fermented Fiano offers aromas of chamomile, lemon blossom and baked tangerine on

the nose. The palate is earthy and grippy in texture, offering dried melon and tart lemon peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Grevino 2013 Riesling (Santa Maria Valley). A golden hue in the glass, this slightly sweet Riesling will satisfy fans of the viscous style. Aromas of hazelnut, orange rind and petrol lead from the nose into a baked golden apple, honey-drizzled apricot and candied pecan on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

91 Tribeca 2022 Leonard Street Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley). A very golden color in the glass, this bottling explores the denser side of Grüner, offering aromas of melon rind, dried grass clippings and toasted nuts. The richly textured palate is cut by citrus-peel acidity and a wet-clay minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Wiens Cellars 2022 Fiano (Temecula Valley). Fiano is from the warmer parts of Southern Italy, so it's no surprise that it works well in Southern California. This bottling begins with rounded aromas of apple, lime and wet stone, leading into a tense palate of yellow apple with floral hints of jasmine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$28

91 Wiens Cellars 2022 Vermentino (Temecula Valley). Smoothed out aromas of stone fruit, citrus peel and pink grapefruit flesh make for a tightly wound nose on this bottling. The palate is wrapped in a pithy grip that stays tight and bright with apple cider and citrus flavors into this finish. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

90 Acquiesce 2022 Roussanne (Mokelumne River). This wine is fresh and supple, with aromas of nectarine, apricot, yellow apple and apple blossoms. Other notes waft through, including Meyer lemon, Asian pear, lime custard and fresh green herbs. Layers of stone fruit, honeysuckle, sedimentary rock and minerality bring everything together for a long, dry finish. Pair with roasted duck, foie gras and soft cheese. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

90 Doctor's Orders 2021 Muscat of Alexandria (Santa Barbara County). It's exciting to taste this ancient grape, which is rarely presented alone and as a still wine in California. Enticing aromas of pineapple, passion fruit and stone fruit are cut by grassy notes on the nose. The palate bridges zesty lime peel with riper green melon flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Ernest 2022 Edaphos Picpoul (Lodi). This wine is zesty and lively, with aromas of pineapple, yellow apple, Meyer lemon and honeysuckle. Other notes waft through, including white grapefruit, blood orange, guava and chamomile.

Layers of dried herb, rock and minerality bring everything together. —T.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Doctor's Orders 2021 Malvasia Bianca (Santa Barbara County). Malvasia Bianca is a very assertive grape with heavily floral and tropical elements, meaning people tend to love it or hate it. This lets those aspects loose, offering aromas of orange blossom, plumeria and fresh pineapple on the nose. The palate is clean and fresh and loaded with orange-blossom candy and coconut oil flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

WHITE BLENDS

94 Epoch 2022 White White Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This is always an exciting white wine from Paso, and 2022's blend of 56% Grenache Blanc, 39% Viognier and 5% Roussanne is one of the best yet. Aromas of white flower, citrus pith and wet stone lead from the nose into a palate layered in bright, clean flavors of nectarine and chalk. Very grippy in texture, the flavors manage to stay light and delicate yet ever expressive. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

94 Monochrome 2022 By The Book White Blend (California). Winemaker Dave McGee is finding and promoting unique Central Coast grapes like Albillo Mayor, which makes up 88% of this blend alongside Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier. Aromas of peach, lime, wet rocks and subtle mint lead from the nose into a grippy palate of crisp nectarine and aromatic apple slices. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$48

93 Monochrome 2022 Vibrance White Blend (California). There's an intriguing shiso leaf mintiness on the nose of this blend of Vermentino and 13% Viognier from Paso Robles, which also offers honeydew flesh and lemongrass. The firmly textured palate presents stone fruit, Asian pear and more of that lemongrass freshness. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

92 Acquiesce 2022 Ingénue White Blend (Mokelumne River). This wine is rich, lively and supple, with aromas of ripe Golden Delicious apple, white nectarine, apricot and dried herbs. Other notes waft through, including orange-blossom water, white grapefruit zest, Earl Grey tea and dried fennel. Layers of earth and minerality bring everything together. Aerate and pair with melon salad and cured meat. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 Acquiesce 2022 Jolie White Blend (Mokelumne River). This wine is rich, concentrated and golden-hued. The wine has aromas of baked peach, apricot, dried floral and allspice. Other notes waft through, including ripe, white nectarine, quince, brûléed navel orange, honeysuckle blossom and pink grapefruit zest. Layers of simmering

spice and minerality make this a great alternative to sweeter Riesling. Pair with your favorite spice-driven takeaway. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

92 Tlo 2020 Vinka Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles). A medium golden hue in the glass, this blend of 48% Roussanne, 26% Grenache Blanc and 26% Viognier offers inviting aromas of almond, nectarine and pear on the nose. The body is hefty but not overpowering on the palate, where nectarine, ripe pear and lemon zest flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Acquiesce 2022 Belle Blanc White Blend (Mokelumne River). This wine is zesty, bright and lively, with aromas of stone fruit, potpourri, lavender honey and orange zest. Other notes waft through, lemon honey water, white nectarine skin, white tea and white pepper. Layers of earth and minerality bring everything together. Aerate and enjoy. Pair with creamed pasta, grilled fish and poultry. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 Marbeso 2022 Magic Hour White Blend (Santa Barbara County). This skin-contact blend of Grüner Veltliner and Albariño presents orange wine in a compelling manner. A yellowish, cloudy shade in the glass, the bottling offers aromas of melon rind, tangerine peel, saffron and wet metal on the nose. The palate combines citrus orchard flavors with interesting hints of cinnamon and star anise. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$32

91 Monochrome 2022 North By Southwest White Blend (California). Clean aromas of pear flesh and orange blossom draw the nose into this Gewurztraminer-based blend, which also includes Albariño and Sauvignon Blanc. Jasmine and plumeria flavors make for a floral palate, with richer hints of coconut and pineapple also apparent. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$48

91 Monochrome 2022 Smile White Blend (California). Lightly nutty aromas of marzipan, plumeria and buttered coconut show on the nose of this blend of 64% Viognier from Plum Orchard Lane, 29% Chenin Blanc from Jurassic Park and 7% Gewurztraminer. The palate is generous in jasmine and more coconut, with a tightly woven structure that holds everything in check. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48

91 Ojai Mountain 2021 White Blend (Ventura County). This exciting new estate is still dialing in the right blend for its white wine, but this is a good start, offering grapefruit, apple flesh and vibrant acidity on the nose. The palate is more broad with melon, apple and pear flavors, as tangerine rind adds a slight bite. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$75

91 Ojai Mountain 2020 White Blend (Ventura County). This Roussanne-based bottling was

the original vintage white wine for this young but compelling estate in the mountains high above Ojai. A golden hue in the glass, it offers honeyed cashew, baked orange and lemon tonic aromas. The palate is dense and leathery in texture, showing baked pear and dried mango flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

91 Peirano 2022 The Other White Blend (Lodi). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$14

90 Treana 2021 Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (Central Coast). A golden hue in the glass, this blend of 48% Marsanne, 45% Viognier and 7% Roussanne offers apricot and golden pear aromas on the nose. The palate is viscous and well-weighted, showing baked pear and lemon peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

SPARKLING WINES

95 Roederer Estate 2015 L'Ermitage Brut Rosé Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$110

94 Schramsberg NV Mirabelle Brut Rosé, 32nd bottling Pinot Noir-Chardonnay (North Coast). For full review see page 7.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$33

93 Roederer Estate NV Brut Rosé Pinot Noir-Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This wine is pale-pink salmon-hued with aromas of yeasty brioche, fresh raspberry, youthful strawberry, white tea and spiced orange zest on the nose. The midpalate is firm mousse, dried raspberry, orange blossom, gliding into supple orange cream and white grapefruit with a dry finish. Pair with life. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Acquiesce 2018 Méthode Champenoise Grenache Blanc (Mokelumne River). This wine is plush, lively and zesty, with aromas of green apple, white peach, dried apricot and potpourri. Other notes waft through, including green papaya, guava, cantaloupe, dried fine herbs and acacia honey. Layers of sedimentary rock and minerality bring everything together. Great producer specializing in white Rhône varietals. Pair with creamed pasta, fried chicken and grilled fish. —T.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Barden 2020 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). This first stab at sparkling for veteran vintner Doug Margerum is quite a success, starting with subtle aromas of Meyer lemon, light nectarine and sliced apple on the nose. The mousse is elegantly delicate on the palate, where tight grapefruit and lemon peel flavors are most prominent. —M.K.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$72

92 Paris Valley Road 2020 Sparkling Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 12.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$36

92 Schramsberg 2019 Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut Pinot Noir-Chardonnay (North Coast). This wine is rich, concentrated, with aromas of white peach, Golden Delicious apple, apricot, orange blossom, baker's yeast on the nose. The palate is yeasty, brioche, creamy mousse, Key lime cream pie, swirling into lemon sherbet, orange zest, pink grapefruit and a sweet-salty finish. —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$70

91 Sinor-LaVallee 2023 Ancestral Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). This low-alcohol, quick-to-market bubbly is a great pairing for oysters, which is what it's designed for in Sinor-LaVallee's Avila Beach tasting room. Aromas of cherry sorbet and strawberry hint at the lees, while the palate is fired up with an aggressive mousse that carries lemon rind and elderflower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 9.8% **Price:** \$36

90 McBride Sisters Collection 2021 Blanc de Blancs Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). There's a sharp start to the effervescent nose of this bottling, which sports a beautiful nautilus shell on the label, and then come more rounded aromas of honeydew and orange Starburst. The mousse is mellow on the palate, where fresh apple skin and lime juice flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

89 Grevino NV Riesceco Riesling (Santa Maria Valley). Sparkling Riesling is very uncommon in California, but it's an interesting idea. The grape's petrol character really comes through on the nose, while the palate adds some citrus peel to the mix. The bubbles are a touch lacking. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Rosé d'Ella Rae Sparkling Blend (Santa Clara Valley). A lightly yellowed pink in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of strawberry, steel and baby powder on the nose. Sharp lemon peel, melon rind and light red fruit aromas arise on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

ROSÉS

93 Saint K 2022 Around the Way Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Rounded aromas of watermelon, pink lemonade and wet stone make for a very inviting nose on this bottling. The palate is chalky in texture and loaded with fresh flavors of lemon peel, Rainier cherry and a pleasantly earthy dust. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$28

92 Acquiesce 2022 Grenache Rosé (Mokelumne River). This wine is fresh, lively and zesty, with aromas of dried strawberry, raspberry, blood orange and dried herbs. Other notes waft through, including red plum skin, white nectarine, quince,

BUYINGGUIDE

grilled orange slices and dried bay leaf. Layers of sedimentary rock and minerality bring everything together. Pair with street tacos, ahi tuna and the sunshine. —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

92 Lepe 2022 Merit Vineyards Rosé of Sangiovese (San Antonio Valley). A very subtle shade of pink in the glass, this bottling is very inviting on the nose with aromas of nectarine and wet stones. The texture is stiff on the palate, where citrus flesh and peel flavors meet with delicate stone fruit elements. —M.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

92 Zaca Mesa 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Juicy aromas of watermelon are leveled by crushed rock and turned earth on the nose of this bottling. There is a firm mineral streak of chalk and crushed rock to the palate, where bright pink lemonade and white pepper flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$28

90 Grevino 2020 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). A considerably dark hue in the glass, almost like a light red wine, this rosé smells of muddled red plum, red apple and rust on the nose. There's a compellingly leathery grip to the palate, where mace and muddled strawberry flavors recall light Pinot Noir vibes, even though it's Grenache. —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$35

90 Peltzer Family 2022 Rosé of Syrah (Temecula Valley). A vibrant magenta-like pink in the glass, this rosé offers electric aromas of strawberry and raspberry soda on the nose. The palate adds cherry flavors to the mix, with a light mineral combo of crushed rocks and fine earth. —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$40

88 Grevino 2019 Rosé (Santa Maria Valley). A yellowish pink in the glass, this back-vintage rosé offers aromas of tangerine peel, wet cement and wool on the nose. The palate offers a flinty minerality against Meyer lemon peel flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.47%

Price: \$35

88 Sky Valley 2021 Rosé (Ramona Valley). A pale shade of yellowish pink in the glass, this easygoing rosé offers citrus and stone fruit aromas on the nose. There's plenty of grip to the palate, where pink lemonade flavors grow slightly sweet into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$28

87 Stilson 2022 Rosé Ray Rosé (Adelaida District). A yellowish shade of pink in the glass, this rosé smells of earth, orchard floor and citrus peel on the nose. Mandarin peel and tangerine pith flavors are wrapped in an earthy minerality on the mellow palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$36

85 Sky Valley 2022 Rosé (Ramona Valley). Raspberry sorbet and apple juice aromas converge on the nose of this slightly funky rosé. Sweeter cherry flavors and orange liqueur flavors show on the sip. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$28

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

97 Crown Point 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).

From a single clone grown on a single block and aged in a single barrel, this top-shelf bottling for this luxury-level producer excels on all fronts. Elegantly layered aromas of black cherry, strawberry, chai, cocoa and toasted pecan decorate the nose. The palate is smooth and lush yet framed in chiseled tannins, offering coffee bean, stewed plum and roasted fig flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$250

95 Broadside 2020 Blackletter Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 3.

abv: 15%

Price: \$75

94 Brady Vineyard 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 4.

Editors' Choice.

abv: 15%

Price: \$27

94 Element 79 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Fair Play). This wine is intense deep plum-

hued with aromas of black plum, youthful blackberries, grilled jalapeno, dark chocolate on the nose. The flavors on the palate are fresh dark raspberry, Morello Cherry preserve, dried sage, with creamy bittersweet chocolate wafting through to finish. Aerate and enjoy with burgers (any kind). —T.P.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$42

94 Justin 2018 Platinum Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). There's impressive

purity and density of fruit on the nose of this bottling, where waves of violet, lilac, candied fig and strawberry converge. There's a fresh blast of blueberry and violet on the palate, where caramel elements add depth. —M.K.

abv: 16.2%

Price: \$175

94 Liberty School 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

94 Loyal to the Soil 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$23

94 Madson 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). The nose on this bottling is savory and intense at once, with dark fruit

making for lush aromas as meat and soil elements impart the earthy elegance. The tannins are firm and the acidity is solid, as blackberry, pepper and leather flavors align on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$60

94 McGrail 2020 Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$56

94 McGrail 2020 James Vincent Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This wine is rich,

concentrated, with aromas of blackberries, blueberries, mulled simmering spices, florals, sweet tobacco on the nose. The palate is ripe, concentrated huckleberries, blueberries, black licorice, dark chocolate cream, espresso crema, surrendering into supple tannins and lingering long finish. Aerate. Hold or drink until 2034. —T.P.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$79

94 Obsidian Wine Co. 2021 Volcanic Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

94 Vista Del Mirador 2019 Flat Creek Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Fair Play). This wine

is full-bodied, aromas of ripe, black plum, orange marmalade, brûléed brown sugar, fresh florals, dried herbs on the nose. The midpalate has flavors of huckleberry, rhubarb, ripe raspberry, morphing into truffle chocolate with dry silky tannins. Aerate and enjoy with grilled/braised proteins. —T.P.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$36

93 Ernest 2022 Edaphos Trimble Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). Opu-

lent, crushed red plums, raspberry, red currant, blood orange, Freesia blossoms on the nose. Juicy red plum, black plum, black cherry, Earl Grey tea, ginger-spiced huckleberry sliding into white pepper and grippy tannins rounding back to crushed red plums. Pair with Peking duck. —T.P.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$68

93 LangeTwins 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Jahant). For full review see page 8.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38

93 Loyal to the Soil 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). This wine is fresh,

bright, with aromas of dried cherry, crabapple-strawberry, rhubarb, dried bay leaf on the nose. The palate is juicy yellow plum, raspberry, huckleberry, dried mission figs, spiced vanilla cream, wafting into sweet chocolate cream, leathery tannins and a dry long finish. This one beckons you to take another sip. Perfect pairing with poultry and winter stews. —T.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

93 McGrail 2020 Colton's Lucky 8 Vintage Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This

wine is opulent, concentrated, with aromas of blackberries, dried eucalyptus, dried violets, chocolate peppermint on the nose. The palate repeats, adding ripe strawberry, rhubarb, pink peppercorn, dried chicory, sarsaparilla, cracked Himalayan salt gliding into a dry sweet salty caramel finish. Aerate. Hold or drink until 2032. —T.P.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$48

93 Obsidian Wine Co. 2021 Half Mile Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

93 Sextant 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Deep and dark aromas of blackberry jam and melted chocolate are impressively dense and lush on the nose of this widely available bottling. The palate is lavish in creamy flavors of cassis, blackberry and violet, with toasted walnut and more chocolate adding to the richness. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Sextant 2020 Kamal Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$56

93 Tribeca 2020 Ocean Ave Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Macerated blackberry, cherry cola and woodsmoke aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate deftly integrates oak smoke with rich strawberry fruit, as toasted herb and peppercorn touches add ample spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

92 Austin Hope 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). There's a significant spice of oak that comes through on the nose of this bottling, with solid blackberry fruit as well. The palate combines black cherry and blackberry syrup with root beer spices, as the finish lingers atop tannins amid vanilla, nutmeg and oak spices. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$56

92 Callaway 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is vibrant red cherry, with aromas of baked cherry pie, orange marmalade, vanilla whip cream on the nose. The midpalate is full-bodied with flavors of sour cherry compote, bourbon strawberry, winter spearmint, dark chocolate and espresso to finish. Pair with hearty dishes. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

92 Francis Ford Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Gambler's Ghost 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5 **Price:** \$18

92 J. Lohr 2020 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$100

92 Justin 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$78

92 Kirkland Signature 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is full-bodied with aromas of dried blackberry, dried herbs, pot-pourri, toasty oak on the nose. The midpalate has flavors of black cherry jam, spearmint, sweet peppers, dark chocolate rounding out to a dry, smooth finish. Enjoy with your weeknight takeaway. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14/3 L

92 Le Vigne 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$28

92 Freakshow 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Mon Frère 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$12

92 Oak Farm 2022 Tievoli Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Peltzer Family 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is intense deep plum-hued with aromas of black plum, youthful blackberries, grilled jalapeno, dark chocolate on the nose. The flavors on the palate are fresh dark raspberry, Morello cherry preserve, dried sage, with creamy bittersweet chocolate wafting through to finish. Aerate and enjoy with burgers (any kind). —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$80

92 Rockbound 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry jam and chocolate chip aromas pick up the lightest hint of mint on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a well-structured frame, as anise, blackberry, toasted oak and anise flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$55

92 Scheid 2020 Kurt's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (San Lucas). Dark cherry and toasted wood aromas meet with hints of bitterness and toasted nut on the nose of this six-barrel bottling. The acidity is very prominent on the sip, sure to keep the wine alive for years, framing flavors of dark fruit and spice. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

92 Steak Knife 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Ripe, concentrated, huckleberry, boysenberry, Iris flower, creamed vanilla orange on the nose. Fresh red plum, dried apricot, Bing cherry, black coffee in the midpalate gliding into spiced maple, chocolate cherries and black pepper. Pair with double broiler steak with red wine sauce. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

92 Tribeca 2021 King Street Grimm's Bluff Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy

Canyon of Santa Barbara). Fresh blackberry, scarlet rose petals, blueberry juice and toasted oak aromas converge on the nose of this bottling from a biodynamic vineyard. The tannins are edgy on the sip, where blackberry and graham cracker flavors ride a medium to lighter body. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

92 Wiens Cellars 2020 San Ignacio Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Riverside County). Fire-roasted cherry and cherry tomato aromas meet with bouquet garni and desert herbs on the nose of this bottling. The palate is savory with sagebrush spice, roasted fennel and charred plum flavors, wrapped in a firm structure. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$145

92 Wiens Cellars 2019 Kriel Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon can be a tricky grape in emergent regions, but the team at Wiens is making it work for Temecula. Aromas of toasted chestnut, anise, blackberry and dried meats lure the nose. The palate's leathery tannins frame wild fennel, charred berry and peppercorn flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$175

91 1850 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sierra Foothills). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of youthful blackberry, black cherry, cedar and bittersweet chocolate. Other notes waft though, including boysenberry, lingonberry, chocolate toffee, dried chicory and black tea. Layers of toasty oak, earth and minerality bring everything together for a dry, supple finish. Pair with your favorite cut of meat. —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 1924 2022 Bourbon Barrel-Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15

91 Chateau Margene 2020 Stella's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Creston District). The nose on this bottling manages to be both lush with spices and ripe fruit, and slightly tangy with black plum skin aromas. The palate is very firm in structure, as grippy tannins frame the toasted red fruit, pepper and thyme flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$120

91 Donati Family Vineyard 2021 Ezio Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is not a flashy wine, but it ticks all the boxes when it comes to what many expect in a Cab. Aromas of pencil shavings, dried strawberry and old leather lead from the familiar nose into a palate that's texturally long-lasting and layered in dried fruit, meaty leather and cocoa spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Francis Ford Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$19

91 Midnight 2020 Nebula Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Charcoal-roasted red fruit aromas arise on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite brisk with raspberry flavors, as white pepper, oregano and an underlying toast quality lead into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$52

91 OMEN 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sierra Foothills). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of boysenberry, cassis and cedar. The wine is creamy in the midpalate with vanilla cream and cardamon spice. Black licorice, bittersweet chocolate and dried herbs bring everything together for a smooth finish. Pair with beef stew. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$20

91 Paris Valley Road 2019 Tres Bien Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Lush aromas of blackberry, black cherry and caramel are quite warm and toasty on the nose of this bottling. The palate is hefty with berry and licorice flavors, with hints of chili pepper adding nuance as the finish grows quite confectionary. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$95

91 Ramsay 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

91 Sand Point 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% Price: \$12

91 Lightside 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 8.5% Price: \$15

91 Sculpterra 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Roasted black plum aromas meet with straightforward floral tones of lavender on the nose of this bottling. The purple flower kick extends to the palate, where firm tannins frame crisp plum and peppercorn flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$44

91 Summerland 2021 Estelle Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). This is a very approachable and simply delicious style of Cab, starting with aromas of strawberry, rose petals and a slightly bitter hint of carob. The palate relies on a light bitterness and dank herb tone to balance the black cherry and caramel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

91 Three Finger Jack 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% Price: \$19

91 Trim 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 Allegretto 2019 Allegretto Vineyard Ayres Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 14.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

90 Allegretto 2019 Willow Creek Vineyard Ayres Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$65

90 Bings Barn 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). This wine is rich, dense garnet-hued with aromas of baked red plum, black cherry pie, dried herbs, green bell pepper on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are black currant confiture, black peppercorns, leading into blood orange chocolate, sweet cigar on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

90 Canard 2021 The Resurgence Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$45

90 Chateau Margene 2020 Michael's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Creston District). This is a very herbaceous Cab, offering thyme, bay leaf and peppercorn aromas against the blackberry fruit. The palate is juicy with more berry but dominated by the wild herb flavors, with slightly sticky, angular tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$100

90 Donati Family Vineyard 2021 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Estrella District). Clean lines of blackberry and black cherry and spice with oak and roasted fennel on the nose of this bottling. The oak kisses the palate a bit harder, where smoked berry flavors are quite flavorful and appealing. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$58

90 Gnarly Head 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of baked black plum, black cherry, potpourri and cedar. Other notes waft through, including boysenberry, tomato leaf, pepper jam, mocha, allspice and black tea. Layers of toasty oak, graphite and minerality bring together a mouthwatering dry finish. Pair with your weeknight meal. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

90 Liberty School 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

90 McClain Cellars 2021 Three Daughters Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). A load of herbs meets with blackberry sauce on the nose of this bottling. The palate presents a similar com-

bination of savory herb and rich fruit, with cracked pepper adding to the mix. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$85

90 Prototype 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 Sarah's Vineyard 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley). Dark blackberry aromas are ripe and somewhat dried on the nose of this bottling, which is leveled by a graphite minerality. The palate lands with a smooth texture, as baking spices enliven the rich roasted red and black fruit flavors, as powerful tannins cling to the slightly tart finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$59

90 ONE of ONE NV Alcohol Removed Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 0.5% Price: \$18

90 Sculpterra 2021 Bentley Ironworks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). A mahogany woodspice aroma meets with soy, mushrooms, oregano and smoke on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with herb flavors of fennel, thyme and oregano, with charred berry at the core. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$80

90 Sequence 2021 Rough Cut Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Cherry-filled chocolate cordial aromas meet with minty herbs on the nose of this bottling. Stiff, chalky tannins frame the sip, where tart cherry, cracked pepper and mint chocolate chip flavors come together. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$50

90 Straight Out Of Paso 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This Cab still feels quite young, starting with tart aromas of blackberry, wood dust and light pepper. The palate is fresh and vibrant if a touch tight and tart, offering blackberry and cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$40

90 The Introvert 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

90 The Simple Grape 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is opulent, with aromas of fresh black plums, black cherry, vanilla cream, cinnamon on the nose. The midpalate is blueberry, dried mulberry, black pepper, bittersweet chocolate rounding into sweet cigar. Lots of flavor without the extra carbs. Pair with roasted chicken. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

90 Truth & Valor 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry aromas are balanced by dusty earth and charcoal on the nose of this bottling. The palate is hearty with roasted

berry, vanilla and baking spice flavors, proving familiar and pleasant. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Wiens Cellars 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley). Blackberry, wild herb and carob aromas make for a savory nose on this reserve bottling. Roasted fennel, charred walnuts, tar and stewed berry flavors work in harmony on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$115

89 ACE 1542 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Baked cherry, milk chocolate and hints of herb and wood show on the nose of this bottling. Rich flavors of blackberry and strawberry syrup meet with peppery acidity and chalky tannins on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Flagship Cellars 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Toasted herb, anise and loamy soil aromas dominate the dark black plum fruit on the nose of this bottling. The palate is packed with incense and marjoram flavors as well as hints of blackberry and light pepper. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$17

89 Sean Minor 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dark cherry, crushed stone and light leather aromas make for a simple but pleasant nose on this bottling, which picks up savory meat flavors atop more cherry fruit, with a very dry structure in the background. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Sunstone 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark, ripe red fruit aromas are layered in cracked pepper and dried soil on the savory nose of this bottling. The palate shows a riper side with boysenberry jam that picks up light balsamic elements by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

89 Tooth & Nail 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). There is a lot of herbaceousness on the nose of this bottling as well as floral tones, ranging from rosemary blossoms to lavender to violet, with a backdrop of black raspberry. Crumpled flowers and wild herbs show on the palate as well, which makes for an earthy sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$23

89 Truth & Valor 2021 Santa Margarita Ranch Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Extremely dark chocolate aromas meet with blackberry and bitter herb on the nose of this bottling. There's a pleasantly astringent kick to the palate, where oregano and blackberry flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$42

88 Austin NV Barrel No. 21 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). A familiar and pleasing combination of black cherry, toasted wood and graphite show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very ripe with cassis, blackberry and violet flavors,

leading into a slightly confectionary finish. This will please crowds, so it's great for weddings or large parties. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Broadside 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2019 Bella Colina Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Toasted coffee bean and baked blackberry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Light tobacco and toasted wood flavors add to the palate's mix of savory spice and ripe fruit. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$89

88 Iron + Sand 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry aromas hide behind graphite, leather and charcoal on the shy nose of this bottling. The palate combines aged meat and leather flavors with toasted herb and black plum. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

88 La Fata 2021 Roots of Life Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Tart cherry and damp herb aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's an herbal tone on the palate, where toasted oregano flavors meet with baked cherry and a decent tension. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$112

88 Oblivion 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Fresh aromas of black cherry compote, cola and juicy strawberry pull the nose quickly into this bottling. The palate is ripe with more cherry and caramel flavors, with hints of herb clippings adding depth to counterbalance a slight sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Treana 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). The nose on this bottling is very grapey and fruity, showing aromas of purple Jolly Rancher, açai, vanilla extract and pepper. The palate is quite viscous and candied, with grape jelly, French toast and sugared oak flavors proving quite ripe. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

PINOT NOIR

97 Samsara 2021 Bentrack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Fascinatingly light yet jam-packed with sensory treats, this bottling beams onto the nose with bowlfuls of strawberry and cherry alongside aromas of cappuccino and chai spice. The palate is tightly wound yet joyous in bright red fruit and cinnamon flavors that finish on notes of bay leaf and pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$74

96 Samsara 2021 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Winemaker Matt

Brady is masterful at making wines that are magically light in expression yet rich in flavor, and this single-vineyard expression is a perfect example. Aromas of black cherry, star anise, clove and lavender lead from the nose into a palate that weaves black cherry and cranberry flavors with chai spice on a lively frame. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$74

96 Samsara 2021 Rancho La Viña Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Clean and undeniably beautiful aromas of black cherry compote and cherry liqueur are leveled by earthy scents of forest floor on the enticing nose of this single-vineyard expression. There's a tight grip on the palate, where a black-rock minerality and well-integrated bay leaf flavor balance the core of vibrant, lush red fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$64

96 Siduri 2021 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This bottling from an iconic vineyard begins with rich aromas of black cherry, creamy mace spice and a hint of loamy soil. The palate is very tense, giving a tannic, acid-washed balance to the ripe cherry, raspberry and lemon peel flavors, with a kick of white pepper on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70

96 The Joy Fantastic 2022 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Proprietors Peter Hunken and Amy Christine are showing a bit more generosity of fruit in this vintage, and it works quite well. Aromas of strawberry and baking spice layered in pastry dough entertain the nose. The palate is simultaneously snappy and ripe, offering alpine strawberry and raspberry flavors alongside mace, nutmeg and cinnamon touches, set against a compelling texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$60

96 Tread 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$52

95 Ken Brown 2021 Peake Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Lovely black raspberry and black cherry aromas are dusted in cola and clove spice on the elegant nose of this bottling from one of the region's most esteemed vintners. The palate offers a similar combination, picking up root beer and chai spice flavors atop that core of dark, baked berry. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

95 Lester 2021 Francisco Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). The rich strawberry aromas on the nose of this bottling are presented in a very elegant manner, with warm spice notes of toasted sage on the nose. The palate is more brisk and snappy, with raspberry, pomegranate and rosewater flavors that are wrapped in the warmth of flaky pastry dough. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$57

BUYINGGUIDE

95 Samsara 2021 Cuvée d'Inspiration Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Elegant waves of crumpled red and purple flower aromas decorate tense plum and damp earth elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tightly wound, pitting hibiscus, lavender and raspberry flavors against chipped rocks and dusty sprigs of thyme. This will last long, so drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

95 Testarossa 2022 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dark boysenberry, intense lavender and light licorice spice converge for a complex nose on this bottling. The palate is zippy with soda pop-like freshness, offering purple fruit and flower flavors that are balanced by a citrusy bite. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$79

95 Tread 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

94 Beauregard 2021 Beauregard Ranch Pinot Noir (Ben Lomond Mountain). A light hue in the glass, this estate bottling is loaded with herbal redwood spices, reminiscent of the forests that surround the vineyard, with ample cranberry and sumac contributing fruit and spice notes. The palate pairs black tea, eucalyptus leaf and sour cherry with sagebrush, wrapped in a freshness that will linger. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Beauregard 2021 Coast Grade Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ben Lomond Mountain). Cranberry and pomegranate aromas are cut by crushed peppercorn and fennel pollen on the wild and herbaceous nose of this bottling from a vineyard that sits at 1,300 feet just three miles from the ocean. The palate takes the herbal tones into eucalyptus and bay leaf, with crisp cranberry flavors making a great pairing for a picnic lunch in the shade of a warm redwood forest. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Hartford 2021 Pinot Noir (Marin County). This wine is rich and concentrated with plush black plum, raspberry and cinnamon. The wine is driven by juicy red plum, pink grapefruit zest, pink peppercorn weaving in quince; black tea brings dark chocolate and a silky finish. The sunshine and cool climate of the region are captured by this wine. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85

94 Hartford 2021 Docker Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This wine offers black cherry, smoked paprika and violet on the nose. Its full-bodied midpalate, with black plum, baked cooking spice weaves into bittersweet chocolate, black pepper, good minerality and silky tannins to finish. Pair with grilled fish. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$78

94 Hartford 2021 Muldune Trail Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This wine is intense, with aromas of black cherry, boysenberry and allspice. Concentrated Morello cherry, black currant weave into blackberry, vanilla spice, mocha and lush tannins. Aerate and enjoy with braised lamb shank. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$78

94 Hartford 2021 Velvet Sisters Vineyards Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This wine is lush and vibrant, with aromas of huckleberry, boysenberry and cardamom. The wine is full-bodied with black cherry, violet, allspice, weaving in vanilla cream and dark chocolate to lead up to plush silky tannins. Long ago, I created a story about this wine and the mythical sisters who lived in the forest. Enjoy with meat, poultry, fish and good friends. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$78

94 La Crema 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This is not a bottling offered every year. Lush ripe raspberry, sweet black plums, black molasses, zesty orange blossoms on the nose. The fruit is tart wild strawberry, cherry cola, black tea, orange vanilla cream on the palate rolling into mineral, acidity and a mouthwatering finish. Hold or drink 2024–2030. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

94 Lester 2021 Mercurio Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Black plum and mulberry aromas are layered in anise, thyme and mature chaparral herbs on the earthy nose of this bottling. That earthy, herby character extends across the palate, where turned soil and crushed rocks meet with sagebrush and wild plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$57

94 Lumen 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This is a fantastic appellation cuvée, blending grapes from Rancho Real, Wild King, and Julia's vineyards into a showcase of ripe, fresh, clean cherry aromas complemented by crushed rock and soil aspects. The palate is deliciously jammy with cherry flavors that are enhanced by star anise and cardamom, set against an edgy texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

94 Marbeso 2022 Ascona Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A very light, transparent hue in the glass, this is a delicate yet thoroughly satisfying Pinot Noir, starting with lovely aromas of pomegranate, raspberry and mace on the nose. The palate is wrapped in tactile tannins that frame the bright pomegranate and white pepper flavors, with hints of lemon peel carrying into the finish. Drink now–2042. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

94 Miura 2022 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). This county cuvée is stunningly delicious, starting with aromas of black cherry, cola, hibiscus and delicate herb on the nose. There is a rich cherry-cola core to the palate, where baked straw-

berry meets with cardamom cream and dried meat flavors, served atop leathery tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Miura 2018 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This bottling is definitely in its prime right now, offering dense aromas of boysenberry syrup, potting soil and sandalwood. The palate shows a more savory side, blending porcini and charcuterie with ripe black cherry and eucalyptus leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Samsara 2020 Lotus Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dense yet bright aromas of pomegranate, strawberry and chaparral are reminiscent of hiking with a fresh bag of fruit chews on the nose of this bottling. The palate also recalls a wander through the seabreeze-kissed chaparral, with hints of pomegranate soda and tea leaves. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$99

94 Siduri 2021 Skycrest Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Supple, black cherry, cranberry-pomegranate, dried potpourri, zesty pink grapefruit on the nose. The fruit on the palate is quince, Bing cherry, red apple skin, black tea and gripping tannins. Hold or drink 2024–2032. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

94 Tread 2021 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A light color in the glass, this single-vineyard expression offers fresh and lively red fruit aromas with a delicate kiss of oak. The palate is vibrant and energetic, showing tart cherry, raspberry and chai latte flavors. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$56

94 Wente Vineyards 2021 Nth Degree Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley). This wine is rich, concentrated, with aromas of black berries, blueberries, violet, clove on the nose. The palate repeats blue and black fruits, intertwined with molasses, black licorice, allspice, orange zest and a silky long finish. Bigger style Pinot Noir. Hold or drink until 2028. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Busy Signal 2022 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39

93 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 Triska Vineyard Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

93 Laetitia 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). This entry-level Pinot Noir is a great taste of the SLO Coast. Aromas of black cherry, plum and green sage decorate the nose. The palate shows a riper yet still fresh side, offering blackberry, cola and light herb touches as the acidity stays potent into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Landmark 2021 Overlook Pinot Noir (Sonoma County-Monterey County-Santa Barbara County). This wine is rich, dense, with aromas of ripe black strawberries, black plum, mulled spices on the nose. The palate is blood orange, yellow plums, raspberries, clove, allspice, cracked black pepper, intertwined cocoa cream, candied orange zest, blackberry confiture with a dry finish. Great Pinot Noir showcasing supreme fruit sources. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$27

93 Lepe 2022 San Saba Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Light with crystal clarity in the glass, this bottling is buoyant on the nose with aromas of rose petals blowing on a strawberry-kissed sea breeze. Delicate rosewater and maraschino cherry flavors make for an elegant display on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

93 Lula 2020 Rescue Block Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine offers black cherry, smoked paprika and violet on the nose. Its full-bodied midpalate, with black plum, baked cooking spice weaves into bittersweet chocolate, black pepper, good minerality and silky tannins to finish. Pair with grilled fish —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

93 Lumen 2020 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Rich aromas of Bing cherry and strawberry meet with loamy soil on the impressive nose of this bottling from a historic site. The palate is ripe and dense at first, with juicy fruit flavors that slowly open into wild herb and toasted sage elements. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 Madson 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Cherry, clove, mace and seared meat flavors make for an inviting, savory and unique nose on this appellation cuvée. Like the brand's single-vineyard bottlings, the palate is tightly wound, requiring patience to reap the rewards of layers of black raspberry, seared beef and wild herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Oleandri 2022 Lindsay's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$70

93 Siduri 2021 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Rounded and bold aromas of strawberry, tobacco, black tea and clove kick off the nose to this bottling. The palate showcases a rounded red cherry core with incense, cola, thyme and eucalyptus leaf flavors adding nuance. Firm with tension, and protected by a screwcap. So drink now—2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

93 Sinor-LaVallee 2022 Carbonic Bassi Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). This wine is very juicy and fun to drink, although thankfully without the overt bubblegum notes that carbonic fermentation frequently delivers. Aromas of

black cherry, cardamom and peppercorn are elegant and detailed on the nose. The palate is lovely with lively boysenberry, cranberry skin and baking spice flavors, framed by just enough tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$42

93 Testarossa 2022 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Lovely and lush aromas of black cherry and dark berry meet with mace, star anise and violet on the nose of this impressively dense bottling. There's a toasty oak flavor on the palate, which wraps around the boysenberry, clove and nutmeg flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$79

93 Theopolis 2022 Pinot Noir (Yorkville Highlands). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of red plum, Bing cherry and dried sage. Other notes waft through, including Orange Pekoe black tea, strawberry, cranapple and allspice. Layers of rocky sediment and silky tannins bring it all together. Pair with pork tenderloin with chutney sauce. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$48

93 Theopolis 2022 Cortada Alta Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). The black cherry core on the nose of this bottling is cut by baking spice and a persistent, pleasant gamy aroma. The palate is rich in texture and layered in flavors of pepper, meat and dark berry that linger into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

93 Tread 2021 Our Lady of Guadalupe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling from a vineyard planted in 2018 shows black raspberry, fresh rose petals and a hint of lilac on the nose. The rounded palate combines dark floral tones against that clean black raspberry backdrop, staying light on its feet into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$78

92 Chateau Souverain 2021 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$12

92 Chef's Knife 2022 Pinot Noir (California). This wine is brimming with fresh red berries, baked stone fruits tossed in vanilla cream pie, the midpalate wafts into orange blossom, youthful orange segments, white grapefruit and pink peppercorn to finish. Great on its own or with what is in front of you. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

92 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2022 NOIR Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

92 La Crema 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This is a bold and lush expression very much in line with the Santa Lucia Highlands' most popular bottlings. Aromas of cherry, chaparral and freshly shaved nutmeg lead from the nose into a palate where leathery tannins float atop cherry

candy, star anise and mace flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

92 Longoria 2022 Lovely Rita Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a bold style of Pinot Noir, loaded with ample though balanced oak spice on the nose alongside the roasted cherry and raspberry flavors. The palate's baked cherry core is layered in star anise, mace and vanilla flavors, with a warm smokiness apparent throughout. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$39

92 Madson 2022 Ascona Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is a very young wine still, but it's already showing the strong forest spices that are common from this area along with the underlying black raspberry fruit. The palate is quite dry with charred berry, toasted herb and light tar flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$60

92 Madson 2022 Toyon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Very earthy in the glass, this bottling takes some patience to spread its wings, but the wild aromas of forest, dried mushrooms, potting soil and dark plum make for a harmonious combination. The palate is very savory with more char and earth flavors, as dark plum offers the fruit tones. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$60

92 Mooney Family 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Boysenberry, lavender and incense aromas arise on the nose of this appellation cuvée. The palate pairs dark plummy fruit with bay leaf, green sage and peppercorn flavors, making for a rich yet spicy show. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$90

92 Samsara 2021 Our Lady of Guadalupe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Juicy aromas of fresh black cherry and strawberry meet with baking spice and sagebrush on the joyous nose of this bottling. The palate pairs terpene-laden green sage and peppercorn with acid-driven, slightly tart red fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$64

92 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Muns Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

92 Sinor-LaVallee 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Dark aromas of black raspberry jam and cardamom cream draw the nose deeply into this bottling. The palate is very bold with ripe black cherry and raspberry jam aromas, as mace and nutmeg spices add nuance. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

92 Testarossa 2022 Rancho La Vina Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Black raspberry and tangy black plum aromas meet with violet on the nose of this bottling. The palate snaps with acidity, pre-

BUYINGGUIDE

senting flashy raspberry, elegant rose petal and zippy white pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$79

92 Testarossa 2022 Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Juicy yet dark aromas of elderberry and blueberry make for a dense but lively nose on this bottling. The berries' flavors are rounded at first on the palate before picking up baking spice, orange peel and candied red apple elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$79

92 Wente Vineyards 2021 Aly's Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). A top-end bottling from this historic brand, this bottling begins with lovely aroma of strawberry, raspberry, French toast and rosewater on the harmoniously integrated nose. Roasted fruit flavors on the palate are enhanced by smoked meat, toasted sage and oak spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 ACE 1542 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). This is a very satisfying Pinot Noir at a fair price, starting with aromas of baked cherry, mace and nutmeg on the nose. There's a brightness to the palate, with cherry and strawberry flavors that are undercut by herbal hints of bay and sage. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 NOIR Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley). This wine is rich, concentrated, with aromas of black plum, black cherry, potpourri, cinnamon on the nose. The palate is ripe, juicy strawberry, raspberry, vanilla cream, orange zest, clove, interlinked with silky tannins and long finish. Great to sip and pair with a meal. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

91 Diora 2021 La Grande Majeste San Bernabe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey). Crisp black raspberry and wild cherry aromas meet with toasted sage and turned earth on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite savory, offering thyme and oregano alongside the baked cherry and cola spice core. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Diora 2021 La Petite Grace Pinot Noir (Monterey). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Fennell 2020 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark cherry, cola and muddled earth aromas show on the nose of this appellation cuvée. The palate pairs dusty earth tones with a crisp cranberry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

91 La Crema 2022 Pinot Noir (Monterey). This is a generous and approachable style of Pinot Noir sure to appease a large crowd, starting with aromas of strawberry, black cherry and vanilla ice cream. The palate is joyous in those same juicy

fruits but balanced by decent tannins and a chipped slate minerality. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$23

91 La Crema 2021 Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). Baked berry and plum aromas are spiced in sandalwood and mulling spice on the nose of this appellation cuvée from a rocky part of Monterey. The palate is dense with backed plum, loamy soil and bay leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Lester 2021 Domingo Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Tart aromas of red plum, cranberry and dried sage are enhanced by a rusty minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a rugged, rustic display of wild berry, orange rind and a dusting of chaparral spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$57

91 Lester 2020 Domingo Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A lighter hue in the glass, there's a strong kick of earth on the nose of this bottling, with dewy sage, a hint of leather and wild cranberry aromas. The palate is earthy as well, picking up thyme and more chaparral to spice up the tart red fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$57

91 Lumen 2020 Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Slightly cloudy in the glass, this bottling is very herbal in style, showing bay leaf and green peppercorn against the pomegranate base. Wild plum flavors are slightly tart on the palate, backed up by ample herbs. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$62

91 McBride Sisters Collection 2022 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). This is a very satisfying and refreshing Pinot Noir that is widely available. It's light in the glass, offering pomegranate, pepper and herbs on the nose. The palate is firm enough to serve up lively pomegranate, cranberry, white peppercorn and orange rind flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Mon Frère 2022 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$12

91 ONX 2021 A.V.A. Trix Christie Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$48

91 Ramsay 2021 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Sand Point 2021 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

91 Scheid 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey). Lush black cherry, cola and star anise meet with a lightly smoked plum sauce on the nose of this reserve bottling. Baked red plum makes for a rich

landing on the palate, where tar and game flavors add depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

91 Testarossa 2021 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone). The rugged, rustic expression of this bottling reflects the rugged, rustic nature of this appellation. Aromas of boysenberry, iodine and woodsmoke lead from the nose into a palate of boysenberry sauce, soy, iodine and violet extract. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$76

91 Wellsley Farm 2021 Pinot Noir (Trinity County). This wine is rich, complex, with aromas of red plum, raspberries, dark strawberry, allspice on the nose. The palate is juicy crabapple-orange, Fuyu persimmon, yellow raisin, yellow plum sliding into dried florals, clove, spiced orange slices. Enjoy with pork tenderloin or roasted duck breast. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$10

90 Francis Ford Coppola 2022 Diamond Collection Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Francis Ford Coppola 2022 Diamond Collection Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Gearbox 2021 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

90 Gnarly Head 2022 Pinot Noir (California). This wine is rich, lively with aromas of ripe raspberry, cherry cola, sarsaparilla, vanilla, on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are bright strawberry, cassis, fresh mint, baking spices sliding into bittersweet chocolate and dry tannins. Enjoy with weeknight takeaway. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Josh Cellars 2022 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). A focused nose of black raspberry, thyme, pepper and sagebrush aromas make for a compelling start to this bottling. The palate pairs the raspberry fruit with white pepper and toasted sage to complete the straightforward expression. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Ken Brown 2019 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a fairly lush and ripe style of Pinot Noir from a vineyard that tends to be much earthier. Aromas of baked cherry and cola lead from the nose into a dense palate of dark berry and toasty spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Portola Vineyards 2018 Los Trancos Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley). Dried berry, light pepper and forest floor spices show on the nose of this bottling. Dark flowers and

a touch of dried meat arise on the palate, which also offers that dark berry element. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$42

90 Sunstone 2021 Spear Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Sagebrush and sour cherry aromas meet with a hint of petrol on the nose of this bottling. The palate is subtle with tart cherry and more wild herb flavors, as that underlying tarry minerality continues into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

90 The Simple Grape 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This wine is fresh, with aromas of dark strawberries, cranberries, raspberries, blood orange, dried potpourri on the nose. The palate is crabapple, pomegranate, Earl Grey tea, Bing cherry cascading into dried herbs, chicory with silky tannins. This wine is full of flavor but without all the carbs. Pair with rotisserie chicken. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Twelve Stones 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Tarry and ruggedly earthy aromas give way to potpourri and dark berry on the nose of this bottling. The palate presents a similar combination of bright raspberry and cherry on the surface with tar, soil and earthy funk lingering in the background. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

89 McClain Cellars 2021 Wings Pinot Noir (Santa Ynez Valley). Cherry liqueur and wild herb aromas make for a potent nose on this bottling. There's a meaty heft to the palate, where a leathery texture frames cardamom, nutmeg and baked black plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$74

89 Portola Vineyards 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Rounded red cherry compote aromas are lifted by spicy cinnamon on the nose of this bottling. There is solid tension to the palate, which is starting to show its age with flavors of fruit punch and tar. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$42

89 Scheid 2019 Doctor's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Tart cherry and cherry pit aromas meet with game on the nose of this bottling. The gamy flavor is very strong on the palate, as charcuterie and petrol elements weave through the cherry compote, pepper and asphalt touches. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

88 La Fata 2021 Wisdom of Rey Pinot Noir (Santa Ynez Valley). A darker hue in the glass, this is a very spicy Pinot Noir, loaded with chai and baking spice aromas atop the black cherry core. The palate is dense and somewhat extracted, with baked fruit, caramel, vanilla and nutmeg-laced cappuccino flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$64

88 Lumen 2020 Presq'uille Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This hot vintage made

for some difficult ferments, and this bottling shows a touch of that challenge. Dense aromas of dried black cherry, cola and root beer spice lead from the heavy nose into a thicker palate of dried cherry and older spice, with a hint of tartness. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

88 Miura 2018 Morning Dew Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This is a very heavy style of Pinot Noir, despite the lower alcohol reading. There is a ton of caramel and stewed berry in the nose, and the palate is packed with cola, root beer and baked cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

88 Sequence 2021 Offline Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a dense and rather extracted style of Pinot Noir, starting with oaky aromas of black plum and caramel on the nose. The palate is decorated mostly in barrel spice elements, with mushroom and plum flavors also arising. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

88 Subterra 2022 Pinot Noir (Los Olivos District). Dried meat, tar, dank herb and cranberry sauce aromas make for a pleasantly funky nose on this bottling from an appellation not particularly known for Pinot Noir. The tarry, meaty character extended to the palate as well, where slightly sour fruit and charcuterie flavors combine. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$23

88 Testarossa 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Stewed cherry and oak spice aromas show on the nose of this appellation cuvée. The palate is quite ripe, offering strong cola flavors atop the dried cherry fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$57

88 Tlo 2021 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Strong aromas of black plum sauce, sandalwood and incense draw the nose into this bottling. The palate is heavily spiced in incense and potpourri flavors that overwhelm the fruit and earth tones. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

88 Tlo 2020 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Baked cherry, cinnamon and strawberry syrup aromas make for a dense nose on this bottling. The palate is quite thick and textural, with cherry, cranberry and orange peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

88 Truth & Valor 2021 Pinot Noir (Paso Robles). Dark cherry aromas meet with licorice and chaparral herbs on the nose of this bottling. There's ample texture to the palate, where bold flavors of boysenberry juice and anise align. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$25

87 Grevino 2013 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Dark, slightly sour dried plum aromas meet with smoked meat and oak spice on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with charred black

plum flavors, with prominent hot asphalt elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

CABERNET FRANC

95 McGrail 2020 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

94 The Strong Silent Type 2020 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

93 Songs 2021 Call Me Papa Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Dark and intense on the nose, this bottling manages to stay fresh with açai, blueberry and cracked pepper aromas. The palate is framed by edgy tannins and a brisk boysenberry fruit, as underlying white pepper and dried herb flavors keep the sip intriguing. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

92 The Strong Silent Type 2021 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley). This wine is opulent, rich, with aromas of black cherry, black plum, dried red roses, vanilla bean, dried fennel on the nose. The palate is juicy black plum, blackberry compote, spiced orange, chocolate cream gliding into mouth-watering ripe black and blue fruits with silky tannins to finish. Aerate and enjoy with your favorite protein. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Brady Vineyard 2021 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). For full review see page 14.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

89 Cooper-Garrod 2019 Francville Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dried cherry, vanilla and leather aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a decent texture to the palate, where tart cherry and charcuterie flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$47

88 Comptoir 2020 Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley). Lightly caramelized aromas of oak, licorice and hot cherry compote make for a heavily spiced nose on this bottling. The palate is also hefty and spicy, offering slightly sour black plum flavors overwhelmed by sandalwood and oak. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

88 Peltzer Family 2020 Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley). Bright red cherry aromas meet with graphite, toasted sandalwood and leather on the nose of this bottling. Dried cherry and plum flavors meet with tobacco and more leather on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$64

87 Sunstone 2021 Pear Valley Vineyards Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Anise, marjoram and sagebrush aromas meet with extracted cherry and cigar leaf on the nose of this bottling. A leath-

BUYINGGUIDE

ery tone carries through the sour plum flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

CARIGNAN

93 Écluse 2021 Red Door Ranch Carignane (Paso Robles). Black plum aromas are intense on the nose of this bottling, which is enhanced by a sprinkle of cocoa and espresso dust. There's rugged and meaty mouthfeel to the palate, which recalls campfire coffee served alongside flame-broiled toast drenched in boysenberry jam, with ample cracked pepper atop. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

92 Ernest 2022 Edaphos Trimble Vineyard Carignan (Mendocino County). This wine is fresh, lively, with aromas of black raspberry, black cherry and dried rose petal. The flavors on the mid-palate are vibrant red plum, Bing cherry, rhubarb interlaced with allspice, orange zest and a dry finish. Enjoy with smoked game. —T.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$32

92 Kaleidos 2021 Carignan (Templeton Gap District). Able to withstand the heat, tolerate drier conditions and retain its own unique character in the glass, Carignan is an exciting grape to watch. This bottling begins with aromas of black plum, clove and nutmeg that are deftly integrated. The palate is rich in flavor yet tense in structure, offering oak, dark fruit and herb flavors as acidity rises into the midpalate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$60

GRENACHE

95 Epoch 2021 Sensibility Paderewski Vineyard Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Grenache is not typically the wisest choice for the cellar, but this bottling is so stacked with potential that it will be a treat to watch over the years. Aromas of bold cherry compote and star anise lead from the nose into a creamy palate of crushed cherry and cracked pepper. The tannins are quite firm and the acid is high. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

94 Fulldraw 2021 Hard Point Grenache (Paso Robles). Dense and dark in the glass, this is a great example of a powerful Grenache that retains balance and will last a good amount of time in the cellar. Aromas of black cherry, cardamom, rose extract and a hint of meat decorate the nose. The palate is laced in firm tannins, with cocoa dust, chai and cassis flavors, and that chalky frame goes deep into the finish. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$90

94 Kaleidos 2021 Osiris Grenache (Paso Robles). Dark plum, violet, lavender and cola aromas show on the nose of this Grenache-

based blend, which also includes 4% Petite Sirah and 2% Mourvèdre. The palate is expressive and layered, combining boysenberry, lavender and a pinch of white peppercorn into a seamless display. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$50

94 Samsara 2021 Larner Vineyard Grenache (Ballard Canyon). A vibrant hue of purplish red in the glass, this bottling excites the nose with clean and fresh aromas of black raspberry and scarlet rose petals. The palate is zesty and engaging, offering more rose petals, violet, berry and lively white pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: NA **Price:** \$64

94 Samsara 2021 Spear Vineyard Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). Dried cherry, tarry asphalt and singed leather aromas make for a very earthy style of Grenache on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is wildly complex, offering tight flavors of cranberry and red plum with ample white peppercorn and singed thyme elements adding elegance. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$59

93 Jaffurs 2021 Grenache (Ballard Canyon). Dark cherry and dense strawberry aromas make for a very fruit-driven nose on this bottling. The palate offers fine-tuned structure and a clean cherry liqueur flavor at the core, with minty herbs adding nuance. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$42

93 Sculpterra 2022 Grenache (Paso Robles). This is always such a fun, playful and ultimately satisfying Grenache. Bolstered by 12% Petite Sirah, this vintage stays bright with strawberry, mace and sandalwood aromas on the nose. The palate is washed in vibrant acidity that presents red fruit and white pepper flavors. A perfect red wine for the beach or lake. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

93 Zaca Mesa 2020 Amphora Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). It's not clear exactly what amphora will do for wine, but in this case, the wine shows ample fruit balanced by persistent earth tones. Aromas of candied cherry, red apple, rosewater and cinnamon stick lead into a snappy palate of raspberry, rose and sumac, with a tinge of herbs on the back end. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

92 Kaleidos 2021 Praying Mantis Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Pristine aromas of black raspberry extract and star anise are penetrating on the spicy nose of this bottling. The palate is very bold and thick in mouthfeel, yet with firm tannins, making for both a grippy and viscous expression. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$80

92 Sinor-LaVallee 2022 Estate Grenache (San Luis Obispo Coast). This is an extremely spicy and rather ripe take on Grenache, offering intense aromas of cola, root beer and Dr. Pepper

spices along with black cherry and black plum elements. The rich palate's flavors of black cherry, strawberry compote and clove are balanced by firm tannins and persistent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

92 Villa San-Juliette 2021 Grenache (Paso Robles). Lighter in the glass, this is a rustic and pleasantly easygoing style of Grenache that features aromas of baking spice and baked cherry on the nose. There is chai spice and fresh berry on the palate, which goes down easy. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Wine Without Borders 2021 Grenache (San Francisco Bay). This wine is fresh, vibrant, concentrated with aromas of boysenberry, black tea, katamala olive, orange zest, on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are blackberry preserve, black olive, orange peel, intertwined with cardamom, dried cranberry, dried sage and a dry finish. —T.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$23

91 Carr 2020 Lyons Vineyard Grenache (Los Olivos District). A hearty nose of roasted black cherry, clove and root beer spice make for a bold nose on this bottling. The palate lands with a creamy texture, offering candied strawberry, chai spice and light pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Lava Cap 2022 Estate Grenache (El Dorado). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Lumen 2020 Portico Hills Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County). This is a very natty style of Grenache, starting with the hazy appearance in the glass and continuing with tart orange rind, cranberry and sagebrush aromas on the nose. The palate follows a similar theme, with cranberry, orange and thyme flavors most prevalent. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Mesa Del Sol 2017 Grenache (Arroyo Seco). Very light in the glass, this slightly aged bottling offers brisk cherry and cranberry aromas on the nose along with earthy dust, rock and herb touches. The palate is very light with hints of cherry, coffee and orange peel. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

90 Songs 2020 Perfect Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Toasty oak aromas meet with melted licorice, dark cherry and mulling spices on the very spiced nose of this bottling. The palate follows a similar approach, offering star anise, clove and sandalwood. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

88 Carr 2020 Whole-Cluster Kaerskov Vineyard Grenache (Los Olivos District). This is a very ripe and dense style of Grenache, offering cherry liqueur and bourbon barrel aromas on the nose. The palate surrounds a dried berry flavor that's layered

in intense baking spice and gingerbread elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Grevino 2013 Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). Dusty aromas of leather, baked berry and toast show on the nose of this older bottling. Dried cherry, tar and game flavors converge on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

88 Montemar 2017 Watch Hill Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Sour cherry and tart plum aromas meet with rustic herbs and game on the nose of this bottling. There's a light funk to the palate, where dark cherry fruit flavors are both ripe and tart. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

SYRAH

97 Epoch 2020 Authenticity Paderewski Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Intensely lovely on the nose, this Syrah begins with slightly caramelized aromas of kirsch and blackberry sauce infused with clove and mace. There is a fascinatingly tight tannic tension to the palate, framing layer upon layer of berry and star anise as an impressive acidity keeps the rich experience rather vibrant. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$95

96 Epoch 2020 Block B Paderewski Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). The various aspects of this wine are interwoven in fascinating ways on this bottling, starting with blackberry, blueberry, toasted cocoa, soy and purple flower aromas all complementing each other. The palate is equally suave, offering brioche, blueberry, peppercorn and chocolate atop a structure that lingers long into the finish. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$105

95 Fulldraw 2021 Honey Bunny Syrah (Paso Robles). Hearty and rich aromas of lightly smoked cassis, charcoal, singed tobacco and dark asphalt make for a savory nose on this Syrah, which includes 8% Mourvèdre. Stiff tannins wrap around the roasted boysenberry, salted jerky and cracked pepper flavors of the palate. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Jaffurs 2021 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This is a great representation of a solid Syrah bottling that touches on both the cooler and warmer aspects of the grape. Intense aromas of blackberry, black peppercorns and charred shishito peppers decorate the nose. The palate is dense, showing rich cassis flavors, but it's also elegant in spices, with pepper, iodine and purple flower flavors. Quite seamless. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32

95 Madson 2022 Ascona Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

95 Meyer Family Cellars 2013 High Ground Reserve Syrah (Yorkville Highlands). This wine is black-purple-hued with aromas of blackberry, olallieberry, chicory, dried cigar leaf on the nose. The flavors on the palate are dried black currant, lingonberry, black molasses, dried herbs intertwined with bittersweet chocolate on the finish. It's a beautiful bottle with age. Decant and enjoy with steak Bavette. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$58

95 Rhônedonnée 2021 Night Ride Syrah (Edna Valley). This wine sports an action-packed nose, hefty, savory, dense and ripe at once. Aromas of blackened beef, turned earth, blackberry and purple flower lead from the nose into a palate that sizzles with zippy acidity, carrying blueberry, elderberry, roasted meat and desert herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

94 Brassfield 2019 Perspective Syrah (High Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$65

94 Holus Bolus 2022 Franc de Pied Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). The fresh black raspberry aromas of this cool-climate Syrah are quickly cut by rainbow peppercorns, nori and a hint of char on the nose. The palate shows ample amounts of herby, peppery spices, but there's generous baked red fruit flavors as well, forgiving enough amid the green peppercorn and bay leaf elements to lure neophytes into this style. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

94 Ken Brown 2019 John Sebastiano Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark elderberry, violet and lightly smoked beef aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is medium-bodied and quite fresh, offering wild berry, cracked pepper and lightly floral flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55

94 Madson 2022 Kessler-Haak Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Fresh and rocky on the nose, this bottling blends black raspberry and crumbled lavender aromas with hits of ash, graphite and granite. The palate is zippy and textural, carrying raspberry and black plum flavors through black pepper, wild herb and light game elements. Drink now–2042. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$32

94 Madson 2022 Red Tail Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is a rugged style of mountain-grown Syrah, starting with earthy, funky and meat aromas of dried beef, asphalt and a hint of elderberry on the nose. The palate is tense in structure and fresh in acidity, with flavors of peppercorn, dark fruit and charred meat riding a rocky tension into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 Meyer Family Cellars 2019 High Ground Reserve Syrah (Yorkville Highlands). This wine is deep and dark with rich aromas of black raspberry, blackberry, black licorice, Earl Grey tea, clove on the nose. The flavors in the midpalate are black fruits confiture, sarsaparilla, habanero jelly, rolling into bittersweet chocolate shavings, savory herbs and a dry finish. Decant for an hour. Hold or drink 2024–2030. —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$48

94 Rhônedonnée 2020 Night Ride Syrah (Edna Valley). This mountain bike-themed bottling begins with savory aromas of mesquite-charred meat and black plum pie on the attention-grabbing nose. Bloody meat and hoisin flavors meet with gingerbread and incense on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

94 Thacher 2020 Homestead Hill Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This is a lush style of Syrah, sure to satisfy those seeking Paso power. Aromas of cassis, caramel and fudge kick off the rich nose. The palate's rich blackberry cream, violet extract, blueberry sorbet and milk chocolate flavors are wrapped in firm tannins and finish on a tea leaf note. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

94 Zaca Mesa 2019 Black Bear Block Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). From the block that remains of the first-ever Syrah planted in Santa Barbara County, this always-exciting bottling begins with clean boysenberry and toasted baking spice aromas on the nose. The palate is smoothly textured, offering rich blackberry, toasted oak and warm brioche flavors alongside a graphite minerality. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Zaca Mesa 2019 Mesa Reserve Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). Snappy aromas of black plum and fresh açai meet with cracked pepper on the zesty nose of this bottling. The palate picks a savory streak of tar, charred beef and burned soy, with blueberry and violet flavors returning for the peppery finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$56

93 ACE 1542 2020 White Hawk Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This is a promising collaboration between winemaker Curt Schalchlin and sommelier Emmanuel Kemiji. This ageworthy bottling begins with savory aromas of turned soil, crushed rocks and dark, subtle fruit. The palate is quite tense and remains earthy, though offers riper blueberry flavors as well. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Comptoir 2021 Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Bright and juicy aromas of boysenberry, açai and lilac also show a darker, denser side on the nose of this bottling. Light, fluffy tannins pick up some muscle over the course of the sip, where blueberry sorbet, peppercorn and asphalt flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$36

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Frey 2021 Organic Syrah (California). This wine is intense purple-hued, full-bodied with aromas of fresh, ripe blueberry, blackberry fruits, cooked bacon, maple, florals on the nose. The flavors in the midpalate are dried black currant, black molasses, dried chicory, interlaced with tobacco leaf and espresso crema on the finish. Decant and enjoy with a hearty protein. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$18

93 Kaleidos 2021 Syrah (Templeton Gap District). Intense aromas of cassis, violet and sarsaparilla are extremely rich and expressive on the nose of this bottling. The bold, rich and lush style of Syrah offers cassis, milk chocolate and light mint on the palate, where there is ample tension to balance the ripe and dense core. —M.K.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$60

93 McPrice Myers 2021 Larner Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). This is a bold style of Syrah, offering blackberry sauce and mesquite-smoked meat aromas on the oaky nose. The palate is dense and rich yet splashed with acidity, showing baked blackberry, oak smoke and soy flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$72

93 Scott Harvey 2021 Mountain Selection Syrah (Amador County). This wine is rich, complex with black fruits, mushroom and earth. The palate repeats the nose intertwined with bay leaf, chicory, grilled orange slices, shifting into dark chocolate, toasted chestnuts, dried florals and a silky finish. Pair with ahi tuna, porcini-crusted black cod, or beef cheeks. —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

93 Sextant 2021 Portolan Syrah (Paso Robles). Dense and dark aromas of ripe berry are cut by savory tar tones and a dusty wood element on the nose of this bottling, which includes 4% Viognier. The palate is dense with boysenberry and violet flavors, firmly structured and impressively dense. Drink now–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$80

93 Six Sigma Ranch 2020 Marianne's Reserve Syrah (Lake County). For full review see page 10.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$54

93 Tlo 2020 Reserve Syrah (Edna Valley). Creamy aromas of black cherry, chai and cappuccino show on the nose of this bottling. That creamy combination of spices, including clove, mace and star anise, are balanced by a gamy kick on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$60

92 Darling Wines 2022 Zayante Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is a very delicate style of Syrah, beginning with raspberry, dark mint and lavender aromas on the nose. The palate keeps the herbal theme alive, with wild thyme and pepper flavors that decorate the plum and raspberry

core. It's leathery in texture, yet stays light on its feet. —M.K.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$48

92 Element 79 2020 Syrah (Fair Play). This wine is rich, concentrated with blue fruits and black fruits. The juicy fruit is intertwined with dried herbs, violet, black licorice and portobello mushrooms. The finish gently rounds into fresh tobacco leaves, cocoa and toasty vanilla spice. —T.P.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$42

92 Fennell 2020 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Lively aromas of fresh blackberry meet with violet and espresso bean on the nose of this bottling. The palate stays fresh as well, with white pepper and herb flavors giving depth to the dominant, almost candied purple fruit flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

92 Ken Brown 2019 Zaca Mesa Vineyard Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). Intense aromas of blackberry, violet and blueberry meet with soy, charred meat and herb on the complex nose of this bottling, in which veteran vintner Ken Brown showcases a vineyard he helped pioneer. The palate trends more into the sagebrush and wild thyme flavor set, with purple fruit and pepper popping on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$50

92 Ojai Mountain 2021 Syrah (Ventura County). Rounded blackberry and purple flower aromas meet with asphalt and lava rock minerality on the nose of this bottling from high atop a mountain that overlooks most of Ventura County. The palate is dense and lavish, coated in cassis and cracked pepper, proving powerfully ripe. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$60

92 Samsara 2021 John Sebastiano Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Cola and sarsaparilla aromas meet with tart black plum on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense and loaded with umami flavors, from soy to pepper, with a brisk fruit lingering into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$64

92 Tlo 2019 Syrah (Paso Robles). Easygoing dark fruit aromas are enhanced by a touch of toasted pastry on the nose of this bottling. There's ample tension to the palate, where charcoal and peppercorn flavors balance the strong purple flower flavors. This wine has plenty of life left. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

91 Carr 2020 Kaerskov Vineyard Syrah (Los Olivos District). Thick aromas of cassis, smoked meats and soy make for a mostly savory nose on this bottling. The palate is dense with baked fruit flavors that are coated in cinnamon and clove spices. —M.K.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$60

91 Carr 2020 Tierra Alta Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Mace, oak, cola and cherry pie filling aromas invite the nose into this single-vineyard

expression. The palate is bold and ripe with black cherry cream and strawberry syrup flavors, as a mildly bitter spice adds depth to the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

91 Donati Family Vineyard 2021 Family Reserve Syrah (Paso Robles Genesee District). This is an oak bomb of a wine, but the sun-kissed Syrah is able to handle that spicy weight. Aromas of baked blackberry crumble and oak dust lead into a palate of vanilla cake, caramel and coffee cake flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$53

91 Ernest 2022 Edaphos Poor Ranch Vineyard Syrah (Mendocino County). This wine is rich, complex with dark red fruits and blue fruits. The texture is elegant with juicy tannins interlaced with red licorice, blood orange, dried potpourri, chicory and dark chocolate. The finish is fresh, bright and repeats the beginning processes of the tasting senses. Pair with baked sardines, mackie, burgers (any kind). —T.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$42

91 Mesa Del Sol 2017 Syrah (Arroyo Seco). Elderberry aromas meet with dusty violet, soy and shiitake on the nose of this bottling. That savory streak extends across the palate, where charred meat, lavender, white pepper and dried berry flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$38

91 Songs 2020 Home Zotovich Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Nutty, woody aromas of carob and coffee bean meet with stewed berry on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the palate, where roasted espresso and wild thyme flavors are dusted over dense elderberry fruits. —M.K.

abv: 15%

Price: \$85

91 Summerland 2021 Robert Rae Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with crisp raspberry, wild fennel and, with some air, more of a baked blueberry aroma. It's light on its feet and peppery in spice on the palate, offering rose petal, lavender and dark chocolate flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

91 Sunstone 2021 Reserve Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Rich and spicy aromas range from dark baked fruit to crushed hard spices on the nose of this bottling, which manages to stay fresh. The bold fruit on the palate adds a smokier, meaty edge, with waxy tannins leading into a peppery finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

91 Wiens Cellars 2020 Reserve Syrah (Temecula Valley). Dark elderberry, black olive, chestnut and rugged earth aromas of rock and singed chaparral make for a compelling nose on this bottling. The palate is very approachable with flavors of blackberry and boysenberry, as that warm chestnut

tone comes through atop firm tannins into the herb-laced finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$105

90 Carr 2020 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This countywide cuvée is a very dark, ripe and somewhat rugged style of Syrah, starting with aromas of roasted meat and elderberry extract. The palate is viscous and thick with flavors of roasted fruit and berry jam. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Carr 2020 Lyons Vineyard Syrah (Los Olivos District). Very dark in the glass, this bottling begins with extracted blackberry and blueberry aromas that are heavily spiced with clove and nutmeg on the nose. The palate is also quite ripe with candied blueberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$70

90 Grevino 2013 Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). This decade-old Syrah is still alive, beginning with aromas of blackberry, game, soy and iodine on the nose. The palate picks up an herbal angle, with which leathery flavors of berry and aged meat align. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$40

90 La Fata 2021 Freedom of Life Syrah (Temecula Valley). Baked berry, toasty oak and mulling spice aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Baked plum, cinnamon and mace flavors make for a pleasant, familiar sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$127

90 Montemar 2017 Thompson Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Lavish and dark aromas of mahogany, baked black plum and eucalyptus leaf make for an intriguing nose on this bottling. There is a lot of umami to the palate, where fish sauce funk elevates the baked berry and gingerbread flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

90 Montemar 2017 Watch Hill Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This slightly aged Syrah is still showing ample life, beginning with aromas of boysenberry, peppercorn and wild thyme on the nose. The palate snaps with a tart black plum and just-ripe boysenberry combination, as violet and açai elements add richness. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Peltzer Family 2020 Syrah (Temecula Valley). Black plum aromas are laced in caramel and woodspice on the nose of this bottling. There's a thickness to the mouthfeel of the palate, where roasted plum and baked berry flavors are dusted in Christmas spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Scott Harvey 2021 J&S Reserve Syrah (Amador County). This wine is opulent, dense with dark red and black fruits. The texture is dusty gripping tannins intertwining violets, sarsaparilla, black cherries, chocolate, circling back to a juicy

core midpalate and finishing with firm tannins. Pair with prime rib, steak and BBQ. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Sky Valley 2020 Syrah (Ramona Valley). Baked red fruit aromas retain a bit of tartness on the nose of this bottling, which also offers licorice, leather and game on the nose. Dried cherry and dry-aged meat flavors make for a savory show on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

89 Villa San-Juliette 2021 Syrah (Paso Robles). Wild thyme, black plum, lavender and rose petal aromas make for an elegant entry to the nose of this bottling. Toasted sage and fennel flavors decorate the red berry flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

88 Montemar 2017 EBA Watch Hill Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Charred meat, nori wrap and green peppercorn make for a slightly funky nose on this bottling. The slightly sour charcuterie flavors are laced throughout the palate, where stewed berry lingers in the background. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

88 Sky Valley 2019 Syrah (Ramona Valley). Licorice and blackberry extract aromas meet with saddle leather and dusty old book scents on the nose of this bottling. There's a flash of fresh berry on the sip, with more of that melted licorice as well, proving highly spiced and rich. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

MOURVÈDRE

93 Samsara 2021 Kimsey Vineyard Mourvèdre (Ballard Canyon). This one-barrel bottling of a typically rugged grape was likely not originally designed to be so delicate, but the results are very engaging. Light in the glass, the nose is reminiscent of warm raspberry pie being served amid the dust clouds of a sagebrush-surrounded ranch. The palate is tense with chalky tannins but bright with strawberry punch flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$59

92 Rhônedonnée 2021 Trail Secret Mourvèdre (Paso Robles). Aromas of black plum, graphite, dried beef and anise show on the nose of this bottling. The palate's blackberry core is amplified by black peppercorns and a hint of leather. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

91 Sunstone 2021 Nolan Vineyard Mourvèdre (Alisos Canyon). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling from a newer vineyard near Los Alamos begins with aromas of sour cherry, rose petal and Sichuan peppercorn. The palate picks up red plum, mace and dried herbs, with that spicy Sichuan peppercorn element persisting into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

MERLOT

93 Brassfield 2021 Estate Merlot (High Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

93 Bumgarner 2020 Merlot (El Dorado). Rich, ripe olallieberry, black cherry compote, black molasses, brown sugar, cumin, clove, espresso crema on the nose. The intense boysenberry, blueberry compote, black licorice, spiced chocolate is intertwined with sweet cigar, mineral, pink grapefruit zest and a dry finish. Pair with grilled blood sausage, root vegetables and red wine sauce. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Chateau Souverain 2021 Merlot (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$12

92 Donati Family Vineyard 2021 Merlot (Paso Robles). Strawberry and fennel pollen aromas make for a compelling mix of fruit and herb on the nose of this bottling. The tannins are firm but the mouthfeel is creamy on the palate, where singed herb, dried cherry and charcoal-grilled meat flavors lead into a vanilla finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$26

92 Tribeca 2021 Maverick's Montana Ave Merlot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). This is a very appealing style of Merlot that gains more intrigue as it sits open for hours. Aromas of cherry, oak and root beer introduce the nose to the wine. The palate is pleasantly juicy yet also spiced with ample oak and herb influence. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

91 Brady Vineyard 2020 Merlot (Paso Robles). For full review see page 13.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 Ramsay 2021 Merlot (California). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Sunstone 2021 Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). Smoothly integrated aromas of baked red fruits and barrel spice converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up anise and fennel pollen spices to offset the brisk red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

89 La Fata 2021 Blended Dreams Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). Baking spice aromas of star anise and clove meet with light red fruit on this bottling, which includes 12% Syrah and 12% Petite Sirah. Similar spices fire up the red cherry core of the palate, which is wrapped in a firm texture. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$68

89 Songs 2020 Remember When Merlot (Adelaida District). Quite dark in the glass, this is a very lush, almost sweet bottling, starting with cassis, nutmeg and strong woodspice on the nose.

BUYINGGUIDE

The palate is very ripe and thick, offering dense black cherry and cola spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$85

89 Stilson 2021 Merlot (Adelaida District). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers rose petal and tart plum aromas on the nose. The palate is brisk with cranberry, cracked pepper and baking spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

88 Le Vigne 2021 Merlot (Paso Robles). Dark cherry and walnut aromas meet with pepper and rose extract on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit tart with red plum skin flavors that grow slightly sour. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Midnight 2020 Estate Merlot (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark cherry and woodspice aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is bone-dry, offering clear flavors of herb and subtle red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$52

MALBEC

93 Peltzer Family 2020 Malbec (Temecula Valley). This is an impressive Malbec, revealing much potential from the grape in Temecula. Aromas of blackberry, crushed stone and toasted herb lead from the nose into a chalky, acid-washed palate of dark berry and herb. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

93 Tlo 2020 Reserve Malbec (Paso Robles). An inky shade in the glass, this intense bottling pops with fudge and berry sauce aromas on the nose. The palate is bold and concentrated, showing baking spice, dark berry and savory hints of tar toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Midnight 2020 Solstice Malbec (Paso Robles). This is a deliciously complex Malbec, starting with aromas of blackberry, oregano, marjoram and purple flower on the nose. The palate is lush with blackberry jam and lilac flavors, as cracked pepper and herb elements culminate in a vanilla-kissed finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$52

91 Écluse 2021 Red Door Ranch Malbec (Paso Robles). Dark, loamy soil, tar and charcoal aromas make for an earthy start to the nose of this bottling, which also offers inky blueberry and cassis scents. The palate picks up an herbal edge of singed sagebrush and fennel pollen, with a core of wild plum fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

91 Sunstone 2021 Reserve Malbec (Santa Barbara County). Lush lilac and plum pudding aromas meet with wet earth and a touch of meat on the nose of this bottling. The palate is medium to

light in body, with black plum, cracked pepper and oregano flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

91 Wiens Cellars 2020 San Ignacio Vineyard Malbec (Riverside County). Strong fennel pollen aromas play nicely against black raspberry jam and charcoal-grilled meat on the nose of this bottling. The licorice and blackberry flavors of the palate ride leathery, long-lasting tannins. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$145

89 Villa San-Juliette 2021 Malbec (Paso Robles). Toasted wood and amaro aromas meet with roasted red fruit and fennel aromas on the nose of this bottling. The tannins are smoothed out on the palate, where the licorice, baked cherry and herbal liqueur flavors come together. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$58

BARBERA

93 Meikle 2020 The Villa Barbera (Amador County). Bright, juicy pomegranate, black currant, dried rose petal, dried cumin and chicory on the nose. The fruit is rich, round with dried cranberry, red plums, black cherry, orange zest intertwined with dark chocolate, black coffee and red licorice. The finish is dry but invites you to drink more. Pair with veal chops. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Scott Harvey 2021 J&S Reserve Barbera (Amador County). Rich concentrated blackberry, black cherry, molasses, spearmint, orange marmalade on the nose. The fruit is black cherry, blackberry, blueberry compote, dried bay leaf, dried potpourri, vanilla bean mascarpone, bittersweet cocoa on the palate. The finish is dry, earthy and long-lasting. Pair with BBQ. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

92 Terra d'Oro 2021 Barbera (Amador County). Dried red currant, cranberry-pomegranate, blood orange, dried florals on the nose. The palate is fresh strawberry, Bing cherry, red currants, zest of pink grapefruit, clove, chicory and bittersweet chocolate. The finish is long and dry. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

SANGIOVESE

92 Doctor's Orders 2022 Sangiovese (Ventura County). Ventura County is still a proving ground for various varieties, but Sangiovese works well. Aromas of cherry, dark watermelon and light mint lead from the nose of this bottling to a palate wrapped in an earthy tension and sporting flavors of red cherry, strawberry, cinnamon and oregano. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Koehler 2021 Estate Sangiovese (Santa Ynez Valley). The 40% new French oak really

stands out on this bottling, and will likely become more intriguing as it more fully integrates with time. Aromas of cherry and boysenberry roasted over hardwood on the nose leads into a thick palate of leathery tannins, black plum and nutmeg flavors. Drink 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

90 Le Vigne 2021 Sangiovese (Paso Robles). Candied cherry, strawberry, cinnamon and woodspice are very easygoing on the pleasant nose of this bottling. The palate pairs heavy oak spice with dark berry flavors, finishing on a lingering vanilla kick. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$28

89 Mesa Del Sol 2017 Sangiovese (Arroyo Seco). Tart cherry, dark plum, cardamom and nutmeg aromas make for a spicy nose on this bottling. The palate's dark cherry fruit flavors are cut by root beer spice and dank eucalyptus leaf notes. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Vienza at Europa Village 2019 Estate Sangiovese (Temecula Valley). Showing a slight brown edge in the glass, this bottling offers French toast spice aromas on the nose along with a hint of rosewater. The palate picks up riper aromas of dried cherry, with hints of mace, incense and eucalyptus leaf adding nuance. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$49

88 Sky Valley 2020 Sangiovese (Ramona Valley). A light hue in the glass, this bottling offers rustic cherry and bitter herb aromas on the nose. Dried cherry, game and peppery spice flavors make for a pleasantly rustic palate, with a kick of vanilla on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

TEMPRANILLO

92 Frey 2021 Biodynamic Tempranillo (Mendocino). This wine is deep garnet-hued with fresh fruit aromas of boysenberry, blueberry preserve, black molasses, habanero jelly on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are blackberry jam, fresh blueberry syrup, pink peppercorn rounding out to dried chicory, salted dark chocolate and dry tannins on the finish. If you are interested in trying biodynamic and natural wines, this is a good producer to try. —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

90 Bolero at Europa Village 2020 Tempranillo (Temecula Valley). Toasted oak and oregano aromas meet with dark plum and berry on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a similar set of flavors, picking up hints of fine leather and dust along the way. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Sequence 2021 Vignette Tempranillo (Santa Ynez Valley). This bottling, which includes 3% Merlot, starts with aromas of licorice, peat-smoked berry and nori wrap on the nose. The palate

gains a meatier edge, offering smoked game, furikake spice and anise flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$42

88 Bolero at Europa Village NV Reserve Tempranillo (Temecula Valley). Asphalt and roasted licorice aromas meet with a core of baked red plum on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fairly thin in mouthfeel for a typically hearty grape, as sagebrush and rustic red plum flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$79

PETITE SIRAH

92 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2020 Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley). Hickory smoke, licorice and dark berry aromas meet with wood shavings on the nose of this bottling. The palate is impressively thick with a chalky texture and ample acidity, as blackberry, mint and cocoa ride a lingering grip into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$52

92 MCV 2021 Gemeny Vineyards Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). This is as dark and inky as Petite Sirah can be, boasting elderberry, blueberry, toasted bean and cocoa bean aromas on the nose. The mouthfeel is thick and the tannins are firm on the palate, providing a leathery grip to surround the bold, rich and slightly tart fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

92 Theopolis 2021 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Yorkville Highlands). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of blackberry, cassis, violet, allspice and bittersweet chocolate. The midpalate has flavors of blueberry jam, dried baking spices, vanilla bean and toasted walnut. Layers of black currant, sandalwood, rock and minerality bring everything together. Pair with grilled ahi tuna. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

91 Écluse 2021 Defiance Vineyard Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Very dark aromas of elderberry and charred mesquite make for a fruity, smoky nose on this bottling. The palate combines asphalt, dark chocolate and charred elderberry flavors into a well-structured sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58

91 Element 79 2019 Estate Petite Sirah (Fair Play). Opulent, intense florals, blackberry, boysenberry, pink peppercorn, white grapefruit zest on the nose. Fresh blackberry, peach preserve, lime zest, vanilla cream, allspice rolling into bittersweet chocolate and fresh ground espresso beans. Aerate and enjoy with tri-tip. —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

91 Villa San-Juliette 2021 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Intense aromas of blueberry sorbet, açai and lilac are powerful on the nose of this bottling. The palate stays fresh with more açai and lilac

flavors, as the floral tones ride leathery tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$46

90 Brady Vineyard 2021 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 14.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

90 Frey 2021 Organic Petite Sirah (Mendocino). Purple garnet-hued dense, black berry, boysenberry, fresh florals, dried eucalyptus on the nose. Lively, concentrated black currant, blueberry compote, orange zest, clove morphing into dried tobacco leaf and bittersweet chocolate on the finish. If you are curious about natural wine, pick this one up to try. Aerate and pair with hearty faïence. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

90 Le Vigne 2021 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Intense and focused aromas of cassis and melted licorice show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is juicy and fresh with boysenberry and blueberry flavors, with more licorice spice adding depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

90 Peltzer Family 2020 Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley). Boysenberry, white pepper and purple flower aromas cast a familiar nose on this bottling. The palate's dark purple flower and fruit flavors are layered in oregano and marjoram, with hints of black tea arising on the firm finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60

88 Bending Branch 2019 Shell Creek Vineyards Old Vine Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Dark blueberry and purple flower aromas are somewhat subtle on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also fairly mild with black plum and wild herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$45

88 Wiens Cellars 2020 Reserve Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley). Espresso bean and charred wood aromas lead the nose on this bottling. There is a strong fennel spice and licorice kick to the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$105

87 Sky Valley 2020 Petite Sirah (Ramona Valley). Rich aromas of vanilla and dark caramel meet with sweet cherry and maple syrup on the nose of this bottling. The palate is packed with caramel, vanilla, nutmeg and brown sugar flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

ZINFANDEL

94 Andis 2021 Shake Ridge Ranch Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). This wine is driven by blackberry, black cherry and allspice. The other notes waft through, including blueberry, boysenberry, ginger-spiced black tea and orange-blossom honey. Layers of dark fruit, dark chocolate, earth

and minerality bring it all together. Impressive vineyard site with beautiful fruit. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

93 Andis 2021 Friedlander Block Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

93 Sand Point 2021 Zinfandel (California). For full review see page 16. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$12

93 Scott Harvey 2021 Mountain Selection Zinfandel (Amador County). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Andis 2021 Di Stasio Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). This wine is fresh and lively, with aromas of red currant, black cherry and cracked black pepper. Other notes waft through, including jasmine tea, black cherry cream soda, pomegranate, habanero jelly and red-skinned apple. Layers of rocky sediment and silky tannins bring it all together. Pair with pork tacos. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Andis 2021 Old Massoni Ranch Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

91 Paso Highlands 2022 Zinfandel (Paso Robles Highlands District). There's a snappy, refreshing raspberry aroma on the nose of this bottling, with peppercorn, sage stick and light peppercorn elements adding nuance. The palate is lean yet expressive, offering raspberry and toasted thyme flavors, making for a zesty style of Zinfandel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

91 Sextant 2021 Wheelhouse Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Lush black cherry compote aromas meet with chai-like spice and anise on the nose of this bottling. The core of black cherry and vanilla ice cream flavors make for a rich palate, which offers just enough tannin for balance. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$24

90 Brady Vineyard 2021 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). For full review see page 14.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

90 Carnivor 2021 Zinfandel (California). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Criss Cross 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$14

90 Havens 2021 H Luxury Collection Zinfandel (Lodi). This wine is rich, concentrated, with aromas of black cherry, cooked black plums, black tea, dried florals on the nose. The palate is blackberry confiture, molasses, orange marmalade, cinnamon spice interlacing toasted vanilla, dried

BUYINGGUIDE

chicory, dark chocolate and orange cream in the finish. Decant and enjoy. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

90 McManis 2022 Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$10

90 Meikle 2020 Lazy Larry Zinfandel (Amador County). Lively, fresh mulberry, raspberry, chicory, vanilla, dried florals on the nose. The zesty red plum, cranapple, pomegranate, pink grapefruit, cinnamon encompass the palate sliding into blood orange zest, dried potpourri, bittersweet chocolate and a dry finish. Pair with your favorite takeout. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Freakshow 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Scott Harvey 2021 J&S Reserve Zinfandel (Amador County). This wine is fresh, concentrated, with aromas of dark cranberry-pomegranate, candied orange slices, florals on the nose. The palate is cooked raspberry, strawberry, blackberry, baking spices, lime marmalade rolling into a mouthwatering dry finish. Pair with lamb chops. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

88 Mesa Del Sol 2017 Zinfandel (Arroyo Seco). Caramelized fruit and caramel aromas show on the nose of this bottling, which is showing a touch of its age. Lush and rich fruit flavors make for a dense palate, where clove and nutmeg provide ample spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Midnight 2020 Estate Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Ripe aromas of blackberry and black plum are spiced by cardamom and clove on the nose of this bottling. There's a strong barrel spice to the palate, where nutmeg, clove and chai flavors recall a pumpkin latte with creamy red fruits in the background. —M.K.
abv: 16.8% **Price:** \$52

88 Tio 2021 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Caramelized black cherry, vanilla and cinnamon roll aromas make for a rich nose on this bottling. The palate is also very much like a breakfast dessert, showing baked strawberry, nutmeg and oak spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$50

87 Truth & Valor 2021 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Ripe berries are layered in gamy, Syrah-like aromas of pepper and meat on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up an asphalt minerality that sits behind the dank herb, rich black plum and turned-earth flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

OTHER RED WINES

94 Longoria 2022 Two Wolves Vineyard Graciano (Santa Ynez Valley). Graciano, originally planted across the region by mistake, is really coming into its own as a stand-alone grape. This is one of the better examples from Santa Barbara to date, offering generous aromas of black cherry, toasted herb and singed oak on the comforting nose. The palate is creamy and dense in texture, offering baked fruits, peppery spice and warm hints of mace and nutmeg. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

94 Madson 2022 Gamay Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A light color in the glass, this bottling is yet another example of why Gamay Noir should be more widely planted across the cooler corners of the Central Coast. Aromas of peppery, earthy herbs and zesty raspberry lead from the exciting nose into a palate laced with fresh acidity and a stony grip and loaded with herbed raspberry compote flavors. Fun but with endless character. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$36

93 Lepe 2022 Highlands Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Gamay Noir is shining as an excellent grape across the Central Coast, and this bottling is one more entry in the exciting category. Aromas of boysenberry, cracked pepper and slight woodspice lead from the nose into a fresh palate of baked red fruit, more pepper and a lightly oaky kick. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$45

92 Ernest 2022 Edaphos Alder Springs Vineyard Trousseau (Mendocino County). This wine is light, violet-hued with aromas of cassis, cranberry-apple, orange blossom, black tea, on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are juicy cranberry-pomegranate, pink grapefruit, intertwined with dried herbs, orange-blossom honey and a mouthwatering dry finish. Great example of a varietal originally grown in the Loire and Rhône regions in France. —T.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$38

92 Prima Materia 2021 Primitivo (Kelsey Bench). This wine is deep garnet-hued with fresh fruit aromas and blueberry, huckleberry, star anise, potpourri, sandalwood, on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are juicy black cherry, black plums, dried laurel bay, pink grapefruit zest leading into espresso bean and a dry finish. Enjoy with hearty fare. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

92 Prima Materia 2021 Refosco (Kelsey Bench). This wine is intense black purple-hued, full-bodied aromas of blackberry confiture, black licorice, molten chocolate on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are black cherry preserve, dried plums, pepper jam, intertwined with dried parsley, vanilla bean cream on the finish. Enjoy with Korean BBQ. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

92 Prima Materia 2021 Sagrantino (Kelsey Bench). This wine is deep black plum-hued with full-bodied lively aromas of black cherry cola, boysenberry preserve, florals, cured bacon, on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are Morello cherry preserves, bourbon soaked red plums, gliding into juicy black cherry, creamy dark chocolate, vanilla with smooth tannins to finish. Great to see Italian varietals highlighted by this producer. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

92 Prima Materia 2020 Nebbiolo (Kelsey Bench). This wine is dark plum-hued, fresh, lively with aromatics of red plums, black strawberry, dried herbs, earth on the nose. The midpalate flavors are consistent with the aromas adding dried florals, cured meats, dried fruits into a mouthwatering dry finish. Aerate and enjoy with roasted pork loin. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

91 Allegretto 2019 Ayres Family Reserve Tannat (Paso Robles). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

91 Saint K 2021 Gravesend Lagrein (Paso Robles Highlands District). Dark and dense in the glass, this is a great option for impressing lovers of ripe wine who would like to learn about a rare variety. Aromas of black plum, cassis and potting soil lead into a palate of purple fruit and flowers, with acidity that pokes through repeatedly. Serve to balance pungent cheeses. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$38

91 Sunstone 2021 Reserve Petit Verdot (Santa Ynez Valley). Hefty blackberry aromas meet with smoked meat, iodine and violet on the dark and layered nose of this bottling. Hefty, very dry tannins frame charred beef and blackberry jam flavors that are bold enough to pair with rich foods. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

91 Villa San-Juliette 2021 Alicante Bouschet (Paso Robles). One of the few regional examples that can be found of this red-fleshed grape each vintage, this bottling offers toasted wood and ripe red-fruit aromas on the nose. The palate is toasty with oak spice and generous in flavors of strawberry, cherry, cocoa and herb. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$48

90 Grevino 2013 Dolcetto (Santa Maria Valley). Slightly tangy black plum aromas meet with clove and graphite on the dynamic nose of this bottling. The palate is very spicy in mace, nutmeg and clove, as dark fruit and dried herb flavors fill the core. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

90 Stasis 2022 Aglianico (Paso Robles). There's not much of this grape out there in California, so the parameters of how it's supposed to be don't really exist. In this case, the wine is very purple on the nose with açai and grape candy aromas. The palate adds fennel pollen and peppery

herbs to the candied grape flavors. Serve with pizza in place of soda pop. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Vienza at Europa Village 2021 Primitivo (Temecula Valley). Fresh and snappy raspberry aromas meet with mint, dust and steel on the nose of this bottling. The palate is grippy in texture with flavors of red plum skin and pepper. The finish is almost sweet with a cookie-like component. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$51

88 Écluse 2021 Lock Vineyard Tannat (Paso Robles). This is a very ripe vintage for this dark grape, starting with aromas of blueberry, black cherry and caramel on the nose. The palate is chalky in texture and loaded with flavors of caramel and oak that dominate the fruit. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$64

88 Vienza at Europa Village 2020 Estate Reserve Nebbiolo (Temecula Valley). Wild herb aromas of thyme and sagebrush meet with rustic, dusty berry elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate is sharply herbaceous, offering oregano, incense and bay leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$91

RED BLENDS

99 Epoch 2021 Veracity Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

95 Bodega de Edgar 2021 La Milla Paper Street Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Inky in the glass, this blend of 73% Mourvèdre and 27% Cabernet Sauvignon is intensely rugged yet very inviting, offering cassis, game and violet aromas on the nose. The palate is wrapped in textural tannins that present roasted black plum and smoked meat flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$72

95 Bodega de Edgar 2021 Priorato Paper Street Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Edgar Torres is challenging the deep Spanish styles through the California sunshine in blends like this of 39% Carignan, 37% Garnacha, 16% Cabernet Franc and 8% Syrah. Thick, intense aromas of boysenberry, cinnamon, violet, carob and pipe tobacco lead from the nose into fresh purple flowers and fruit on the palate, where fine tannins carry an underlying meat flavor. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$72

95 J. Lohr 2021 Cuvée Pom Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 3.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

95 McPrice Myers 2021 F.A. Red Blend (Paso Robles). Intensely dense on the nose, this blend of 48% Syrah, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and

16% Petit Verdot offers blackberry, blueberry and toasted oak on the nose. The palate is similarly bold, ripe and darkly flavored, showing charred beef and lush berry flavors atop a firmly tannic structure. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$55

95 ONX 2020 Kiler Canyon Syrah-Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 4.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$48

95 Rhônedonnée 2021 Dre Cuvée Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast). Expertly subdued aromas of boysenberry, pepper and violet decorate the nose of this blend of 74% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache and 6% Syrah. The suave mouthfeel is laced in silky tannins that frame lush flavors of açai, more violet and a pungent peppercorn, with a slightly bitter kick to the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$70

94 Bodega de Edgar 2021 Tarragona Paper Street Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). The purple fruit and violet aromas are cut by cracked white peppercorn on the nose of this blend of 71% Garnacha, 18% Tempranillo, 10% Carignan and 1% Graciano. The palate is full-bodied and lush, offering baked boysenberry, milk chocolate and pleasantly bitter espresso bean flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$72

94 Chateau Margene 2020 Cask 7 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Creston District). Dense and dark aromas of blackberry extract are elevated by hints of peppercorn, toasted herb and fennel pollen on the nose of this blend of Merlot and Malbec that sat in 100% new French oak for 30 months. The palate is firmly structured and intense in flavor, combining rich berry, herb and licorice flavors with intriguing waves of cardamom and cumin. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$210

94 Chesebro 2018 La Montagne Sauvage CM Ranch Rhône-style Red Blend (Carmel Valley). This blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre coalesces with power and grace. Dense aromas of boysenberry and graphite lead from the nose into a thick palate awash in creamy tannins. Flavors of roasted espresso, chocolate, blackberry and peppercorn are peaking now, so find this bottle and drink up. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

94 Écluse 2021 Insider Red Blend (Paso Robles). This carefully considered blend of 33% Malbec, 33% Tannat, 17% Merlot and 17% Zinfandel clicks a lot of boxes. The nose is packed with açai, blueberry and violet aromas that pair with a woody, chocolate character. The palate combines boysenberry, roasted wood and pepper spice into a complex display. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$59

94 Epoch 2020 Ingenuity Paderewski Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow

Creek District). Lovely layers of cassis and elderberry are enhanced by wild thyme and chaparral spices on the nose of this Petite Sirah-led blend that also includes 25% Grenache, 22% Mourvèdre and 2% Syrah. The rich dark fruit, wild herb and toasty wood flavors are woven together well on the palate, where the tannins are stiff yet forgiving. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Fulldraw 2021 Chopping Block Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). An alluring shade in the glass, this blend of 50% Syrah, 36% Mourvèdre and 14% Grenache pops on the nose with blueberry, dark chocolate and violet aromas that manage to remain dry rather than sweet. The palate is intense and ripe but retains a freshness, allowing boysenberry, blueberry, vanilla cream and toasted pecan flavors to shine. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Harvey & Harriet 2021 Red Blend (San Luis Obispo County). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

94 Havens 2021 Black & Blue Red Blend (California). This wine is rich and dense. Aromas of blackberry pie, baked plums, violets, engulf the nose, while sauntering into fresh bay leaf, clove, green bell pepper, cocoa powder, ripe blueberry on the palate. The finish is silky, shifting into gripping tannins. Decant and drink until 2032. —T.P.
abv: 1.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Justin 2019 Isosceles Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). This iconic Cabernet Sauvignon-based bottling, which includes 11% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot in this vintage, still impresses. Aromas of cola, cigar leaf, espresso and dark, plummy fruits kick off the nose. Expertly managed tannins frame the palate, where red cherry, strawberry, mace and walnut flavors sink into a viscous mouthfeel. —M.K.
abv: 16.1% **Price:** \$85

94 Kaleidos 2021 Morpheus Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). A core aroma of blackberry syrup is leveled by violet and cola on the intensely focused nose of this blend of 53% Syrah, 23% Carignan, 20% Grenache and 4% Petite Sirah. The palate is firmly structured in tannins, and the acidity pushes strongly into the lush elderberry and blueberry flavors. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$60

94 McPrice Myers 2021 The Estate Vineyard Cuvée Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). Quite dark in the glass, this blend of 60% Syrah, 20% Grenache and 20% Mourvèdre is still quite young, but shows much potential for years of great drinking. Aromas of cassis, violet and bitter-sweet chocolate are clean and fresh on the nose. The palate is dense and spicy with rather heavy acidity and sticky tannins that will ease with time. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$98

BUYINGGUIDE

94 MCV 2021 Black Red Blend (Paso Robles). Very dark in the glass, this intense, inky-grape blend of 71% Petite Sirah, 19% Tannat and 10% Petit Verdot begins with aromas of black currant, bittersweet cocoa, purple flower and mahogany on the nose. The expansive palate cruises through cassis, violet and more cocoa flavors, proving quite ripe but well-structured. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$65

94 ONX 2020 Mad Crush Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$48

94 Paris Valley Road 2019 L'Entente Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$77

94 Sculpterra 2021 Statuesque Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Bonterra 2022 Estate Collection Red Blend (Mendocino County). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

93 Chateau Margene 2020 Cask 4 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Creston District). Clean and easy lines of blackberry and pepper spice make for an approachable nose on this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. The palate is zippy and peppery, showing boysenberry sauce, violet and lavender flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$210

93 Epoch 2020 Estate Blend Paderewski Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark and intense aromas of blackberry and French toast spice make for a lush entry to the nose of this blend of 46% Syrah, 24% Grenache, 11% Mourvèdre, 11% Tempranillo, 5% Graciano, 2% Zinfandel and 1% Carignan. The palate's dark berry and caramel flavors are hedonistic and wrapped in thick tannins. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$60

93 J. Lohr 2021 Cuvée Pau Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 8.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

93 McPrice Myers 2021 Paper Street Vineyard Cuvée Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This blend of 58% Syrah, 28% Grenache and 14% Mourvèdre is quite ripe but ultimately rather delicious. Complex aromas of peppercorn, asphalt, elderberry and violet manage to be intense but not overdone on the nose. The palate is rich and jammy in blackberry and strawberry flavors, with hints of pepper and lilac adding depth. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$65

93 Obsidian Wine Co. 2021 Triple Junction Volcanic Red Red Blend (California-Oregon). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

93 Ojai Mountain 2020 Red Blend (Ventura County). There are many reasons to lay this wine down for years to come. Firstly, it's firmly built, featuring mountaintop-influenced tannins that will last for years. Secondly, it's the inaugural vintage of one of the more interesting estates to come to California in years. And lastly, it's a unique expression, offering dark berry, smoked meat and pencil shavings on the nose and palate, where that structure persists deep into the finish. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

93 Rockbound 2021 Allpa Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). Intense aromas of blackberry, purple flower, tobacco and minty soil show on the nose of this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Petit Verdot and 17% Cabernet Franc from a newer producer. A very solid, chalky grip consumes the palate, framing blueberry, tobacco and woodspice flavors that lead into a vanilla cookie-kissed finish. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

93 Sextant 2020 Octant Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$80

93 Sexual Chocolate 2021 Red Blend (California). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Sunstone 2021 Carmelo Reserve Red Blend (Los Olivos District). This blend of 68% Cabernet Franc, 22% Syrah and 10% Grenache is both fresh and serious, starting with vibrant aromas of boysenberry and blueberry that are balanced by a crushed rock minerality. That mineral tension holds firm through the sip, where blueberry and lilac flavors align. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Thal Vineyards 2020 Lily's Blend Estate Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Lamorinda). This wine is opulent, rich with aromas of blackberry, cassis, baking spices, maple, toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are black cherry cream soda, Concord grape jelly, black molasses, dried bay leaf, gliding into mint chocolate and silky tannins. Enjoy with grilled steak. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Tlo 2020 Visko Petite Sirah-Syrah (Paso Robles). Dark fudge and blueberry sauce aromas are spiced up by peppercorn on the nose of this blend of 63% Petite Sirah and 37% Syrah. The body is thick and comforting on the palate, where black cherry, vanilla and baking spice flavors will satisfy those seeking a rich sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Tower15 2021 Maelstrom Red Blend (Central Coast). The nose on this kitchen-sink blend of 38% Petite Sirah, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Zinfandel, 16% Petit Verdot, 9% Syrah and 3% Lagrein is surprisingly tight and zesty, offering plum and savory meat aromas. The palate brings açai and black pepper flavors together. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 Bumgarner 2020 Many Hands Cuveé Red Blend (El Dorado). This wine is full-bodied with aromas of black plum, cassis preserve, black truffle, toasty vanilla, allspice, on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are black raspberry, huckleberry, peach pie, cinnamon intertwined with bourbon-soaked cherry, cardamom and silky tannins on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Écluse 2021 El Tempo Red Blend (Paso Robles). Ripe cherry aromas drizzled in chocolate sauce and dusted in anise, marjoram and loam show on the nose of this blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Syrah and 17% Malbec. There's a lightly tense frame to the palate, where warm flavors of baked berry and coffee bean align. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Element 79 2019 Estate Alloy Red Blend (Fair Play). This wine is deep dark burgundy-hued with aromas of black currant, black cherry, that have been kissed by sunshine on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are juicy blackberry, green olive, bay leaf intertwined with dark chocolate melting into a dry silky finish. Enjoy with peppered steak. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Ernest 2021 Edaphos Ossum Epiphania Red Blend (California). This wine is fresh, vibrant with aromas of strawberry rhubarb, dried herbs, on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are cassis, raspberry, white nectarine, white grapefruit zest, gliding into dried cherry, white pepper and a juicy dry finish. Great alternative to rosé. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

92 Hook or Crook 2021 Winemaker's Select Field Blend Red Blend (Lodi). This wine is rich, concentrated, ripe blue, black fruits, florals, interlaced clove, allspice, dried herbs, bittersweet chocolate, cascading silky tannins, earth, espresso, cycling back to boysenberries, blackberries, cinnamon, cocoa and finishing dry. Aerate for 30 minutes and enjoy with your favorite protein. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

92 LangeTwins 2021 Red Blend (Jahant). This wine is rich and concentrated, with aromas of blackberry, black plum, dried fennel seed, mocha and potpourri. Other notes waft through, including fresh blueberry, dried cranberry, pomegranate, rye, dried bay leaf and salted truffle chocolate. Layers of sweet cigar, earth and minerality bring everything

together for mouthwatering finish. Pair with duck breast. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Mesa Del Sol 2017 Prima Rosso Red Blend (Arroyo Seco). Cranberry, peppercorn and charcuterie aromas make for a pleasantly rustic nose on this estate blend of Zinfandel, Syrah, Sangiovese and Grenache. The palate is tightly woven even this many years into its life, offering strawberry, peppered meat and toasted herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

92 Neyers 2021 Sage Canyon Red Blend (California). This wine is dense opulent deep purple garnet with aromas of ripe blueberry, huckleberry, fresh fine herbs, potpourri on the nose. The midpalate is fresh blackberry, green olive, dried bay leaf, blood orange zest, transmitting into toasty vanilla cream chocolate with a dry finish. Enjoy with hearty dishes. —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$NA

92 ONX 2020 Caliber Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 12.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$65

92 ONX 2020 Reckoning Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 12.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$58

92 Peirano 2022 The Other Red Blend (Lodi). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

92 Rhônedonnée 2021 Destination: Love GMS Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast). Black plum and açai aromas meet with dried violet on the nose of this blend of 76% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre and 9% Syrah. The palate is firm at first, giving way to black raspberry, wild herb and chai spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Saint K 2021 Everything is Under Control Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). The front side of the nose on this blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 20% Syrah is very rich and dense, loaded with blackberry and black cherry, but there's a seriously rocky minerality that cuts that ripeness. The palate is very textural, as firm tannins open into flavors of dark berry and rugged earth atop a lingering acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

92 Sunstone 2021 Rapsodie Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Lovely aromas of raspberry jam and rose petals show on the nose of this blend of 66% Grenache, 26% Syrah and 8% Mourvèdre. The palate shows a similar raspberry and rose combination, bringing in white pepper and pomegranate flavors for more complexity. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$70

92 Thal Vineyards 2021 Lily's Blend Estate Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Lamorinda). This wine is full-bodied, rich with aromas of blueberry, black plums, clove, maple, toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are strawberry cream soda, red vine licorice, dried bay leaf, gliding into dark chocolate and dry grippy tannins. Enjoy with grilled meats. —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

92 Tlo 2021 Visko Red Blend (Paso Robles). Charred meat and pepper aromas meet with softer hints of strawberry and caramel on the nose of this blend of 42% Syrah, 30% Touriga Nacional, 14% Mourvèdre and 14% Zinfandel. The palate is peppery and herbaceous, as dry tannins wrap around the tightly wound elderberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

92 Vista Del Mirador 2019 Flat Creek Vineyards Red Blend (Fair Play). This wine is full-bodied with aromas of black currant preserve, baked black plum, dried bay leaf, chicory on the nose. The flavors on the midpalate are ripe boysenberry, baked blueberry pie, baking spice, intertwined with dark chocolate, espresso crema and mouthwatering finish. —T.P.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$38

92 Wiens Cellars 2021 Grand Rouge Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Riverside County). This blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 43% Cabernet Franc tastes more like the Santa Cruz Mountains than Southern California, offering toasted mahogany, forest floor, iodine, dried fruit and leather on the nose. The palate picks up a bitter herb element to go with the blackberry core. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$150

92 Wiens Cellars 2019 Unforgiving San Ignacio Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Riverside County). Dark berry, wild herb and mossy wood flavors align on the nose of this bottling. The palate is extremely dry, as firm tannins frame the dark berry and caramel-vanilla spices, with acidity pumping into the finish. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$125

92 Zobèto 2021 Dizziness of Freedom Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Well-integrated aroma of blueberry, lilac and rose petals make for an inviting nose on this blend of 67% Syrah, 22% Graciano and 11% Grenache. The palate is also a showcase of integration, as waves of blueberry slide in between lavender, pepper spice and soy. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$66

92 Zobèto 2021 Fundamental Mystery Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Unique aromas of strawberry candy and cherry Skittles meet with light herb and rock on the nose of this blend of 64% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 16% Syrah and 10% Graciano. The palate snaps with raspberry jam, cranberry and rosewater, with a pinch of cinnamon spice on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$66

91 Bodega de Edgar 2021 Toro De Paso Paper Street Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). A dark shade in the glass, this blend of 76% Tempranillo, 12% Garnacha, 11% Carignan and 1% Graciano offers robust aromas of roasted black plum, blackberry and dark chocolate. The palate starts with a slightly bitter kick before opening into creamier tannins that present cassia and toasted herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$72

91 Fulldraw 2021 Interpretation Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Paso Robles). This is an insanely ripe wine, starting with aromas of vanilla, nutmeg, cream and heavily extracted fruits. The blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Syrah benefits from expertly managed tannins on the palate, though the flavors are relentless with pounding waves of mocha and liquified fruits. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$85

91 Hawk Watch Winery 2019 Cold Fusion G-S-M (South Coast). Sour plum and sour cherry aromas meet with fennel pollen and a rusty minerality on the nose of this blend. The palate is quite herbal, offering fennel pollen, marjoram and peppercorn to spice up the dried cherry base. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$38

91 J. Lohr 2021 Cuvée St. E Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

91 Justin 2020 Isosceles Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Roasted black plum aromas meet with tobacco leaf on the nose of this blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. The palate shows a lot of primary fruit flavors, from black plum to blackberry, with Christmas spices proving quite prominent. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

91 McClain Cellars 2021 Risktaker Reserve Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark berry, peppered beef and wild thyme aromas show on the nose of this mostly Rhône blend of 47% Grenache, 24% Syrah and 17% Mourvèdre, with a 12% splash of Sangiovese. The salty, peppery meat combo shows on the sip too. —M.K.
abv: 14.21% **Price:** \$94

91 Freakshow 2021 Red Blend (Lodi). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

91 Paso Highlands 2022 Red Blend (Paso Robles Highlands District). Dark and savory aromas of carob and scorched soil meet with flashes of boysenberry on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense in texture but rounded in baked fruit flavors, with wild herb providing nuance. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

91 Quest 2021 Cabernet Franc-Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Rhônedonnée 2020 Destination: Love GMS Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast). Dense blackberry and boysenberry aromas meet with bitter cocoa and dried herb on the nose of this blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. The palate is quite stiff though the mouthfeel is not overly dense, offering roasted coffee, red plum and cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

91 Scheid 2020 Arbolitos San Lucas Vineyard Red Blend (Monterey). From a head-trained vineyard of “little trees,” this proprietary blend pairs black plum and purple flowers with peppercorn and soy on the nose. The palate is firm in texture, offering ripe blueberry and violet flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Sunstone 2021 Five Era's Defiance Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). A lighter hue in the glass, this blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Petit Verdot, 17% Cabernet Franc and 4% Malbec is snappy on the nose with red and black plum aromas as well as light hints of dust and herb. There's a firm tannic frame to the sip, where red plum is spiced by cinnamon, sumac and achiotte flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

91 Truth & Valor 2021 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Margarita Ranch). Intense aromas of blackberry, violet and rose petals make for a compelling start to the nose of this blend of 67% Merlot and 23% Cabernet Sauvignon. The blackberry jam, singed thyme and tobacco flavors of the palate are warmed-up graham cracker spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Brassfield 2021 TED Red Blend (California). This wine is fresh, zesty, with aromas of red plum, cassis, cinnamon, allspice, dried rosemary on the nose. The palate rolls into baked blackberry pie, crystallized ginger, black tea, wafting into tomato leaf, black cherry, supple tannins and a dry finish. Pair with your weekday takeaway. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Firepit Red Blend (California). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

90 Dirt Diva 2021 Red Blend (California). Rich black cherry and dark coffee bean aromas meet with lilac on the warm, comforting nose of this blend. The palate's blackberry and black cherry flavors are cleanly presented on the palate, which pops with spice on the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

90 Fringe 2021 Spanish Cowboy Reserve Red Blend (El Dorado). This wine offers rich aromas of baked black plum, black cherry jam, vanilla cream, potpourri and cedar. Other notes waft though, including black currant jam, baked blackberry, grilled peach and dark chocolate. Layers of rock, earth and minerality bring everything

together for a dry, supple finish. Pair with chicken fajitas. —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

90 Hawk Watch Winery 2020 Zoro Bordeaux-style Red Blend (South Coast). Dark cocoa and carob aromas meet with roasted, smoked fruits and coffee bean on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up fennel frond and licorice flavors to go alongside the ripe red-fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Hook or Crook 2021 Heritage Field Blend Red Blend (Lodi). This wine is zesty and lively, with aromas of red plums, Bing cherry, tomato leaf, dried sage on the nose. The palate is cooked red plums, dried raspberry, cranberry, orange zest sliding into dried bay leaf, bittersweet chocolate and gripping tannins. Aerate and enjoy with BBQ. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Killer Drop 2021 Red Blend (California). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 McClain Cellars 2021 Pride & Joy Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). A lighter hue in the glass, this blend of 45% Syrah, 40% Grenache and 15% Mourvèdre offers dusty palm and wild thyme aromas. Tart cherry, smoked game and salty cheese flavors make for a savory palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$72

90 Oak Farm 2021 Tievoli Red Blend (Lodi). For full review see page 22.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Peltzer Family 2020 Super Tuscan Red Blend (Temecula Valley). Stewed cherry aromas meet with sandalwood, wood lacquer and dried meat on the nose of this Sangiovese-based blend, which includes 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot. The palate's slightly tart fruit flavors are spiced in salt and pepper elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$52

90 Red Drop 2022 Red Blend (California). This wine is complex, with aromas of dark berries, creamed cherry cola, strawberry cream, blackberry compote woven into root beer, candied ginger, chicory, cinnamon and clove spice. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

90 Scheid 2021 Odd Lot Red Red Blend (Monterey). Dark fruit aromas meet with toasted spices and crumbled herb on the nose of this blend. The palate combines strawberry with aged meats, as reductive hints of tar add an additional savory layer. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Scheid 2018 Reserve Claret (Monterey). Charcoal, singed berries and charred meat aromas show on the nose of this blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 11% Malbec. The pal-

ate's leathery flavor and texture meet with charred blackberry and dried meat elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

90 Sculpterra 2021 Figurine Red Blend (Paso Robles). Cigar box, clove and baked red plum aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 52% Primitivo, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot. There is ample tension to the sip, where easygoing flavors of strawberry, cardamom and toast are pleasant. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 Stilson 2021 The Genesis Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Generous aromas of black raspberry jam are tinged in smoked meats on the nose of this blend of 80% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre. There's a firm tannic edge to the tip of the sip, which then descends into rounded black plum and blueberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$43

90 Sunstone 2021 Fred's Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). A lighter hue in the glass, this blend of 72% Cabernet Franc and 28% Merlot offers muddled red plum, mace and rose potpourri on the nose. The palate is easygoing in a rustic way, with red cherry and ample baking spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Testarossa 2018 Mountain Select Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains). Ample aromas of smoked licorice and wild anise decorate the dense berry core of this bottling. There's a dusting of thyme and oregano on the palate, where strawberry and açai flavors ride a persistent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

90 Tooth & Nail 2022 The Squad Red Blend (Paso Robles). This red blend satisfies both thirst and one's pocketbook. Jammy aromas of strawberry and blueberry are wrapped in toasted wood and light herb scents. There is ample oak spice on the palate, giving warmth to the baked red-fruit flavors, with a dusting of oregano and thyme on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$23

90 Wiens Cellars 2020 Domestique Rhône-style Red Blend (Temecula Valley). A lighter hue in the glass, this blend of tart on the nose with underripe strawberry as well as dusty desert and leather aromas. There's a slightly sour funk to the palate, where sour cherry flavors meets with a gamy streak. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$44

90 Z. Alexander Brown 2021 Uncaged Red Blend (California). For full review see page 23.
Best Buy.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Altissima 2021 Lucido Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Central Coast). Lush and dense aromas of baked berry meet with hints of ginger and

teriyaki on the nose of this bottling, which is both fruity and savory. The palate picks up a slightly tart flavor of balsamic berry sauce. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$68

89 **Koehler 2021 Magia Nera Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** The 30% new French oak makes itself very known on this toasty blend of 60% Sangiovese and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of gingerbread cookies, cinnamon, licorice and sour cherry lead from the nose into a palate of tart red fruit, sumac and prominent clove, cinnamon and mace spice. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

89 **Zobèto 2021 Never Ending Sunday Rhône-style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District).** Black raspberry, cracked pepper, bay leaf and lavender make for a very floral, spicy nose on this bottling. The palate is very herbaceous and peppery, with slightly tangy black plum flavors at the core. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$66

88 **Charlie & Echo 2021 Witherfall Tempest Red Red Blend (San Diego County).** This slightly wacky blend of Nebbiolo, Petite Sirah, Syrah and Zinfandel is a partnership between a natty wine producer and a heavy metal band. Aromas of black plum and asphalt are both ripe and tart on the nose, while the palate also bounces between rich and sour. —M.K.

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

88 **Hawk Watch Winery 2020 Zena Red Blend (South Coast).** Black raspberry, incense and dusty book jacket aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Marjoram and anise flavors meet with black plum and lavender on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

88 **Toccata 2020 Riserva Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** Blackberry and woodspice aromas show a touch of tartness on the nose of this blend of Cab, Sangiovese, Merlot, Freusa and Petite Verdot. The palate kicks off with blackberry sauce flavors that lead into an oaky finish. —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

88 **Troublemaker NV Blend 16 Red Blend (Central Coast).** Blackberry cream, violet and lilac aromas are very strong on the nose of this blend of Syrah, Petite Sirah, Grenache, Zinfandel and Mourvèdre. The palate tastes very much like a chai coffee drink with blueberry juice and cinnamon stick enhancements. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

85 **Qini 2021 Petit Jack Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** This blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon is very tart on the nose with aromas of black plum skin and soy sauce. The palate shows flavors of pomegranate vinegar. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

DESSERT WINES

93 **Roxo Cellars 2008 Tawny Port (Cienega Valley).** This is a very serious California take on Port-style dessert wine, starting with the traditional blend of 38% Touriga Nacional, 32% Tinta Roriz and 30% Souzao. The nose is redolent in tobacco leaf and maduro cigar, with elegant cognac vibes. The palate pairs caramel, pipe tobacco and caramel-soaked cherry flavors into an impressive package. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 18.9% **Price:** \$110/500 ml

92 **Elysium 2022 Black Muscat (California).** This wine is supple, lush and concentrated with aromas of red currant jam, strawberry preserve, simmering spices and dried rose petals. Other notes waft through, including raspberry jam, red plum, pink grapefruit zest and orange-blossom honey. Classic offering from a longtime California producer. Pair with your favorite fruit dessert. —T.P.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$16/375 ml

90 **Twisted Cedar 2021 Muscat Canelli (Clarksburg).** This wine is bright, zesty with aromas of fresh stone fruit, honeysuckle and wet stone. Other notes waft through, including ripe apricot, canned peach, ginger tea, cardamom and bitter-sweet chocolate. Layers of toasty oak, earth and minerality bring everything together. Diversity in the wine space is important. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2021 Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).**

This is a very mellow take on a dessert wine, starting with subtle aromas of stone fruit and citrus peel. The palate is sweet and viscous though also relatively subtle with apple sauce and baking spice flavors. —M.K.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$34/375 ml

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

94 **Archery Summit 2021 Summit Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** The tangerine fruit aroma swirling up from the glass is the perfect foil to the wine's notes of fresh rose petals and rosemary. The star of the show is an energetic acidity that bops to flavors of lemon, butter and toasted hazelnuts. Notes of saline and mustard seeds join in on the wine's long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

94 **LucidWild 2021 Hidden LucidWild Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

94 **White Walnut 2022 Estate North Blocks Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** A delightfully tart McIntosh apple aroma smacks you upside your olfactory system, freeing your mind to consider

additional notes of lemon verbena tea, sage and white pepper. Flavors like Golden Delicious apple and toasted hazelnuts glide along an olive oil-like texture, escorted by a bodacious amount of acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.15% **Price:** \$55

94 **White Walnut 2022 Worden Hill Road Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** The toasted hazelnut, butter, saffron and apricot aromas will win you over immediately. The wine's lemon verbena tea, grilled lemon and mineral flavors are just pleasure overkill. With acidity of the goose bump-inducing variety, I can't wait to try this wine a few years down the road. Drink 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.34% **Price:** \$55

93 **Archery Summit 2021 Dundee Hills Estate Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** I don't think I've tried this wine before, but I will be looking for more. It may be on the lighter side in terms of body, but it packs rich aromas of Golden Delicious apples, white peaches and butter. The flavors of oats, peaches and butter combine to give the impression of a peach crumble. Slightly elevated acidity is a bonus. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 **Bellingar 2021 Warrior's Rest Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** This screw-capped offering is filled to the brim with aromas and flavors of prosciutto-wrapped melon, lemon, butterscotch and toffee. It is medium-bodied, with more than enough vibrant acidity. Pour a glass of the Warrior's Rest with your next batch of pasta in brown butter, Parmesan and sage sauce. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 **GC 2021 Pearlstad Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Great vineyard plus talented winemaker equals memorable Chardonnay. It begins with aromas of peach and popcorn drizzled in clarified butter. Then you get a tart flavor of lavender lemonade, followed by notes of lemon butter infused with fresh rosemary. A refreshingly crisp texture with a finish longer than "Killers of the Flower Moon." *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$36

93 **Purple Hands 2022 Dundee Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** The Dundee Hills are alive with the scent of this wine. Golden Delicious apple and earthy hyacinth aromas fill the air, along with a mineral touch of talc. Then, lemon butter and green tea flavors waltz with notes of almond, peach and basil. Aged in concrete and stainless steel, this is a sleek, acidity-driven beauty. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 **Purple Hands 2022 Haakon/Lenai Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** This lemon-scented and mineral-driven Chardonnay has an additional aroma that I can't resist—lavender butter. The flavors are downright tropical, with macadamia nuts, lemon cookies and a dusting of coco-

BUYINGGUIDE

nut. The wine's texture is smooth and easy, with restrained acidity and a lengthy finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Roco 2020 Knudsen Vineyards Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). The wine's aromas of green tea with lemon and brown butter with sage do a nice job of preparing you for the glorious flavors that await. As flavors like peach slices and lemon meringue pie go parading by, a laser beam of acidity keeps everything fresh and lively. Sip this wine with your toes in the water somewhere. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 St. Innocent 2020 Freedom Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Fresh, zesty aromas of lime and pine needles are joined by a bit of earthiness and Corn Nuts, the toasted corn treat. There is a lemon-lime edge to the medium-bodied palate, with touches of chamomile tea and sugar cookies. The wine's acidity is still lively. Pair it up with a blanket and fresh goat cheese with a baguette. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

93 White Walnut 2022 Dundee Hills Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). White Walnut makes epic Chardonnay for an incredibly reasonable price. The Dundee Hills offers green apple, lemon zest and wet slate aromas that are so invigorating it will wake your neighbors when you pour a glass at home. Mineral-laden tonic water, lime and rye berry flavors are equally compelling, especially in combination with electrifying acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.34% **Price:** \$40

92 Child's Play 2022 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). After six months in stainless steel, this child's idea of play is dazzling you with its snappy texture and high-voltage acidity. This wine is a tonic for the doldrums, beginning with aromas of Golden Delicious apple peels and a mineral-driven cup of sage tea. Not-quite-ripe pineapple and saline flavors rule the palate. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Gradient 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Lower Long Tom). There's lemon verbena and pineapple here, but I'm keen on the steely metal aromatic quality that I often associate with this Dijon 548 clone. That austere quality returns on the palate, with crisp acidity and lighter-bodied flavors of lemon-infused tonic water and chamomile tea. A delightfully deft winemaking hand is in play here. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Del Rio 2022 Del Rio Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). "Zing" goes the acidity with this brisk Chardonnay. The wine's aromas of pear, brown sugar and sweet-scented marigolds lead to Ginger Gold apple, lime tree honey and wet slate flavors. The star of this crisp and tangy show is definitely the acidity, which is a heck of a Rogue Valley pick-me-up. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$20

90 Roco 2022 Gravel Road Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Roco 2020 Marsh Estate Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). The wine's aromas of bright yellow Opal apples and lemon butter make you want to head to the kitchen to bake something. That something should be brioche that is then drizzled in honey, as that's what this creamy-textured Chardonnay tastes like. This is a decadent treat. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Youngberg Hill 2021 Aspen Chardonnay (McMinnville). Lovely aromas of green apple slices, fruity acacia honey and crushed hazelnuts are joined by a sweet and nutty floral note similar to heliotrope. The wine's texture is lean and crisp, with lemony acidity shining a light on flavors like Granny Smith apples and chrysanthemum flower tea. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

89 Anderson Family Vineyard 2021 Anderson Family Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Melon and fresh fir needle aromas are joined by a mineral note reminiscent of an unlit Fourth of July sparkler. Lemon-lime soda flavors are enlivened by a burst of white grapefruit and blood orange zest. The wine feels light and airy, with a decent bit of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$48

89 Bellinger 2021 Oregon Chardonnay (Oregon). Slices of donut peaches sprinkled with lime juice are the only aromas I could detect. The wine's mouthfeel is light and wispy, with a nice lemon flavor overshadowing bits of coconut and strawberry. The acidity is as relaxed as Tom Hanks. I'd happily bring this screw-cap treat to an outdoor concert. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

89 Oak Knoll 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Oak Knoll, one the Willamette Valley's oldest producers, knows how to deliver well-made whites for a great price. This unoaked Chardonnay, with its lively aromas of tangy pineapple and freshly cut grass, is a prime example. Acidity that will put pep in your step highlights flavors of pineapple sorbet and dandelion tea. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

PINOT GRIS

92 Anderson Family Vineyard 2021 Anderson Family Vineyard Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills). When you make Pinot Gris with intention, this is the quality of wine that is possible. Made with 100% native yeast fermented in stainless steel with 15 months on lees and no malolactic fermentation, this wine is loaded with brisk acidity and aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, apple, rosemary and butter. Load up. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

91 Del Rio 2022 Del Rio Vineyard Estate Pinot Gris (Rogue Valley). What a nice mix of elevated acidity, restrained alcohol and a creamy mouthfeel. The wine is packed with aromas and flavors of peach, guava and lemon verbena tea. The Willamette Valley hardly has a monopoly on well-made Pinot Gris, as this southern Oregon gem demonstrates. Enjoy it with a sunset and fresh goat cheese. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$18

91 Oak Knoll 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Oak Knoll, one of the Willamette Valley's oldest producers, long ago figured out to make a pleasing Pinot Gris. Its latest vintage combines expected aromas like citrus and Bosc pear with an earthy note similar to grilled white button mushrooms. The wine's creamy texture and soft acidity are a nice match for flavors like yellow apples and green tea. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$24

89 Six Peaks 2022 Settler's Hill Vineyards Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). A perfect back-porch wine for a warm summer evening, the Six Peaks Pinot Gris offers aromas of guava, coconut water and pine needles. The wine's cantaloupe, ginger and lime flavors are lit up by zippy acidity, giving one a sense of refreshment and revitalization. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$19

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Beckham 2022 Estate Amphora Aligoté (Chehalem Mountains). The scent of cold, mineral-laden well water unites with white flowers, pear and lemon peel aromas to make you feel like you are about to dip your toes in an icy stream. Acidity that could jump-start your car battery backs flavors like lemon, rosemary and grated ginger. What a terra-cotta-aged treat! *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$45

89 Brigadoon 2022 Joy Arlene Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). This Pinot Blanc aged for nine months in French oak, 33% new. It also sees partial malolactic fermentation. It's fleshier than Brigadoon's traditional estate Pinot Blanc, with aromas of peach pie, yellow apple and slices of Gouda. The flavors are a teeter-totter balance of tart green apples and lemon drop hard candies. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Del Rio 2022 Del Rio Vineyard Estate Viognier (Rogue Valley). A tropical theme develops with aromas of pineapple, macadamia nuts and lemon verbena tea. The wine's flavors are more to the orchard, with yellow apples, acacia honey and a touch of powdered sugar. A creamy texture makes for some easy sipping. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

88 Cooper Ridge 2022 Estate Grüner Veltliner (Umpqua Valley). This is an aromatic roller coaster. It begins with really ripe yellow apples,

then chamomile flowers. Out of nowhere a nutty saline note develops that's similar to feta cheese. The wine's texture is lean and waxy, with modest acidity and flavors like pear, freshly grated ginger and lemon. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$28

WHITE BLENDS

92 Montinore 2022 L'Orange White Blend (Tualatin Hills). I love the L'Orange, even though it baffles most of my friends. It is a Muscat Ottonel-Pinot Gris mix that fermented on skins in amphorae and stainless steel. It is medium-bodied, with sturdy tannins and aromas and flavors of plumeria, honeysuckle, macadamia nuts, pink grapefruit and orange-flavored chewable vitamins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$45

92 St. Innocent 2018 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Wine Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This is a soft, gentle sparkling wine with an aromatic set that nicely balances pear and chamomile aromas with earthy notes of fennel-flecked finocchiona salami. The wine's yellow apple and catmint flavors are joined by a wee bit of tart guava. The bubbles are courteous, only barely tickling the nose. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$70

91 Quady North 2022 Pistoleta Rhône-style White Blend (Rogue Valley). It's off to the Rhône zone with this blend of 31% Viognier, 29% Roussanne, 25% Marsanne, 10% Grenache Blanc and 5% Vermentino. Aromatically, it's all about the peaches, with bits of butterscotch and freshly cut grass. Pineapple, lemongrass and saline flavors are graced by a bit of creamy marzipan. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

SPARKLING WINES

94 Roco 2020 RMS Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

93 St. Innocent 2019 Crémant Rosé Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). A 90-10 blend of Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Blanc and Pinot Noir, this gentle sparkler has a Wimbledon nose of strawberries and cream. Additional aromas include fig, chalkboard dust and a mildly bitter herbal note. Strawberries return on the creamy palate, joined by lime zest and a touch of rhubarb pie. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Six Peaks 2017 Laurel Vineyards Blanc de Noir Sparkling Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Fermented in stainless steel and aged en tirage for five years, this natural method zero dosage sparkling wine represents a tremendous value. Mirabelle plum and wet terra-cotta aromas unite in glorious

fashion with lively acidity and flavors like caramel, lemon and a touch of waffle cone. Now I need something to justify making a toast. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Cooper Ridge 2022 Fox Hollow Vineyard Estate Sparkling Blend (Umpqua Valley). A sparkling cuvée of Riesling, Grüner Veltliner and Viognier is always welcome in my household. Especially when it offers gentle bubbles and aromas of peach-mango salsa, chalkboard dust and lime zest. The poached pear, ginger, lemon and powdered sugar flavors are difficult to resist, so just surrender to this wine's creamy charms. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

91 Lachini 2019 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). After four years on its lees, this *méthode traditionnelle* blend of 91% Pinot Noir and 9% Chardonnay is eager to make your acquaintance. The wine's strawberry, toasted coconut and olive oil cake aromas lead to flavors of red cherries, nectarines and walnuts. You can expect a creamy texture and soft mousse that are quite pleasing. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

91 St. Innocent 2020 Crémant de Innocent Sparkling Wine Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). There's nothing innocent about this wine. It knows exactly what it's doing when it lights your palate up like a pinball machine with invigorating acidity and frisky bubbles. An aroma of honeydew drizzled in lime juice is joined by wisps of vanilla and chalkboard dust. Brisk flavors of tangerine, pink grapefruit and juniper berries seal the deal. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50

90 Youngberg Hill 2020 Extended Tirage Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). Granny Smith apple aromas erupt from the glass, followed by notes of wet slate, olive oil and butterscotch. The *méthode traditionnelle* sparkler, an almost 50-50 blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, offers a modest mousse, gentle acidity and a clean mouthfeel. Flavors of apples baked with cinnamon red hots is accented by a bit of saline. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$65

86 RainSong 2021 Sparkling Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Lower Long Tom). The green and lemony scent of a hedgehog cactus that's been cleaved by a machete is the wine's solitary aroma. Things open up on the palate, with yellow apple, candied ginger and rhubarb pie flavors matched with subtle bubbles. This *méthode traditionnelle* sparkler is 60% Chardonnay, 20% Pinot Meunier and 20% Pinot Noir. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

ROSÉ

92 Youngberg Hill 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (McMin-nville). I could swirl and sniff this pink wine all night long. I love the tart and sweet combination of tangerines and strawberry-flavored Starburst

candies. There's even a nice chalk note hovering in the background. Soft acidity and a smooth, almost creamy texture float flavors like red raspberries and quince paste. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

PINOT NOIR

96 Evening Land 2022 Summum Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The newest Summum is a showstopper. Fresh, floral aromas of mainland roses and tropical plumeria flowers join together with tart red raspberry and roasted pork shoulder notes. A crisp mouthfeel and texture showcase flavors like Rainier cherries, lime and bittersweet dark chocolate. Pour this with grilled portobello mushrooms and Coltrane's "Giant Steps." *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$100

95 Archery Summit 2021 Summit Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). How can a wine so light and ethereal pack so much attitude and flavor? The show begins with aromas of Bing cherries and savory notes of lemon slices on grilled salmon. Raspberries are joined on the palate by Damson plum, sage and earthy saffron flavors. Lightning bolts of acidity send shivers down the spine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

95 LucidWild 2021 Chosen LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$310

95 St. Innocent 2019 Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This wine is a testament to what happens when you match fruit from a great vineyard with a skilled winemaking hand. Raspberries, lilacs and blueberry honey form an aromatic Justice League, followed by similar flavors of raspberries, cacao nibs and lavender tea. The wine's acidity is still kicking, which is what you will be doing to yourself if you don't buy some. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Beckham 2022 Dow's Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The kind of acidity that will make your toes curl blazes a path for aromas and flavors of bright red cherries, cranberries, orange peels and pine needles. The wine feels light and crisp in the mouth, with a mildly chalky sensation that makes you think about those terra-cotta flower pots in the garden. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

94 Evening Land 2022 La Source Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Even at this tender young age, La Source is a force to be reckoned with. Licorice and dark raspberry aromas lure you into a forest of scents that include crunchy dry leaf litter and morels. Red currant and orange zest flavors are joined by a touch of toasted marshmallow. Firm

BUYINGGUIDE

tannins and brisk acidity are ready to shepherd this wine until 2036–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$80

94 Purple Hands 2022 Dundee Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Looking for great Pinot Noir that you can cellar without breaking the bank? Here you go. The Dundee Reserve's aromas of wild blackberries, marigolds and loamy soil are like a countryside stroll. Chewy tannins and blazing acidity match up with flavors of cranberries, blackberries and horehound candy. Drink now–2036. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Purple Hands 2022 West Wind Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This is a powerfully aromatic wine, with boysenberry sorbet, violets in potting soil and bittersweet dark chocolate scents filling the air. Acidity that's an eight on a scale of one to ten lights up black raspberry, cashew, thyme and brown sugar flavors. I will follow the West Wind anywhere. I hope it takes me to a plate of beef cheeks. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Roco 2021 Private Stash No. 18 Wits' End Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

94 St. Innocent 2019 Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). I have rarely encountered such a spicy nose filled with za'atar-like spices ranging from dried sumac and cumin to marjoram and sesame seeds. If all of that isn't enough for you, the wine's sandalwood and blackberry aromas are also pretty nifty. Bright cherry and lemon flavors flanked by crispy acidity bring it all home. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Tendril 2019 TightRope Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Top a blackberry cupcake with chocolate ganache icing. Add a birthday candle, light it, then blow it out. This sums up the TightRope's aromas in a nutshell. Did you wish for a great glass of wine? TightRope delivers, with boysenberry gelato, lemon and mint flavors joined by elevated acidity and silky tannins. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

94 White Walnut 2022 Dundee Hills Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A wonderfully floral combination of dried rose petals and red raspberries is joined by notes of cinnamon toast and basil. The wine's bright acidity casts a spotlight on flavors like blackberry tea served with lemon, pine needles and wet pavement. This is a nimble Pinot Noir that offers elegance for a reasonable tariff. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

93 Brittan Vineyards 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (McMinnville). Floating up to ethereal territory, this light-bodied wine offers an aromatic gift

of orange marmalade flecked with bits of cranberry and coriander. Lemon-driven acidity highlights a crisp and tangy flavor similar to a cross between cranberry fruit leather and cherry-flavored sparkling water. A perfect wine to enliven a summer's evening. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Evening Land 2022 Seven Springs Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This balanced beauty was fermented and aged in a combination of concrete and neutral oak barriques. The wine's aromas run the range from boysenberry soda and violets to a meaty note similar to bone broth. A light and nimble texture is a perfect fit with flavors like cranberry and lime zest, with a mild chalky note. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

93 Lachini 2022 Sorellini Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Aged in French oak, 50% new, the Sorellini opens with black raspberry and hyacinth aromas that meld with earthy notes of mushroom and blackberry tea. A ripe black cherry flavor battles for palate supremacy with bits of orange zest and roasted pork shoulder. This wine is beautifully balanced, with gentle acidity and velvety tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 St. Innocent 2019 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). A really intriguing mix of red fruit and tangerines highlight an aromatic set that also features touches of leather and loamy soil. All the raspberry flavor you can handle is on tap, along with tastes of smoked almonds and citrus. The wine's juicy acidity is matched by significant tannic structure. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 White Walnut 2022 Estate South Blocks Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The South Blocks' sweet-tart scent of mashed Rainier cherries melds nicely with aromas of freshly cut grass and a trace of wet modeling clay. Sweeter Lambert cherries rule the palate roost, along with bits of espresso and tart lemon zest. There's nice acidity here to accompany silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$65

93 White Walnut 2022 Worden Hill Road Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This certified biodynamic wine matches the beauty of Worden Hill Road, one of the prettiest drives in the Willamette Valley. Black raspberry, apple blossom and cola aromas start the show in fine fashion. Raspberry and orange segment flavors mix it up with a cup of black tea. The wine's acidity and tannins are equally silky. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$65

92 Archery Summit 2021 Red Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Acidity freaks unite, as this wine is guaranteed to steal your face. Acidity similar to licking a lemon peel drives tart blackberry and lime fruit flavors to the edge of euphoria. Don't worry, black tea-like tannins are

there for support. The wine's raspberry, earth and dark plums are equally compelling. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

92 Brigadoon 2022 Lylee Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This balanced, seamless Pinot Noir offers a lot of pleasure for a very reasonable price. A bright red raspberry aroma is flanked by small amounts of dark chocolate, brick dust and oats. Cherry and lemon flavors glide along a smooth palate, with a touch of cacao nibs arriving on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Brittan Vineyards 2021 Heritage Block Pinot Noir (McMinnville). The Heritage Block's blueberry, candlewax and dark chocolate aromas are joined by a new leather briefcase smell that I loved. This is full-bodied juice, with hedonistic flavors of boysenberry jam, dried cranberries and English breakfast tea. The wine spent 10 months in French oak, 30% new. Acidity and tannins feel just right. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$65

92 Lachini 2021 Prima Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is my favorite Prima since Louis. The wine's aromas are a wondrous combination of blackberries, dark chocolate and a hint of maple-cured bacon. Flavors like cranberry jam with bits of orange and a trace of mocha glide along a smooth and creamy texture. Surprisingly brisk acidity holds it all together. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

92 LucidWild 2021 Beast LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This Beast smells great, with raspberry and blackberry aromas so powerful, you'd swear you were picking wild berries by the side of a back country road. This is a fuller-bodied wine where equally matched silky tannins and gentle acidity back flavors like almost ripe blackberries, white tea and white chocolate. The wine's mouthfeel is smooth and rich. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$155

92 LucidWild 2021 Fusion LucidWild Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 11. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

92 Purple Hands 2022 Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). Briary raspberry and wild strawberry aromas burst from the glass, followed by traces of violets and grilled portobello mushrooms. The wine's Bing cherry, lemon and white chocolate flavors fill the mouth. A combination of jangly acidity and rippling tannins suggests a long life for this wine. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Purple Hands 2022 Kropf Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Bright red raspberries do an aromatic dance with dried rose petals and cinnamon stick. The flavors are intense, from blackberry sorbet in a vanilla waffle cone to dollops of

dark chocolate and rooibos tea. The wine's acidity is bright, but it is slightly overshadowed by chewy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Purple Hands 2022 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Talk about flower power! The Purple Hands Shea opens with aromas of fresh rose petals, lavender, red raspberries and a mild potting soil note. The garden party continues with flavors like blackberry, clove, wet slate and a cup of black tea. Lively acidity and fine-grained tannins hold it all together. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Roco 2021 Gravel Road Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Roco 2021 Matteri Vineyards Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This is a new wine for me, but I like it. I enjoyed the way the wine's almost sweet boysenberry and vanilla aromas rested on a note of cedar. Modest acidity and velvety tannins are the backdrop for boysenberry pie, nutmeg and bergamot tea flavors that seemingly last forever. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Greywing 2021 Fairsing Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Keep your eye on the name Brandy Grey because she is one talented winemaker. Grey's Pinot Noir opens with blueberry and melting candlewax aromas that meld with notes of violets and blood orange. The medium-bodied wine shows flavors like blackberry jam spread on a warm scone. It's absolutely delectable. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$42

91 Purple Hands 2022 Haakon/Lenai Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A rich fruit aroma that comes close to cassis is punctuated by interesting notes of bitter artichoke and wet slate. This is a balanced, medium-bodied wine with a soft mouthfeel and flavors of blueberry gelato and mint tea. Serve with brunch to your favorite relatives. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Purple Hands 2022 Latchkey Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The Latchkey is a two-course meal, with roasted pork shoulder and dark raspberry aromas accented by traces of cardamom and grilled watermelon. The flavors are as simple as big dark chocolate-coated cherry. This is an easy sipper, with a slick and slippery texture that whippers, "Pour another glass." —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Purple Hands 2022 Lone Oak Ranch Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A bright red cherry fruit note is nice but mix in the scent of bone marrow spread on toast points and you have yourself an aromatic party. Nice acidity helps to create a lively mouthfeel to accompany perky orange zest and pie cherry flavors. There is even a touch of bacon hovering on the perimeter. Hungry yet? —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 St. Innocent 2019 Momtazi Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville). Graceful and elegant, this Pinot Noir opens shyly, with wisps of smoked red cherries, dark roast Sumatran coffee and a touch of citrus. Tart Bing cherry and black tea flavors are complemented by a meaty note similar to a seared pork tenderloin. The wine's texture is a smooth as its tannins are silky. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Amity 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A powerful burst of brambleberries makes a nice aromatic companion to a bowl of vanilla wafer cookies. Even with a few years in the bottle, this wine's tannins are still alive and kicking. Those tannins back rich, jammy black cherry and blackberry flavors, along with sprinkles of maple or brown sugar. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Et Fille 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a nice Willamette Valley Pinot Noir for a fair price. It is packed to the brim with aromas and flavors of tart red cherries, raspberries, crushed rose petals and lemon citrus, with a wee savory smoked meat note in the background. The generous fruit is backed by sturdy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$34

90 GC 2021 Cuvée de Amis Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Who couldn't use a nice wine designed to serve for friends? The Cuvée de Amis oozes briary red fruit aromas, along with decent amounts of leather and lavender. Flavors like blueberry gelato and orange pekoe tea feel full and rich on the palate, with just enough acidity to provide balance. This was aged 10 months in 25% new French oak; the tannins are silky. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Gradient 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Lower Long Tom). This is a new southern Willamette Valley winery with a promising future. Gradient's estate Pinot Noir lays down a track of jasmine, black tea, talc and raspberry aromas that will have you coming back for more. Brisk acidity jump-starts the palate to flavors like cranberry ice and ginger, with a bit of orange zest. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$35

90 Montinore 2022 Vineyard Verses Tidalstar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This is a tale of soil, sea and tannins, beginning with dried rose petals and the earthy aromas of blackberry tea, oregano and a bit of tomato leaf. Cherries and salmon sashimi flavors dominate the palate, along with a leathery note. Leather also describes the texture, as these grippy tannins throw a haymaker. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$75

90 Montinore 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). If you are looking for a full-bodied Pinot Noir experience, you have come to the right wine. Intense black currant and blueberry aromas join forces with a savory note of pulled pork. The wine's dominant flavor is boysenberry

pie, accented by an array of chai tea spices. While acidity might be on the soft side, the tannins are not. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Sweet Cheeks 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Aged in French oak, 11% new, the rest second and third use and neutral, this is a graceful and balanced wine. Raspberries and flowering nicotiana aromas are punctuated by a shot of graphite. The flavors range from cherry and toasted hazelnuts to jasmine tea with a twist of lemon. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Amity 2022 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). An interesting dark raspberry and red apple fruit combination greets the nose, along with a touch of thyme. Gentle acidity and plush tannins wrap their arms around flavors of red cherry, candied violets and cedar. Good value here. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 Borealis 2022 Pinot Noir (Oregon). A warm marionberry pie just out of the oven aroma, complete with the scent of filling oozing out and crisping up on the edge of the pie tin, is like walking into a 1950s-style diner. The wine's black raspberry, cranberry and black tea flavors are the perfect follow-up. Pair this wine with the blue plate special. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$16

89 Grounded Wine Co. 2022 Landform Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A ripe blackberry fruit aroma is matched sniff for sniff by savory notes of pot roast and roasted bell pepper. The wine feels light and creamy in the mouth, with crisp acidity and plush tannins. A dark raspberry and cherry flavor combination is joined by almost bitter herbal notes of artichoke and fried sage. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Montinore 2022 Vineyard Verses Montinore Estate Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills). A nice and meaty burst of something similar to pulled pork dovetails with aromas of blueberry compote and loamy soil. The wine's acidity is modest, with fine-grained tannins and flavors like not-quite-ripe blackberries, grilled mushrooms and espresso. The Verses might be more expressive with food, so dial up some burgers and see what happens. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$75

89 Six Peaks 2022 Laurel Vineyards Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). An aromatic set featuring Bing cherries and lilacs is pierced by the salinity of a clean maritime wind. Rich blueberry, dark chocolate and sweet tea flavors fill the mouth, backed by just enough acidity and velvety tannins. There's also a nice vanilla note that develops on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

88 Amity 2019 Bass Hill Pinot Noir (McMinnville). What a nice, floral introduction. Black raspberries and a bouquet of roses and free-

BUYINGGUIDE

sia are the wine's dominant aromas, with perhaps a bit of lavender. Pie cherry and orange zest flavors attempt to emerge from behind a massive wall of grippy tannins. The wine's texture is currently on the chewy side. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$50

88 Lachini 2022 The Grape Republic Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Blackberry jam, pipe tobacco and cedar aromas that are as comfortable as the Republic's obligatory Pendleton wool shirts await you. The wine's rich, thick mouthfeel is at home with blackberry gelato, black tea, basil and cumin flavors. If you like 'em big and rich, get your Pinot passport stamped in The Grape Republic. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

88 Montinore 2021 Red Cap Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A fading Bing cherry aroma is sandwiched between earthy notes of freshly turned garden soil and worn saddle leather. The wine feels thin in the mouth, with flavors of raspberries and a cup of green tea that's been steeped a good long while. The acidity will wake up your palate like an icy polar bear plunge on New Year's Day. —M.A.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$30

88 RainSong 2021 Pinot Noir (Lower Long Tom). This light-bodied Pinot Noir opens with pretty floral aromas of violets and acacia, followed by a light touch of raspberry. The flavors are a simple combination of dark cherries and a wisp of black tea. The tannins are nice and easy, but a bit more acidity would have been nice. Enjoy with mushroom risotto. —M.A.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$35

88 Rascal 2022 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Light and airy, this Rascal leads with aromas of raspberries drizzled in powdered sugar and a hint of leather. Flavors of tart red cherries and almond extract zip along, matched by lemony acidity that dominates the wine's pillowy soft tannins. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

88 Underwood 2022 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Aromatically, this wine is all about the red fruit, with aromas of raspberries and strawberries drizzled in powdered sugar. The wine's not-quite-ripe blackberry flavor joins with boisterous acidity to create a slightly astringent sensation. Additional flavors include a meaty quality joined by green tea. This needs some time to unwind. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

86 The Winery at Manzanita 2021 Black Dog Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).

The wine's dark plum and orange peel aromas are accented by a tiny bit of marshmallow. Flavor-wise, it's mainly red raspberries and cedar, with the bitter note of a well-steeped black tea served with a slice of lemon. The mouthfeel is lean, with modest acidity and integrated tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$68

SYRAH

94 Force Majeure 2021 Estate Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The aromas of dried rose petals and sugar cookies with raspberry icing are like a genteel tea party. Then, in a gearshift—bam!—muscular tannins take control. The wall of tannins allows a glimpse of black cherry, orange zest and cinnamon stick flavors to dazzle you. The texture is a bit leathery for now. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$85

94 Force Majeure 2021 SJR Vineyard Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). This is 18% whole cluster goodness, fermented and aged in a combination of concrete and neutral French oak. The wine's aromas are nice and earthy, with leather, loamy soils and clove encircling a bowl of black currants. There are blueberries, sourdough bread and cinnamon spice flavors, with a touch of bacon. Velvety tannins and crisp acidity provide balance. —M.A.

abv: 15%

Price: \$100

94 Quady North 2021 4-2,A Syrah (Rogue Valley). From its bright acidity to its crisp, clean mouthfeel, this exciting Syrah overdelivers on quality for a modest price. A bowl of Bing cherries is sandwiched between aromas of bone marrow and coffee served with a touch of vanilla cream. The wine's dark plum, blackberry, cinnamon and cedar flavors are delightful. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$27

93 Compris 2021 Midnight Journey Syrah (Chehalem Mountains). What a beautifully balanced Willamette Valley Syrah, with brisk acidity, silky tannins and an elegant texture. The wine definitely feels lighter on its feet than the 14.2% abv might suggest. Aromas of blueberries, roasted pork shoulder and coriander mix with a touch of Earl Grey tea. Blackberries, black coffee and black pepper flavors dominate the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$50

93 Quady North 2018 Steelhead Run Vineyard Syrah (Applegate Valley). Run, don't swim, to grab the Steelhead before it disappears. Its aromas of black currant and leather play beautifully with a rich chocolate molten cake note. Then, flavors like black cherry and tobacco go head-to-head with a grilled pork and black pepper combination. Yum. There are firm tannins, with gentle acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$35

91 Capital Call 2021 La Bruere Wheatfield Vines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). For 15% abv, the La Bruyere feels fairly light on its feet. The wine's complex aromas include baked acorn squash, hay in the loft and a heaping helping of sweet blackberries. This fuller-bodied Syrah offers a combina-

tion of black cherries, dark chocolate and a small amount of juniper berries. —M.A.

abv: 15%

Price: \$55

OTHER RED WINES

95 Quady North 2019 Cabernet Franc (Applegate Valley). Dang, this medium-bodied Cabernet Franc has enough acidity, tannic structure and sassy attitude to suggest it might age gracefully for another decade. I loved its dark raspberry and ripe peach aromatic combination, which is complemented by traces of saline and cacao nibs. A distinct blueberry flavor jitterbugs with notes of basil and white tea. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$35

92 Quady North 2019 Mae's Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Applegate Valley). How fresh are this wine's aromas? Try blueberry juice spilled on snow, followed by notes of jasmine tea served with a twist of lemon. Mae's black cherry and black tea flavors are complemented by a savory flavor similar to a slice of roasted lamb. You can expect huge tannins if you open this anytime soon. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$39

91 RainSong 2019 Pinot Meunier (Lower Long Tom). This wine reminds me that I wish more people would plant Pinot Meunier in Oregon. These aromas of bittersweet dark chocolate and ripe black cherries make you feel like you are about to taste a bruiser of a wine. Then you get a bright raspberry flavor, zippy acidity and a lighter mouthfeel, with accents of sea salt and black tea. —M.A.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$32

89 Cooper Ridge 2017 Estate Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley). Talk about a yin and yang experience. The wine's blueberry and strawberry gelato aromas are counterpointed by tart notes of lemon zest and artemisia. Same goes for the flavors, where blackberries and gooseberries compete while crushed walnuts gather in the background. The wine's acidity is jangly, its tannins integrated. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$38

RED BLENDS

93 Quady North 2021 GSM Red Blend (Rogue Valley). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$27

92 Quady North 2021 La Battalia Cabernet Franc-Malbec (Rogue Valley). This inspired blend of 85% Cabernet Franc and 15% Malbec is an outrageous value for \$22. Rich fruit aromas of boysenberries and mulberries waltz with notes of lilacs and wet modeling clay. Black cherries take over on the palate, where bergamot tea and anise

flavors tag along. There's crisp acidity, with silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$22

92 GC 2022 Convivial Gamay Noir-Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The cru Beaujolais-like Convivial opens with a zesty cranberry-raspberry aroma that is perfume-worthy. It is complemented by notes of white pepper and loamy soil. The Convivial tastes like it smells, although there are heady background notes of espresso and thyme. There's balance here, with zingy acidity and firm tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

DESSERT WINES

89 Denison Cellars 2021 Finis! Johnson Ridge Vineyard Tempranillo (Eola-Amity Hills). There's not a lot of Tempranillo planted in the Willamette Valley. Tempranillo-based dessert wines are even rarer. The Finis! opens with aromas that mix a cherry and chocolate combination with a surprising rye bread note. Shockingly firm tannins prop up a wall of chocolate that will leave molten lava cake lovers weak in the knees. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$45/375 ml

89 Reustle 2017 Rojo Dulce Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley). The wine's Damson plum and fig aromas are rich and sweet. They are joined by a baked good aroma that combines dark bread with spicy caraway seeds and coriander. This dessert wine doesn't come across as thick or cloyingly sweet. It instead jigs along with decent acidity and flavors like Morello cherries, dark chocolate and vanilla extract. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$38/375 ml

91 Paradis Vineyards 2022 Early Muscat Muscat (Willamette Valley). This is a well-executed early muscat that delivers the best qualities of a Moscato d'Asti, minus the bubbles. The wine's lychee, melon and beeswax aromas are joined by an earthy note similar to sunflowers. Lemon-lime and guava candy flavors abound without being cloyingly sweet. There's even a nice bit of acidity here. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$17

WASHINGTON WHITE WINES

96 WeatherEye 2021 Estate Marsanne (Red Mountain). This is one mesmerizing Marsanne. It has an oily texture with just enough acidity to keep things lively. Flavors like almonds, black walnuts, pears and butterscotch should be enough for anyone. But the wine offers the aromatic bonus of roasted lemons, earthy oregano and peach skins. This is art. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

96 WeatherEye 2021 Estate Roussanne (Red Mountain). If you poached a pear, then drizzled on lemon amaro and a puff of talcum powder, you might have a rough idea of the aromatic magic wielded by this Roussanne. The wine is medium-bodied without feeling thick. Flavors like lychee, lemon verbena, green papaya and wet modeling clay are punctuated by a mildly bitter artemisia note. This is thought-provoking stuff. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

95 Delmas 2021 SJR Vineyard Viognier (Walla Walla Valley). I think I'm in love. This Viognier has weight, taut acidity and restrained alcohol to go along with siren song aromas of apricot, quince, lemon butter and chamomile. Rich peach Melba and gingerbread flavors feel balanced, with a big burst of minerals for good measure. Pour freely with any Nina Simone record. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$75

95 Hillfighter 2021 White Roussanne (Red Mountain). This "second label" wine from WeatherEye immediately dazzles with aromas of peach salsa, applesauce, melon and a suggestion of butterscotch. Flavors of orange, peach, anise, cashew and juniper berry coat the mouth in a sensuously viscous fashion. Traditionally a blend, this year's Hillfighter is 100% Roussanne and 100% awesome. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Foundry Vineyards 2022 White on White Conley Vineyard Rhône-style White Blend (Columbia Valley). This organic, lighter-bodied blend of Marsanne, Grenache Blanc and Roussanne spent six months in stainless steel after a native ferment. Aromas of baked apple, honeysuckle, pound cake and talc lead to flavors like tart pineapple, lemon verbena and a touch of crushed hazelnuts. White on White feels bright. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2022 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Semillon (Royal Slope). Melon, wet slate and mint aromas lead to racy flavors of cantaloupe, freshly grated ginger, grilled lemon and a touch of guava. The wine's mouthfeel is lean, with electrifying acidity. Give me a tub of triple cream cheese, a spoon and a glass of this wine, and I will one happy fellow. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Six Peaks 2022 Kenny's Hill Vineyards Chardonnay (Walla Walla Valley). This is one smoothly textured Chardonnay, with subtle acidity and flavors of lemon curd flecked with lime zest and crumbled bits of shortbread. The aromas are a nice mix of a baked apple sprinkled with brown sugar and sea salt. It was aged in French oak, 80% neutral and 20% new. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$26

91 Woodward Canyon 2022 Chardonnay (Washington). A faintly tropical aroma that might

be starfruit is accented by strong notes of freshly grated ginger, spun sugar and quince. It is an interesting aromatic set to ponder. The medium-bodied wine's flavors of yellow apple, orange zest, roasted hazelnut and nutmeg glide along with a smooth texture and just enough acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

90 Pepper Bridge 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Walla Walla Valley). Pretty, classic freshly cut grass, Mandarin orange and peach aromas get the festivities started. A lightning bolt of acidity lights the way for this light and crisp wine's sliced peaches drizzled with lime juice, straw and white tea flavors. Find a beach and start sipping. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36

89 Amavi 2022 Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). Aged in neutral French oak, this Sémillon with 13% Sauvignon Blanc offers a sweet-tart array of aromas, including guava and Champagne® mango. There's lemon and white grapefruit flavors here, but they are dominated by a mineral water flavor laden with saline and magnesium. The texture is lean and crisp. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$28

89 RainSong 2022 Viognier (Columbia Valley). In addition to sweet papaya and orange sorbet aromas, there is a compelling savory note reminiscent of butcher's butter seasoned with herbs. This is a light-bodied take on Viognier, with toasted almond, coconut and dragon fruit flavors. The wine's smooth texture befits its soft acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$22

SPARKLING WINES

90 Capital Call NV Blanc de Blanc Brut Sparkling Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Soft bubbles help deliver a nice lemon and peach aromatic combination that is almost matched in intensity by an earthy note similar to a freshly tilled garden. The medium-bodied *méthode traditionnelle* sparkling wine's flavors remind me of a cherry-flavored shaved ice flecked with guava. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

90 Pét Project NV Perpetual Cuvée 3rd Generation Pear Ridge Vineyard Sparkling Blend (Columbia Gorge). This solera-style sparkling wine incorporates organic Pinot Noir and Chardonnay fruit from the 2019–2022 vintages. The wine's aromas are a hunger pang-inducing mix of lemon tart, butter, olive oil and a puff of powdered sugar. Brisk acidity backs a sweet-sour flavor combination of persimmons, Bosc pears and beignets. Delicious. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Six Peaks 2020 Kenny's Hill Vineyards Blanc de Blanc Sparkling Chardonnay (Walla Walla Valley). A citrus-laden one-two aromatic punch of fresh cilantro and lemon peel kicks things off. The wine's frisky acidity, energetic bubbles and crisp texture provide a nice backdrop for flavors like

BUYINGGUIDE

peach jam and brioche. I'm ready to pour this with my next batch of lamb sausage rolls. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

ROSÉ

91 Foundry Vineyards 2022 Vin Gris Pear Ridge Vineyard Rosé (Columbia Gorge). What an inspired organic Pinot Gris-Pinot Noir blend. This extremely pale rosé aged briefly in concrete and neutral French oak, with no additives except a tiny amount of SO₂ at bottling. The wine's aromas begin with dust warming on a light bulb and end with a bowl of yellow apples. It tastes like a lemon granita laced with mint. Searing acidity is this wine's guiding star. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

97 Force Majeure 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). My core belief that no wine can be perfect is seriously challenged by this otherworldly Cabernet Sauvignon. The saline aroma of driftwood transitions to crushed raspberry, mineral and graphite scents. Flavors of black cherry compote and black tea are counterpointed by the bitter bite of nettles. Leathery tannins and jangly acidity are equally matched. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

96 Trothe 2021 Andrews Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This is 100% Horse Heaven Hills Cabernet Sauvignon that delivers 100% joy. The wine's lavender and dark cherry aromas are downright seductive, with exhilarating bursts of sea air salinity and wet white beach sand. Flavors of blackberries, violets and balsa fill the mouth, joined by bright acidity and muscular tannins. Drink 2025–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$234

96 Woodward Canyon 2021 Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington). Aged for nearly two years in 100% new French oak, this baby is going to need air, time or both to unwind. Cool earth and black raspberry aromas are punctuated by notes of blueberry fruit leather and brownie mix batter. An earthy elderberry flavor is joined by lemon zest, espresso shots and cedar. Drink 2025–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

95 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Sunset Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The sunbaked earth, aged balsamic vinegar, black cherry and oregano aromas made me think super Tuscan, not Red Mountain. Wow! A rich dark fruit flavor combo of plum and blackberry is underscored by notes of dark chocolate, mint and balsa. Great acidity manages to keep pace with

brawny tannins. Drink 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$90

95 Mark Ryan 2021 Lonely Heart Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$100

95 WeatherEye 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). I didn't know whether to describe this wine or build a shrine in its honor. If obsidian or Prince's "Black" album had an aroma, this wine would be it. Deep blueberry and blackberry aromas crash into notes of wet slate and black olives. Brawny tannins support rich flavors of dark chocolate, black currants and anise. This is majestic stuff. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

94 Doubleback 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$155

94 Force Majeure 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). If you love Sumatran coffee, you really need to breathe deeply of this wine. The fact it is joined by a freshly baked marionberry scone aromas makes me want to dab this hedonistic perfume on all of my pulse points. This is a balanced, seamless Cabernet Sauvignon with black cherry, clove and wet rock flavors that coat the palate and ask to be poured again. And again. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$150

93 Bledsoe 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

93 Lachini 2021 La Bestia Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington). When you add up 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc and 6% Malbec, you get full-bodied Bestia mode. The fruit hails from the trinity of Quintessence, Red Willow and Boushey. A burst of boysenberry is joined by aromas of jasmine, dark chocolate and bacon. A wall of black cherry fruit flavor is supported by an even bigger wall of imposing tannins. Drink 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

93 Mark Ryan 2021 Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

93 Va Piano 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). The Twin Peaks-like aromatic combination of cherry pie and black coffee is a winning one. The cherries return on the palate, where they are accompanied by notes of Assam tea and cedar. The wine's rich texture joins with surprisingly chipper acidity and fine-grained tannins.

Try this wine with a bison burger and sweet potato fries. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Va Piano 2019 Rosebud Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). This is my favorite Rosebud since "Citizen Kane." Blackberries are almost overshadowed by aromas of lilacs, espresso, orange peel and graphite. Grippy tannins back rich blackberry and blueberry flavors that never quit. The wine's mouthfeel is as full as Charles Foster Kane's list of regrets. Drink 2024–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

92 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Plenipotentiary Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aromatically, the Plenipotentiary is a big bowl of blueberries coated with chalkboard dust that is served with blackened catfish. Fruity, chalky and savory is a winning combination. Dark plums dominate the palate, joined by almond cake and clove notes. The acidity is elevated, the tannins silky. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

92 Woodward Canyon 2021 Artist Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington). Art inspires in places where words often fail. This Cabernet Sauvignon paints a picture of blackberries and seared steaks that waltz with pipe tobacco, iodine and a hint of mint. The almost creamy texture is counterpointed by elevated acidity that injects a bit of liveliness. Palette meets palate here. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

91 Amavi 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Rarely do I encounter a wine where the amped-up acidity is matched by tannic structure as firm as a granite wall. I also enjoy the way the wine's aromatic set comes off as similar to a slice of blueberry cheesecake. The flavors are brisker, with boysenberries, dates and orange zest holding court. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A perfumed nose of black fruit, violets and lavender-scented talc makes quite the first impression. Flavor-wise, this Cabernet Sauvignon is a wall of blackberries lined up against an even bigger wall of tannins. The wine's mouthfeel is downright sinewy, while the acidity is brisk. Decant or hold for another year or so. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Dusted Valley 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Black currant and chocolate ganache aromas unite to form a sweet-smelling team. The wine's orange zest and blueberry and blackberry pie flavors are decadent but balanced by grippy tannins and surprisingly crisp acidity. I want to serve this with crusted ahi tuna to see what happens. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

90 DAMA 2019 Heather Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Sweet pea flowers and chocolate-covered cherries make a Valentine's Day-worthy introduction. The wine's silky texture makes a nice backdrop for black cherry, cumin and Madagascar vanilla flavors. Plush tannins and bouncy acidity make for an invigorating sipping experience. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Christopher Michael 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Beneath its screw cap lurks a wine that offers a lot of fun for a reasonable price. The wine's tart pomegranate and cranberry aromas are joined by distinctly Italian sauce notes of basil and tomato leaf. Then you get blueberry gelato and persimmon flavors accented by a touch of rose water. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

GRENACHE

96 WeatherEye 2021 Estate Grenache (Red Mountain). This wine is a love letter to the Grenache grape. The aromatics are as fun as a cat purring in your ear, with macerated strawberries, orange zest and pine needle aromas holding court. The wine's rich cassis flavors are punctuated by notes of clove and citrus. The wine feels so elegant and clean in the mouth, it is a joy to sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

93 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Estate Grenache (Red Mountain). "Juicy" fails to do justice to the moisture-inducing qualities of this wine and its brilliant acidity. Flavors of ripe, oozing blackberries and candied violets are joined by an earthy-savory umami quality similar to sautéed chanterelle mushrooms. Tannins are an afterthought—brisk acidity runs this show. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

93 Trothe 2021 Andrews Family Vineyards Grenache (Horse Heaven Hills). Brambleberry and cranberry fruit leather aromas are accompanied by a saline note I associate with a maritime breeze or the lining of a freshly shucked oyster. The palate is thick and rich, coated with flavors like marionberry jam and candied blood orange slices. Firm tannins help maintain a sense of balance. —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$162

92 Approachment 2022 French Creek Vineyard Grenache (Yakima Valley). I quite enjoyed the playful nature of this Grenache. It feels light and fresh in the mouth, complete with lemony acidity. The wine smells like blueberries, chai tea spices and portobello mushrooms grilled over a wood fire. The dominant flavor is also blueberries, with crushed walnuts and white tea for good measure. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

SYRAH

96 WeatherEye 2021 Estate Syrah (Red Mountain). Early on, the Syrah played hard to get. Everything seemed muted. Then, with the umpteenth glass swirl, the wine opened up to blow me an aromatic kiss of blackberries, black pepper, bacon fat and a trace of granola. The medium-bodied wine's flavors of black cherry, espresso and vanilla extract went on forever, ably backed by fine-grained tannins and elevated acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

95 Delmas 2021 SJR Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). A 50% whole cluster ferment, with 8.7% Viognier? I'm in Syrah heaven. Blackberries and boysenberries hit first, along with aromas of bacon fat and smoky Hojicha green tea. The wine's dominant flavor is blackberry, with espresso, clove and bison jerky joining in the fun. There's brilliant acidity here, with muscular tannins. Drink 2024–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

94 DAMA 2021 Lonesome Spring Syrah (Yakima Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

93 Dusted Valley 2021 Tall Tales Stoney Vine Estate Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Tall Tales spins an aromatic garden story of freshly turned soil, dried wild grasses, thyme and a cup of blackberry tea. The balanced wine's blazing acidity and firm tannins are joined by flavors like dark plum, espresso and roasted pork shoulder. This is a Tall Tale you can believe in. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$62

93 Trothe 2021 Andrews Family Vineyards Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills). If you have ever smelled a field of daphne in bloom, then you will recognize the Trothe Syrah's complex citrus notes that unite harmoniously with aromas of strawberries drizzled in aged balsamic vinegar, bittersweet dark chocolate and cinnamon spice. Blackberry jam and fig flavors are counterpointed by a bit of orange pith, all supported by juicy acidity and plush tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$148

92 Amavi 2021 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Cue David Johansen, as this Syrah is funky, but chic. It begins with earthy aged balsamic and loamy soil aromas, followed by bursts of raspberries and pulled pork. Black cherries and macerated strawberry flavors appear on the palate, joined by dark chocolate and cardamom. The wine's citrusy acidity is a welcome feature. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Plenipotentiary Estate Syrah (Red Mountain). Plenipotentiary means "possessing full authority." In this case it is the authority to please

hedonistic desires with aromas of blackberry pie, violets and orange blossoms. Plush tannins and a creamy texture match nicely with tangy North Star cherry and rich cocoa flavors. I respect this authority. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Dusted Valley 2021 Stained Tooth Syrah (Columbia Valley). Stained Tooth—talk about truth in advertising. But you won't mind once you inhale the wine's aromas of dark raspberries, orange pastilles and rooibos tea. Silky tannins and crisp acidity frame flavors like blackberries blended into a chocolate mole sauce. Pour a glass and grab the shredded pork and tortillas. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2021 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This balanced Syrah, with 16% Grenache and 2% Mourvèdre for good measure, is a great value. Aged in small, mostly neutral oak barrels for 18 months, it leads with aromas of black cherries and earthy soil and oregano. Flavors like black cherries, whipped cream, dark chocolate and espresso suggest a Black Forest cake adventure. —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2021 Estate Seven Hills Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The attractive one-two aromatic punch of blackberry popsi-cles and bacon fat is joined by floral notes of violets and freesia. Juicy red apple and pomegranate seed flavors mix it up with blackberry jam, nutmeg, cedar and chocolate. Elevated acidity and brawny tannins provide plenty of support. Try this wine with a muf-uletta and any Trombone Shorty record. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

91 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Estate Syrah (Red Mountain). A beautiful perfume consisting of boysenberry, raspberry, grilled peach and lilac aromas is an inviting introduction to this mix of Syrah and 8% Petit Verdot. A slick and slippery mouthfeel created by juicy acidity and velvety tannins delivers flavors like earthy elderberries, orange zest, chamomile tea and a touch of oaky cocoa. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

91 Bledsoe 2022 Stolen Horse Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The wine's aromas of smoked black cherries and violets are surrounded by notes of steel-cut oats and freshly cracked white pepper. The wine feels balanced and lighter-bodied, with silky tannins matching up with a medium amount of acidity. The raspberry coulis and bacon fat flavors are a winning one-two punch. Stolen Horse is cofermented with 3% Viognier. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$69

90 Dusted Valley 2021 Rachis Southwind Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). There are times when you want to curl up by a fireplace on a winter's evening and sip a wine all by itself. The Rachis will make a good fireside companion. It is packed with aromas and flavors of black cherries,

BUYINGGUIDE

meat grilled over an open flame, cedar and a bit of tangerine zest. The wine's texture feels full and comforting, while firm tannins offer able support. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$55

83 RainSong 2020 Syrah (Columbia Valley). Grape popsicle and leather aromas are about all I get here. The flavors are more expressive, with a wall of black cherry syrup and a freshly pulled shot of espresso holding court. The wine's acidity and tannins are just too soft to keep it from feeling slightly flabby. —M.A.

abv: 15%

Price: \$26

MERLOT

95 Doubleback 2022 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$98

94 L'Ecole No. 41 2021 Estate Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$42

93 Woodward Canyon 2021 Estate Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). Subtle acidity and plush tannins make for a smooth and easy sip, with rich flavors of dark plums, pie crust dough and black coffee. The wine's aromas offer a sweet and floral combination of plumeria, ripe raspberries, cigar box and sugar cookies. The word "scrumptious" comes to mind here. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$55

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2021 Merlot (Columbia Valley). If a cup of Indonesian coffee served black with a slice of blueberry pie and a chunk of dark chocolate sounds appealing, you are in the right place. The wine's slick and slippery texture accompanies sweet and savory flavors like blackberry compote with roasted rabbit. The tannins are as sturdy as a slab of granite. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$27

90 Pepper Bridge 2021 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). A potent vanilla mocha latte aroma—with extra shots—mixes it up with notes of violets and boot leather. Dark chocolate-covered cherry and ginger zest flavors are flanked by woody bits of cedar and pine. The wine's bright acidity is way out ahead of its plush tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

OTHER RED WINES

94 Dusted Valley 2021 Southwined Vineyard Estate Malbec (Walla Walla Valley). I loved this Malbec like few other American versions. Its earthy and dark fruited aromas are wild and brambly, with traces of sandalwood and graphite. Aged in mostly neutral French oak, it has a crisp, fresh mouthfeel to go along with blackberry, cedar and

vanilla flavors. The tannins are as fine as the wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$45

93 Woodward Canyon 2021 Estate Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). Welcome to the kitchen, where this Malbec's boysenberry pie and bacon fat aromas beckon you to pull up a chair. The flavors take a similar trek, with dried cherries and dark chocolate mixing it up with steaks grilled over charcoal. Acidity that will make you think of lemon peels lights it all up. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$55

92 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Estate Malbec (Red Mountain). Drizzle cassis over baked Brie to get an idea of this Malbec's rich, warm and comforting aromas. Flavor-wise, it is all Twin Peaks, with the Double R Diner special of a slice of cherry pie and a cup of joe. Subdued acidity is matched by velvety tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$55

92 Dusted Valley 2021 Southwined Vineyard Estate Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). This is no retiring Cabernet Franc—it packs a full-body punch. Bing cherry and orange peel aromas give way to notes of leather and pipe tobacco. The wine tastes like high tea, with a cuppa English Breakfast paired with Turkish delight-like flavors of nougat and walnuts. The tannins are brick wall sturdy. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$45

RED BLENDS

94 Hillfighter 2021 Red Blend Red Blend (Red Mountain). The Hillfighter, a "second label" from WeatherEye, is mostly Grenache and Cabernet Sauvignon, with 24% Syrah and 7% Tempranillo. I loved how its dried blueberry, worn saddle leather and graphite aromas reminded me of a mature Bordeaux. The wine's flavors of black cherry, lemon zest and salted peanuts are ably backed by fine-grained tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 15%

Price: \$55

94 Parabellum 2021 Coulée Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Coulée, you are one fine wine. This Syrah-driven blend launches with black cherry, dark chocolate and Thai basil aromas, not to mention the scent of fresh rain. A crisp, clean mouthfeel is home to Bing cherry, orange and clove flavors. The Coulée's tannins are silky, and its acidity, frisky. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$45

93 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Dipomat Estate Red Blend (Red Mountain). For full review see page 7.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$52

93 Doubleback 2021 Estate Reserve Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). Aged in 100% new French oak, this 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot and 7% Malbec blend is a powerfully built

wine, with tannins as sturdy as an ox. The wine's dark plum, blackberry, toffee and graphite aromas duel with a subtle oak vanilla spice note. Black cherries abound on the palate, joined by flavors of Irish breakfast tea and balsa. Drink 2025–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$188

93 Mark Ryan 2021 Water Witch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain). For full review see page 9.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$70

93 Parabellum 2021 Alluvio Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). A field of lavender opens up with the first sniff of the glass. Then aromas of blackberries and wet pavement after a warm rain make you momentarily forget the world. Mildly chewy tannins offer ample support for bowls of blueberries, dark chocolate gelato and traces of anise and peppery rosemary. —M.A.

abv: 15%

Price: \$55

92 Sagebreaker 2021 Andrews Family Vineyards Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Horse Heaven Hills). Sagebreaker is the new blending project from Trothe. This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend hits first with aromas of boysenberries, violets and the kind of spices one might find in a holiday mulled wine. The balanced wine has a slick and slippery mouthfeel to accompany blueberry, orange peel and clove flavors. The finish is longer than the line for Taylor Swift tickets. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$83

92 Woodward Canyon 2021 Estate Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). Rarely does a wine's aroma make me this hungry. This blend smells like warm waffles slathered in blackberry jam, with a woody touch of cigar box. The wine's blueberry popsicle and black coffee flavors don't ease the hunger pangs. Nice acidity and grippy tannins provide support. Drink 2024–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$90

91 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Envoy Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain). This Envoy conveys a hedonistic message of rich fruit and enjoyable sipping. It is a Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend with blueberry gelato and leather aromas, joined by a mineral note similar to well water. An Italian theme develops on the palate, with dark plum, aged balsamic vinegar and mortadella flavors. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$52

91 Pepper Bridge 2020 Pepper Bridge Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This wine feels as comfortable as a favorite sweatshirt from college. The Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend has soothing acidity and tannins as velvety as the voice of the late Luther Vandross. Sweet mulberry, lilac and sage tea aromas are a gentle perfume. Flavors like blueberry sorbet and figs glide along the wine's smooth texture. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

90 Christopher Michael 2022 Red Wine Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.* **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

89 Ambassador Wines of Washington 2021 Minister Estate Red Blend (Red Mountain). This blend of 55% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc and 9% Syrah is quite floral, with aromas of blackberries, violets and lilacs accented by a slightly sweet quick-drying concrete note. Rich black cherry, dark chocolate and barbecue rib flavors coat the palate. A bit more acidity would have been welcome. —M.A. **abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$40

DESSERT WINES

88 Six Peaks 2022 Vin Glacé Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Made with botrytized clusters of Sauvignon Blanc from Aquilini Vineyards in Washington state, the Vin Glacé leads with surprisingly tangy aromas of freshly cut grass and lemon-lime flavored drinking vinegar. This is a lighter-bodied sweet wine that tastes like toasted hazelnuts and apricot fruit leather. —M.A. **abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$25

86 RainSong 2020 Sundown Dessert Syrah (Columbia Valley). The Sundown smells and tastes like the kind of high-end mocha drink one might get at the local espresso house. It is a big round ball of black cherry syrup and Tootsie Roll chocolate, with a surprising amount of acidity. Intensely rich, a small pour will last the evening. —M.A. **abv:** 21% **Price:** \$40/500 ml

ARGENTINA CHARDONNAY

93 Bemberg Estate Wines 2017 La Linterna El Tomillo Parcela No. 1 Chardonnay (Gualtallary). Crafted by winemaker Daniel Pi., this wine has a long life ahead. It's very expressive on the nose, showing honey, lime, wet stone and hints of aromatic herbs. The palate is vibrant and slightly creamy. The silky texture carries orange zest, apricot, ginger and honey through the long flavorful finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.V. **abv:** 13.5 **Price:** \$100

90 Zuccardi 2023 Q Chardonnay (Uco Valley). This Chardonnay hails from Uco Valley and shows a lively character. Aromas of apricot and peach perfume the nose. It's flavorful, balancing citrus fruit, white peach and mango on the creamy and vigorous palate. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V. **abv:** NA **Price:** \$22

89 Santa Julia 2023 El Zorrito Natural Skin Ferment Chardonnay (Mendoza). This wine is organic, unfiltered and fermented with the skins, resulting in aromas of red apple and hints of quince.

The palate has weight and brings together ripe grapefruit, apple, pear and light notes of herbs. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Santa Julia 2023 Reserva Chardonnay (Uco Valley). Grapes for this white were sourced from high-altitude vineyards in Uco Valley. Fruit forward, it delivers zesty aromas of orange and lime. Linden leaves, ripe lime and a dash of honey are mixed on the palate. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Pascual Toso 2023 Toso Estate Chardonnay (Mendoza). Lemon blossoms dominate the nose and set the stage for a citrus palate. This Chardonnay has moderate acidity and offers flavors of lemon and peach. Quintessential. *Best Buy.* —J.V. **abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Santa Julia 2023 Made with Organic Grapes Chardonnay (Mendoza). Stone fruit and light notes of tangerine form an inviting nose. This is a bright unoaked Chardonnay, with lime and tropical fruit flavors. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

90 Alta Vista NV Blanc de Blanc Brut Chardonnay (Mendoza). This wine starts with aromatic notes of red apples and pear that set the stage for a flavorful palate. It's fresh and has a slightly creamy texture that drives ripe lime and apple joined by a hint of quince through a citrus finish. Kobrand. *Best Buy.* —J.V. **abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$17

90 Santa Julia 2023 La Mantis Natural Chardonnay (Mendoza). Clean citrus aromas shape the nose of this pét-nat that has well-defined flavors. Lemon, orange zest, peach and salty notes are elevated by soft bubbles and tangy acidity. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

SPARKLING WINES

90 Alta Vista NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Mendoza). Delicate notes of strawberry perfume the nose of this sparkling wine made with Pinot Noir and Malbec. It's full of energy and has a fresh palate of ripe berry and pear flavors layered with hints of lime. Kobrand. *Best Buy.* —J.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Alpamanta 2022 Brevé Pét-Nat Criolla (Luján de Cuyo). Made of Criolla grapes from Luján de Cuyo, this pét-nat shows berry notes that are typical of the variety. The nose is austere, but the palate is more generous in fruit flavors. Strawberries fill the mouth as a dash of herbs adds savoriness to the finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Domaine Bousquet NV Made with Organic Grapes Methode Traditionnelle Brut Spar-

ling Blend (Mendoza). Hailing from vines in Gualtallary, Uco Valley, this sparkling wine is made with 75% Chardonnay and 25% Pinot Noir grapes. It has a subtle nose, with light notes of lime. The palate is balanced and offers peach and lemon lifted by good acidity and fine bubbles. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Domaine Bousquet NV Made with Organic Grapes Rosé Sparkling Blend (Tupungato). This is an easy sipper that starts with subtle notes of red apple. The palate shows freshness and playful bubbles. Flavors of apples, pear and citrus fruit disappear in the brief finish. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Domaine Bousquet NV Organic Brut Sparkling Blend (Tupungato). This Chardonnay-dominant wine is fresh and bright. Aromas of apple and lemon zest rise from the glass. Ripe citrus and stone fruit fill the mouth and lead to a lemony finish. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Bodega Norton NV 101 Bubbles Grüner Veltliner (Mendoza). This is a fun sparkler made with Grüner Veltliner. Aromas of pear and brioche mark the bouquet. The palate has a mix of lemon, lime, apples and leafy notes supported by moderate acidity. Kobrand. —J.V. **abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$NA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

89 Domaine Bousquet 2023 Cameleon Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato). Delicate raspberry aromas are inviting and introduce a palate of fresh berry flavors and soft tannins. Moderate acidity is enough to carry the fruit and adds energy to the mouthfeel. This is an enjoyable unoaked Cabernet. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 El Esteco 2023 1947 Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Calchaquí Valley). Sourced from vines planted in 1947 in the Cafayate Valleys, this is a friendly Cabernet that starts with aromas of black fruit and spices. Ripe tannins provide support to earthy flavors of plums and dried herbs. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.V. **abv:** NA **Price:** \$25

89 Santa Julia 2023 El Cabrito Natural Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This is part of the low-intervention wines made by the family-owned winery. The nose is fruit focused, with notes of raspberry jam. Moderate acidity and a soft texture aid the flow of red fruit and grass through the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Areyna 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). Delicate notes of green bell

BUYINGGUIDE

pepper shape the nose. Tight tannins and optimal acidity frame an easy-going palate that is full of ripe berry flavors and a dash of peppercorn. Vine Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$NA

86 Pascual Toso 2023 Toso Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). The nose of this Cabernet is slightly restrained. Gentle acidity and thin tannins frame flavors of black fruit and grass that fade in a brief finish. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

RED BLEND

89 Santa Julia 2023 La Vaquita Natural Red Blend (Mendoza). This is a cofermentation of 80% Malbec and 20% Torrontés, Argentina's iconic grapes. The result is an enjoyable and easy-going red. It's bright on the nose, exhibiting aromas of strawberry that echo on the energized palate. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

CHILE

CHARDONNAY

90 Montes 2021 Alpha Chardonnay (Aconcagua Costa). Lime and yeasty notes form the fragrant bouquet. This wine has weight and the creamy texture carries honey-drizzle lime, mango and vanilla bean. Flavors are balanced due to lively acidity. Kobrand. —J.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

88 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2022 Escudo Rojo Gran Reserva Chardonnay (Casablanca Valley). The winery created by Baron Philippe de Rothschild in Maipo Valley sources grapes from Casablanca to make this Chardonnay. It has a herbal character and aromas of celery. Ripe lime and hints of dill join subtle toasted-oak notes on the palate. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

88 Ritual 2021 Chardonnay (Casablanca Valley). This is a light and bright Chardonnay from Casablanca that starts with a nose of lime. Good acidity lifts grapefruit and lemon-zest flavors. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$21

87 Casas del Bosque 2022 Las Dichas Single Vineyard Reserva Chardonnay (Casablanca Valley). This is an easy-sipper Chardonnay, with light notes of stone fruit and flint on the nose. Apricot and a dash of salt show on the palate along with gentle acidity. Southern Starz, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$14

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 San Pedro 2023 1865 Selected Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). After a few minutes in the glass, light notes of herbs rise from the glass and lead to a mineral-textured palate. This Sauvignon hails from coastal vineyards in Leyda Valley and offers balanced and delicate lime, white peach, celery, and dried herbs for a savory finish. Park Street Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

89 Carmen 2022 Gran Reserva Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Notes of dill are slightly prominent on the nose. This lively Sauvignon Blanc from Casablanca Valley brings together citrus and stone fruit flavors, leading to a medium finish of herbs. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

88 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2023 Escudo Rojo Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). This vintage is slightly more austere than the previous one. The nose opens with gentle aromas of lime. Mild flavors of tropical fruit joined by lemon zest are backed by moderate acidity and fade into a brief finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

88 Luis Felipe Edwards 2023 Marea Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Grapes are sourced from vineyards 1.2 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Aromas of dill suggest a palate of herbaceous flavors. This is lightweight and fresh, featuring celery and subtle notes of tangerine and grapefruit. Palm Bay International. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

88 Trasiego 2023 Green Quartz Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). This wine comes from vineyards 12 miles from the Pacific Ocean. A subtle nose offers light notes of dried herbs. The palate is crisp and has rich leafy flavors followed by lime that extends into a medium finish. Via Pacifica Imports. —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

88 Viña Casablanca 2022 Nimbus Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Aromas of kiwi and lime suggest a fruit-focused palate. A balanced blend of lime and green peas feels fresh and leads to a clean finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

87 Garces Silva 2023 Made with Organic Grapes Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). The wine-maker's sustainable practices go beyond organic farming in the cool-climate Leyda Valley. This is an easy-drinking Sauvignon that starts with sweet citrus fruit and leafy aromas on the nose. Similar notes are displayed on the palate, with concentrated

lemon and grass backed by optimal acidity. Vine Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$15

87 Misiones de Rengo 2023 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Celery and grapefruit aromas shape the nose. This is a simple Sauvignon that offers lime and herbaceous flavors on the light-bodied palate. Drink now to enjoy its lively character while young. Terroir Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

87 Viña Casablanca 2022 Céfiro Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). This is an easy-sipping Sauvignon, with a predominantly citrus character. The nose has light aromas of lime. Flavors of grapefruit, lime and grass invade the palate and fade in a brief finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$13

86 Santa Carolina 2023 Carolina Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). The aromas in this Sauvignon lean towards tropical fruit. It has gentle acidity on the palate, with lemon and guava flavors. Enjoy now. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

86 Siegel 2023 Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). This is lean and austere, with faint aromas of lime. Grapefruit flavors are mild on the palate and disappear in the brief finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

ROSÉS

90 Lapostolle 2023 Le Rosé Rosé (Colchagua Valley). A delicate floral nose is attractive and leads to a structured palate. Flavors of strawberry and watermelon are balanced. This rosé has weight and lovely acidity, leading to bright fruity notes in the finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

90 Vik 2023 La Piu Belle Rosé (Cachapoal Valley). Made with 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and small percentages of other red grape varieties, this is far from being just a summer sipper. The nose is elegant and expressive, offering wild berries. Flavors of ripe raspberry and hints of stone fruit and apple infuse the palate. It has weight and optimal acidity, making this wine a perfect match for grilled salmon. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

89 Garces Silva 2023 Made with Organic Grapes Rosé (Leyda Valley). The bouquet is deeply floral and fresh. This lively rosé from coastal vineyards delivers strawberry, cherry, cranberry and citrus fruit, joined by hints of graphite. Vine Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$15

88 Emiliana 2021 Natura Limited Edition Made With Organic Grapes Rosé (Chile). Fresh and austere, this is an easy-sipping rosé with light notes of berries on the nose and palate. Red-fruit flavors become more prominent in the finish. It's enjoyable and preserves optimal acidity. Drink now. Banfi Vintners. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

88 Maquis 2023 Gran Reserva Rosé (Colchagua Valley). The nose of this rosé made with 65% Malbec and 35% Cabernet Franc features a subtle nose of berries. It's fresh and flavorful, with strawberry, red apple and pear on the generous palate. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

84 San Pedro 2023 Gato Negro Rosé (Central Valley). This wine is lean and has a restrained nose. The palate is simple and offers mild tropical-fruit and berry flavors along with gentle acidity. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$6

PINOT NOIR

92 Viña Tabalí 2021 Talinay Pinot Noir (Limarí Valley). For full review see page 12. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

91 Concha y Toro 2022 Amelia Pinot Noir (Limarí Valley). Pinot Noir grows primarily along the coast of Chile in places like Casablanca, but further north in the Limarí Valley, only 15 miles from the Pacific Ocean, the grape has found another suitable climate. This wine opens with aromas of berries and has a savory palate that features cranberry and subtle notes of herbs and mushrooms. Good acidity carries the flavors through the lasting finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Ventisquero 2020 Herú Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). Juicy, fresh and structured perfectly describe this Pinot Noir from Casablanca Valley. Delicate aromas of wild berries and black pepper introduce a bright and fruit-focused palate. Black tea, raspberry and cranberry flavors and earthy notes find balance due to lifting acidity and fine tannins. Austral Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Marques De Casa Concha 2021 Pinot Noir (Limarí Valley). A nose of spices and subtle notes of chalk introduce a ripe palate with mineral texture. Meaty berries and white pepper are backed by moderate acidity. This wine finishes with lovely hints of salt. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2022 Escudo Rojo Gran Reserva Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). Cherry and other berries rise from the glass of this Pinot Noir from Casablanca. It has a soft texture holding cranberry, raspberry and cherry

flavors. A dash of ground black pepper appears on the pleasant finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Garces Silva 2021 Boya Certified Sustainable Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). The winery sources grapes from its estate in Leyda Valley, only a few miles from the Pacific Ocean. This is subtle on the nose, but the palate is juicy and fruit focused. Flavors of dried cherry, herbs and hints of citrus fruit are balanced and enjoyable. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Montes 2022 Alpha Pinot Noir (Aconcagua Costa). Wild berries on the nose are attractive and suggest a fruit-forward character. The palate offers strawberry jam and subtle oak spices. It's easy to drink and enjoyable, with enough acidity to back the flavors. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 San Pedro 2022 1865 Tayu Pinot Noir (Malleco). Herbaceous and spicy, this Pinot Noir comes from Malleco Valley, one of the southern-most regions in Chile. It has a nose of mint and chalk that introduces a lively palate of black tea, clove and white pepper with subtle berry flavors. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Viña Casablanca 2021 Nimbus Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). Enchanting notes of wild berries burst from the glass. This is a coastal Pinot Noir, with meaty red plum, raspberry and cranberry flavors joined by hints of herbs. It's fresh and friendly, with a fruity finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Loma Larga 2022 Coastal Cool Climate Wine Family Vineyards Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). Light aromas of salt perfume the nose of this coastal Pinot Noir. It's fruit focused on the palate, with wild berries and faint earthy notes in the medium finish. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Miguel Torres 2021 Cordillera de los Andes Reserva Especial Parcela La Ladera Pinot Noir (Maule Valley). This wine comes from vineyards near the coast in Maule Valley. It's easy going, with aromas of flint and meaty plums that lead to a soft palate. Flavors of tobacco, berries and herbs are lifted by moderate acidity. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Santa Carolina 2021 Carolina Reserva Pinot Noir Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). This light, soft and ripe wine delivers notes of red fruit on the nose and palate. Gentle acidity backs dried fruit flavors and hints of herbs in the finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Casas del Bosque 2021 Las Dichas Single Vineyard Reserva Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). The nose delivers light bay leaf aromas and leads to a thin and simple palate of stewed berries and grass. It has soft acidity and finishes with leafy notes. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Trasiego 2023 Red Quartz Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). This is an easy-drinking Pinot with a restrained nose. The lightly structured palate features gentle acidity that drives stewed-berry flavors and grass through a brief finish. Via Pacifica Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

85 Cigar Box 2022 Old Vine Hand Harvested Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). Aromatic on the nose, this Pinot Noir shows spice and candied cherry, with a hint of flint. The palate is austere, featuring light berry flavors and a short finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Domus Aurea 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Round and smooth, this is a delicious Cabernet from Peñalolen in the Maipo Valley and starts with a nose of herbs followed by a dash of paprika. The earthy palate shows the region's classic eucalyptus and mint, which in this case are subtle and lend freshness to vanilla bean, coriander and red-plum flavors. Drink now–2030. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$105

92 Casas del Bosque 2019 Gran Bosque Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). This is an enjoyable Cabernet that was aged in oak barrels for 18 months, resulting in an aromatic and flavorful wine. The nose exhibits cinnamon, nutmeg and eucalyptus. Good acidity runs the show on the palate, where a delightful mix of fruit and subtle spices meet hints of herbs and chocolate. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Casas del Toqui 2021 Gran Toqui Alto Totihue Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). Soft aromas of red plum and pink pepper suggest a flavorful palate. This is a fresh red, with delicious ripe strawberries and blackberries joining earthy notes and subtle notes of wood spice. Full bodied and balanced, it shows a sturdy structure. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

92 Los Vascos 2021 Le Dix Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). It's fruity on the nose and palate, with delicate tannins. This Cabernet has a bouquet of cherry, raspberry and blackberry and a soft mouthfeel. A combination of baking spices and peppercorn wraps juicy red fruit and adds layers to this enjoyable wine. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

BUYINGGUIDE

92 San Pedro 2021 Cabo de Hornos Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). When allowed to breathe, aromas of ripe berries rise from the glass of this big Cabernet. Tight tannins and optimal acidity shape a sturdy structure. This wine shows a large collection of red fruit, dried herbs and spices on the palate. It will benefit from a few months of bottle aging, but it's delicious to drink now. Enjoy through 2031. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

92 Vik 2022 Millahue A Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). From a beautiful vineyard in Cachapoal, comes this Cabernet that shows a hint of salt on the nose, followed by ripe blackberries. Fine tannins and lively acidity provide balance and structure. Dark fruit, dried cherry, cedar and rosemary dance on the palate. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

91 Carmen 2020 Gold Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). There is a balanced blend of herbs and fruit on this medium-bodied Cabernet. A nose of rosemary includes aromas of dried cherry. Lovely acidity brings freshness to the raspberry, cranberry, rosemary and dried basil combo on the soft palate. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

91 Casa Silva 2021 S38 Los Lingues Single Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). This is a flavorful Cabernet Sauvignon from a historical winery in the Colchagua region. The nose and palate are expressive, with plenty of spices, herbs and black fruit that make the wine very enjoyable. A fine tannic structure and moderate acidity provide support through the smoky finish. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

91 Concha y Toro 2020 Gravas Rojas del Maipo Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Sweet notes of berry jam dominate the character of this Cabernet. The nose is fruit forward, with vanilla aromas leading to a well-structured palate. Enough acidity supports baking spices, blueberry and raspberry flavors. Let it breathe for a few minutes to enjoy its full potential. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

91 San Pedro 2020 Cabo De Hornos Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). In the Cachapoal Valley, vines grow at the foothills of the Andes Mountain range. This is where winemaker Gabriel Mustakis sources grapes to make a tasty Cabernet that has round tannins and good structure. The nose offers baking spices and leads to a generous palate of cranberry, strawberry, cinnamon and white-pepper flavors. VSPT USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

90 Casas del Toqui 2021 Terroir Selection Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). The nose opens with aromas of thyme mixed with blackberry. Notes of herbs make their way into the palate and join mild black-fruit flavors

and hints of smoke. This Cabernet has tight tannins and enough acidity to make it enjoyable. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

90 Domus Aurea 2018 Alba de Domus Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). The nose offers spices and herbs after a few minutes in the glass. Sweet bell pepper, bay leaf and licorice on the mouth reveal the wine's origin in Peñalolen, Maipo Valley. Moderate acidity lifts a subtle note of espresso that lingers in the finish. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$40

90 François Lurton 2022 Hacienda Araucano Gran Araucano Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). After a few minutes in the glass, this Cabernet from Colchagua Valley near the Coastal mountain range opens with subtle herbal notes. Tight tannins hold a palate of bell pepper, red fruit and oak spice. It can be enjoyed now, but it will also benefit from time in the cellar. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

89 Casas del Bosque 2020 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). This approachable Cabernet is fruit focused and comes from several vineyards in the Maipo Valley. The nose shows sweet notes of cherry that introduce a medium-bodied palate, with flavors of red berries, toasted oak and thyme. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

89 Ravalan 2021 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). The bouquet of this red includes light notes of menthol followed by black fruit. It has fine tannins and concentrated notes of plums mixed with herbs that lead to a medium finish. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$44

88 Los Vascos 2019 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). The nose of this red is earthy and subtle, showing mild notes of dried berries. It's a medium-bodied wine, with a palate of toasted oak, herbs and light red-fruit flavors. Enjoy now. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

88 Peñalolen 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Aromas of aniseed, herbs and hints of cola shape the nose of this Cabernet from a warm vintage. The palate is juicy and offers earthy notes. Concentrated flavors of licorice, eucalyptus and dried berries lead to a lasting finish. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

88 Santa Rita 2021 Medalla Real Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). From the Maipo Valley, this Cabernet starts with gentle aromas of black fruit. Dried fig and prune show on the lightly structured palate. The finish is warm and

medium in length. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 Calcu 2020 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). The nose of this Cabernet from Colchagua offers aromas of ripe cherries that repeat on the palate. It's fruit forward, with red fruit flavors and gentle acidity. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

87 Trasiego 2020 Manos Andinas Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). This is an enjoyable Cabernet to sip on a Tuesday night. The nose offers subtle berry aromas, with hints of bell pepper. It delivers prominent oaky notes followed by red-fruit flavors and hints of black tea. Via Pacifica Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

86 Santa Rita 2020 Casa Real Reserva Especial Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). The heat of the vintage shows in this Cabernet of dried berry aromas and soft tannins. Mild flavors of toasted oak and prune join herbaceous notes that become prominent towards the end. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

85 San Pedro 2023 Gato Negro Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Central Valley). A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot that shows stewed berries on the nose. This is light bodied, with red fruit and grass flavors on the palate. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$6

CABERNET FRANC

90 Lapostolle 2022 Cuvée Alexandre Cabernet Franc (Apalta). The nose of this Cabernet Franc has a balanced bouquet that includes black fruit and dried herbs, enhanced by subtle notes of cinnamon. A good structure frames flavors of plums, thyme and wood spice. It finishes with pleasant smoky notes. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

90 Los Vascos 2021 Cromas Gran Reserva Cabernet Franc (Colchagua Valley). A nose of earthy aromas introduces a palate of concentrated black fruit flavors. A smart use of oak barrels resulted in this wine showcasing ripe plum and herbal notes backed by enough acidity and supporting tannins to make it enjoyable through the finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

90 Maquis 2020 Gran Reserva Cabernet Franc (Colchagua Valley). Coming from vines along the Tinguiririca River in Colchagua, the nose of this Cabernet Franc has a bouquet of aromatic spices. It's full bodied, with a ripe palate that offers red and black fruit over a smooth texture. Light

notes of herbs in the finish enhance its varietal character. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$23

88 François Lurton 2023 Hacienda Araucano Humo Blanco Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Franc (Lolol Valley). This Cabernet Franc has an earthy character and tight tannins. Subtle herbaceous aromas shape the nose. The palate has good acidity and delivers gentle flavors of red plum and grass that fade in a medium finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

CARMÉNÈRE

93 Santa Rita 2021 Floresta Carménère (Apalta). A well-made Carménère that doesn't need makeup to hide its nature and instead appeals to honest fruit flavors and subtle herbs, offering a delicious experience. It has aromas of berries intertwined with spices. The structured palate brings together sour cherries and strawberries blended with rosemary and black pepper that extend into a fresh finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 Casa Silva 2021 Microterroir De Los Lingues Carménère (Colchagua Valley). Herbs and a good amount of fruit flavors shape the character of this Carménère. Aromas of berries and eucalyptus are subtle on the nose. Optimal acidity and fine tannins back a steady flow of black and red fruit flavors elevated by a hint of white pepper and bay leaf. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

92 Casa Silva 2019 Microterroir De Los Lingues Carménère (Colchagua Valley). Light espresso aromas blend with vanilla bean and raspberry jam. This is a sturdy, flavorful red from the Colchagua region. Honest and lively raspberry and cherry flavors are framed by silky tannins. An enjoyable Carménère to sip slowly. Vine Connections. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

92 Lapostolle 2022 Cuvée Alexandre Carménère (Colchagua Valley). This wine comes from vines in Apalta within the Colchagua Valley, one of Carménère's favorite spots in Chile. It opens with an inviting nose of oak spices and blueberry jam. Concentrated black-fruit flavors are bright on the palate. The finish is long, with hints of vanilla. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

92 Montes 2020 Wings Carménère (Apalta). Grapes come from vines that grow on the hillside of Apalta. This is a Carménère with a ripe character and lovely acidity. Aromas of berry jam join cinnamon, nutmeg and peppercorn on the nose. The palate is silky and fruity, with nice notes of

cranberry sauce and red plum. Sweet spices add an extra layer of flavor. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 15% Price: \$62

92 Santa Rita 2021 Pewën Carménère (Apalta). Aromas of black pepper, followed by hints of toasted oak, are inviting and introduce a balanced and pleasantly herbaceous palate. The wine's silky texture drives flavors of berries, mint and dried basil through a lasting finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

91 TerraNoble 2021 Costa CA2 Carménère (Colchagua Valley). Winemaker Marcelo Garcia aims to show the different expressions of Carménère from the Andes and the coastal regions. This wine is sourced from vineyards 24 miles from the Pacific Ocean. A lovely combination of red and black fruit aromas creates an attractive bouquet. The fresh palate offers sweet baking spices, cherries and hints of dried herbs. Toasted oak flavors lengthen the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

90 Casa Silva 2022 Los Lingues Vineyard Carménère (Colchagua Valley). This wine hails from Colchagua at the foothills of the Andes Mountain range. The nose is expressive, exhibiting bay leaf and cumin aromas. It's tasty, with leafy notes and satisfying flavors of blueberry, blackberry and plums. A dash of peppercorn shows in the aftertaste. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 Casa Silva 2018 Microterroir de Los Lingues Carménère (Colchagua Valley). The nose offers notes of herbs that repeat on the palate, highlighting the green character of this Carménère. Earthy black- and red-fruit flavors fill the mouth and linger in the finish, where a dash of toasted oak adds balance to this tasty wine. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 Casas del Bosque 2022 Gran Reserva Carménère (Peumo). The winery sources grapes from Cachapoal Valley to make this ripe Carménère. The bouquet includes meaty black-fruit aromas. The palate is rich and firm, with ripe raspberries, blueberries, cherries and grass. Good acidity adds freshness to this enjoyable red. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 Concha y Toro 2021 Terrunyo Carménère (Peumo). The nose is expressive and offers earthy ripe berry and leafy aromas. It's friendly on the palate, with red fruit, vanilla bean and nutmeg flowing over a plush texture. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

90 De Martino 2014 Alto de Piedras Carménère (Maipo Valley). A decade old, this wine preserves its fruit character that shows clearly on the nose and palate. There is a rich note of oak spices

balanced by subtle flavors of prune, dried cherry and bell pepper that linger through the medium-long finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$50

90 Los Vascos 2021 Cromas Gran Reserva Carménère (Colchagua Valley). This red doesn't hide the herbaceous character that is typical of Carménère, but these flavors are counterpointed by blackberries and hints of baking spices, making it friendly and enjoyable. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

90 Miguel Torres 2021 Cordillera de los Andes Reserva Especial Parcela La Ladera Carménère (Peumo). Carménère loves Peumo, a subregion in Cachapoal Valley. Here the grape can fully ripen and make wines that have a balanced bouquet and palate. This red has light notes of berries on the nose. Finely grained tannins and good acidity hold cherry flavors mixed with dried basil. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$21

90 Undurraga 2021 T.H. Terroir Hunter Peumo Carménère (Peumo). The spicy nose offers white pepper and black-fruit aromas. This Carménère comes from a subregion in Cachapoal where the grape thrives. Balanced notes of bay leaf and peppercorn lend savoriness to black- and red-fruit flavors, and extend into an enjoyable finish. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

90 Vik 2022 Millahue A Carménère (Cachapoal Valley). Hailing from Cachapoal and made of 87% Carménère and a splash of Cabernet Franc and Syrah, this red has a fruit-forward character. The wine's aromatic nose offers notes of blueberry jam that echo in the palate. This is softly textured and that silkiness carries flavors of berries joined by baking spices and rosemary. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

89 Carmen 2022 Gran Reserva Single Vineyard Carménère (Colchagua Valley). This straightforward Carménère exhibits a bouquet of herbs and spices. It's fruit focused on the palate, showing light notes of herbs alongside gentle acidity. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

88 François Lurton 2023 Hacienda Araucano Humo Blanco Made with Organic Grapes Carménère (Colchagua Valley). Carménère is one of Chile's emblematic wines. This red comes from coastal vineyards in Cachapoal Valley and offers a nose of dried berries. Ripe and easy drinking, the palate shows a good amount of fruit flavors, gentle acidity and smooth tannins. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

87 Ochagavía 2020 Don Silvestre Gran Reserva Carménère (Cachapoal Valley). Ripe fruit marks the character of this Carménère. The nose

BUYINGGUIDE

offers berry aromas. Toasted oak on the palate adds an extra layer of flavor as black fruit and leafy notes fade in the finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Siegel 2022 Crucero Collection Carménère (Colchagua Valley). A sweet nose delivers candied cherry aromas. The palate is lean and gentle, with red berry sauce and grassy notes flowing in the finish. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 Santa Ema 2021 Select Terroir Reserva Carménère (Cachapoal Valley). This is restrained on the nose and lightly flavored on the palate. Mild flavors of black fruit are supported by sharp acidity and thin tannins. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

CARIGNAN

91 Miguel Torres 2018 Cordillera de los Andes Old Vines Carignan (Maule Valley). For full review see page 13. Vineyard Brands.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

90 TerraNoble 2021 Azara Carignan (Maule Valley). The nose of this wine shows red berries and black pepper. It comes from dry-farmed vineyards in Maule Valley and has a fruit-forward character. Soft tannins and good acidity hold bright raspberry, cranberry and cherry flavors. Drink slightly chilled. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Carmen 2022 Gran Reserva Carignan (Maule Valley). The nose of this red wine from Maule Valley is austere. It has a smooth palate of generous earthy dried cherry and grass flavors that extend into the medium finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

MALBEC

88 Concha y Toro 2020 Marques de Casa Concha Malbec (Maule Valley). A light note of thyme emerges from the glass. Aged in foudres and oak barrels, this Malbec from Maule Valley offers earthy flavors and hints of spices. Notes of black fruit are very subtle on the lean palate and lead to a leafy finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Apaltagua 2021 Reserva Malbec (Maule Valley). Fruit focused and lean, this Malbec exhibits subtle notes of overripe black fruit on the nose. It was aged in oak barrels for a short time, which resulted in mild notes of vanilla extract that, mixed with blackberry and plum flavors, lead to a

medium finish. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Sierra Batuco 2020 Reserva Estate Bottled Malbec (Maule Valley). The nose is full of aromas of ripe berries and dried herbs. It has flavors of prune, dried cherries, grass and paprika. This Malbec has enough acidity to back the palate and drive the fruit through the finish. Invina. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

MERLOT

90 Lapostolle 2022 Cuvée Alexandre Merlot (Apalta). Hailing from Apalta, this wine starts with aromas of ripe bramble berries. It was aged 14 months in oak barrels and, as a result, the fresh palate showcases bright fruit flavors and light notes of toasted oak, creating a balanced and concentrated mouthfeel. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Montes 2021 Alpha Merlot (Colchagua Valley). The lightly perfumed nose offers hints of berries. Tannins are ripe and soft, making the wine easy to drink. Moderate acidity carries ripe cherry flavors, with hints of milk chocolate through the finish. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Santa Carolina 2021 Carolina Reserva Merlot Merlot (Maule Valley). The wine's fruit-focused character and soft tannins make it excellent for enjoying right now. Aromas of candied cherries are pleasant. This is an easy-drinking Merlot, with red-plum flavors. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Viña Tarapacá 2020 Gran Reserva Merlot (Maipo Valley). The nose is ripe and fruity, with aromas of black fruit. Rich flavors of bramble berries abound on the lightly structured palate. It offers subtle notes of chocolate and herbs that fade in the finish. Brotherhood Winery. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 La Junta 2022 Amigo Perro Merlot (Curicó Valley). Sweet aromas of berries rise from the glass of this lightly structured Merlot. The palate exhibits stewed berry flavors and moderate acidity. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Misiones de Rengo 2023 Merlot (Central Valley). This young Merlot displays sweet aromas of candied cherry. It has a fruity and simple palate, with berry flavors that lead to a brief finish. Terroir Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

84 San Pedro 2023 Gato Negro Merlot (Central Valley). Aromas of peppercorn open the nose of this lean and simple red. The palate offers

stewed berry flavors and light tannins. It has a quick finish. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$6

RED BLENDS

93 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2021 Baronesa P. Red Blend (Maipo Valley). Ripe berries and earthy tones introduce a bold Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend from the Maipo Valley. Finely grained tannins hold a palate that bursts with dark chocolate notes and bright strawberry, raspberry and plum flavors. Optimal acidity adds freshness and extends notes of oregano and other dried herbs into the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Valdivieso 2021 Caballo Loco Grand Cru Red Blend (Maipo Valley). This is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc that starts with fresh aromas of red fruit. Fine but firm tannins hold lively flavors of raspberries and blackberries enhanced by ground black pepper. It has a lasting fruity finish with hints of tobacco. Enjoy now—2031. Global Select Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$43

93 Vik 2020 Millahue Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). Aged in barrels that were toasted with oak from the winery's estate, this generous blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Cabernet Franc has an expressive nose of nutmeg and cinnamon. The palate is packed with concentrated blackberry and raspberry flavors mixed with baking spices. Fine but firm tannins contribute to the sturdy structure. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$149

92 Vik 2021 La Piu Belle Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). An attractive label isn't all this wine has to offer. This Carmenere-based blend has an enchanting nose, with subtle toasted oak and blueberry aromas. Black-fruit flavors in the form of plums and mulberries are at the core of this juicy and full-bodied wine. The finish exhibits light notes of herbs and espresso. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$89

91 San Pedro 2021 Altair Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). Aromas of ripe berries and leafy notes form an inviting bouquet in this blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and small percentages of Cabernet Franc, Syrah and Carménère. Dried cherries and plums meet subtle bay leaves and vanilla-bean flavors over a smooth texture. It features freshness and fine tannins. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Santa Carolina 2019 VSC Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). Rich and smooth, this blend offers delicious notes of black and red fruit on the nose and concentrated flavors of blueberry jam, cassis, herbs and wood spice on the palate. It's generous and fruit focused. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Maquis 2019 Lien Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Colchagua Valley). Sweet baking spices and dried herbs perfume the nose of this full-bodied blend of 46% Cabernet Franc, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Carménère. After 18 months of aging in oak barrels, it shows savory flavors of strawberry, red plum and eucalyptus. Cinnamon and nutmeg add depth to the palate, lengthening the enjoyable finish. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

90 Santa Luz 2019 Gran Corte Red Blend (Colchagua Valley). This is a Syrah-based blend that opens with aromas of baking spices. The palate offers a mix of wood spice and candied berries supported by firm tannins and optimal acidity. It's well-structured and finishes with a light note of tobacco. Misa Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Vik 2021 Millahue Milla Cala Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). The nose of this wine made with 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Carménère and a splash of Syrah, Merlot and Cabernet Franc exhibits spices, blackberries and a hint of bell pepper. Aged in oak barrels for 18 months, it shows balanced wood spice, leafy notes and plums on the soft palate. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

87 Carmen 2021 Frida Kahlo Single Vineyard Red Blend (Colchagua Valley). Eucalyptus notes on the nose and palate shape the herbaceous character of this red blend. Flavors of thyme and other dried herbs join hints of coriander and red fruit. It's a lightly structured and easy-going wine. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 Calcu 2021 Escarlata Red Blend (Colchagua Valley). Ripe cherry aromas form the nose of this blend of 35% Cabernet Franc, 30% Malbec, 20% Petit Verdot and 15% Syrah. The palate is lean, with gentle acidity and stewed berry flavors. Enjoy now. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

BRAZIL

SPARKLING WINES

87 Salton NV Alma Brut Sparkling Blend (Serra Gaúcha). Light notes of ripe stone fruit and lemon form the nose of this sparkling wine from Serra Gaúcha. It's fruity on the palate, featuring mild flavors of peach, citrus and grass along with good acidity. Enjoy it at the beach. Park Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

86 Salton NV Alma Semi-Dry Sparkling Blend (Serra Gaúcha). This is an easy-going sparkling wine made with 60% Moscato and 40% Trebbiano grapes. Aromas of stone fruit perfume the nose and echo on the palate. It features soft bubbles

and gentle acidity. Park Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

85 Salton NV Sweet Rosé Sparkling Blend (Serra Gaúcha). This sparkling rosé is made of 90% Moscato and 10% Merlot. The nose is aromatic, showing strawberries and apricots. It offers candied berries and stone-fruit flavors that linger in the sweet finish. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$9

NORTHEAST ITALY

WHITE WINES

ALTO ADIGE

95 Cantina Terlano 2021 Cuvée Terlaner Nova Domus Riserva (Alto Adige). Aromas of warmed pears dusted with spice, delicate white flowers, and the zest of lemon, lime and kumquat. Invigorating acidity leads the way on the palate with pristine orchard fruits lifted by citrus oils, fresh herbs and a distinct flintiness that culminates in the rejuvenation of not just the palate but the soul. Drink now–2045. Banville Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$78

95 Cantina Terlano 2021 Vorberg Pinot Bianco Riserva (Alto Adige). Vorberg is one of the world's great Pinot Bianco (Pinot Blancs) and opens with a fragrant aroma of ripe pear, green apple, and hints of almond. On the palate, it is vibrant with an interplay of citrus and stone fruit, carried by a refreshing acidity. The wine culminates in a textured finish that spans across cuisines. Drink now–2040. Banville Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$57

94 Cantina Terlano 2022 Kreuth Chardonnay (Alto Adige). Grown high in the foothills of the Alps in Alto Adige, this Chardonnay shows how the warm days and cold nights create singular wines. Opening with aromas of warmed peach pie, baked Fuji apples, lemon blossom and crushed stone the wine evolves with each passing moment. The palate is full in body but has the acidity to back up the ripe orchard and stone fruit flavors that yield to a creamy texture and mineral finish. Drink now–2035. Banville Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 Cantina Terlano 2022 Tradition Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). This wine offers an aromatic journey with scents of sun-warmed green apple, brown pear, and subtle mountain herbs. The palate shines with a refreshing interplay of crisp, vibrant orchard fruit flavors and a lively, invigorating acidity, with a citrus and mineral edge on the vibrant finish. Drink now–2040. Banville Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

93 Andriano 2022 Finado Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). Aromas of white peach, juicy pear, and delicate alpine blossoms, this Pinot Bianco captures the essence of the mountains. The palate presents a refreshing mélange of crisp, vibrant orchard fruit flavors, akin to savoring the pure, invigorating mountain air, finishing with a clean and uplifting finish. Drink now–2035. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

93 Andriano 2021 Doran Chardonnay Riserva (Alto Adige). Baked apples drizzled with warm honey and fresh pie crust aromas all rush out of the glass of this rich Chardonnay. Forward and loaded with ripe orchard fruits and apricot flavors with a touch of lemon oil that are all balanced by fresh mountain acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Cantina Terlano 2022 Cuvée Terlaner (Alto Adige). This wine captures the essence of a sunlit mountain with scents of ripe apple, citrus zest, and fresh white flowers. The palate shines with a harmonious fusion of lemon, mandarin orange and Fuji apple flavors, that then shift gears to focus on the subtle herbal notes and crushed stone notes found on the finish. Balanced by vibrant acidity and a smooth, textured finish, this is a wine that helps define Alpine wine. Drink now–2040. Banville Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Cantina Terlano 2022 Tradition Gewürztraminer (Alto Adige). This Gewürztraminer delivers an alluring bouquet of lychee, rose petals, and exotic spices. Its palate delights with a rich combination of tropical fruit and subtle spice, evoking the lush, vibrant landscapes of steep vineyards, warm days and cold nights. The wine's lingering, aromatic finish is a testament to the captivating allure of Alto Adige's natural beauty. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

92 Cantina Kurtatsch 2021 Amos (Alto Adige). A blend of Pinot Bianco, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Kerner and Sauvignon, this wine unveils a fragrant bouquet of ripe orchard fruit, delicate citrus, and intense wildflower aromas. The palate offers a medley of succulent white peach, lemon peel and wild herb flavors with a textured and long finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Cantina Terlano 2022 Tradition Müller Thurgau (Alto Adige). Born from the rugged terrain of Alto Adige, this Müller Thurgau offers a fragrant bouquet of fresh herbs, green apples, and a hint of white peach. On the palate, it unfolds with flavors of ripe pear and citrus, reflecting the interplay of sun-soaked orchards and cool mountain streams. Drink now–2035. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Castelfeder 2022 15 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). An aromatic journey with scents of tree-ripened green apple, warmed pear, and fresh mountain herbs, this wine captures one's attention immediately. On the palate, it unfolds with refreshingly citrus and peach flavors that culminate with a stony minerality on the lifted finish. Volio Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Caldaro 2022 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Scents of white peach, pear and delicate floral hints lift from the glass of this wine. A refreshing crisp and vibrant energy drives the palate with invigorating acidity that hints at flavors of lemon peel and green apple skin on the soft and rolling finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Cantina Terlano 2022 Tradition Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Ripe green apple, Bosc pear, and citrus blossom aromas define the nose of this instant classic. On the palate, it presents a harmonious blend of citrus and stone fruit flavors, balanced by a crisp acidity and a clean, refreshing finish, as if staring out onto the the Alpine landscape from which this wine comes. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Franz Haas 2022 Lepus (Alto Adige). This fun and vibrant white weaves a tapestry of aromas and flavors that immediately capture one's attention. Pineapple, roasted citrus, gardenia and crushed stone shine from nose to palate with a pleasant bitterness on the extended finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2022 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). This Pinot Grigio from Alto Adige opens with aromas of ripe pear, green apple, and a hint of citrus. On the palate, it presents a refreshing blend of orange and lemon peel and ripe orchard fruit flavors, balanced by a crisp acidity and a clean, mineral-infused finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Andriano 2022 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Aromas of sun-ripened pear, green apple, and subtle mountain herbs, this Pinot Grigio captures the signature of Pinot Grigio. On the palate, it presents a refreshing balance of crisp, vibrant citrus and orchard fruit flavors with lively acidity and an uplifting finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2022 Soll Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). An exquisite white wine showcasing a balanced and elegant character with delightful citrus, orchard blossoms, and a touch of crisp green apples. The easy and fresh palate directly translates to a vibrant finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

88 Franz Haas 2022 Sauvignon (Alto Adige). Aromas of homemade lemon marmalade, dehydrated lime and mango leap from the glass of this intensely aromatic white wine. The palate's crunchy acidity keeps the intense fruit flavors fresh while the flinty minerality adds more intrigue than one might expect. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

VIGNETI DELLE DOLOMITI

93 Castelfeder 2022 Lahn Kerner (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). Lifted and exotic aromas of ripe mango, papaya, lime leaf and orange zest. Refreshing with a surge of crisp acidity and tart stone fruit flavors, underpinned by a subtle minerality that transports you straight to the heart of the Dolomites. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Castelfeder 2022 Mont Mès Pinot Grigio (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). Opening with a fragrant bouquet of ripe pear, green apple, and a hint of almond, the wine fills the glass. The wine unfolds with a harmonious blend of refreshing citrus and orchard fruit flavors on the palate, balanced by crisp acidity and a clean, mineral-infused finish. Volio Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Franz Haas 2022 Manna (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). Popping out of the glass like a gymnast doing a flip, this bright white opens with aromas of passion fruit, grapefruit and freshly chopped mixed green herbs. Vibrant with zippy acidity that lifts the palate showing flavors of mixed citrus and a flinty minerality. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$47

88 Franz Haas 2022 Pinot Grigio (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). This Pinot Grigio opens with white floral aromas that are supported by notes of lemon peel, fresh laundry and crushed stones. The peach-forward palate shines with a subtle hint of bitter lemon pith finishing with a texture and light finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Lagaria 2022 Chardonnay (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). Mixed orchard fruits define the nose of this pretty and elegant Chardonnay. As it develops in the glass, wafting notes of jasmine and magnolia emerge alongside lemon oil. The palate is textured and layered with rounded edges that work well with a butter-poached halibut or cod topped with fresh tarragon. Empson USA Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Bollini 2022 Pinot Grigio (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). White peach aromas lead the way of this forward Pinot Grigio with acacia blossoms, and a hint of green apple quickly joining. The palate pops with flavors of ripe pear, crisp green apple,

and a hint of crushed stone on the elegant finish. Empson USA Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Franz Haas 2022 Müller-Thurgau (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). Fresh melon and white peach with a dusting of lemon zest define the nose of this forward wine. Easy and fresh with loads of primary fruit on the palate that pops with a stony minerality and crunchy acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

86 Bollini 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). This sun-drenched alpine wine lifts out of the glass with aromas of citrus, white peach, and a hint of fresh-cut grass. Vibrant flavors of grapefruit, ripe pineapple, and a crushed stone flow off the palate, culminating in a refreshing and bright finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

TRENTINO

91 Mae Son 2022 (Trentino). A delightful blend of apple and wildflower aromas creates an intriguing and unforgettable experience. Textured with layers of flavors that show orchard fruit in all its glory while notes of yeast and vibrant acidity keep the wine fresh. Jenny and François Selections. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Roeno 2022 Le Giare (Trentino). Hailing from the alpine terraces of Trentino, the wine seduces with a bouquet of elderflower and crisp green apple. Its palate is a delightful interplay of zesty lime and white peach, balanced by a refreshing minerality that echoes the region's glacial streams. Terra Madre Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Bottega Vinaia 2022 Estate Bottled Pinot Grigio (Trentino). Aromas of white peach and honeysuckle define the nose of this Pinot Grigio. The palate displays vibrant acidity, featuring flavors of green apple, citrus, and a subtle hint of almond. Palm Bay International. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

TRENTO

93 Moser 2015 Blauen Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut (Trento). Captivating aromas of baked Fuji apples, tart strawberries and cream. On the palate, this sparkling wine delivers a harmonious blend of red fruit and a subtle almond undertone, framed by a crisp acidity that is the signature of this high-altitude terroir, followed by a persistent bead of fine bubbles. Colangelo & Partners. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Fondazione Edmund Mach 2018 Mach Riserva Del Fondatore (Trento). This sparkling wine from Trento DOC dazzles with an ele-

gant perfume of toasted brioche and white flowers, mixed apples and lemon peel. The palate is met with a luxurious mousse, carrying complex layers of ripe pear, tangy citrus, and a sophisticated yeasty note, emblematic of its meticulous bottle fermentation. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

DELLE VENEZIE

88 The Pinot Project 2022 Pinot Grigio (Venezia). Aromas of ripe pear, green apple, and a touch of mixed citrus zest lift out of the glass of this easy and tasty Pinot Grigio. It unfolds with a harmonious blend of peach, orchard and citrus fruit flavors, culminating in a refreshing, clean finish, intertwined with subtle mineral and floral hints. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

87 Candoni 2022 (Delle Venezia). Aromas of ripe pear and citrus pop out of the glass of this fresh Pinot Grigio. The palate offers crisp acidity, with flavors of green apple and a hint of minerality. This all-around white works well on its own or paired with grilled shrimp or a bright citrus salad. Arel Group Wine and Spirits Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

86 Castello del Poggio 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezia). Aromas of succulent white peach, delicate lily blossoms, and a zesty pop of lemon intertwine. The palate unfolds with flavors of green apple, ripe pear, and wet stone, culminating in a rounded finish that amplifies the fruit-forward nature of the wine. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

86 Piccini 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezia). Aromas of green apple, white grapefruit, and hints of white flowers lift from the glass. The palate reveals flavors of crisp pear, lemon zest, and a touch of minerality finishing with refreshing acidity, a light body, and a vibrancy that keeps the palate engaged in each glass. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

85 Piera Martellozzo 2022 Blu Giovello Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezia). Ripe orchard fruits and apple blossoms lift from the glass of this Pinot Grigio. The palate and nose are linked as green, red and Golden Delicious apples all combine to showcase the fruity side of the grape while lemon zest notes perk up the bright finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

85 Winemakers Selection 2022 Reserve Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezia). Led by aromas of mixed wildflowers, citrus blossoms and candied lemon peel, this refreshing white engages the senses quickly. Its palate showcases flavors of green apple and lemongrass and finishes with a salty minerality,

leading to a bright and refreshing finish. The Wine Group. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

TRE VENEZIE

88 Bastianich 2022 Sauvignon (Trevenezie). This lifted white wine opens with aromas of lime, mint, cucumber, white peach and fresh white flowers. Light and easy on the palate with a vibrant citrus core that leans toward grapefruit and finishes with a distinct lemongrass note. Dark Star Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Scaia 2022 (Trevenezie). Freshly cut wildflowers and roasted pineapple aromas lift from the glass as notes of passion fruit and yuzu juice tickle the senses. Vibrant and fruit-forward with grapefruit flavors and zippy acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Serafini & Vidotto 2021 Phigaia After the White (Trevenezie). White grapefruit, passion fruit, fresh grass and wet gravel aromas leap out of the glass of this wine. Loaded with tropical fruits on the palate that veer from tart star fruit to overripe mango, the wine is juicy like a Starburst and finishes with a slightly bitter and pithy edge. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

FRIULI

91 Schiopetto 2022 Amirtá (Friuli). An aromatic orchestra of white peach and blooming acacia serenades the senses as the wine flows out of the bottle. The wine then lifts the baton and a symphony of golden apple and honeyed almond, balanced by a poised acidity that echoes across the palate and invigorates the senses. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

91 Volpe Pasini 2022 Grivò Pinot Grigio (Friuli). Greeting the nose with a tapestry of ripe Anjou pear and wet river stones, this wine offering lifts out of the glass. A palate that dances between vivacious lemon zest and a flinty minerality and embodies the crispness of Friuli's windswept vineyards. Golden State Wine Co. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Pighin 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). For full review see page 22. Kobrand.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Puiatti 2022 Friulano (Friuli). Aromas of delicate blossoms and fresh herbs lead to a palate with flavors of juicy peach, citrus, and a touch of minerality. This wine presents a balanced and approachable structure. With roast fish, pork or chicken, your table will be a happy place with this wine. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Pighin 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Friuli). This Sauvignon Blanc from Friuli captivates with vibrant notes of pithy passion fruit and guava, evoking the tropics. Delicate hints of lemongrass and kaffir leaf add an exotic allure, creating a refreshing and aromatic experience that lingers with each sip. Kobrand. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Schiopetto 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). This bright white wine has inviting aromas of white peach, pear, and delicate floral notes. A harmonious blend of orchard fruit flavors underscored by zesty acidity on the bright and refreshing palate offers the classic example of Friulian Pinot Grigio. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Volpe Pasini 2022 Grivò Sauvignon (Friuli). Intense on the nose with aromas of passion fruit, grapefruit, lemon balm and green herbs. Refreshing with a vibrant acidity that makes the mouth water and searching for another glass. Flavors leap across the palate with candied citrus notes balanced by pithy bitterness finishing with a crushed stone minerality. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Schiopetto 2022 Mario Schiopetto (Friuli). A captivating bouquet of ripe stone fruit, acacia flowers, and a hint of almonds. On the palate, it unfolds with flavors of apricot, honeydew melon, and a touch of nuttiness, balanced by a smooth texture and a lively, well-structured finish. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

87 Ca' Bolani 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Friuli). Aromas of fragrant white peach, luscious passion fruit, and a hint of fresh herbs explode out of the glass of this white wine. Zesty lime, ripe pineapple, and a stony minerality add to the freshness of this crisp wine that feels like an afternoon in a blossoming garden. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Ca' Bolani 2019 Aquilis Sauvignon (Friuli). Aromas of ripe tropical fruit, elderflower, and lemongrass open the nose of this heady Sauvignon Blanc. The palate, with flavors of tangy grapefruit, juicy peach, and a lively minerality creates a refreshing and uplifting finish. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

87 Obiz 2021 Friulano (Friuli). Fragrant aromas of spring blooms and mixed stone fruits on the nose help pave the way for a lively palate. Lifted and vibrant flavors of crisp apple, lemon, and a subtle herbal nuance with a refreshing and bright structure. McCormick Wine Imports, LLC. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

FRIULI COLLI ORIENTALI

90 Volpe Pasini 2022 Zuc di Volpe Sauvignon (Friuli Colli Orientali). Aromas of crushed oyster shells with a squeeze of lemon juice leap out of the glass of this lifted and fresh white wine while notes of lemon verbena and grapefruit zest follow as the wine opens. Crunchy acidity greets the palate as mixed citrus flavors yield to a salty and mineral finish. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Volpe Pasini 2022 Zuc di Volpe Pinot Grigio (Friuli Colli Orientali). Whispers of chamomile tea and sunbaked apricots, this Pinot Grigio weaves a complex web of terroir-driven nuance. Its creamy texture and precise acidity paint a portrait of the ancient marl and sandstone soils it hails from, asking for another sip to be taken. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

87 Bastianich 2020 Vini Orsone Friulano (Friuli Colli Orientali). Aromas of white peach, acacia blossoms, and a hint of citrus zest define this wine's aromatic profile. The palate is fresh and pops with flavors of green apple, ripe pear, and a mineral undertone, culminating in a refreshing and bright finish. Dark Star Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

COLLIO

92 I Clivi 2019 Clivi Brazan (Collio). This wine presents a refreshing blend of zesty citrus and succulent stone fruit aromas on the nose, while wildflowers drift by. Flavors of ripe orchard fruit and tart apricots deliver a lush fruit-forward core that is balanced by a refreshing acidity, culminating in a clean, lively and mineral-driven finish. Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

90 Schiopetto 2022 Pinot Blanc (Collio). Aromas of baked apples, lemon oil and pressed yellow flowers. On the palate, it delivers a delightful fusion of citrus and stone fruit flavors, culminating in a refreshing, clean finish that mirrors the region's vibrant spirit. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Schiopetto 2022 Pinot Grigio (Collio). Delicate aromas of green apple, citrus, and fresh white flowers mingle in this expressive wine. The palate pops with vibrant flavors of ripe pear and lemon, complemented by a crisp acidity and a refreshing, clean finish. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Schiopetto 2020 Friulano (Collio). In the heart of Collio, this wine captures the essence of the land. A harmonious blend of orchard and stone fruit flavors, balanced by a vibrant acidity

and a smooth, textured finish with a mineral edge. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Pighin 2022 Pinot Grigio (Collio). Aromas of green apple and citrus blossom drive the nose of this white wine. The palate is crisp and refreshing, with lively acidity and flavors of lemon, pear, and a hint of white peach. Pair with a risotto topped with fresh veggies. Kobrand. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Schiopetto 2022 Sauvignon (Collio). This Sauvignon Blanc gently rolls out of the glass with aromas of lemon zest, lemon oil, pressed white flowers and subtle fresh green herbs. Light and fresh on the palate with a continued lemon note across the palate showing hints of pith giving the wine a pleasant bitterness that finishes with a stony minerality. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

FRIULI ISONZO

90 I Feudi di Romans 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Friuli Isonzo). Clean and fresh as spring, this vibrant white wine opens with aromas of lemon blossom, lemon peel, ruby red grapefruit and crushed gravel. Easy and supremely drinkable, the palate follows the nose in kind with ample mixed citrus notes that lead to an herbal note on the bright finish. Brand Italia. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Sant'Elena 2020 Friulano (Friuli Isonzo). This wine opens with aromas of peach and lemon blossoms alongside ripe pear and lemon peel. The palate showcases a delightful interplay of green apple, citrus, and a subtle almond and peach pit note, offering a bright and revitalizing finish. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

87 Tenuta di Angoris 2022 Villa Locatelli Friulano (Isonzo del Friuli). This wine greets the senses with charming notes of white flowers and a hint of ripe pear. The palate offers a delightful medley of citrus, green apple, and a subtle almond undertone, creating a refreshing and vibrant experience. Ventura Selections LLC. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

CARSO

93 Castelvechio 2022 Dileo Malvasia (Carso). The Malvasia from Carso offers a fragrant bouquet of white peach, jasmine and almond. A harmonious blend of orchard and stone fruit flavors define the core of the palate and are complemented by vibrant acidity and a smooth, textured finish with a sea salt minerality. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Castelvechio 2022 Malvasia (Carso). This wine presents a fragrant bouquet of ripe

peach, honeysuckle, and subtle mineral notes. The palate delivers a rich and expressive array of fruit flavors that are balanced by a nuanced and textured experience, culminating in a lingering, elegant finish with a flinty minerality. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Castelvechio 2022 Pinot Grigio (Carso). Aromas of green apple, citrus, and freshly cut white flowers leap from the glass of this invigorating Pinot Grigio. Crisp and refreshing on the palate featuring vibrant orchard and peach flavors culminating in a clean, mineral-infused finish. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Castelvechio 2022 Vitovska (Carso). This Vitovska from Carso showcases aromas of white peach, honeysuckle, and a serious over- and undertone of minerality. The palate delights with tart and ripe apricot with lemon balm, citrus oil and a saltiness that makes the mouth water. The wine finishes with a nuanced and textured experience with a lingering and elegant finish. Friuli Italian Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

88 Castelvechio 2022 Sauvignon (Carso). Nestled in the rocky hills of the Carso, this crisp white opens with aromas of preserved lemon, white peach and wet gravel. Rounded on the palate with fleshy stone fruit flavors combined with notes of dried white flowers, finishing with an intense minerality. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

DESSERT WINES

93 Franz Haas 2022 Moscato Rosa (Alto Adige). The moment you pull the cork the room will be filled with stunning aromas of candied plum, rose and sweet spices—a wine not for the faint of heart. The rich palate is well-balanced with the sweetness checked by the vibrant acidity as the lingering floral notes carry the wine from start to finish. Empson USA Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$NA/500 ml

92 Nals Margreid 2020 Baronessa Passito (Alto Adige). Heady aromas of dried flowers, roasted nectarine and crushed stone lift from the glass of this wine. The palate is lush and rich with candied ginger and dried jasmine flavors that evolve into a lemon verbena candy on the striking finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75/375 ml

91 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2017 Quintessenz Passito (Alto Adige). A nimble wine with aromas of fresh herbs, roasted peaches and pressed flowers all converging at once, yet never becoming too intense. Rich, but with a kick of acidity that keeps the palate engaged as the dried stone fruits and roasted almonds melt together on the lush and long finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$82/375 ml

ROSÉ

- 89 Paladin 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** Enticing scents of white peach, pear and delicate floral notes create an alluring bouquet. The palate reveals crisp orchard fruit flavors, balanced by a zesty acidity and a clean, refreshing finish. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

NORTHEAST ITALY

RED WINES

ALTO ADIGE

- 90 Franz Haas 2020 Schweizer Lagrein (Alto Adige).** Blackberry compote, wildberry jam and fresh cracked pepper aromas leap from the glass of this lush and exciting Lagrein. A wine meant for food straight off the grill, the palate is lush with ample darker fruits, but the candied violets and grilled herb flavors carry the wine to a rich finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42
- 90 Franz Haas 2020 Schweizer Pinot Nero (Alto Adige).** Baked cherries alongside sweet baking spices and hints of wild herbs open the nose of this fruit-forward Pinot Noir. Framboise flavors spread across the palate as the wine fills the mouth with notes of oak and crushed rock as elegant tannins shape the palate and add tension to the finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$74
- 88 Franz Haas 2021 Pinot Nero (Alto Adige).** This Pinot Noir opens with aromas of dried forest floor, spiced dusted cherries, and blue flowers. Elegant and lifted on the palate with supersilky tannins that weave between the savory and tart sour red currant notes on the easy finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

VENEZIA GIULIA

- 91 Bastianich 2018 Calabrone (Venezia Giulia).** Black plum compote, macerated cherries, vanilla, clove, anise and tobacco fill the glass of this unique Friulian wine made from a portion of dried grapes. Rich and mouthfilling, the wine takes control of the palate with an intense start that mellows as it finds its path with spiced dark fruits, earth and savory herbs on the elegant finish. Drink 2025–2035. Dark Star Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70
- 90 Sant'Elena 2016 Tato (Venezia Giulia).** This wine evokes an image of a fireplace, a pipe, a good book and a well-worn sweater. Aromas of tobacco, dried herbs, cedar and plums macerating in spices lift from the glass. Balanced between herbal and dark fruit aromas with a gentle tannic profile

that gives structure without heft. Drink now–2035. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

- 90 Volpe Pasini 2021 Refosco dal Penducolo Rosso (Venezia Giulia).** Spiced tobacco leaves and dried black cherry aromas lift from the glass of this spicy red. Inviting on the palate with smokiness that adds character to the black plum and cassis flavors to craft rich and intriguing wines with fine tannins on the finish. Golden State Wine Co. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

- 88 Fantinel 2021 Sun Goddess Moon Goddess (Venezia Giulia).** Black cherries, violets and earthy notes define the aroma. Rich flavors of blackberries and plums unfold on the palate, supported by well-integrated tannins and a lingering, nuanced finish. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

- 88 Schiopetto 2019 Rivarossa (Venezia Giulia).** Aromas of ripe blackberries, cedar, and tobacco permeate the nose. On the palate, luscious dark cherry and plum flavors are complemented by a velvety texture and a lasting, satisfying finish. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

OTHER RED WINES

- 92 Castelvechio 2021 Refosco (Carso).** Refosco is a head-turner of a grape and this is an example worth grabbing. The wine opens with aromas of mixed peppercorns, leather, dried herbs and wild blackberries. Concentrated and rich on the palate with mouthwatering acidity that keeps the wine fresh even with all the rich black plum, tobacco and savory spices flavors finishing with elegant tea-like tannins. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

- 91 Sant'Elena 2016 Quantum Pignolo (Isonzo del Friuli).** Spicy and loaded with black pepper, as if you ask the waiter to keep cracking the pepper until it tickles your nose. This wine is about that spice! Notes of roasted plum, bay leaf and dried violets develop with some air in the glass. A wine with a velvet glove that expands the longer it sits on the palate with dark-hued fruit compote, licorice and fine, yet firm tannins. Drink now–2035. Vinifera Imports. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69

- 89 Franz Haas 2021 SoFi Rosso (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** Concentrated aromas of black plum preserves, purple flowers and roasted herbs all converge in the glass of this inky and rich red wine. A roller coaster of wine as you plunge into concentrated black-hued fruit compote and then lift out with elegant floral notes and then turn sharply with firm and well-constructed tannins that give a needed edge to the wine. A great wine for grilled or roasted lamb. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

- 89 Sant'Elena 2016 Pignolo (Friuli Isonzo).** A captivating expression of Pignolo, featuring a rich and intricate character opening with aromas of blackberry, cherry and plum accompanied by notes of dried herbs and tobacco. With its robust structure and grippy tannins featuring an earthy undertone, this wine embodies the unique essence of the Pignolo. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

- 88 Castelvechio 2021 Terrano (Carso).** Grilled meat and singed rosemary aromas lift from the glass of this savory red wine. As the wine develops, notes of black plum compote with freshly cracked pepper emerge. The palate is firm with rustic tannins and dried black fruits that finish with amaro-like spices. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

- 86 Bollini 2022 Merlot (Trentino).** Aromas of black cherry followed by notes of dried herbs and tobacco define the nose of this Merlot. Soft and round on the palate with plum and blackberry flavors accompanied by mixed baking spices on the soft finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

VENETO

WHITE WINES

- 93 Tonello 2020 Cloe Durella (Veneto).** Radiating with the crispness of green apples, lemon zest, lily blossoms and crushed stones on the nose. Effervescent with a racy acidity that lifts the palates and showcases a striking minerality, reminiscent of the volcanic soils it's rooted in all supported by mixed citrus and tart orchard fruits on the energetic finish. Polaner Selections. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

- 90 Masari 2021 Agnolobianco (Veneto).** Led by a mix of fresh apple and lemon zest, this bright white pops out of the glass with subtle hints of white flowers and fresh herbs in the background. Crisp with a crunch of a green apple and elegance of an orange blossom, the palate's fresh and easy nature makes this a perfect wine for aperitivo or lighter fare. Panebianco. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

- 89 Italo Cescon 2022 Sauvignon (Veneto).** This wine opens with a carefree attitude that draws the attention to an exotic bouquet of fresh tropical fruit and cut grass. Bursting with lively citrus, gooseberry, and a crisp, zesty finish, the palate is vibrant and invigorating. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

- 88 De Stefani 2021 Olmèra Sauvignon Blanc (Veneto).** This wine opens with aromas of pineapple, tangy grapefruit, and a touch of freshly cut grass. The palate unfolds with flavors of juicy citrus, ripe kiwi and a bright, refreshing finish that

BUYINGGUIDE

lifts the spirits and will make a superstar out of brunch. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

85 Primaterra 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Veneto). Pine with lemon and lime aromas lead the way on the nose of this easy white wine. Fresh on the palate with candied lemon zest and passion fruit, finishing with a wisp of a delicate floral note. Oracles Craft Brands. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

PROSECCO

91 BiancaVigna 2022 Spumante Rosa Brut (Prosecco). Aromas of fresh red berries, rose petals, and a hint of citrus zest. The palate unfolds with layers of ripe strawberries, subtle notes of pomegranate, and a crisp, crunchy finish. The wine presents a refreshing and bright structure with a touch of minerality. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Zonin NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Boasting a fragrant bouquet of white peach, acacia blossoms, and a hint of a green apple, this Prosecco delivers instant gratification on the nose. On the palate, its lifted and bright flavors of ripe pear, candied lemon peel, mandarin orange and a subtle mineral undertone, lead to a bright, invigorating, and refreshing finish. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

89 Bacio della Luna NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Bright and fresh, this Prosecco embodies the vivacious spirit of a lively celebration, offering an easy and approachable palate. Its effervescence is the joy of a carefree day with aromas and flavors of fresh apples, candied lemons and a hint of crushed stone on the bright finish. Schenk Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

89 Zonin 2021 Rosé (Prosecco). A delicate mix of white blossoms, ripe red fruits, and a hint of zesty citrus define the aroma. Vibrant flavors of juicy red berries, subtle citrus notes, and a refreshing, mineral-driven finish present a refreshing and bright structure. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

88 Canella 2020 Lido Rosé Brut (Prosecco). Wildflowers, ripe red fruits, and a hint of lemon zest define the aroma of this wine. Crunchy and vibrant flavors of fresh red berries, subtle blood orange notes, and a bright, mineral-driven finish lift the palate yielding a refreshing and bright structure. Empson USA Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

88 Fantinel 2022 Millesimato One & Only Brut (Prosecco). This sparkler offers a vibrant and lively aromatic profile with a vivacious personality. Its crisp palate presents refreshing citrus notes, a hint of green apple, and a touch of pear, cul-

minating in a bright and invigorating finish. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Tiamo NV Organic (Prosecco). This Prosecco delights with aromas of peach blossoms, green apple, and a hint of Asian pear. Its palate reveals crisp orchard fruit notes, a touch of citrus, and subtle floral undertones, finishing with a refreshing and lively character. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

87 Brilla NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). The Prosecco showcases a delicate bouquet of white flowers, ripe pear, and a hint of pear cider. Offering flavors of crisp green apple, a touch of citrus, and a subtle mineral undertone, it culminates in a refreshing, bright and invigorating finish. Three Sixty Five Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

87 Brilla 2022 Millesimato Extra Dry Rosé (Prosecco). The aroma is defined by a delightful blend of red cherries, white flowers, and a hint of orchard fruits. Ripe strawberry, delicate notes of peach, and a bright, lively, effervescent finish shape the palate of this easy-to-enjoy sparkler. Three Sixty Five Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

87 Gancia NV Brut (Prosecco). Enticing, with floral and green apple aromas that evoke a garden party. This Prosecco pops with a palate of ripe pear, a touch of honey, and a hint of peach. Its effervescence and lively acidity make it refreshing and invigorating. Roust. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Gancia NV Extra Dry Rosé (Prosecco). Fresh red berries with an intense candied cherry aroma drive the nose of this wine, while a delightful blend of blossoms, and a hint of zesty citrus develop as the wine sits in the glass. Vibrant flavors of macerated raspberry and pomegranate pop with a zippy and ever-so-slightly sweet finish. Roust. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

87 Villa Sandi NV Il Fresco Brut Organic (Prosecco). Lifted aromas of a blend of wildflowers, ripe red berries, and a touch of citrus zest open the nose of this wine. Vibrant flavors of ripe raspberry, subtle hints of cranberry, and a bright, effervescent finish drive the palate, all while presenting a subtle and invigorating structure. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$22

86 Castello del Poggio NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). This fun and fresh sparkler has a charming bouquet of intense acacia blossoms, ripe Golden Delicious apples, and white peach defining the nose. The palate shows flavors of ripe pear, mixed citrus, and touch of crushed stone, finishing with a refreshing, bright and elegant effervescence. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

VALDOBBIADENE PROSECCO SUPERIORE

94 Nino Franco 2022 Vigneto della Riva di San Floriano (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This single-vineyard sparkler showcases an aromatic profile of ripe pear, honeysuckle and subtle mineral notes that linger in the glass. The palate delights with a rich and expressive array of orchard fruit flavors and preserved lemon offering a nuanced and textured experience, culminating in a lingering, elegant finish with a distinct crushed stone flavor that is reminiscent of climbing rocks in an abandoned quarry. Terlato Wines International. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$37

93 Nino Franco NV Rustico (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This wine sings with fragrant aromas of green apple, pear, and a hint of citrus. Its palate reveals a refreshing character, featuring vibrant fruit flavors and a lively, invigorating acidity, offering a taste that transports you to an orchard, surrounded by the sweet scents of ripening fruit. Terlato Wines International. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$27

93 Nino Franco 2022 Primo Franco (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Alluring scents of ripe peach, honeydew, and acacia flowers. Its palate presents a delightful fusion of tropical fruit and citrus flavors, harmonized by a crisp acidity and a smooth, creamy texture. Terlato Wines International. —J.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$37

93 Nino Franco 2021 Nodi Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Aromas of yellow apple, apricot and a hint of almond, alongside hints of citrus blossoms. On the palate, it unfolds with a lively mix of stone fruit flavors, underscored by a vibrant acidity and a persistent, elegant finish. Terlato Wines International. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$51

92 Nino Franco NV Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This certified organic Brut Valdobbiadene captivates with a fragrant bouquet of white flowers, ripe apples, and a touch of toast. On the palate, it offers a harmonious blend of orchard fruit flavors, complemented by a fine, persistent mousse and a clean, refreshing finish. Terlato Wines International. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

91 Bortolomiol 2022 Prior Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Delicate wildflowers and Meyer lemon zest aromas define the nose of this fresh and energetic bubbly. The palate showcases flavors of green apple and a touch of white peach, leading to a lively and refreshing finish. Wine Warehouse Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

89 Canella 2021 Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Aromas of fragrant white flowers and ripe peach define the nose of this fresh sparkler. The palate presents invigorating flavors of juicy green apple and a touch of citrus, leading to a bright and refreshing finish with a hint of almond and wet stone. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

88 Bottega NV Il Vino dei Poeti Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This wine opens with aromas of fragrant acacia blossoms and ripe Golden Delicious apples. On the palate, it delights with flavors of crisp pear and citrus zest, leading to a finish with subtle hints of almond and a refreshing, elegant effervescence. Palm Bay International. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

SOAVE CLASSICO

94 Inama 2021 I Palchi Foscari Grand Cuvée (Soave Classico). Grown on wide terraces on the Monte Foscari, this Soave showcases Garganega's importance as one of Italy's great and noble white grapes. The nose opens with aromas of fleshy white peach, Fuji apple, acacia honey, dried yellow flowers and subtle hints of baking spice. Rich and full in body, yet graceful at the same time, the wine has notes of roasted orange peel, apricot and pear all dusted with baking spices and finishing with a crushed stone minerality. Drink now–2035. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$62

93 Prà 2021 Monte Grande (Soave Classico). Aromas of an elegant bouquet of white blossoms, crushed stones and ripe apricots. Its palate elegantly navigates between a silky texture and a vibrant acidity, culminating in a flinty minerality that captures the essence of the Soave landscape. Drink now–2035. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Suavia 2022 Made with organic grapes Garganega (Soave Classico). Lifting out of the glass like a rocket, the aromas of this Soave are vibrant and fresh with notes of fresh peaches, pear, acacia and wet stone. Mouthwatering with tart apricot and bright orchard fruit flavors finishing with crunchy acidity and intense minerality. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

91 Inama 2022 Vin Soave (Soave Classico). A classic Soave, this wine always delivers and shows why more people should be looking to this region for great white wine. Opening with aromas of white peach, fresh wildflowers and almonds. The palate is bright and textural with some weight but fresh acidity. Flavors of stone fruit and orchard fruit take center stage with a stony minerality on the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Gianni Tessari 2022 (Soave). This Soave opens with an apple-forward aromatic profile with ripe, bruised notes, complemented by hints of dried flowers and minerals. The palate reveals ripe stone fruit with good mineral undertone notes that give the wine a texture and interesting structural element. Grapes to Glass. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Suavia 2021 Monte Carbonare Garganega (Soave Classico). Ripe apples and pressed yellow flowers define the nose of this fresh white wine. As the wine opens, hints of honey and peach develop in the glass. The wine's palate is defined by its texture. The wine fills the mouth but the vibrant acidity keeps the wine in check ensuring that it does not become too rich, finishing with flavors of roasted apricot, bitter almond and gravel. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Farina 2022 (Soave Classico). Bruised apples, brown pear and pressed yellow flowers define the nose of Soave. Rounded on the palate with a creamy texture of baked orchard fruit and hints of honey on the mellow finish. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Tonello 2018 Teti Metodo Classico Brut (Lesini Durello). This wine mesmerizes with an aroma of crisp green apple and white blossoms. On the palate, a fine mousse carries the complex flavors of citrus peel and brioche, underlined by a vivacious acidity and volcanic minerality. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

93 Vignaioli Contrà Soarda 2022 Vespaiolo (Breganze). This Vespaiolo offers an aromatic journey with aromas of ripe pear, honey and magnolia, reminiscent of a blossoming garden. On the palate, it unfolds with a delightful fusion of orchard and honeyed fruit flavors, offering a nuanced and textured experience, with a lingering and elegant finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Vignaioli Contrà Soarda 2015 Torcolato Sarson (Breganze). Yellow peaches and acacia honey aromas open the nose of this wine. Rich and lush as dried apricot, roasted hazelnut and sweet spices dance across the palate perking up the senses. Try with a spice cake and crème anglaise. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$52

91 Suavia 2020 Massifitti Trebbiano (Veronese). Peach candy, fresh Fuji apples and pressed wildflower aromas define the nose of this pretty and worthwhile white. Bright and fresh on the palate with notes of green apple, lemon peel and white peach that are contrasted with crunchy acidity, sea

salt and a hint of lemon balm on the elegant finish. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Tonello NV Marachelle Frizzante (Veneto). Bursting forth with vivacious bubbles carrying scents of green apple, pressed flowers, flint and fresh pie crust, this wine is an exuberant and joyful example of Durello's ability. Vibrant acidity and subtle effervescence play upon the tongue, while citrus zest, sea salt and wildflower flavors captivate. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

88 Monte del Frà 2021 Ca' del Magro (Custoza Superiore). Aromas of an old garden with wet flag stones and moss waft out of the glass with hints of lily, apple and fresh grass. Bright and vibrant on the palate with orchard fruits at the core and a touch of mixed citrus perking the palate up on the zippy finish. Vision Wine & Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

87 Fidora 2022 Tenuta Cirvanetta Pinot Grigio (Venezia). This Pinot Grigio offers a delicate bouquet of white blossoms and ripe orchard fruits. The palate presents a medley of citrus, green apple, and subtle floral undertones. Its bright acidity and nuanced structure lead to a refreshing and invigorating finish. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Tenuta Polvaro 2022 (Venezia). This Pinot Grigio showcases citrus and green apple aromas on the nose. The palate delivers crisp acidity, with flavors of pear, sour apricot and a touch of minerality on the crisp finish. Arel Group Wine and Spirits Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

DESSERT WINES

93 Masi 2017 Casal dei Ronchi Serego Alighieri (Recioto della Valpolicella Classico). Opening with an opulent nose of dried figs, chocolate, and exotic spices, the nose captures the senses. This dessert wine's velvety texture is perfectly balanced by a sweet concentration of dark cherries, sweet spices and a long, luxurious finish. Drink now–2045. Santa Margherita USA. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA/500 ml

92 Masari 2011 Antico Pasquale Passito (Veneto). A picture-perfect distillation of stone fruit aromas that are so pure, it is hard to believe it is from a wine. The aromas bowl over you the moment you pour the wine. Quickly aromas of lily and magnolia emerged with a note of chalk dust. Crunchy acidity greets the palate while the white peach and apricot notes flow along the palate. Panebianco. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$70

VENETO RED WINES

93 Domini del Leone NV (Veneto). A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Raboso and Corvina from multiple vintages, this wine wafts out of the glass with a depth that shows the passion and dedication of the Fidora family. Aromas and flavors of black cherries, plum, clove, ground ginger, and wild herbs. Elegant on the palate with fine tannins that form a foundation in which the dark fruit notes have a place to fully express themselves on the elegant and seductive finish. Jenny and François Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

93 Masari 2015 Montepulgo (Veneto). This top cuvée of the Masari estate is 100% Merlot and only produced in vintages they feel showcase this wine best. Aged for 60 months in barrel, the wine has spiced dark plum aromas around a core of sandalwood, clove, licorice and tobacco. The velvety tannins glide across the palate as flavors of macerated cherry, chocolate, anise and black tea combine, finishing with soft and gentle ease. Panebianco. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Masari 2018 (Veneto). A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot opens with aromas of mixed red and blue berries, sweet baking spices, wild herbs and cedar. The bold palate yields power but is balanced with a solid core of black plum and cherry surrounded by savory herbs and elegant tannins on the well-constructed finish. Drink now–2035. Panebianco. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Italo Cescon 2021 Merlot (Veneto). Giving and generous, this wine opens with aromas of black plum jam, dried violets, clove, anise and a hint of black tea. Soft, round and plush on the palate, the wine hugs the palate with flavors of blackberry compote and sweet spices with a subtle earthy note on the finish. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

88 Masari 2019 San Martino (Veneto). This 50/50 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon is a juicy and easy wine that opens with aromas of black cherry, plum, anise and dried leaves. Rounded, the palate is a plush statement about the fresh and ample fruit displayed on the palate with soft tannins and a whisper of acidity on the soft finish. Panebianco. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

86 Cielo e Terra 2021 Appassionante (Veneto). Rich and densely packed with aromas of fig, chocolate-covered cherries, and spiced prunes opening the nose of this wine. Creamy in texture with layers of bittersweet chocolate, spiced black

plums and tobacco define the lush and rounded palate. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

VERONESE

90 Masi 2019 Brolo Campofiorin (Veronese). Aromas of macerated cherries layered with anise, clove and a touch of vanilla rise from the glass as savory herbs and pressed purple flower notes waft by. Crafted with a deft touch as fine oak spice notes and elegant tannins move in tandem with the layers of mixed blue and black fruit flavors and dried herbs on the rounded finish. Santa Margherita USA. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Tenuta Santa Maria 2021 Pràgal (Veronese). This is a blend of the classic Veronese grape Corvino along with Merlot and Syrah. The wine opens with aromas of black cherry, white pepper, roasted coffee and tobacco. Generous with copious amounts of ripe and macerated red- and black-fruit notes all dusted with savory and sweet spices that then yield to more forest floor and amaro notes as the well-crafted palate creates space for each of the flavors to take shape and then brings them together on the elegant finish. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Tenuta Santa Maria 2017 Decima Aurea (Veronese). Black plum jam aromas quickly rise from the glass of this 100% Merlot. As the wine develops notes of roasted coffee beans, dried blue flowers, tobacco and oak spices complement the lush fruit profile. Savory and herbal notes crisscross the palate as black cherry and licorice flavors drive the palate to a soft and plush finish. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE

91 Bertani 2020 Ognisanti di Novare (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Offering an aromatic array of warmed cherries, plums, sun-dried tomatoes and underbrush showing a lift with hints of violets as the wine opens. A sip reveals a structure of refined tannins and a harmonious balance of tart cherry and a touch of leather with notes of black tea and roast coffee on the finish. Taub Family Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$52

88 Tenute Ugolini 2013 San Michele Della Chiesa (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Aromas of ripe cherries, espresso and a hint of sweet spice open the nose of this wine. Its palate is a seamless blend of fresh red-berried fruits with a vibrancy that electrifies the palate while a herbaceous edge gives the wine a deeper flavor that lifts with the

zippy acidity on the finish. Gladiator Wine Distribution. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Tutela 2021 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Drawn in by the intense floral aromas, this pretty red wine turns quickly to tart red-berry aromas with a dusting of sweet spices and dried herbs. The palate pops with crunch and acidity as the red currant flavors match well with the espresso and black peppercorn spice on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA

96 Bertani 2013 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). This classic Amarone exudes a robust essence of dark fruits and earthy undertones, reminiscent of a rich, oak forest and worn leather. On the palate, it unveils a compelling story of ripe cherries, plums, and a hint of spice, culminating in a velvety finish that lingers like a timeless song. Drink now–2050. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$155

95 Serego Alighieri 2016 Vaio Armaron (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). An intense narrative of deep, dark fruits and earthy notes, unfolding a complex combination of rich cherry and plum flavors interwoven with a mix of chai spice and rosewood. Its profound, enduring finish resonates, lingering in the memory long after the last sip. Drink now–2045. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$121

93 Castellani Michele & Figli 2018 Colle Cristi (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). This wine opens with an intense and invigorating aroma of blackberry liqueur, dried cherries, chai spice and espresso. The palate is sumptuous and layered, with a dense core of black fruit, velvety tannins, and a finish that stretches with an almost endless echo of complexity. Vine Connections. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Fumanelli 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella). A rich perfume of dark plums, crushed black currants, dried leaves and a whisper of cinnamon and clove all swirl together in the glass. The palate is rewarded with a round mouthfeel, showcasing smooth tannins and a ripe, berry-driven nose dappled by warmed sweet and savory spices, new leather and forest floor with a finish that speaks to the time-honored winemaking traditions of the region. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$NA

92 Zonin 2020 (Amarone della Valpolicella). An intense perfume of maraschino cherry, violet candy and sweet baking spices pours from the glass of this heady wine. The palate reveals a pow-

erful structure, with sumptuous fruit balanced by a tannin-accented finish. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Antiche Terre Venete 2020 Baorna (Amarone della Valpolicella). For full review see page 14. Tri-Vin Imports.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

90 SalvaTerra 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). This Amarone is a robust tapestry of dark fruits, with notes of dried figs, and black currants with an opulent bouquet of dark cherries, sun-dried raisins, and a hint of tobacco. Its full-bodied palate is layered with complex notes of fig, dark chocolate, and a touch of spice, leading to a luxuriously long finish. Salvaterra USA. —J.P.

abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Castellani Michele & Figli 2017 Cinque Stelle (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). A treasure trove of aromas lifts from the glass of this Amarone. Notes of dried violets, black fig, cherry jam, baking spices and tobacco. Boasting a palate of great depth, with a luxurious blend of dark fruit, sweet tobacco, and a robust, enduring finish that deserves a robust, savory dish to add even more to the wine. Vine Connections. —J.P.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$85

88 Monteci 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). An inviting nose of spiced plum pudding, dried fruit, tobacco and cocoa powder waft from the glass of this wine. The palate is rich and expansive, offering an array of dark berries, espresso, and a well-integrated oak influence, finishing with a stately elegance. Simone International. —J.P.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Monteci 2011 Costa delle Corone (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Spiced fig dusted in bittersweet chocolate alongside dried cherries, tobacco and savory spice aromas open the nose of this Amarone. Rich and full in body showing a combination of both baked and roasted black fruits alongside rosemary, black tea and woody aromas. Elegant on the finish with silky tannins that lift with the pop of acidity. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$80

87 Casa Lupo 2020 (Amarone della Valpolicella). This Amarone unfolds with a complex nose of dark fruit preserves and a hint of smoked tea, worn leather and cedar. On the palate, it conveys a full-bodied expression with a cascade of black currant and spices that provide depth and a lengthy finish as savory herbs, dried leaves and turned earth all persist deep into the experience. Serendipity Wines. —J.P.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$75

87 San Michele 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Dried herb aromas combine with plum jam, sweet spices and ground coffee on

the nose of this spice-driven Amarone. The palate offers a symphony of complexity, with notes of black cherry, anise, and a touch of earthiness, leading to a powerful yet graceful finish. Misa Imports. —J.P.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

86 Cielo e Terra 2019 Famiglia Cielo Centenero (Amarone della Valpolicella). A rich nose of plums cooking in baking spices and dried herbs, pressed violets, coffee and toasted almonds lift from the glass. The palate echoes this richness with layers of dried fruit, licorice and a silky mouthfeel that resolves in an enduring, opulent finish. USA Wine West. —J.P.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

86 Monteci 2010 Costa delle Corone (Amarone della Valpolicella). Aromas of sun-dried plums and cherries with bittersweet chocolate and freshly roasted coffee beans and a hint of allspice drive the nose of this Amarone. The palate is a blend of lush black fruits expressed as homemade jam. Firm tannins and a balanced acidity culminate in a regal and satisfying finish that seeks the companionship of a mushroom risotto or grilled lamb. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$89

OTHER RED WINES

93 Inama 2020 Bradisimo (Colli Berici). Cabernet Sauvignon, Carménère and Cabernet Franc are blended to create this iconic red that swirls in the glass with aromas of crushed blackberries, Marasca cherries in liquor, crushed red and blue flowers, cedar and mixed spices. Bold flavors pop on the palate but are restrained by an elegant mix of tannin, acidity and savory elements that do not want to let loose just yet. Drink 2025–2040. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.

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

93 Inama 2017 Oratorio di San Lorenzo Riserva Carménère (Colli Berici). Smoky notes rise quickly out of the glass as grilled plums, roasted blackberries, violet pastilles and sweet spices quickly take command of the nose. Opulent at first with black cherry conserva spiked with star anise, cocoa powder, espresso and graphite all being sharpened at the finish by elegant tannins and vibrant acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

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

93 Maeli 2019 Rosso Infinito (Colli Euganei). A blend of 41% Carménère, 33% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Sauvignon, this Bordeaux-inspired wine shines with aromas of blackberry compote, cassia, tobacco, violets and baking spices. The Italianate palate lifts the rich, darkly hued fruit-centric palate with vibrant acidity and savory finishes that show what heights these grapes can achieve in Italy. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Bertani 2020 Valpantena (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore). Offering an elegant dis-

play of aromatics, from ripe blackberries to subtle notes of leather, tobacco, clove and a hint of vanilla. The palate indulges with a velvety texture, harmonized by rich plum flavors, savory herbs and turned earth with a warm, persistent finish that shows the complexity of this wine. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$72

90 De Stefani 2018 Stèfen 1624 Marzemino (Colli di Conegliano). Grown from the family's historic single vineyard, Stèfen 1624, and dried after the harvest, this wine immediately states its intention the moment it is poured. Heady with aromas of blackberry jam, fig, dried violets and baking spices. Round, lush and mouthfilling as oak spices and plum macerated in spirits explode on the palate as rounded tannins soften the finish. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$55

89 De Stefani 2020 Kreda Refosco Riserva (Venezia). Red plums and sour cherry aromas combine with cracked pink peppercorn, star anise and pressed flowers on the nose of this spicy wine. The palate is driven by the interplay of tart red and blue fruits spiked with mixed savory spices and the fine, yet present tannins across the entire length of the wine. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.

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

89 De Stefani 2018 Malanotte Raboso (Piave). Densley colored and opaque, this native grape's name is dialect for "angry." It is not the nature of the wine, but its forward aromas of blackberry jam, spiced with black pepper, anise and forest floor leap from the glass. Firm and well-structured with a density on the palate that years for a rich and savory dish. Drink now–2035. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$80

88 Antiche Terre Venete 2021 Vegron (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore). This wine opens with aromas of macerated black plum along with cracked pepper, clove and vanilla as dried leaves and tobacco mull about. Medium in body with a core of black cherry flavors that open up to notes of espresso, bell pepper and star anise on the soft finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Tenuta Polvaro 2019 Polvaro Nero (Venezia). Inky and dark with aromas to match, black plum preserve and compote with candied violets and dried herbs all driving the nose. Dense and concentrated on the palate but not overpowering, the wine is plush and giving with ample dark fruit notes tied together with cedar, star anise and a woody note on the rounded finish. Arel Group Wine and Spirits Inc. —J.P.

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

PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

ROERO

91 Cascina Chicco 2022 Anterisio (Roero Arneis).

Evoking the romance of a sun-kissed afternoon with fragrant stone fruit and the delicate aroma of wildflowers, this Arneis over-delivers. The palate features juicy peach spritzed by mixed citrus oils that lift with the vibrant acidity on the finish. Vinifera Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

91 Fontanafredda 2022 Pradalupo (Roero Arneis).

Step into a garden of white flowers and citrus zest, reminiscent of an idyllic spring morning. The breezy palate unfolds with lively green apple and pear notes while the vibrant acidity gives a pep and step to the wine that makes this a great wine for a cin-cin or a light first course. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

90 Cascina Chicco 2021 Renesio Incisa Riserva (Roero Arneis).

This wine inviting aromas of delicate white blossoms and the scent of ripe pears define the nose of this wine. The palate offers crisp Fuji apple and lemon notes with a hint of a fresh garden filled with herbs. Enjoy an aperitivo of with roast chicken. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$35

88 Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2022 (Roero Arneis).

Subtle at first, the wine crescendos out of the glass with a mixture of stone fruit and citrus blossom aromas. The palate is textured with vibrant acidity and flavors of tart apricots, almonds and saline. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$28

86 Nizza Silvano 2022 Jemej (Roero Arneis).

Green apple skin, white peach and lemon blossom aromas open the nose of this light white wine. Fresh and easy on the palate with the flavors in lockstep with the aromas. USA Wine West. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

LANGHE

90 Famiglia Rivetti 2022 Arneis (Langhe).

For full review see page 15. Riboli Family Wine Estates.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

90 Tenuta Laramè 2022 Terre Del Sindic Favorita (Langhe).

This wine has a lively and aromatic personality with citrusy and floral aromas that perk you up. A refreshing palate with bright lemon peel, melon and a serious chalky note on the finish. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$14

89 Pietro Rinaldi 2022 Hortensia Arneis (Langhe).

Aromas of white peach and acacia blossoms with a hint of citrus zest waft from the glass of this pretty wine. The palate paints a scene of a bright morning, offering flavors of sliced green apple, ripe pear, and crushed seashells along an empty beach. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$38

88 Damilano 2022 Arneis (Langhe).

White flowers open the nose of this Arneis as the scent of stone fruit with a zesty hint of lemon quickly follows. The palate shines with crisp apple, pear and a delicate almond note. Textured with a pop of acidity on the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 Castello di Neive 2022 Montebertotto Arneis (Langhe).

Fresh, fruity and fun, this Arneis opens with classic peach, apple and almond aromas. Mixed citrus flavors, leaning more toward orange, pop along the lively palate finishing with a touch of sea salt. Winebow Imports. —J.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 La Raia 2019 Pisé (Gavi).

A medley of ripe peach, preserved lemon and fresh-cut herbs effusively waft from the glass. A creamy texture rewards the palate as flavors of white nectarine and toasted almonds are underscored by a persistent, elegant acidity. OPC International. —J.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$NA

91 La Raia 2022 Pleo (Gavi).

White flower and green apple aromas combine on the nose as subtle crushed stone notes slyly grab the attention. The palate delights with notes of Meyer lemon and a steely minerality, showing off the limestone-rich soils of Gavi, culminating in a finish that is both sharp and enduring. OPC International. —J.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Fontanafredda 2021 Derthona Timorasso (Colli Tortonesi).

This wine opens with aromas of ripe orchard fruits, quince and Key lime curd that then shifts gears to offer a beeswax and stony minerality. Layers upon layers of flavors stack up with each sip, sometimes fruit, sometimes earth, sometimes savory, this wine embodies the earth, a testament to the timeless essence of the land. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$38

88 Castello di Neive 2019 Metodo Classico Brut (Piemonte).

Lifted and fresh, with a blend of orchard fruits, tart strawberries and roses that define the nose of this pretty sparkler. Light, with a zippy and crunchy palate that keeps the mouth watering as flavors of mixed citrus zest, tart strawberries and apples pop along the palate. Winebow Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$25

88 Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2023 Felice (Moscato d'Asti).

A classic example of Moscato d'Asti that goes straight to the point with aromas and flavors of peach, apple, pineapple, mint and white flowers. Fresh and bright on the palate with a bright and refreshing finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 5.5% Price: \$NA

DESSERT WINES

93 Marengo 2015 Passri Passito (Brachetto d'Acqui).

This wine is most unexpected, yet worthwhile to find and try. It opens with intense aromas of fig, honey, wildflowers and prunes. Candied cherries explode on the palate as mouthwatering acidity balances the sweetness and keeps the palate fresh. A wine for a picnic, a smile or a red-berry-centric dessert. Vias Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$NA/375 ml

93 Marengo 2015 Passri Scrapona (Strevi).

Warmed peaches covered in honey with freshly cut mint define the nose of this forward wine. Flavors of hazelnut torte, dried apricots and fresh wildflowers shower the palate with sensory overload as a wave of acidity saves the day to keep the wine in balance. Vias Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA/375 ml

90 Marcarini 2023 (Moscato d'Asti).

Apricot, peach blossoms, candied lemon zest and cut mint quickly lift from the glass of this Moscato. Zippy acidity keeps the lush and fruit-forward palate in balance as the wine finishes with a light and refreshing fizziness. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 5% Price: \$22

88 Accornero 2021 Brigantino (Malvasia di Casorzo).

Dried strawberries meet rosewater alongside prickly pear candy on this vibrant and lifted nose of this super-intriguing wine. The palate zigs and zags as lush fruit pops on the first take then wild rosemary and sage show their stripes as the wine finishes light and slightly sweet. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.

abv: 5% Price: \$31

PIEDMONT RED WINES

92 Cantine Garrone 2020 Prùnent Valli Ossolane Superiore (Piedmont).

With fragrant notes of luscious dark fruit, violets, and a hint of aromatic herbs, this wine presents a palate with flavors of succulent black cherry, aromatic anise, and a well-integrated and firm structure finishing with a dark earthy note. Polaner Selections. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

88 Briccodei Guazzi 2019 Albarossa (Piemonte).

Albarossa is a cross between Nebbiolo and Barbera. This wine opens with aromas of black cherry and plum with subtle floral hints. Rich and

complex with a density and concentration of dark fruits yet balanced structure and elegant tannins on the finish. Leone Alato USA. —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$30

87 Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2019 Marchese Leopoldo (Piemonte). Aromas of sour cherry, spiced black tea and forest floor lift from the glass of this Pinot Noir. This is a wine that is at ease and expresses itself with a carefree nature, showing tart red fruits and savory herbs as the gentle wine finishes with a damp earth note. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

MONFERRATO

93 Cantine Sant'Agata 2021 Il Cavaliere Nebbiolo Superiore (Monferrato). Loads of cherry and fresh fruit on the nose, mixed with herbal and tea notes. Upfront fruit is very primary and fresh on the palate with chalky tannins, mouthwatering acidity, and elegant floral quality. Canon de Colorado. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 Azienda Agricola Delinquent 2020 Nebbiolo Superiore (Monferrato). This Nebbiolo offers resin, dried red berries, and dark earth tones. Firm with a warm and dusty feeling, with flavors of rehydrated cherries and over-steeped tea, creating a robust and textured palate, resulting in a bold and intense experience with a deeply complex and structured character. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

BARBERA D'ASTI

89 Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2022 Valmorena (Barbera d'Asti). This Barbera opens with plummy aromas that are wrapped around a core of dried game and wild herbs. Mouth-watering acidity keeps the palate fresh and the lush mixed-berry fruits give the wine a youthful playfulness with subtle earth notes on the finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Vinchio Vaglio 2019 Vigne Vecchie (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Rich and bold, this wine unfolds with dark plum, cedar spice, clove, anise, and violet aromas. On the palate, it offers rich, black-hued fruits, freshly turned earthy notes, and a well-structured finish. Wine Wine Situation. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

87 Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2019 Sant'Emiliano (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Roasted and smoked plums with notes of blackberry compote and sweet baking spices roll out of the glass of this red wine. Rich and mouthfilling with an intensity that takes it to the edge as the more

savory notes develop as you finish the glass. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

BARBARESCO

95 Castello di Neive 2021 Santo Stefano Albesani (Barbaresco). For full review see page 3. Winebow Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Ca'Romè 2020 Chiaramanti (Barbaresco). For full review see page 5. Demeine Estates. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$103

94 Castello di Neive 2021 (Barbaresco). As the wine opens, it reveals a garden full of ripe raspberries, rosebuds, thyme and dried leaves. The elegance of this wine cannot be overstated. A finesse that showcases the beauty of this vintage. A bowl of cherries sits on the palate as fine and elegant tannins prop up the fruits and allow a mineral edge to glide in as vibrant acidity keeps everything bright and fresh. Drink now–2040. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$47

92 Pier Paolo Grasso 2019 Tre Stelle (Barbaresco). Expressive and aromatic, the Tre Stelle presents delightful and lifted notes of red cherry, violet and underbrush. Balanced with supple tannins and bright acidity making a path for the vineyard to express its fresh and vibrant core of red fruits, herbs and tean notes. The embodies the finesse of Barbaresco. Drink 2025–2045. Copa Fina Imports CA. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Castello di Neive 2020 (Barbaresco). This estate, year in and year out, always captures the elegance of Nebbiolo. Aromas of macerated cherries, steeping in anise and clove and dried roses waft out of the glass. Rounded and plush on the palate with very elegant and easy tannins and lush mixed wild berry flavors make this a Barbaresco for today. Drink now–2035. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$47

91 Castello di Neive 2018 Santo Stefano Albesani Riserva (Barbaresco). A mélange of spices opens the nose of this wine: anise, nutmeg, dried rose, ambergris. As it develops, hints of reconstituted cherries emerge. Cranberry, red currant and rooibos tea notes lift off the palate with turned earth and roasted mushroom flavors on the finish shining among the gentle tannins. Drink now–2035. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Pier Paolo Grasso 2019 Ca' Grossa (Barbaresco). Exuding elegance, this Nebbiolo showcases refined tar, red-hued fruit, dried floral, and earthy notes. Its well-structured palate offers dried cherry, red currant and wild thyme flavors. The lingering finish makes it a classic expression of

Barbaresco. Drink 2026–2045. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 Pier Paolo Grasso 2019 Pajore (Barbaresco). Layers of red fruit, licorice and spices define the Pajore Nebbiolo. With a full-bodied and well-structured palate, it boasts a persistent finish, showcasing the depth and complexity that will carry on for years to come. Drink 2025–2045. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Pier Paolo Grasso 2017 Piccola Emma Riserva (Barbaresco). An intense and structured Nebbiolo, this Riserva offers complex aromas of dried sour cherries, pressed roses, roasted porcini and smoke. Its firm tannins and vibrant acidity form the foundation for the dried cherry fruit leather and conserva flavors and dried herbs and drying finish. Drink now–2040. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

88 Pietro Rinaldi 2019 San Cristoforo (Barbaresco). This wine entices with a bouquet of ripe red berries, delicate floral hints, and earthy undertones, leading to a palate with flavors of succulent cherry, supple leather, and a nuanced, elegant structure. It pairs excellently with rich mushroom risotto or herb-infused roast lamb. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

NEBBIOLO D'ALBA

92 Collina San Ponzio 2020 (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Wild mixed berries both fresh and macerated permeate the aromas of this lifted Nebbiolo. As the wine opens, fresh and dried roses alongside shiitake mushroom notes develop causing you to do a double take on this wine. Fresh on the palate with an energy and liveliness that gives the wine versatility in its ability as a role player at the dinner table. It will pair well with roasted salmon and grilled steak; this is the wine you are looking for. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Fontanafredda 2021 Marne Brune (Nebbiolo d'Alba). This Nebbiolo offers a pretty nose of red plum, cherry and spice. Well-structured with firm tannins needing some time, it reveals dark fruit at the core with savory herbal flavors, finishing with a deep earthy tone, creating a complex and layered profile. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Nizza Silvano 2021 Bric del Gross (Nebbiolo d'Alba). A very classic and on-point nose introduces this Nebbiolo, with enticing aromas of dried roses, tar and sour red berries. At its core, this wine embodies the true nature of this wine, leading to a firm finish that underscores its traditional character, revealing a compelling interplay of red

BUYINGGUIDE

fruit, floral notes and a sturdy tannic structure. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

BARBERA D'ALBA

91 Castello di Neive 2021 Santo Stefano (Barbera d'Alba). Melding hints of oak and spice with a profusion of ripe cherries, this wine offers a harmonious aromatic start. The wine's fresh tart red berry flavors are balanced by a solid structure, while the presence of oak adds a distinct firmness to the wine, capturing the timeless essence of the region and delivering a harmonious interplay of tradition and flavor. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

91 Fontanafredda 2021 Papagena (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Classic yet forward, this Barbera presents a rich blend of aromas: plum, black cherry, violets and sweet spices. Balanced with tart blue fruit flavors, it offers a medium body with macerated cherries and stemmy herbs, culminating in a well-structured finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Castello di Neive 2021 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). An opulent tapestry of wild-berry aromas, interwoven with delicate floral hints, characterizes this Barbera. Its medium body and well-structured profile provide a framework for the palate, which bursts forth with the opulence of purple fruits, yet resonates with the earthy, robust essence of the land, evoking a sense of both rustic charm and rich abundance. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Nizza Silvano 2021 Crua (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Mixed purple flowers and fruits, alongside twigs and earthy notes, create a nuanced aroma in this Barbera. Plump and juicy on the palate, it exudes a classic appeal, offering a tasty and well-rounded experience for those seeking an easy and ready-to-drink Barbera. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Attilio Ghisolfi 2021 La Lisi (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Rich and bold, this wine unfolds with dark plum, cedar spice, clove, anise and violet aromas. On the palate, it offers rich black-hued fruits, freshly turned earthy notes, and a well-structured finish. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Nizza Silvano 2022 (Barbera d'Alba). A vibrant and lively red with an inviting aroma of crunchy red plum, tart berries, boysenberries, and delicate wildflowers, particularly violets. On the palate, the wine delivers well-balanced fruit flavors with a solid pop of acidity, creating a fresh and lifted experience that beautifully characterizes this expressive Barbera. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

BAROLO

94 Michele Chiarlo 2019 Cannubi (Barolo). This wine takes time to develop in the glass and will benefit from time in the cellar, but it is always worth tasting a wine in its youth to understand it. This Barolo's aromas meander out of the glass, swaying between crushed raspberry and macerated cherry, then amaro-like herbs, rosewood, cedar and baking spices. Firm and sturdy on the palate with tannins that mean business, the black cherry fruit sits at the core with wild thyme, licorice and leather holding court. Ensure to have a heart dish with this wine. Drink 2026–2050. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$134

94 Pietro Rinaldi 2019 (Barolo). This wine is the Chanel dress or black suit that never goes out of style. Elegant and well-crafted, the wine shows the patience of a good wine grower. Aromas of ripe cherries and red currants lift with mixed wild flowers, camphor and turned earth on the nose. Graceful on the palate with elegant tannins that grip with a velvet glove and hold the fruit and savory flavors all in balance. Artisanal craft at its best. Drink 2026–2040. Votto Vines Importing. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Rivetto 2019 Del Comune Di Serralunga D'Alba (Barolo). In the heart of Serralunga d'Alba, this wine embodies the essence of Barolo from Serralunga. The wine exudes aromas of rose, tar and dried red fruit. On the palate, flavors of cherry, licorice, and earth are enrobed in sturdy tannins and bright acidity, leading to a long, elegant finish. Drink 2025–2040. Volio Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Bava 2016 Scarrone (Barolo). Dried cherries and crushed raspberries open the nose of this well-crafted Barolo as notes of rose, wild thyme and incense waft in and out of the glass. Solid and firm with a foundation of elegant tannins and mouthwatering acidity that holds the deep core of fruit, herbs and earthy flavors that permeate the wine. Drink now–2040. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

93 Giacosa Fratelli 2019 Bussia (Barolo). Floral aromas drive the nose of this pretty and lace-like Barolo. As the wine opens, aromas of cranberry, raspberry, blood orange peel and forest floor emerge. Direct and to the point on the palate with classic Nebbiolo tannins that are firm but not forceful and allow the youthful fruit to take shape now as the more savory elements take their time developing in the cellar. Drink 2026–2045. Vine Connections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Marchesi di Barolo 2019 del Comune di Barolo (Barolo). Aromas of wild cherries

are roasted and then turned into a compote that is dusted with baking spices, fresh herbs and notes of oak. The fleshy palate over mixed red and blue-hued berries pops with a freshness, giving lift to the wine as notes of black tea and vanilla accompany the finish. Drink 2025–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

93 San Silvestro 2019 Patres Nebbiolo (Barolo). For full review see page 9. Kindred Vines. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Attilio Ghisolfi 2019 Bussia (Barolo). For full review see page 10. Quintessential.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Boroli 2019 Brunella (Barolo). Enticing scents of wildflowers, camphor and dried cherries infuse the nose of this Barolo. The palate reveals vibrant red-berry flavors intermingled with subtle truffle notes, balanced by firm yet graceful tannins and lively acidity. Drink 2026–2040. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Marchesi di Barolo 2019 Sarmassa (Barolo). Smoked cherries, macerated strawberries and woody incense define the nose of this aromatic Barolo. As the wine opens, dried leaves and oolong tea aromas drift forward in a reserved manner. The palate states its presence with precise and well-defined tannins that refer interplay between the spiced fruit of the forest berry jam and savory herbs found on the elegant finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$154

92 Pelassa 2018 (Barolo). Wild cherries, rosebud and incense waft out of the glass of this elegant wine. Structured and stylized as if going to walk the runway, this wine struts its stuff knowing it is good. Flavors of macerated raspberries, holly leaves and thyme wrap around the elegant tannins, finishing with crunchy acidity. Drink now–2040. R&B Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Tenuta Cucco 2017 Cerrati Riserva (Barolo). Aromas of paolo santo, baked cherries, wild thyme and dried rosebuds pour from the glass of this heady and inviting wine. Rich on the palate with a lush texture that focuses on the darker and preserved berry flavors while cedar, clove and licorice spice drive the wine to the elegant finish. Drink now–2030. OPC International. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Viberti 2019 Buon Padre (Barolo). Lifted and vibrant, this Barolo opens with aromas of crushed raspberries, drying roses and wild thyme. Elegant from the start, the fine tannins give a tension to the palate that allows the fruit to spring across the palate with tart red berry flavors fin-

ishing with a dusty earth note. Drink 2025–2035. Opici Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$57

91 Aresca 2019 Costareto (Barolo). Elegant aromas of dried rose, tar and dried cherries mingle in this Barolo, showcasing the essence of the region. On the palate, vibrant red berry flavors intertwine with subtle truffle notes, balanced by firm yet graceful tannins and lively acidity. Drink 2025–2045. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$55

91 Marchesi di Barolo 2019 Cannubi (Barolo). Spiced cherries macerating in their juices with candied roses and cedar aromas fill the glass of this forward and generous Barolo. Fruit of the forest preserves with licorice, anise and clove drive the palate as rounded tannins offer a generosity and approachability to the wine today. Drink now–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$78

91 Marchesi di Barolo 2019 Coste di Rose (Barolo). Aromas of Mascara cherries leap out of the glass quickly followed by sweet baking spices, candied rose petals, and sandalwood. Rounded on the palate, the lush and juicy mixed-berry fruits meld well with new oak flavors that give a shine and polish to the vibrant wine. Drink now–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$140

91 Villadoria 2019 del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo). Driven by crushed raspberries, wild cherries, wildflowers and mixed herbs, this Barolo elegantly presents itself as a classic. Today, in its youth there is banter between the succulent red-berried fruit and the youthful and firm tannins as tea, forest-floor and leather flavors stand in reserve. Well-balanced and a wine to help begin an exploration of Nebbiolo from this amazing region. Drink now–2040. WinesU. *Hidden Gem*. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$49

88 Rivetti Massimo 2019 (Barolo). Cherries macerated in spirits, sweet baking spices, star anise, five-spice and potpourri aromas lift from the nose of this Barolo. Dried red berries are framed by firm tannins with a dried and roasted earth note on the finish. Angel's Share Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

LANGHE

92 Attilio Ghisolfi 2020 Sbardajà (Langhe). The wine offers candied red cherry, mint, eucalyptus and dried flowers on the nose. The bold palate features darker fruit preserves and blackberry compote with savory spices and mouthwatering fine tannins. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

92 Enrico Serafino 2021 Picotener (Langhe). This wine displays forward aromas of ripe raspberry and rose, with a touch of potting soil.

Well-structured tannins and a vibrant acidity lift the palate as the crunchy red fruits keep the wine lively and energetic. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

91 Fontanafredda 2022 (Langhe). This Nebbiolo showcases aromas of sandalwood, savory spice, and dried herbs. A firm structure with a dry, earthy finish, enhances its depth and complexity with wild red fruits centered at the core of the wine, making it a great option for roasted meats or veggies. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$31

91 Mauro Molino 2022 (Langhe). This wine presents classic notes of raspberry, sour cherry and wild herbs, reflecting on the palate with raspberry seeds, green herbs and dusty tannins. Its traditional yet nuanced characteristics offer a rich and complex finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

91 Pier Paolo Grasso 2020 Riva Nebbiolo (Langhe). Classic in essence, the wine presents mixed red fruits with hints of fresh and dried elements, wild mint and turned earth. Its well-structured, firm tannins and dark cherry palate are balanced with bright acidity. Copa Fina Imports CA. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

91 Poderi Vaiot 2022 Sessantadi Nebbiolo (Langhe). Reticent on the nose with hints of rose and cherry blossom, leading to well-balanced bright wild-berry flavors, fine tannins, and an earthy finish. Soilair Selection. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

90 Bava 2021 (Langhe). This lifted and fresh Nebbiolo shines like a spotlight. Aromas of fresh strawberries are the protagonist in this wine with wild roses alongside. The palate is energetic and bright with mouthwatering acidity, elegant tannins and a core of framboise flavors. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

90 Covalli 2022 (Langhe). For full review see page 15. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice*.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

90 Rivetti Massimo 2022 Avene (Langhe). A tantalizing bouquet of intense floral and crushed raspberry aromas evokes a sense of lifted beauty. This Nebbiolo presents a well-balanced profile that playfully flirts with the palate, offering tart mixed berries alongside savory earth spice and pine. Private Reserve Fine Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

90 Vietti 2021 Perbacco Nebbiolo (Langhe). This wine opens with an expressive nose, exuding macerated red cherries, dried roses and sweet and savory spices. The palate unfolds with rounded and lush loads of cherry, where well-integrated tannins create a harmonious structure, offer-

ing a delightful and balanced profile. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

89 Costa di Bussia 2020 Arcaplà Nebbiolo (Langhe). The wine lifts out of the glass with aromas of rosewood, dried cherries and bay leaf, leading to a palate rich in spice and herbal notes with mixed forest berries and complemented by mouthwatering acidity. Try this with with grilled lamb chops or wild mushroom risotto for the win. Siena Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

89 Rivetti Massimo 2021 Garasin (Langhe). Roasted plums and hints of smoked black pepper waft across the nose of this intriguing red wine. Medium in body with flavors of cassis and blackberry shining off the elegant and fine-tuned palate. Private Reserve Fine Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

87 Castello di Neive 2020 iCortini (Langhe). Grilled mushrooms with sage and rosemary fill the glass as macerated cherries emerge after a bit of time in the glass. Black-tea-soaked tart plums with cinnamon sticks and dried flower flavors roll across the palate to a light and fresh finish. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

87 Tenuta Cucco 2022 Nebbiolo (Langhe). This Langhe offers intense floral aromas with freesia and rose that lead to crushed cherries and raspberries, combined with a hint of bay leaf. This transitions to firm tannins with a dusty texture, creating a unique and intriguing profile perfect for savory main dishes. OPC International. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

92 Marchesi Alfieri 2020 Costa Quaglia Nebbiolo (Terre Alfieri). Aromas of cranberry, cherry, wild rose and fresh herbs lead to a lifted nose. Vibrant and fresh, the palate shows crushed red fruits, sweet spices and a pretty and elegant structure, offering a vivacious and lively experience. Terra Madre Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

92 Tappero Merlo 2009 Bohémien Passito Riserva (Erbaluce di Caluso). This wine opens like a top-notch Oloroso sherry with roasted hazelnut nuts, wildflower honey, dried apricots and pressed yellow flowers. The palate is rich yet balanced by vibrant acidity that lifts the palate for each successive taste. Aged cheese and roasted nuts scream for this wine. Blue House Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$69

91 Giacosa Fratelli 2022 Sarrocco (Dolcetto d'Alba). The nose of this Dolcetto opens with the aromas of walking through the forest and finding a bush full of wild blackberries warmed in the sun. Notes of forest floor and fresh green herbs swirl

around the deep core of black fruit. The palate lifts with tart plum compote with thyme and star anise finishing with earthy notes that make this wine suited for a roasted and herb-forward dish. Vine Connections. —J.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Giovanetto Azienda Agricola 2017 (Canavese). Aromas of sun-warmed red fruit, dried flowers, and a touch of earth pave the way for a palate featuring flavors of vibrant raspberry, aged tobacco and a firm, enduring structure. This wine pairs wonderfully with hearty pasta dishes or aged cheeses. Blue House Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$43

91 Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2020 (Grignolino d'Asti). Grignolino—Gren-yo-lean-o, that is how you say and it's better if you just drink it. This fresh and fruity wine is a joy with crushed raspberries and abundant mixed flowers on the nose. The palate is light and fresh and works best with a slight chill, try with smoked salmon or your next slice of pizza. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Pecchenino 2019 Bricco Botti (Dogliani Superiore). Intensely dark in color, this brooding Dolcetto slowly awakens with aromas of black-plum jam, dried fig, violets and licorice. Well-balanced with dark-hued fruits in perfect concert with earthy and savory flavors that give the wine a complexity and depth that will continue to evolve in the cellar. Drink now–2035. Vias Imports. —J.P.

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

90 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2021 Monte Aribaldo (Dolcetto d'Alba). This Dolcetto opens with aromas of black plum, wild mountain herbs and savory spices that prick the nose. Round and plush on the palate, as if biting into a ripe blackberry, the wine fills the mouth as notes of clove and white pepper add lift to the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

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

88 Nizza Silvano 2020 Del Comune di Santo Stefano (Roero). Beginning with a dusty and earthy introduction, this Nebbiolo offers a captivating aroma with hints of mushrooms and dried sour cherries. Its palate is characterized by tart, red-fruit flavors, exuding a vibrant and pretty allure. This wine is notably earth-driven, delivering a rich and evocative finish. USA Wine West. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

87 Nizza Silvano 2017 Ca' Boscarone Riserva (Roero). From a very dry and warm vintage, this Nebbiolo opens with aromas of dried red fruits, leaning toward a compote-like and lush quality with a slightly lower acidity. It presents an enchanting bouquet of dark cherries, violets and a hint of leather, accompanied by a very bloody and gamy undertone. On the palate, it reveals layers of rich fruit, balanced by firm tannins and a lingering, nuanced finish. USA Wine West. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

TUSCANY WHITE WINES

95 Il Borro 2021 Chardonnay (Toscana). The nose offers lemon, pink grapefruit, fresh pineapple, toasted slivered almonds and just a hint of saline to lift it all into an ethereal space, before the palate turns luxuriously savory with preserved lemons, tahini, hazelnuts and roasted salted almonds. Textured and with razor-sharp acid, but capitalizing on Chardonnay's hedonistic side nonetheless. Deeply satisfying. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Tenuta Cafaggiolo 2020 Elettrice (Toscana). The nose is simultaneously hot and fresh, with notes of pavement, rubber, fresh popcorn, thyme and dried lemon. The palate balances the decadence of lemon curd, brown butter and toasted almonds with the gentle bitterness of dried pineapple and herbs. Abundant acid pushes back against the richer notes, creating an expertly balanced wine that could convince even the most vehement Chardonnay skeptics. Vitavinum Imports LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$46

91 La Nascosta 3032 Macchialuna (Toscana). On the nose, the sweetness of nectarines is balanced by an earthy herbaceousness, while a dusting of salt brings out a sparkle of citrus. On the fruit-forward palate, pears and peaches join the nectarines, but the citrus notes persist and are bolstered by a rush of acid to preserve balance. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.

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

91 La Nascosta 2020 Moscaminer (Toscana). The citrusy yet welcoming nose features aromas of preserved and fresh lemon, tangerine, pine and white peach. On the palate, a honey drizzle brings out the sweetness of the peaches, while an enduring lemon element and an emergent, slightly bitter nuttiness ensure balance. Acid is bright and bouncy. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

90 Pietro Beconcini 2021 Vea Trebbiano Macerato (Toscana). The nose is bright and energetic, with aromas of lemon, yellow apple, grass and rubber. On the palate, an emergent green apple element and a salty undercurrent give the citrus notes even more snap, but a tea leaf undertone brings depth and warmth. Savorian Inc. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tenuta del Buonamico 2022 Vivi Vermentino (Toscana). The fresh, playful nose features aromas of lemon iced tea, lime, tangerine, green apple and white flowers, while the palate boasts tart, citrusy notes before a nutty saltiness is pushed forward by a zing of acid, although the overall mouthfeel remains round. Eagle Eye Brands. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Tenuta San Vito 2022 Amantiglio (Toscana). The fresh, tangy nose features aromas of lemon, yellow apple and stone, along with a latent, nutty saltiness. Citrus and apple notes headline the palate, but that nutty element returns on the finish to create a strong sense of cohesion. Acid bounces all around the mouth. Good Earth Wines. —D.C.

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

87 Fattoria Il Muro 2022 Lama (Chardonnay di Toscana). The nose is sweet with aromas of banana, cooked apple, honey, dried pineapple and grapefruit. The palate is citrus-forward and lively with acid, but with more banana and apple, along with a powerful toasted almond overtone. Wine Icons. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

MAREMMA TOSCANA

95 Mazzei 2020 Belguardo Codice (Maremma Toscana). The nose is fresh yet welcoming, like clean sheets, with notes of lemon, lime, white tea, orange peel and a kick of green apple. The palate is wonderfully laden with green apples, making for an exciting wine that's both immediately recognizable as Vermentino and yet utterly unique. Demeine Estates. *Editors' Choice.* —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 Mazzei 2021 Belguardo V Superiore (Maremma Toscana). The tart nose is both citrusy and floral, with aromas of lemon, lime, dafodil, jasmine and yellow and green apple. The palate remains simultaneously sour and lush, with melon and grapefruit flavors joining the fun, before a salty, nutty finish and a lightning bolt of acid provide a welcome contrast. Demeine Estates. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 Fattoria di Magliano 2022 Pagliatura (Maremma Toscana). A savory earthiness comes first on the nose, before sweet and tart aromas of green apple, caramelized sugar and grapefruit emerge. Those notes continue developing on the palate, until a warm, nutty almond finish. Opici Wines. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Rocca di Montemassi 2022 Calasole Vermentino (Maremma Toscana). The nose is full of tart fruit, including lemons and green apples, but undertones of peach and melon provide pleasant sweetness. On the round palate, a dusting of salt and an emergent grapefruit element accentuate the citrus notes, before a nutty finish brings a touch of bitterness. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Tenuta Aquilaia 2022 Chardonnay (Maremma Toscana). The nose is tart overall, with aromas of lemon, lime, dried pineapple and green and yellow apple, with a subtle floral element. On the round, full palate, grapefruit and melon flavors accentuate the apple and pineapple notes,

before an acidic, energetic finish. DiVino International. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Tenuta Aquilaia 2022 Vermentino (Maremma Toscana). The nose balances the tartness of lemons and limes with more textured aromas of white flowers and clean rubber. On the palate, bitter and salty undertones polish those piercing citrus notes, but a subtle nuttiness and bouncy acid keep you on your toes. DiVino International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

OTHER WHITE WINE

90 Selvapiana 2021 Villa Petrognano Bianco (Pomino). The nose has the freshness of white flowers, orange peel, lemon and yellow apple, as well as the warmth of tea leaves, herbs and spices. The palate leans into the apple and citrus elements while simultaneously preserving the savory, sanguine balance. Acid kicks through an otherwise round mouthfeel. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉS

90 Pietro Beconcini 2022 Fresco di Nero Tempranillo (Toscana). The nose is sweet and textured, with aromas of strawberry jam, cherry candy and milk chocolate, and a dusting of orange zest providing some sparkle. The strawberry jam headlines the palate, but a subtle stoniness and more orange zest bring a citrusy, saline levity. Bevi-amo International. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

90 Tenuta del Buonamico 2022 Dea Rosa (Toscana). The nose is superfresh and citrusy, like salt and brown sugar sprinkled over pink grapefruit, with a sparkling strawberry overtone and a warm, anchoring element of brick. On the palate, a squeeze of lemon juice pushes back playfully against an enduring strawberry sweetness. Eagle Eye Brands. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Castello Sonnino 2022 Pichius Syrah (Toscana). The nose is strawberry syrup drizzled over a soft serve swirl of vanilla and chocolate. The palate leans into the fruit element, with cherry and raspberry flavors joining the strawberries, before a citrus astringency bites on the finish. Highly polished tannins create a satiny mouthfeel. Barone Trading. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

TUSCANY RED WINES

95 Il Borro 2020 (Toscana). Intensely savory at first, with topsoil, graphite, leather, then

fresh and floral with crushed sage and lavender, before wild cherry and wild strawberry emerge. Black cherry notes are generous and bright on the palate but with deep, brooding earth tones as a contrast. Tannins are refined but with tensile strength, like good armor, and a warm but bracing salinity carries through a long finish. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Pietro Beconcini 2021 IXE Campi Nuovi Tempranillo (Toscana). The umami nose features aromas of leather, balsamic and pickles, along with a sour, balancing blast of cherry. On the palate, sour cherry and wild strawberry notes are balanced by soil and pepper that lead into a minty, saline, slightly stony finish framed by flexible tannins and buoyant acid. Bevi-amo International. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Pietro Beconcini 2018 Prephilloxera Tempranillo (Toscana). The nose features the savoriness of coffee and earth, with the sweetness of vanilla mingling with blackberries and figs. On the palate, the vanilla and tart fruit elements are bolstered by an undercurrent of chocolate, while the earthiness is underscored by salt, pepper, chalky tannins and vibrant acid. Savorian Inc. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Uggiano 2019 Petraia (Toscana). On the nose, savory, sanguine aromas of tar, soil, stones and herbs are balanced by the tartness of cranberries and barely ripe cherries, along with the sweetness of pearl tomatoes. The palate continues to artfully balance savory and sweet, within structure provided by fine-grained tannins and sparkling acid. Marquee Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Barbanera 2018 Gigino 80 Anniversario (Toscana). The nose balances tart fruit notes of cherry, raspberry and blackberry with savory aromas of soil, clay and pepper. On the palate, the fruit is sweeter and denser, and bolstered by firm tannins and welcome acid that lead into a satisfyingly hot finish. Pazzione Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Fattoria Aldobrandesca 2021 Vie Cave (Toscana). The earthy, metallic nose features aromas of soil, lead, herbs and black cherry. On the palate, notes of blackberry and black plum join the black-cherry element, with black olives and bitter orange for more sanguine earthiness, before a salty, minty finish. Acid blazes past streamlined tannins. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Fattoria Carpineta Fontalpino 2019 Do Ut Des (Toscana). The nose is floral and earthy, with a hint of tart berries that swells on the palate but doesn't entirely overwhelm an enduring, potent earthiness. Acid shines through a dense forest of taut tannins, like sunlight through birch trees. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Tenuta del Buonamico 2018 Cercatoja (Toscana). On the nose, a slightly rubbery earthiness mingles with tart fruit aromas of hibiscus, cranberry, cherry and orange peel. The palate features rounder, richer fruit notes that are bolstered by undercurrents of chocolate and vanilla, before a warm, peppery finish with polished but powerful tannins. Eagle Eye Brands. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Tenuta Larnianone 2019 Pliocene (Toscana). The nose is full of rich, dark fruit and oak, with more energetic undertones of cedar, graphite and pepper. The palate is simultaneously tart and peppery, with a dark chocolate current grounding a deep earthiness. Tannins form a tightly wound tapestry that lingers through a warm finish. Wine VIP. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Banfi 2020 Col di Sasso Cabernet Sauvignon Sangiovese (Toscana). The savory, sanguine nose is headlined by aromas of soil, rust and iron, but lighter, almost floral undertones bring a welcome gentleness for contrast. Juicy, ripe fruit flavors preen on the palate, while grippy tannins keep things in line. Banfi Vintners. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

90 Ca' del Sarto 2020 Ardente (Toscana). The nose is simultaneously sanguine, savory, slightly woody and tart. That balance between earth tones and fruit continues onto the palate, before a fresh, minty, saline finish that hovers above fierce tannins and acid. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

90 Poggio del Concone 2021 (Toscana). The primarily floral, sweet nose features aromas of vanilla bean, violets, cherry syrup and macerated blackberries, while a dusting of stoniness provides just enough savory balance. The palate is also sweet, full of berries and whipped cream, before a mocha finish where tannins and acid boost the coffee bitterness. Enovation Brands. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 San Polo 2021 Rubio (Toscana). For full review see page 16. Trinchero Family Estates.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Tenuta Larnianone 2019 Bragia (Toscana). A savory, umami nose of leather and pepper gets just enough sweetness from an undertone of black cherry. On the palate, blackberries bolster the black cherry element, but the pepper remains potent, and works with a whirlwind of tannins to blast heat and acid all the way through the finish. Wine VIP. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tenuta Sette Cielì 2021 Yantra (Toscana). The warm, gentle nose features aromas of dried cranberries and cherries, fresh strawberries, tea leaves, peonies, pepper and clay. Cherry and

BUYINGGUIDE

strawberry on the palate meet undertones of stone, earth and orange peel that preserve the nose's feel. Tannins are polished yet firm, while acid is friendlier. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$26

90 Terenzi 2018 Francesca Romana (Toscana).

The supersavory nose features aromas of smoke, pepper, tar and herbs, along with a faint crackle of black cherry. The palate is intensely peppery, but a more powerful tart fruit element and grippy yet gentle tannins create a sense of balance and cohesion. MS Walker. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$49

89 Fattoria di Basciano 2020 Vigna Il Corto (Toscana).

The primarily umami nose of balsamic, mushrooms, coffee, soil and herbs is balanced by slight aromas of dark chocolate and black cherries. On the more fruit-forward palate, berries underscore the cherry element, before a unifying, bitter, medicinal bite on the finish harkens back to the nose's umami feel. HB Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

89 Fattoria Rodano 2022 Poggialupi (Toscana).

On the nose, savory aromas of coffee, tar and sage stand in pleasing contrast to the richness of brown butter and the subtle astringency of cherries and plums. The bright, crunchy palate runs with that astringency, before tightly wound tannins march toward a hot, acidic finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

87 Giuliano Rosati 2022 (Rosso di Toscana).

The nose is sweet with cherry blossoms and strawberries, then sour with cherries and wet stones, over woodsy aromas of moss and damp leaves. The juicy, dense palate is defined by the sweet cherry and strawberry elements. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

COSTA TOSCANA

93 Conte Guicciardini 2017 Colpetroso (Costa Toscana).

An umami, smoky, peppery nose features aromas of meat and balsamic, along with abundant herbs and pepper, while hints of plum and strawberry provide balance. On the more fruit-forward palate, a blast of cherry accentuates the strawberry and plum elements, before a peppery finish brings things full circle. Acid blazes around refined, silky tannins. Vivino Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

92 Usiglian del Vescovo 2016 MilleEottantatre (Costa Toscana).

The nose is fresh, tart and slightly spicy, with aromas of black cherry, blackberries, wet stone, herbs and pepper. Undercurrents of dark chocolate and earth provide balance on the more fruit-forward palate, where a river of acid flows through chalky tannins. Offredo Selections. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$90

91 I Giusti e Zanza 2019 Dulcamara Organic (Costa Toscana).

The nose starts light and sweet, with aromas of vanilla, coconut and cherry, then turns savory with notes of soil, graphite and pepper, along with a splash of soy sauce. Black cherries and blackberries headline the palate, but powerfully bitter, medicinal undertones maintain balance. Acid frolics around polished yet grippy tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

89 La Mozza 2020 Mammolo (Costa Toscana).

The nose balances fruit aromas of cherry and strawberry with savory, crackling undertones of herbs, pepper, mint and dark chocolate. Mint, chocolate and cherry headline the palate, while bitter currents of orange peel and sage are empowered by firm tannins. Dark Star Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

89 Usiglian del Vescovo 2021 Il Grolaio (Costa Toscana).

The nose is light and flirty, with aromas of vanilla, roses and cherry candy, but the bitterness of orange zest provides just enough balance. On the silky palate, dark berries add maturity to that same blend of notes, before a bitter, chocolate espresso finish. Offredo Selections. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$NA

TERRE DI PISA

90 Pietro Beconcini 2021 MaurLeo (Terre di Pisa).

The nose starts warm and sweet, with aromas of vanilla, cloves and cinnamon, then turns tart and savory with notes of soil, pencil shavings, cherries and orange peel. The cherry and orange elements headline the palate, but an enduring hint of spices sets up a bitter dark-chocolate finish. Acid plays among rigid tannins. Beviamo International. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

90 Tenuta di Ghizzano 2019 Veneroso (Terre di Pisa).

The nose is primarily stony and slightly rubbery, but notable aromas of blackberries and figs also introduce a tartness that bleeds over onto the more fruit-forward palate, with notes of raspberries and cherries for sweetness and buzzy acid for lift. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

90 Usiglian del Vescovo 2017 Il Barbiglione (Terre di Pisa).

The primarily earthy nose features notes of graphite, coffee and herbs, but also slightly tart aromas of cherry and blackberry. That balance of flavors continues on the palate, with the blackberries shining especially brightly, with structure provided by firm, smooth tannins. Offredo Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$32

CHIANTI CLASSICO

92 Castello di Albola 2021 (Chianti Classico).

The nose starts with the warm earthiness of

sage, fennel and bitter orange, then turns sanguine with aromas of graphite, damp soil, black cherry and plum skin. The palate is more fruit-forward, and luxuriously so, but the mouthfeel is generous rather than excessive. Acid flows silently through walls of steep, impenetrable tannins. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

92 Fattoria Rodano 2019 Vigna Viacosta Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The floral, perfumed nose features aromas of roses, hibiscus, cranberries and cherries, with a touch of soil providing balance. On the palate, the fruit elements are punchier and crunchier and bolstered by a smoldering heat. Tannins are thick and ensnaring, while the acid acts as a guide out of that dense forest. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$41

92 Lamole di Lamole 2019 Lareale Riserva (Chianti Classico).

For full review see page 11. Santa Margherita USA.

abv: 14%

Price: \$32

92 Lamole di Lamole 2018 Vigneto di Campolungo (Chianti Classico).

For full review see page 11. Santa Margherita USA.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

91 Riecline 2021 (Chianti Classico).

The nose starts with fruit aromas of blood orange and wild cherries and strawberries, then turns umami with notes of balsamic, mushrooms and damp soil. On the sweet, juicy, full palate the fruit returns and plays well with the acid, while firm yet flexible tannins provide structure. Soilair Selection. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

91 Tenuta di Lilliano 2019 Gran Selezione Sangiovese (Chianti Classico).

The nose features a playful, fresh blend of aromas, which includes cherry, vanilla, coffee, strawberry jam and milk chocolate. On the palate, the cherry and chocolate elements intensify, but are balanced by the sweet astringency of oranges. Tannins are ripping, while the acid is more restrained. Vintage Imports, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

90 Tenuta di Lilliano 2021 (Chianti Classico).

The powerfully savory nose features notes of earth, balsamic, meat, leather and soil, but lighter aromas of herbs, strawberries and cherries provide balance. On the more fruit-forward palate, bitter orange peel and dark chocolate maintain balance, while acid zips past grasping tannins. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$19

90 Tenuta di Lilliano 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).

On the nose, the sweetness of cherry and vanilla is balanced by the gentle bitterness of orange zest and herbs. On the palate, a rush of chocolate invigorates the fruit element, but balance

is maintained by an earthiness that's drawn out by chalky, clingy tannins. Vintage Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

96 Gianni Brunelli 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts sanguine and savory, with notes of tar and soil, then turns lighter and fresher with aromas of blood orange, cranberries, cherries and roses. The palate is cherry-forward, with a sunny citrus warmth, but a gust of mint provides freshness and balance, while acid sizzles around structured, stoic tannins like flames lapping at the slats of a grill. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$115

95 Dino Ciacchi 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is defined by heady aromas of dried cherries, bitter orange, old leather and anise, but also features the freshness of cool, damp earth. On the palate, figs accentuate the cherry and orange notes, while a subtle medicinal quality unites nose and palate. Acid hums along a track built by integrated, refined tannins. K&L Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

95 Fattoria dei Barbi 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The quiet, elegant nose features delicate aromas of cherries, strawberries and figs, along with weightier notes of earth and stone. The fruit elements turn more decadent and syrupy on the palate, but a subtle citrus bitterness bolsters that flinty, earthy undertone to maintain balance. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Fattoria dei Barbi 2018 Vigna del Fiore (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose features adventurous aromas of wood and stone after a storm, along with warmer notes of dark chocolate and dried cherries. The chocolate and cherries headline the palate, but bitter undertones of coffee and licorice provide balance. Acid shines through dense, chewy tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$123

95 Il Valentiano 2018 Campo di Marzo (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose features the warm bitterness of espresso, orange peel and sambuca as well as the sweetness of chocolate and cherries. The palate is sanguine, earthy and still warm, with a lingering hint of citrus elevating the heat and acid, while fine-tuned tannins provide structure. K&L Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

95 Innocenti 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts sweet, but not overpoweringly so, with aromas of cherry, strawberry and dark chocolate, then turns herbaceous with notes of sage and fennel. Both the sweet and savory elements

escalate on the palate, but fierce tannins restrain any temptation toward excess. PSP Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

95 La Fortuna 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is heavy with ripe, dense cherries and berries, but undertones of soil, stone and herbs provide freshness and balance. The fruit remains round and rich on the palate, but emergent elements of licorice and dark chocolate preserve balance. Tannins are dense but sleek. Casa Bruno. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Fattoi 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is primarily savory, with aromas of coffee, herbs and soil, but also has the fresh gleam of wild cherries. On the palate, an emergent orange-peel element bolsters the cherry note, at least until a bitter finish of dark chocolate and espresso. Spice blazes behind dense, grippy tannins. Enotria Wine Import. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Fossacolle 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). On the nose, aromas of cherry, blood orange, iron and sage come together to create a warm, sanguine feeling. The palate leans earthy, with notes of brick and more herbs, but the incisive astringency of dried cherries and cranberries provides balance. Acid slices through a cloud of dusty, chewy tannins. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Ruffino 2018 Greppone Mazzi (Brunello di Montalcino). The primarily savory nose features aromas of leather, gunpowder, balsamic and cigars, but a rich blend of vanilla, cherries and spices provides sweetness underneath. The palate leans into the vanilla and cherry elements, before a bitter yet pleasant finish of orange and coffee. Tannins can barely catch their breath before being outstripped by searing acid. Constellation Brands, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 San Guglielmo 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The fresh, springtime nose is earthy, but sweetly so, with strong aromas of cherry, wild strawberry, budding flowers and vanilla coffee creamer. On the palate, the fruit is crunchier and livelier, while acid laps gently at the edges of polished tannins. VF Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Gorelli 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts off sweet and sparkling, with aromas of cherry cola, vanilla and strawberry, before turning fresher and earthier with notes of soil, slate, tar and roses. The palate is full of fresh cherries, but enduring earth tones lead into a bitter cocoa finish. Acid crackles around dense, chewy tannins. France + Western. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Padelletti 2019 (Brunello di Montalcino). The textured nose is simultaneously fresh

and bitter, with aromas of both ripe and dried cherries, roses, orange peel, tar and soil. The cherry and orange elements headline the palate, above an undertone of dark chocolate that's empowered by clay-like tannins and popping acid. Grand Cru Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Mastrojanni 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose leans savory and earthy, with aromas of coffee, balsamic, soil and tomato leaf, but undertones of black cherry and vanilla flourish with time. The palate is heavy with sweet, juicy cherry notes that are lifted by a swirl of chocolate and vanilla, but a blast of salt and bright acid create an almost jumpy sensation. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

92 Uggiano 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). A sophisticated nose balances aromas of currants and red and black cherries with old leather and gun smoke. The palate is equally balanced between fruit and earth, through a nuanced, slightly bitter finish of fig cookie, dark chocolate and orange peel. Wide, smooth tannins provide structure like paving stones for a path. Marquee Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

90 Il Grappolo 2018 Sassocheto (Brunello di Montalcino). The primarily sanguine, earthy nose draws balance from aromas of hibiscus, cranberry and strawberry. The palate is strawberry-forward but also preserves the earthiness and develops an herbaceous element, which creates a pleasing tension with the slick, round mouthfeel. Uva Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

OTHER RED WINES

97 Il Borro 2018 Nitrito Cabernet Sauvignon (Val d'Arno di Sopra). Dark and cool on the nose, with a deep anchoring in flinty earth tones and crushed rocks, lifted by the indulgence of macerated berries. The palate projects that sense of cool and calm through more rich fruit and chocolate ganache. Fine-grained tannins have a gentle but firm grasp, while acid soars through a long finish. As substantial as a workhorse but drinks like dressage. The word that comes to mind is the Renaissance Italian "sprezzatura"—studied nonchalance. Drink 2034 and beyond. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$500

96 Petrolo 2021 Campo Lusso (Val d'Arno di Sopra). The nose is fresh and earthy, almost primitive, with sandalwood against trodden soil, damp moss, followed by the warmth of currants and cloves. The palate is lively but poised, with mature but carefully calibrated fruit and spice. Unwavering, confident tannins that nonetheless feel welcoming, electrified by penetrating acid. This wine has always been special but with the change in label more

BUYINGGUIDE

recent vintages seem both more effortless and more sumptuous. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$135

91 Tenuta del Buonamico 2020 Etichetta Blu (Montecarlo). The nose is simultaneously floral, stony, tart and metallic, before notes of strawberry, raspberry and cherry swell to create a more fruit-forward palate, but the earthy and sanguine elements linger to preserve balance. Tannins are firm while acid is lively. Eagle Eye Brands. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Le Cinciole 2017 Camalaione (Colli della Toscana Centrale). The savory nose is headlined by pepper, spices and balsamic, above undertones of tart berries. Sweeter, juicier berries jump to the front of the line on the palate, but enduring notes of pepper and spice are bolstered by chalky, substantial tannins to maintain balance. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$54

90 Leuta 2016 Tau (Cortona). A very umami, sanguine nose features aromas of dried cranberries, cherries, orange peel, cedar, tea leaves and clay. The palate runs with the astringent fruit and spicy earthiness, with both elements illuminated by sparkling acid. Wine Icons. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Marchesi Gondi 2018 Fiamme Limited Edition (Colli della Toscana Centrale). The nose features aromas of raspberry compote, passion fruit, boysenberry, milk chocolate and hot coffee. The palate is also heavy with sweet and tart fruit, before the chocolate and coffee notes swirl together to create a subtly earthy mocha finish. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI CLASSICO

96 Bucci 2020 Villa Bucci Riserva (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). This Verdicchio exudes a subtle yet intriguing nose with a sea-salt note, crushed stone and hints of lemon oil. Needing time to develop the wine shows aromas of white peach, pear and lily as it opens. The mouthwatering acidity, coupled with its lean and mineral character, captivates the palate and urges you to put it in the cellar for a few more years. Drink 2025–2048. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

95 Bucci 2019 Villa Bucci Riserva Vintage Collection (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). This benchmark example of Verdicchio year in and year out shows the greatness of Verdicchio. The wine opens with aromas of roasted stone and

orchard fruits that intertwine with salted lemon and a mineral tinge, creating a complex and elegant palate. The wine's well-trimmed, mouthfilling texture adds depth to its sophisticated and multifaceted character that will continue to develop over time. Drink now–2045. Empson USA Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Bucci 2022 (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). Citrus blossom, candied lemon peel, mountain flowers and sea-salt aromas drive the nose of this stunning wine. The salty palate is mouthwatering and balances savory and fruit notes perfectly featuring flavors of preserved lemon, tart apricots, lemongrass and fennel fronds. Drink now–2035. Empson USA Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Umani Ronchi 2021 Plenio Riserva (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). For full review see page 10. Vineyard Brands.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Garofoli 2022 Macrina (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi). This white wine is loaded with mixed citrus aromas: mandarin orange, lemon, tangerine and orange flower water. Sometimes heady, the wine meanders between the intense citrus notes and more savory and floral aromas giving more depth and character to the wine. The rounded palate has citrus flavors at its core with notes of honey, almond and sea salt all intertwined, finishing with a crushed stone minerality. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

UMBRIA

93 Argillae 2019 Primo d'Anfora (Umbria). Fermented and aged in amphora, this wine breaks the mold for Umbrian wines. The nose never rests as aromas of dried mango and papaya waft by as dried lemon, chamomile and crushed chalk notes pop up. The wine shifts gears on the palate as savory herbal flavors shine with roasted peach and pineapple in the background finishing with a grip and mineral edge. Vias Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Marchesi Antinori 2021 Castello della Sala Cervaro della Sala (Umbria). Warmed, spiced apple slices with fresh cream, vanilla and honey aromas waft from the glass of this heady Umbrian Chardonnay. Rich, with bold flavors showcasing roasted orchard fruits and sweet spices from the time in oak flow alongside notes of crème fraîche and whipped butter finishing with an acidity that keeps the wine right where it needs to be. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$67

88 Salviano 2022 Castello Di Titignano Sauvignon Blanc (Umbria). The aromas of freshly cut lemongrass with green apples and lemon peel open the nose of this wine. Tart Key lime flavors and

grapefruit flavors bound on the palate with crisp acidity and subtle crushed chalk notes on the finish. Kobrand. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

MONTEFALCO

91 Scacciadiavoli 2020 White Blend (Montefalco). Lifted aromas of heady orange blossoms, candied lemon peel and a crushed stone shape the nose of this Montefalco Bianco. Vibrant with flavors of ripe pear, lemongrass and a seashell mineral undertone that culminates in a refreshing and bright finish. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Tenuta Alzatura 2021 Aria Di Casa White Blend (Montefalco). This Montefalco Bianco opens with aromas of white peach, acacia blossoms, roasted almonds and a hint of citrus zest. Zippy flavors of green apple, ripe pear, sea salt and wet stones define the elegant palate that lingers for a long while. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 Tenuta Alzatura 2022 Cortili White Blend (Montefalco). Aromas of ripe orchard fruits and a hint of wildflowers pave the way for this wine on the nose. The palate showcases flavors of green apple, navel oranges and a subtle green herbal note, offering a bright and invigorating structure. A perfect complement to grilled vegetables or herbed chicken dishes. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

ORVIETO

92 Argillae 2022 Superiore (Orvieto). The moment the wine is poured, there is a change in the energy of the room. The pale straw color reflects the wine just so as the aromas envelope the senses with notes of pressed white flowers, orange peel that has just been singed over a drink, and wet river stones. The lively palate is crunchy with a plucky acidity that keeps the mouth watering and wanting more. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Barberani 2021 Castagnolo (Orvieto Classico Superiore). This sparkling wine evokes a lively orchard with its aromas of apples, peaches and flowers. An invigorating structure leads to a palate that offers a mineral crunch and hints of bruised apples. An ideal companion for an outdoor picnic or a celebratory toast. Vinifera Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Santa Cristina 2022 Campogrande (Orvieto Classico). Aromas of citrus, lily and dried gravel, this Orvieto shows its classic pedigree. The palate opens with a vibrant medley of orchard fruits and a refreshing, bright finish pairing excellently

with light seafood dishes or a fresh garden salad. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

TREBBIANO D'ABRUZZO

90 Masciarelli 2021 Marina Cvetic Trebbiano Riserva (Trebbiano d'Abruzzo). The nose is acidic and textured, yet not without sweetness, with aromas of yellow apple, pineapple, lemon and vanilla. These notes all continue on the rich palate, where the vanilla element in particular grows weightier, but a blast of acid keeps things from becoming maudlin. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

89 Masciarelli 2022 (Trebbiano d'Abruzzo). The nose is primarily sour fruit, with aromas of yellow apple, quince and lemon, but faint undertones of soil and herbs provide balance. That dance between acidity and earth continues on the palate, creating a wine that's easygoing but not without intrigue. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Spinelli 2022 (Trebbiano d'Abruzzo). The nose is both warm and fresh, with notes of sunlit grass, tennis ball, melon and lemon. The citrus element swells on the palate, while a touch of sweet honey is brought out by a round mouthfeel. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Pietrame 2021 Edizione Limitata Chardonnay Passerina (Terre di Chieti). The fruit-forward nose leads with tropical aromas of banana, pineapple and lychee, then turns tart with notes of lemon and grapefruit. The bananas, lemons and pineapples headline the palate, before a finish of toasted nuts brings a clean crispness to contrast with the abundant fruit. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

90 Velenosi 2022 Villa Angela Pecorino (Offida Pecorino). A crisp and refreshing character defines the nose with delicate floral aromas, vibrant citrus notes and a hint of orchard blossoms. It's a lively and invigorating palate, excellent with light seafood dishes or a fresh garden salad. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Garofoli 2022 Supèra (Verdicchio di Matelica). Exotic and intense aromas leap from the glass with candied pineapple, singed orange peel, orange flower water and sea salt. Rich and full in body, the wine is braced by vibrant acidity that keeps the palate fresh as the rich and roasted tropical and stone fruit notes drive the palate toward the blanched almond and mineral finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Il Conte Villa Prandone 2022 Belva di Terra (Marche). This wine is a tropical fruit stand on a small island with aromas of passion fruit, banana and mangos with lemon zest and tropical flowers. The palate pops with grapefruit and lime flavors sprinkled with sea salt, creating a mouthwatering finish. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Il Conte Villa Prandone 2022 Navicchio (Offida Pecorino). Indulge in this delightful expression from Offida, captivating with its aromatic bouquet, of zesty citrus, white blossoms, and a touch of sun-ripened peaches. Light and fresh on the palate with a crisp and easy finish. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Umberto Cesari 2022 Liano Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc (Rubicone). The wine offers a nose of pineapple lozenge, dried flowers and peach, presenting a fruit-forward aroma. On the palate, it showcases a dry profile, creating an intriguing contrast of flavors and textures. The structure reveals a well-integrated balance, making it excellent to pair with grilled halibut or a summer salad with citrus vinaigrette. Opici Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

85 Ca' del Sarto 2022 Unoaked Chardonnay (Terre di Chieti). The nose is playful yet nuanced, with aromas of yellow apple, banana chips, dried pineapple and lemon pepper. The round, slick palate has honey and lemon juice, at least until the brisk finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

DESSERT WINES

91 Scacciadiavoli 2018 Passito (Montefalco Sagrantino). Blackberry compote, fig jam, roasted coffee and candied purple flower aromas lift from the glass. The wine coats the mouth as exotic spices fill the senses and rounded tannins and mouthwatering acidity balance this hedonistic but delicious wine. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50/375 ml

90 Barberani 2020 Calcaia Muffa Nobile (Orvieto Classico Superiore). Lychee candy, preserved pineapple and orange marmalade aromas lift from the glass as dried yellow flowers and mixed spices quickly follow this rich and lush wine. Concentrated on the palate, like liquid gold, wrapped in sweet baking spices and tart white cherries on the evocative and long finish. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$40

ROSÉS

90 Montinore 2022 La Messe Albana Made With Organic Grapes (Romagna). This organically grown Albana from Romagna exudes a complex nose of dried apricots, orange peel and a hint

of honey. The palate is intriguingly textured, with a bold structure and a lingering finish that celebrates the skin-contact tradition. Montinore Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Ca' del Sarto 2022 Rosato (Terre di Chieti). Lively aromas of red berries, orange zest and a touch of wildflowers captivate the nose. On the palate, bright raspberry and citrus flavors intertwine with a crisp acidity, leading to a vibrant and invigorating finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Masciarelli 2022 (Colline Teatine). Sweet aromas of strawberries and watermelon star on the nose, but an earthy undertone provides balance. Both the fruit and earth elements strengthen on the palate, which is round and mouthfilling, but a blast of salt keeps you on your toes. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Umberto Cesari 2023 Costa di Rose Sangiovese (Rubicone). Aromas of ripe strawberries, rose petals and a hint of citrus blossom fill the senses. On the palate, vibrant strawberry and watermelon flavors are complemented by crisp acidity and a refreshing, lively texture. Opici Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Spinelli 2022 (Terre di Chieti). The nose is headlined by sweet, fresh aromas of strawberry, cherry and raspberry, but a rubbery, slightly woody undertone adds depth and subtlety. On the palate, flavors of grapefruit and vanilla bolster the enduring berry element. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

LAMBRUSCO

93 Cleto Chiarli 2022 Vigneto Cialdini (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). Dark cherry, plum and violet aromas jump out of the glass and do not let go. The robust palate pops with flavors of blackberry and a hint of earth that are supported by a lively tannic structure, embodying the spirited essence of Grasparossa. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

93 Paltrinieri 2021 La Riserva (Lambrusco di Sorbara). An inviting nose of tart red berries, crushed rose petals and sour cranberries dusted with orange zest and pepper. The palate reveals a dynamic interplay of tart raspberry and black currant, enveloped by refined bubbles and a refreshing acidity. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$28

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Paltrinieri 2020 Grosso (Lambrusco di Sorbara). This wine leaps out of the glass with a nose brimming with the fragrance of violets, strawberries and red currants. The Sorbara in this Lambrusco paints the palate with lively acidity and light, frothy bubbles, finishing with a clean, dry note that invites another sip. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Paltrinieri 2022 Solco (Lambrusco dell'Emilia). A nose brimming with fresh red berries, floral undertones and a hint of savory herbs. The palate enjoys a balance of plump cherries and strawberries with mixed spices, notes of game and juicy acidity with a light effervescence that showcases the playful, yet serious side of this wine. Polaner Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

UMBRIA

90 Barberani 2020 Polvento (Umbria). Inviting aromas of ripe raspberries, dried herbs and a hint of spice open the experience. Harmonious red fruit flavors, supple tannins and bright, refreshing acidity characterize the palate. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Argillae 2021 Sinuoso (Umbria). Vibrant notes of wild berries, plums, and Mediterranean herbs dominate the aromatic profile. The palate offers a medley of ripe fruit flavors, framed by a smooth texture and a lively, well-balanced finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Barberani 2021 Foresco (Umbria). Fragrant aromas of red currant, rosemary, and a touch of black pepper lift from the glass just as if you walked into a centuries-old gourmet market. The palate showcases flavors of raspberry, thyme and a hint of balsamic finishing with elegant tannins. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

87 Castello di Titignano 2021 Turlò (Umbria). Embrace the draw of aromas of ripe plum, leather and a hint of dried herbs, reminiscent of a well-loved leather chair. The palate presents flavors of blackberry, cherry and a subtle earthy note finishing with sturdy tannins. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Tenuta Vitalonga 2021 Elcione (Umbria). Step into an enchanting forest as you savor the aromas of wild blackberry, violet and a touch of cedar. The palate opens like a captivating novel, featuring flavors of black cherry, forest floor and a hint of tobacco. As the wine develops, so does the character of the wine yielding a firm yet inviting structure with a mouthwatering finish. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO

90 Cantine Leonardo Da Vinci 2020 Monnalisa (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). For full review see page 20. Flying Blue Imports. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Idi di Marzo 2020 Amarne Family Selection (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose is alluringly floral and earthy, with notes of wild cherries, plums, wild fennel and fresh-tilled soil. On the palate, that interplay between fruit and earth continues, within a framework provided by polished but dense tannins and lively acid. Serendipity Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Nicodemi 2022 Terrana (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The floral, perfumed nose features aromas of peonies, violets and blackberries, with a sharp, wet slate undertone providing balance. The palate leans into that dark, brooding blackberry element, but the cool earth notes and light florality endure through the finish. Tannins are easygoing, while acid is more forceful. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

90 Quattro Mani 2020 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The bright, sunny, slightly astringent nose features aromas of roses, brick, hibiscus, cherries and cranberries. That airy yet warm nature persists on the palate, where a salty breeze and lively acid play with a persistent cranberry element and a bitter orange peel undertone. Oracles Craft Brands. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

90 Terra d'Aligi 2019 Tatone (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose starts bitter, astringent and slightly sanguine, with aromas of cocoa, plums and cured meat, then softens with notes of dirt and herbs. On the palate, cherries accentuate the plum and chocolate elements, before an orange zest finish. Acid welcomes you, while the tannins linger in the mouth. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

89 Briganti 2022 Ningo Nanco (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The aroma of milk-chocolate-covered cherries headlines the nose, but notes of roses, soil and herbs provide floral and savory elements respectively. The approachable, warm palate maintains that chocolate, berry juiciness and the freshness of the undertones. Briganti. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Masciarelli 2020 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose balances savory aromas of soil and pencil shavings with fruit notes of cherries and plums. On the palate, a current of chocolate brings out the cherries' sweetness, before a hot finish. Tannins and acid are simultaneously lean and graceful. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Rosarubra 2015 Shamàn Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose starts floral and full of highly toned red fruit, then turns warmer, more decadent and slightly bitter, with notes of orange peel, milk chocolate and licorice. On the palate, that chocolate-orange element plays with sweet berry flavors, before a hot sambuca finish. Wine Situation. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$158

88 Spinelli 2022 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose balances sweet cherries and raspberries with savory soil and herbs, beneath a restrained but present overtone of vanilla. Black cherries dominate the palate, but medicinal, herbaceous undertones lead into a faintly bitter orange peel finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

OTHER RED WINES

91 Scacciadiavoli 2020 (Montefalco). This wine captures the essence of a sun-drenched Italian countryside, with aromas akin to market-ripe red berries and a hint of aromatic herbs. The palate is mesmerizing, offering flavors of dark cherry, plum and a subtle spiciness on the elegant and fine palate. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Ca' del Sarto 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Terre di Chieti). On the nose, floral aromas of roses and peonies meet crisp leather and a finely sharpened knife. On the palate, fresh berries and homemade whipped cream with dark chocolate shavings, before a bitter espresso finish. Tannins are smooth but pack a punch. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Tenuta Vitalonga 2021 (Orvieto). This wine offers aromas of dark cherry, wild herbs, and a touch of licorice. The palate unfolds quickly, revealing flavors of blackberry, sage and a subtle mineral undertone that stays on the palate like a melody you hum when you are happy, finishing with fine tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

SOUTHERN ITALY WHITE WINES

CAMPANIA

90 Alois 2022 Caulino Falanghina (Campania). The light, fresh nose offers aromas of lemon, cantaloupe, white flowers and stone, before the salty palate runs with that stoniness. A sweeter streak of lemon creates a round feel, at least until a bitter bite of almond on the finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Di Meo 2022 Salza Irpina (Campania). The sunny, summery nose features aromas of yellow apple, lemon, honey and warm grass and hay. On the palate, an emergent element of toasted almonds underscores all of those notes, while a current of hot acid simmers through the finish. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

89 Villa Matilde 2022 Rocca dei Leoni Falanghina (Campania). The nose is primarily light and bright, with aromas of citrus, apple and peach, but a dusting of wild herbs adds nuance. On the palate, notes of honey and nuts compliment the apple element well, while a squeeze of lemon and a pinch of salt emphasize the herbaceousness to preserve balance. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

FIANO DI AVELLINO

96 Mastroberardino 2019 Stilèma Riserva (Fiano di Avellino). The nose is sweet yet textured, thoughtful and almost wistful, with notes of vanilla, pear, yellow apple, lemon, dried pineapple and almond paste. On the elegant, equally compelling palate, a more intense lemon element swirls around fresher pineapple notes and emergent melon flavors, before a toasted almond finish. Bright acid adds a subtle crackle to an overall satiny mouthfeel. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

94 Di Meo 2013 Alessandra Riserva (Fiano di Avellino). The textured, complex nose features aromas of lemon, honey, white tea and hazelnuts, along with a powerful, almost rubbery salinity like tires hitting pavement. The palate continues to successfully balance citrus, nuttiness and warm rubber and cement, without losing those indulgently sweet notes of honey from the nose. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$78

94 Mastroberardino 2022 Radici (Fiano di Avellino). On the nose, aromas of pear, lemon and orange peel mingle with that telltale nutty-grassiness of Fiano. The pear and orange elements sweeten and intensify on the palate, but that toasted nuttiness lingers as a bracing acidity combats the overall richness. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Di Meo 2022 Salza Irpina (Fiano di Avellino). The nose is bracingly fresh, like barely ripe honeydew or new pine floors polished with lemon oil. On the palate, a cascade of oranges underscores the honeydew element, before a sweet and salty almond finish. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Donnachiera 2022 (Fiano di Avellino). The nose features the sweet freshness of pears and honeydew melons, along with tarter aromas of lemon, tangerine peel and pine. The palate continues balancing the sweetness and bitterness of cit-

rus, before a melon note combines with honey and nut flavors to create a full, round texture. Michelangelo Selections. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Donnachiera 2022 Empatia (Fiano di Avellino). The nose is both floral and savory, with notes of vanilla, citrus blossoms, pear and freshly baked bread. The palate is sweeter yet also fresh, like a pear-meringue tart garnished with almond slivers, while the citrusy, saline finish is pleasingly refreshing. Michelangelo Selections. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Cantine Astroni 2018 Vigna Astorini (Campi Flegrei). The nutty, savory nose is headlined by aromas of preserved lemon, wild herbs, roasted nuts and brown butter. The palate stays intensely savory, but notes of lemon and zippy acid create a bright sunniness. Breakthru Beverage California North. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Alois 2020 (Terre del Volturno). The nose starts with aromas of vanilla and spices, then turns slightly sharper with notes of white peach, fennel and a drizzle of honey. The palate is citrus-forward and balances the peach and honey elements, but the original herbaceousness persists to provide balance through a fresh finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Botromagno 2022 (Gravina). The nose is citrusy, but also sweet with aromas of honey, peach and apricot, and features a slightly rubbery, balancing savoriness to boot. Citrus and stone fruit continue on the palate, with a distinct saltiness strengthening that savory element. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Cantine Astroni 2022 Colli Imperatrice (Campi Flegrei). On the nose, fresh, citrusy aromas of lemon curd, citrus blossom, white peach and cantaloupe are balanced by a weightier, rubbery undertone. On the palate, that savoriness becomes stonier and earthier, but the floral and citrus notes persist and are emphasized by acid. Breakthru Beverage California North. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Leone de Castris 2021 Messapia Verdeca (Salento). The nose is citrusy, yet also has a stony, slightly salty, almost wistful undertone that provides balance and nuance. Both the citrus and stony salinity continue on the palate, but a round, slick mouthfeel creates a richness that emphasizes a nutty, bitter finish. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Alois 2022 Caiati Pallagrello Bianco (Terre del Volturno). On the fruit-forward nose,

honey brings out the sweetness of citrus and stone fruit aromas, while an herbaceous undertone provides balance. The fruit notes also carry the palate, but a blast of salt adds texture and sets up a bitter, nutty finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Castello Monaci 2021 Petraluce (Salento). On the nose, citrus notes of fresh orange slices and lemons are balanced by slightly warmer, more savory aromas of tea leaves and seashells. The palate is full of lemon iced tea flavors, before a nutty, salty, rounded finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Coppi 2022 Guiscardo Falanghina (Puglia). The nose is floral and citrusy, with aromas of white flowers and lemonade iced tea with honey. On the palate, a squeeze of orange accentuates the lemon and honey notes, but a salty stoniness and a hint of bitter almond skin provide balance. Wine 4 All. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Villa Matilde 2021 (Falerno del Massico). The nose is full of honey, tree fruit, citrus and a balancing herbaceousness, while the nutty palate deftly blends the sweet with the savory beneath a drizzle of honey and a dusting of grated chocolate. The finish brings a welcome, saline lift of citrus. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

87 Rivera 2021 Terre al Monte (Castel del Monte). The festive nose features aromas of corn, jalapeños, lemon and lime, while the palate runs with all those notes but also grows juicier with a white peach undertone. Acid is notable, but not aggressive. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

ROSÉS

90 Leone de Castris 2022 Five Roses (Salento). The nose is floral, yet simultaneously metallic and tangy with powerful undertones of soil, salt and crushed rocks. The palate introduces a sour fruit element, but that salty sanguinity persists. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Coppi 2022 Coré Negroamaro (Salento). The nose features slightly astringent fruit notes of orange zest and cherries, with balance coming from undertones of herbs and soil. The fruit elements get sweeter and more decadent on the palate, but that light astringency returns on the finish. Wine 4 All. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

88 Fontanavecchia 2022 (Aglianico del Taburno). The nose is simultaneously savory, floral and lightly medicinal, with aromas of cherry syrup, soil and herbs. On the palate, that

BUYINGGUIDE

unusual but not unpleasant mix is framed by a sharp, salty flash of citrus. Wine Emporium. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES

CAMPANIA

90 Alois 2019 Campole Aglianico (Campania). The nose is savory, sanguine and earthy, with aromas of flint, soil, balsamic, plum skin and a hint of softening cherry blossom. The palate runs with the fruit and florality, but ferocious tannins and acid preserve the edge. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Di Meo 2018 Salza Iripina (Campania). The nose finds balance between the sweetness of Luxardo cherries and sugar plums thanks to the heavy warmth of tobacco and dark chocolate. The chocolate, cherry and coffee continue swirling together on the palate, creating an integrated, harmonious, even friendly wine. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

90 Villa Matilde 2019 Rocca dei Leoni Aglianico (Campania). Wild strawberries and raspberries lead the way on the nose, with sharp, savory notes of flint, soil and pepper providing balance. Those sanguine, peppery notes take center stage on the palate, before a fresh, saline finish. Acid dances among a tangle of slippery tannins. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

88 Alois 2018 Trifolium Casavecchia di Pontelatone (Campania). An earthy, herbaceous, slightly metallic nose gets just enough balance from a hint of sweet strawberries. The palate is more fruit-forward, but mouthclearing tannins make for a bitter finish. Needs time to breathe after opening, but pleasant if you're patient. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

TERRE DEL VOLTURNO

90 Alois 2018 Cunto Pallagrello Negro (Terre del Volturno). The nose leads with sweet aromas of strawberry and coffee creamer, then turns earthy and herbaceous. On the palate, a dash of salt and pepper unifies the sweet and the savory, while the tannins and acid enliven, rather than overwhelm, that pleasing tension. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

89 Alois 2017 Trebulanum Casavecchia Riserva (Terre del Volturno). A sophisticated, umami nose of aged cheese, cured meat, pepper and smoke gets some sparkle from tart undertones of plums and black cherries. On the palate, blackberries bolster the black-cherry element, but the meatiness

lingers as an undertone. Tannins are merciless, and acid is bright but gentle. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$42

88 Alois 2018 Murella Pallagrello Nero (Terre del Volturno). The sweet, warm nose features aromas of vanilla, baking spices, ripe cherries and strawberry jam, while the fruit-forward palate benefits from a sanguine squeeze of blood orange that stands up to intimidating tannins and acid. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$33

AGLIANICO DEL TABURNO

93 Fontanavecchia 2017 Grave Mora (Aglianico del Taburno). The savory nose features aromas of salt, pepper, cured meat and wet stone, but a fruit balance comes from tart notes of strawberry and plum. On the palate, a splash of passion fruit tea accentuates the plum element, before a synthesizing, espresso-sambuca finish. Acid blazes around dense tannins. Wine Emporium. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

92 Fontanavecchia 2018 Vigna Cataratte (Aglianico del Taburno). The nose balances savory aromas of cured meat, pepper and pencil shavings with lighter notes of cherries and dried tomatoes. On the bouncy, fresh palate, that balance between vibrant fruit and crackling pepper is framed by an emergent herbaceousness and harmonious acid and tannins. Wine Emporium. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$56

90 Fontanavecchia 2019 (Aglianico del Taburno). The restrained, elegant nose leads with aromas of vanilla and cedar, before slightly weightier notes of earth, cranberries and cherries emerge. Those earthy, astringent elements headline the warm, peppery palate, which is framed by polished yet authoritative tannins. Wine Emporium. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

IRPINIA

94 Feudi di San Gregorio 2016 Serpico (Irpinia). For full review see page 5. Terlato Wines International.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$94

91 Mastroberardino 2021 Redi More (Irpinia). A warm, inviting nose features aromas of cherries, currants, blackberries, chocolate and wild herbs. On the palate, a wave of blood orange brings out the tartness of the fruit, before an earthy finish that emphasizes the herbaceous element. Tannins are chalky yet welcoming, while acid is invigorating. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$33

90 Feudi di San Gregorio 2020 Rubrato (Irpinia). For full review see page 15. Terlato Wines International.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

TAURASI

96 Mastroberardino 2017 Stiléma Riserva (Taurasi). A savory, earthy and herbaceous nose offers aromas of smoke and warm soil, but also has the sweetness of plums and black cherries. The palate overflows with more sweet dark fruit, including figs, and a drizzle of cherry syrup, before a rich yet bitter dark-chocolate finish. Tannins are powerful but approachable, while the acid and latent spice are more invigoratingly intimidating. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$140

94 Mastroberardino 2017 Naturalis Historia Riserva (Taurasi). The nose is smoky and gamy, with aromas of cured meat, dry dirt, tar and pepper, but also features a powerful fruit component that takes over on the palate with notes of raspberry, strawberry, cranberry and blood orange. A tidal wave of acid crashes over taut yet dusty tannins. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$150

94 Mastroberardino 2017 Radici Riserva (Taurasi). The nose is tart, spicy and assertive, with aromas of blackberries, pepper and hot iron. On the palate, black cherries bolster the blackberry tartness, before new intrigue comes in the form of a fresh herbaceousness and a coffee bitterness. Acid punches past strong yet silent tannins. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$79

93 Di Meo 2015 Salza Iripina Vigna Olmo Riserva (Taurasi). The floral nose spotlights roses, cherries and sour plums, but savory undertones of rust and dirt provide balance. On the palate, that tension between sour fruit and tangy metal is softened by the freshness of stone and the warmth of herbs. Smooth, powerful acid flows around ferocious tannins. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$67

93 Mastroberardino 2018 Radici (Taurasi). The nose is heavy with dark fruit and flowers, but edgier, slightly spicy aromas of graphite and pepper provide balance. On the palate, the fruit sweetens but is balanced by bitter dark chocolate, before an overwhelming earthiness arrives riding an avalanche of dusty tannins, and a rush of acid harkens back to the subtle metallic tang of the nose. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

92 Villa Matilde 2018 Pietrafusa (Taurasi). An earthy, wet nose of dewy leaves and soil after a storm gets some sparkle from undertones of plum and cherry. The cool, astringent palate continues balancing the dirt and cherry elements, while

streamlined acid glides past slick yet tough tannins. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE

94 Grifalco 2019 Daginestra (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). The nose is sophisticated and almost melancholic, yet still warm, with aromas of leather, rust, oregano, dried cherries and orange zest. On the palate, the textured cherry and orange elements are underscored by emergent dried cranberry and dark chocolate notes. Firm tannins channel a stream of chili pepper that becomes a flood on the finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

94 Grifalco 2019 Damaschito (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). The savory, intensely umami nose features aromas of balsamic, soy sauce, seaweed and dried cherries and figs. The palate is dense with those dusty fruit notes, which are underscored by a sudden flood of salty dark chocolate. Acid gleams around powerful tannins. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

93 D'Angelo 2017 Tecum (Aglianico del Vulture). The earthy, metallic nose is headlined by aromas of graphite, gunpowder and tobacco, but an undertone of very sweet blackberries provides some pop. The blackberry element swells on the palate, although the overall smoky, gamy feel persists. Acid simmers around structured, imposing tannins. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 Grifalco 2021 (Aglianico del Vulture). The decadent nose features aromas of blackberries, tar and a potent coffee element, with a touch of roses for levity. The palate leans into the blackberry and coffee notes, with black cherry and chocolate. Chewy, dusty tannins create a rich, structured mouthfeel, making this wine feel both refined and accessible. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

92 D'Angelo 2018 Caselle (Aglianico del Vulture). The smoky, metallic nose asserts aromas of cigars, grilled meat, coffee grinds and soil, along with balancing notes of astringent fruit. The fruit sweetens on the palate, although the peppery earthiness of the nose persists through a fresh, minty finish. Acid gleams above smooth yet firm tannins. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Grifalco 2021 Gricos (Aglianico del Vulture). A warm nose offers cranberries, dried cherries, hibiscus, fennel and sun-soaked stones. Those elements all continue onto the palate, where they're bolstered by undertones of orange zest and licorice. A wine to come back to again and again and again—a steal at this price. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 D'Angelo 2020 Canneto (Aglianico del Vulture). The nose is simultaneously floral and earthy, with aromas of roses, black cherry, fennel, licorice, soil and tar. Black cherries and blackberries headline the palate, but a blast of mint bolsters the fennel and licorice notes to maintain a herbaceous, fresh feel. Tannins have a tight grip, but not a suffocating one. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 D'Angelo 2021 (Aglianico del Vulture). The nose features aromas of black plum and pomegranate, plus balancing savory notes of pepper, warm earth and cured meat. The palate is more fruit-forward, before a slightly bitter, almost medicinal finish. Tannins are fierce and acid is absolutely scorching. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

SALENTO

90 Azienda Agricola Rocca 2021 Podere don Cataldo Negroamaro (Salento). The nose starts with a splash of creamer in hot coffee, then evolves into weightier aromas of blackberries, soil, oregano and pepper. On the slick, round palate, cherries bolster the blackberry element, while a drizzle of chocolate brings out more coffee notes. Acid gleams around plush tannins. Lanval Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 Le Perle della Campagna 2022 Primitivo (Salento). The floral, perfumed nose features notes of wild strawberries and cherries, along with a savory, fresh point of contrast from topsoil. The palate is also defined by that balance between fruit and earthy astringency, while substantial acid flows through chalky tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Azienda Agricola Rocca 2019 Podere don Cataldo Susumaniello (Salento). On the nose, the tartness of black cherries and blackberries is balanced by warm, savory aromas of herbs, spices, earth and coffee. The berries turn sweeter and juicier on the palate, although a bite of licorice maintains balance. Tannins and acid are relaxed and easygoing. Lanval Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$12

88 Indigenous 2020 Primitivo (Primitivo del Salento). The savory nose asserts powerful aromas of pepper and soil, before lighter, balancing notes of pencil shavings, tomato leaf and cherry cough drops emerge. On the palate, blackberries and wet slate underscore that black cherry freshness, while bright acid glints off taut tannins. Indigenous Selections. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

PUGLIA

90 Coppi 2020 Siniscalco Primitivo (Puglia). For full review see page 20. Wine 4 All. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Tenuta del Pajaru 2021 Mulu (Puglia). Floral and almost crunchy fresh on the nose, with aromas of roses, peonies, cherries and blackberries, with a stabilizing undercurrent of warm earth. On the palate, the fruit turns richer, with bitter dark chocolate and more flinty earth tones. Fine-grained, dusty tannins structure a warm finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

90 Tommasi 2019 Masseria Surani (Puglia). The nose leads with powerful fruit notes of cherry and strawberry, before balancing undertones of tea leaves and soil emerge. That interplay between fruit and dusty savoriness continues on the palate, where wet stones provide a freshness that's underscored by structured tannins and linear acid. Vintus LLC. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Botromagno 2021 Primitivo (Puglia). A savory nose of soil, mixed spices and herbs is balanced by the textured sweetness of wild strawberries and dried tomato. That interplay between earthiness and berries continues on the palate, with chalky tannins emphasizing the former. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

89 Marchese di Borgosole 2020 Appassimento (Puglia). On the nose, vanilla aromas play with blackberries and plums, but notes of herbs, soil and stone provide both freshness and a savory depth. Powerful chocolate flavors star on the palate, above an enduring fruit element. Big, round tannins pave the way to a hot, acidic finish. Silver Lake Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Primaterra 2020 Primitivo (Puglia). The nose leads with fruit notes of strawberry and raspberry, before sharper undertones of cinnamon, wood and pepper emerge. That blend of berries and peppery heat continues on the round palate, which is structured by polished tannins. Oracles Craft Brands. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

88 Torrevento 2021 Infinitum Primitivo (Puglia). The nose is light and warm, with notes of rose petals, peach, raspberry and rhubarb. On the palate, the fruit turns sweeter and juicier, like berry compote. Acid bounces around leisurely tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

92 Di Majo Norante 2016 Sassius Riserva (Aglianico del Molise). The deeply umami nose features aromas of balsamic, pepper, soil and iron, with an undertone of sun-dried tomato providing some levity. On the palate, a wave of tart fruit crashes over more leathery, meaty flavors, before a hot finish that's underscored by tightly wound tannins and acid. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Tenute Rubino 2020 Oltremé Rosso Susumaniello (Brindisi). The sanguine, savory nose features aromas of blood orange, warm bricks and metal in the hot summer sun, while a strawberry starburst provides pop. On the palate, an emergent cherry element emphasizes the strawberry note, before a rich, chocolaty finish. Dusty, chewy tannins contrast nicely with buoyant acid. Colangelo & Partners. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Coppi 2022 Senatore Primitivo (Gioia del Colle). The sweet nose features aromas of vanilla, coconut and strawberry shortcake. On the palate, a swirl of vanilla and milk chocolate soft serve further bolsters the berry sweetness, as does the satiny mouthfeel created by slick tannins, but acid provides a welcome contrast. Wine 4 All. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Leone de Castris 2021 Villa Santera (Primitivo di Manduria). The nose balances sweet aromas of vanilla and raspberry with savory notes of soil and pepper. On the palate, strawberries and blackberries join the raspberries, while a more powerful blaze of pepper brings more spice and earthiness. Acid cavorts around firm tannins. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$21

88 Leone de Castris 2019 Donna Lisa Riserva (Salice Salentino). On the nose, sweet vanilla and cherry bloom above savory elements of pepper, herbs and leather. The palate turns sweeter and more decadent, with milk chocolate swirling around flavors of black cherries and plums, before the pepper and herbs return on the finish. Chalky tannins highlight the chocolate notes. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

87 Vigneti del Salento 2019 Leggenda Vigne Vecchie Gold Series (Primitivo di Manduria). The nose leads with aromas of vanilla and spices, then evolves into a late-summer blend of soil, dried tomato, oregano, soil and strawberry. On the sweet, juicy palate, milk chocolate and raspberry flavors bolster the strawberry element. Gonzalez Byass USA. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

SICILY AND SARDINIA WHITE WINES

90 Tenuta di Castellaro 2022 Bianco Pomice (Terre Siciliane). The nose leads with the sweetness of lemons, apples and nuts, before more savory elements come into their own after a minute. The lightly astringent palate is citrus-heavy, but an enduring nuttiness preserves an overall savory feel. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

90 Tenuta di Castellaro 2022 Bianco Porticello (Terre Siciliane). The light nose features aromas of quince paste, lemongrass, and lychee. Those notes all continue onto the airy palate, which also draws a surprisingly pleasant soapiness from undertones of jasmine and citrus blossom. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Alessandro di Camporeale 2022 Kaid Sauvignon (Sicilia). The nose is heavy with stone fruit, especially white peaches, with faintly saline undertones of lime and stone. That salinity swells on the palate, which leans more toward the citrus notes but doesn't abandon the white peaches entirely. Acid buzzes in the background. Panebianco. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Cantine Colosi 2022 Bianco (Terre Siciliane). The nose is delicate and almost wistful, as the sweetness of vanilla and white flowers drift through more bracing aromas of salt and lemon. The citrus, floral theme continues onto the palate, for a sweet but not cloying wine. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Cantine Colosi 2022 Grillo (Sicilia). The fresh yet welcoming nose features aromas of white flowers, vanilla bean and lemon, while the palate leans into that lemon element and develops a sweet undertone of honeydew and a crackle of bitter almond. Acid languishes in the background. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 MandraRossa 2022 Chardonnay (Sicilia). The nose balances salinity and the tartness of lemon and yellow apple with a more grounded herbaceousness. The palate leans into the salt and the citrus, before a subtly nutty, grassy note on the finish that ensures cohesion. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

ETNA

93 Pietradolce 2022 Archineri (Etna). The nose is heavy with citrus and stone fruit, but a subtle floral aroma adds elegance. The palate starts out also citrus-forward, before deeper, richer fla-

vors of nuts, honey and herbs emerge. A saline finish brings a pleasant, unifying coolness. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$48

92 Alta Mora 2022 (Etna). The nose is defined by light, floral aromas of yellow apple, pear, lemon and white flowers, while warm, stony undertones provide balance. The palate is citrus-forward, with the tree-fruit elements also enduring, before a faintly nutty, salty finish that gets a gentle boost from easygoing acid. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$31

92 Ciclopi 2021 Bianco (Etna). The sunny yet refreshing nose features aromas of lemon, honey, peaches and iced tea, while a warm pavement undertone acts as an affirming anchor. The more savory palate is defined by a powerful tea leaf element, but the notes of lemon and stone from the nose endure to create a sense of unity, before things wrap up with a bitter almond finish. Vera Wine & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Palmento Costanzo 2021 Bianco di Sei (Etna). The fresh, clean nose features aromas of lemon, lime, tennis ball, honeydew and stone, before a palate that's powerfully citrusy yet also draws sweetness from a more assertive stone fruit element. A current of salt flows into a warm, acidic finish. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$44

90 Filippo Grasso 2022 Mari di Ripiddu (Etna). The nose starts sweet and tropical, with aromas of vanilla, cedar and pineapple, then turns savory with notes of preserved lemon, herbs and brown butter. The palate leans into the savory even as the fruit remains present, before things finish salty and acidic. Shiverick Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

90 Pennisi 2022 Etnaide (Etna). For full review see page 16. Riboli Family Wine Estates.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

OTHER WHITE WINE

89 Cantine Colosi 2022 Bianco (Salina). A sweet nose is headlined by peach candy and ripe apricots with the fizzy citrus of lemon-lime soda. The palate leans into the citrus, but that peach sweetness persists even against an emergent bite of salted grapefruit and lively acid. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

92 Palmento Costanzo 2022 Mofete (Etna). The savory, earthy nose is headlined by aromas of warm bricks and dried herbs, but undertones of peach tea and dewy rose petals bring a balancing,

gentle sweetness. The palate is tart, salty and lively with acid bouncing around silky tannins. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

90 Ciclopi 2022 Rosato (Etna). A saline, metallic nose features notes of soil, grapefruit, tangerine and pennies, before a nose crackling with caramelized sugar draws out that barely-there sweetness of the grapefruit element. Vera Wine & Spirits. —D.C.

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

88 Surrau 2022 Gjola Caricagiola (Colli del Limbara). The nose is incredibly floral, with notes of lilies, peaches and pink grapefruit, but the tart astringency of the grapefruit provides a savory depth. On the palate, strawberries costar with the peaches, before the grapefruit element resurfaces for a sudden, citrusy kick. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

SICILY AND SARDINIA RED WINES

95 Benanti 2019 Nerello Cappuccio (Terre Siciliane). An alluring play between the sweetness of strawberries and rose water and the savory, vegetal aromas of tomato leaf, oregano and tea leaves on the nose rolls onto a palate that takes the fruit and herbaceousness and adds a liberal sprinkling of sea salt, while tannins watch enviously as acid lunges unrestrained. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

94 Benanti 2020 Nerello Cappuccio (Terre Siciliane). A savory nose features aromas of strawberry, red currants, old leather and white pepper, while the palate is fresher and more fruit-forward with notes of strawberry jam and raspberries, although an earthy undertone and more pepper bring balance and cohesion. Acid crackles above tannins that nip at your heels. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

93 Pietradolce 2019 Sant'Andrea (Terre Siciliane). The savory, umami nose of aged pecorino, warm pavement and wild herbs sits in exciting tension with the sweetness of honey and the tartness of lemons. The indulgent yet refreshing palate is tannic and nutty but also persistently citrusy, while that umami note is joined by a subtle earthiness to set up a bitter almond-skin finish. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$130

92 Tenuta di Castellaro 2020 Nero Ossidiana (Terre Siciliane). On the nose, sweet fruit aromas of cherry and strawberry contrast with earthy, herbaceous notes of crisp leather and oregano. On the palate, a milk-chocolate undertone underlines the strawberry sweetness, but a latent,

peppery earthiness preserves balance. Acid soars above chewy, insistent tannins. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 Tenuta di Castellaro 2020 Corinto (Terre Siciliane). The fresh yet textured nose features aromas of vanilla, spices, sour cherries, fresh coffee and pepper, while the sweeter palate is headlined by the vanilla and sweeter cherry elements, along with notes of strawberry, cream, caramel and salted milk chocolate. Tannins and acid are both strong but flexible. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

91 Tenuta di Castellaro 2019 Corinto (Terre Siciliane). An umami, earthy nose features aromas of hot iron, balsamic, soil and herbs, but also the tart sparkle of wild cherries. On the palate, strawberries and chocolate bolster the fruit notes, before anise and more umami notes reappear. Tannins are graceful, while acid glimmers in the background. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Baglio Diar 2021 Nedda (Sicilia). The nose features both rich fruit notes of strawberry jam and wild cherry and fresher, more piercing aromas of orange zest, fennel, salt and pepper. The palate leans into the fruit but also preserves that crunchy vibrancy, while tannins are present but not domineering. Sete. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 MandraRossa 2022 Nero D'Avola (Sicilia). The nose is primarily floral and earthy, with aromas of high-toned red fruit. The palate shifts to rich, mature cherry and berry flavors, but a salty, acidic streak cuts through all that fruit before tannins send everyone home. Palm Bay International. —D.C.

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

90 Sibiliana 2022 Roceno Nerello Mascalese (Terre Siciliane). The nose starts with astringent yet rich aromas of plums and boysenberries, then evolves into bitter cocoa and fresh mint. On the palate, sweeter flavors of orange and cherry emerge, while a gentle florality and enduring mint notes provide levity in the face of taut tannins and vibrant acid. Tita Italian Import & Export. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

ETNA

94 Alta Mora 2019 Guardiola (Etna). The nose leads with sweet, bright aromas of strawberry and raspberry, then becomes savory and wild with notes of tar, earth and herbs. On the palate, a gentle floral note turns the fruit elements sweeter and more delicate, but the earth tones linger while acid gusts against a curtain of refined tannins. Terlatto Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 Pietradolce 2020 Santo Spirito (Etna). The nose is full of bright, energetic notes of cherry, strawberry and blood orange, but undertones of sage and pencil shavings provide depth and nuance. On the palate, a crackle of pepper unveils the bitterness of the orange notes, while textured tannins and bright acid bolster the citrus sourness. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

93 Pietradolce 2020 Archineri (Etna). A floral, herbaceous nose features notes of sage, oregano, tomato, roses and peonies. On the palate, a dash of balsamic and a sprinkle of pepper add further nuance to the waltz of savory and floral. Tannins emphasize the earthiness, while the acid introduces a fruit element that is both sweet and tart. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Alta Mora 2019 Feudo di Mezzo (Etna). The primarily earthy, savory nose features aromas of stone, herbs and dirt, but with notes of cherry, strawberry and bergamot providing balance. The palate is more fruit-forward, with a pinch of salt adding nuance, while acid soars above finely tuned tannins. Terlatto Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

92 Pietradolce 2022 (Etna). The predominantly cool, fresh and earthy nose also features astringent, subtly warm aromas of tea leaves, hibiscus, plums, cranberries and orange peels. On the palate, those sour fruit notes are accentuated by almost metallic overtones of citrus and pepper. Acid fizzles in the background. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Alta Mora 2020 (Etna). The nose balances the astringency of hibiscus, cranberries and pomegranate with the warmth of bricks, dirt, salt and pepper. The palate features denser, darker fruit notes, which gradually sink into undercurrents of chocolate and coffee. Acid blazes around towering tannins, sending off potent sparks of spice. Terlatto Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

91 Filippo Grasso 2020 Ripiddu (Etna). A savory, umami nose of balsamic, seaweed and damp earth draws balance from the astringent sweetness of pomegranates and figs. On the palate, a syrupy cherry flavor bolsters the pomegranate element, but a savory, salty, even meaty overall feel is emphasized by energetic acid. Shiverick Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

91 Planeta 2021 (Etna). The nose toes the line between sweet and savory, as initial aromas of bitter chocolate, coffee, anise and soil dance with emergent cherry and strawberry notes. The fruit is more assertive on the palate, but the savory elements refuse to be silenced, while acid dances through a crowd of taut tannins. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

ISOLA DEI NURAGHI

90 Vinicola Cherchi 2020 Cagnulari (Isola dei Nuraghi). The nose leads with strawberries and raspberries, then pivots to earthy, savory aromas of meat, leather and lead. That gentle tension between berries and earth continues on the palate, before a hot finish that's framed by accommodating tannins and acid that's noticeable without being overpowering. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

89 Vinicola Cherchi 2021 Billia Cagnulari (Isola dei Nuraghi). The nose starts with dark, decadent fruit aromas of black cherry and blackberry, before savory, spicy aromas of herbs and pepper come into their own. The bright, lively palate features more cherries, boysenberries and plums, along with a latent, flinty heat. A fun, energetic wine. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

88 Audarya 2021 Nuracada Bovale (Isola dei Nuraghi). The nose is floral and sweet, with notes of peonies, roses, strawberries and raspberries. On the palate, saline and citrus notes balance the flowers and fruit, while acid fizzles past grippy tannins. Elevation Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

88 I Garagisti di Sorgono 2020 Parisi (Isola dei Nuraghi). The nose is primarily umami, with aromas of mushrooms and damp earth, but a drizzle of medicinal cherry syrup provides some sparkle. The juicy, fresh palate leans into the fruit element, which is bolstered by harmonious tannins and acid. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

OTHER RED WINES

94 Valle dell'Acate 2015 Tanè (Vittoria). The nose shows the sophistication of age, as powerful aromas of figs and dried cherries are simultaneously bolstered and balanced by the weighty sweetness of milk chocolate and brown butter. On the luxurious, indulgent palate, a more energetic cherry note is balanced by a dark-chocolate undercurrent. Acid slithers through taut, well-organized tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

88 Cantine Colosi 2021 Salina Rosso (Salina). The nose leads by splashing creamer into freshly brewed coffee, then gives way to the freshness of cherries and orange zest, which is balanced by a latent earthiness. A wave of cherry cola washes over the palate before the orange zest reappears on a floral finish. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$27

ITALIAN WHITE WINES

93 Nino Franco 2017 Grave di Stecca (Vino Spumante). Aromas of ripe orchard fruits and delicate floral notes dance in harmony as wet stone aromas slowly follow. Its lively palate whippers of citrus flavors wrapped in a creamy texture, leading to a refined, enduring finish; like a symphony, everything is in perfect harmony and time. Terlato Wines International. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$54

92 Possa NV Principe Jacopo (Liguria). Captivating aromas of a fresh sea breeze intertwined with hints of wild herbs and lemon zest. Its palate is a refreshing splash of salinity and lemon curd, mirroring the coastal cliffs from which it hails. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

91 Possa NV U Giancu (Liguria). Savory aromas alongside wild sage, brush, and pine needles open the nose of this enticing wine. Mouthwatering and energetic on the palate, the wine shows salted lemon, candied orange zest and crushed chalk on the zippy finish. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

90 Cantina San Biagio Vecchio 2021 Cacciabruzzo (Ravenna). With warmed honey and dried floral aromas, accompanied by an herbal touch, this wine evokes the ambience of a serene garden bathed in golden sunlight. Bolstered by its firm structure, the wine delivers on the palate with roasted orchard fruits that are framed by a sea-salt minerality and vibrant acidity. Skin Contact Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

90 Filippo Grasso 2022 Carrico 68.8 (Italy). The nose is tart, citrusy, salty and slightly stony. Those elements all remain on the palate, with the citrus growing even tarter en route to a bitter almond finish. Acid absolutely sparkles above it all, creating an incredibly fresh and fun wine. Shiverick Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

90 Masari NV Leon Metodo Classico Dosaggio Zero (Vino Spumante). Energetic and vibrant from the moment the cork pops, this wine opens with citrus, stone fruit and fresh lily aromas. Bright, yet with a cream texture from the elegant perlage that helps the citrus oil, white peach and subtle mineral notes lift on the palate. Panebianco. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

90 Possa 2021 Cinque Terre (Liguria). Sun-baked lemons with flowering thyme and sea-salt aromas define the nose of this wine from the steep hills of the Cinque Terra. Mouthfilling but with zippy acidity that seems to cleanse the palate with each sip, the wine is full of dried citrus and pressed flowers. It tastes of its place, sunbathed rocks, crashing waves and greenery all around.

Transport to Liguria via this bottle. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$38

88 Ca' dei Frati 2021 Pratto (Italy). This Sauvignon Blanc opens with aromas of citrus and grapefruit with pithy notes. The palate offers a rounded and lush profile with jarred peaches and crushed stone, presenting a vibrant and versatile profile. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 Corte Sermana NV Palafitte Spumante (Lugana). Delicate aromas of white peach, green apple and blooming jasmine. On the palate, it reveals a creamy effervescence, with notes of ripe pear and a touch of brioche, reflecting the sun-kissed shores of Lugana. Summit Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$32

88 Olivini 2020 Metodo Classico Brut (Lugana). Delicate aromas of white peach, green apple and blooming jasmine. On the palate, it reveals a creamy effervescence, with notes of ripe pear and a touch of brioche, reflecting the sun-kissed shores of Lugana. Tradizione Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$33

88 Villabella 2022 (Lugana). Aromas of mango, papaya and pineapple open the nose of this fruit-forward wine. Ripe and grilled tropical fruits with a hint of cream shine on the palate as a pop of acidity on the finish keeps the wine fresh and fun. Lentino Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

85 Vivace NV Semi-sweet (Italy). This semi-sweet sparkling wine delights with aromas of peach and fresh floral aromas. It has a vibrant and fresh structure reminiscent of freshly chopped apples with a squeeze of lemon. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 5% Price: \$15

ITALIAN ROSÉ WINES

87 Tommasi 2022 Le Fornaci (Italy). The super-savory nose features aromas of parmigiano, cherry tomatoes, herbs, dirt and orange zest, before things turn sweeter on the palate as cherry notes bring out the sweetness of the oranges. The finish serves a salty, savory bite. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

86 Badia al Colle NV (Vino Rosato d'Italia). The nose is simultaneously light and sharp, with aromas of grapefruit, sage and pennies, along with a medicinal cherry element. The tension between savory and citrus escalates on the palate, before the cherry undertone swells suddenly on the finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

ITALIAN RED WINES

89 Umani Ronchi 2022 Fonte del Re (Lacrime di Morro d'Alba). Distilled roses captured in a bottle along with aromas of tart, macerated sour cherries and wild herbs define the nose of this wine. Lush and round, the palate is loaded with a bowl of ripe red berries with lingering floral and spicy notes on the finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Fantini 2020 Three Dreamers (Italy). On the nose, initial aromas of vanilla, coconut and dill reflect time spent in oak, before notes of dark berries and mint chocolate take center stage. The palate is intensely rich with those berry and chocolate elements, until a minty, cooling gust. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$80

88 Filodivino 2020 Diana (Lacrime di Morro d'Alba). A mélange of berries macerating in their own juices and a massive bouquet of blue and purple flower aromas lift from the glass of this heady and super interesting red wine. The aromas of the palate are directly translated to the easy and soft palate as the wine's pop of acidity keeps the wine fresh. Filodivino. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

ALSACE

RIESLING

95 Trimbach 2018 Clos Ste Hune Riesling (Alsace). Like heavy velvet in texture and weight, but so fine and elegant, this well-focused Riesling possesses a backbone of mouth-watering acidity and offers layers of durian, pineapple, pickled ginger, pink grapefruit candy and stony mineral with a long, savory finish. It is refined and complex, only starting to reveal all of its facets. Drink now–2035. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$480

93 Domaines Schlumberger 2017 Le Clos Saint-Léger Riesling (Alsace). This dry, broad-shouldered version has developed nicely over the years, revealing ample minerality with finely layered flavors of papaya, melon, star fruit and ground white pepper. The finish is long and inviting. It is powerful and heavy, but driven by piercing acidity that should help this go the distance. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$400

93 Trimbach 2018 Geisberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This is powerful and full bodied, but the crackling acidity tightens its waist. The flavors of fresh quince, crunchy apricot, honeysuckle, lanolin and ginger are subtle today, but should become more expressive with time. The finish features a tactile mineral element and it's salty even.

This is a great food wine, especially for pork or sausage. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

92 Trimbach 2019 Mandelberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). A paraffin aroma waft from the glass of this pure, vibrant and finely knit white, underscoring the palate's raw jujube and cantaloupe fruit, pickled ginger, floral and pink-grapefruit pith flavors. The acidity is the key here, creating a crystalline structure and a fine frame, and leading this to a long finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$120

91 Trimbach 2019 Brand Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Although fuller in body, this is very fine and focused—even zesty—with notes of grapefruit and shaved ginger framing the core of quince, apple and gooseberry. Petrol note emerges on the long, well-defined finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

89 Bennwihr 2022 Tradition Riesling (Alsace). An elegant and lighter version, with apple flavors and hints of lime and jasmine. Well knit, featuring firm but well-integrated acidity and a crunchy, mineral texture. Diagonal Links. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

89 Trimbach 2021 Vieilles Vignes Riesling (Alsace). Harmonious and supple, this combines peach and mineral notes with a moderately firm structure. It turns drier on the finish, with a lingering aftertaste of orchard blossom. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

PINOT BLANC

88 Trimbach 2022 Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Floral notes lace this dry white, with a stony underpinning carrying the broad palate of white peach and candied lemon with a clean-cut, fresh finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

CRÉMANT D'ALSACE

88 Bennwihr NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Lively and aromatic, with a ripe and juicy strawberry note, showing accents of violet, raw almond, pastry cream and ground spice. Diagonal Links. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Domaine Charles Baur NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). This features notes of marzipan and quince paste, underscored by vibrant acidity and hints of sea salt. A subtle graphite accent chimes in on the finish. VOS Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Etienne Simonis NV Extra Brut Sparkling Blend (Alsace). Lovely brioche, lemon curd and honeysuckle notes frame the core of yellow apple and pear fruit flavors. Offers a broad, toasty finish. Jeffrey Alpert Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

87 Anne de K NV Anne de Laweiss Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Lively with ground ginger and honeysuckle notes around a core of yellow apple and pear fruit flavors. Offers a zingy finish. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Mure NV Prestige Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Graphite and ginger notes race along in front of a core of lightly baked apple, and hazelnut husk, in this sparkler. Shows good cut on the finish. H2 Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

86 Bestheim NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Alsace). Tangy acidity playing off the flavors of cherry granita and candied grapefruit zest in this sparkling rosé. Easy drinking, with a modest finish. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

CHAMPAGNE

VINTAGE

96 Gosset 2012 Celebris Brut (Champagne). A seriously mature Champagne, this vintage of Celebris is rich with fruit that has now softened. With rich acidity, the wine has now rounded with a beautifully textured wine that is very ready to drink. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$230

95 Champagne Telmont 2012 Parcelle sous Adrien Extra Brut (Champagne). This is a release from the single parcel range of Champagnes from this producer whose slogan is “in the name of Mother Nature.” It is certainly a mature wine, profiting from the quality of the parcel. It is rich, now firing on all cylinders, an impressive wine that is beautifully ready to drink. Remy Cointreau USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

94 Fernand Lemaire 2012 Millésime Brut (Champagne). Aged for eight years before disgorgement, this Champagne is mature, balanced, while still full of life. Its acidity and fruits are now just right, giving a wine that is beautifully ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Canard-Duchêne 2012 Cuvée V Vintage Brut Nature (Champagne). This mature Champagne shows some great toastiness as well as the white fruits that give it richness. It is a full wine, the bone-dry intensity now softened by age. Drink

BUYINGGUIDE

this impressive wine now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$105

93 De Saint Gall 2012 Orpale Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Brut (Champagne). A blend of Chardonnay from three Grand Cru villages on the Côte des Blancs give this Champagne both toasty maturity and rich white apple and lemon aromas. The wine has a long, intense flavor and a dense texture showing a vivid aftertaste. Drink this wine now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$140

93 Philippe Fourrier 2016 Intimiste Grande Cuvée Extra Brut (Champagne). This is a limited production Chardonnay from selected vineyards. Perfumed and with a fine flowery character, the Champagne is mineral and taut. The bottling of this prestige cuvée is ready to drink. J & J Winery. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$180

92 Philippe Fontaine 2016 (Champagne). From the village of Les Riceys in the Aube, the Fontaines specialize in Pinot Noir blends. This Champagne is made entirely from Pinot Noir. It has some maturity under its belt, giving a touch of toastiness while the ripe fruit is still present. The wine is rich, full and ready to drink. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

90 Philippe Fontaine 2019 Cuvée des Lys Brut (Champagne). Pinot Blanc tends to be the forgotten variety of Champagne. Here it shows its character, perfumed and full of white fruits. The wine is ripe, open and ready to drink. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$77

NON VINTAGE

95 Gosset NV 12 Ans en Cave a Minima Rosé (Champagne). Long aging in Gosset's cellars has given this rosé Champagne great richness. It is still textured and nervy with a line of minerality alongside the freshness. It is now a perfectly mature wine that is ready to drink. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$160

94 Fernand Lemaire NV Myra Extra Brut (Champagne). Although not described as a Blanc de Blancs, that is what this Champagne is. Aged for five years in the producer's cellars before disgorgement, it is a well-matured wine, showing a tight minerality as well as white fruits and fine acidity. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Fernand Lemaire NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Established in 1903, this producer has vines in the Hautvillers region, one of

the most prestigious in Champagne. This Blanc de Blancs is textured and with minerality but also with fine acidity and just a touch of maturity. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$85

92 Canard-Duchêne NV Charles VII Brut Rosé (Champagne). Aged for four years before disgorgement, this Champagne has fine red fruit and citrus flavors well integrated. A light minerality is apparent, giving the texture a tang at the end. Drink now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$77

92 Pommery 2009 Grand Cru Royal Brut (Champagne). With a blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, this Reims-based producer has created a fine, ripe and mature Champagne. It is a rich wine, while showing texture and balance. The aftertaste brings a fresh wind. Drink now. Vranken Pommery America. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Baron Albert NV L'Universelle Brut (Champagne). With wood aging before bottling, this Champagne feels rich. It is full of Pinot Meunier in the blend, giving a luxurious character with fine acidity keeping everything fresh. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

91 Canard-Duchêne NV Charles VII Blanc de Noirs Brut (Champagne). With Pinot Noir to the fore, this Champagne, named after the King of France who defeated the English to end the Hundred Years War, has richness and a light touch of tannin. The dosage offers a warm, ripe aftertaste. Drink now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$77

91 Fernand Lemaire NV Grande Réserve Extra Brut (Champagne). From Hautvillers, one of the classic villages of Champagne, the wine is dry but packed with fruit. It is balanced, rich with white fruits, streaked with citrus. The light mousse fits well into this wine. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Pommery NV Blanc de Blancs Apanage Brut (Champagne). Full and ripe, while also textured, this is a rich wine. Its Chardonnay character shows with the taut edge of acidity and nervy aftertaste. Drink now. Vranken Pommery America. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$72

90 Baron Albert NV Enchanteresse Brut Rosé (Champagne). Fine, red currant and white-fruit flavors show strongly in this soft Champagne. The wine is textured with dominance by Pinot Meunier and bright acidity at the end. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

90 Baron Albert NV La Pimpante Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Fermented and

aged in wood before bottling, this Champagne is rich and full. Its white fruits are ripe and textured, while also showing the warmth from the Aube region. The wine is ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

90 Fernand Lemaire NV Tradition Rosé Brut (Champagne). A light style, fresh and refreshing, this is a deliciously crisp Champagne. With hints of red fruits and citrus, the wine is balanced, fruity and ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Philippe Fontaine NV Prestige Brut (Champagne). A blend that includes Pinot Blanc, which is planted in the Aube, this Champagne exudes richness and layers of white fruits. There is a touch of minerality to an otherwise smooth texture. Fruit and acidity are in fine balance. Drink the bottling now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$66

90 Philippe Fourrier NV Réserve Brut (Champagne). A Pinot Noir-dominant blend, this nonvintage Champagne is rich and full with generous fruits. Its acidity is balanced, but with a relatively high dosage giving a fine wine that is soft at the end. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

90 Pommery NV Brut Royal (Champagne). The familiar nonvintage Champagne from this producer is ripe, soft and deliciously balanced. It is a ripe wine, with a fresher, crisp and textured element that gives style as well as richness. Drink now. Vranken Pommery America. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Pommery NV Brut Rosé Royal (Champagne). A blend of the three main Champagne varieties, the result here—with a bit of red skin in the blend—is a pale rosé. With just a touch of tannin to give structure and an edge of minerality, the bottling is young while balanced. It is fruity, red fruits in the background. Drink now. Vranken Pommery America. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

89 Baron Albert NV Brut Tradition (Champagne). This producer in the Aube region concentrates on the red Pinot Meunier grape. This ripe wine has a ripe, soft and generous character with hints of maturity. Drink the wine now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

89 Canard-Duchêne NV Brut (Champagne). Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier are blended in almost equal proportions in this Champagne. It is a fruity wine, with a touch of minerality and a vivid, youthful aftertaste. Drink now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$47

89 Canard-Duchêne NV Charles VII Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). With a minimum of four years aging, this Champagne has a soft character that is given backbone by the minerality from Chardonnay. Crisp apple flavors give a fruity aftertaste. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$77

89 Fernand Lemaire NV Tradition Brut (Champagne). A blend of a third each of Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir, the producer's nonvintage Champagne is rich with ripe fruits and perfumed acidity. It is balanced and ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Renard-Barnier NV Cuvée Spéciale Brut (Champagne). This is a rich style of Champagne from the Côte de Sézanne, south of Epernay. It is lightly textured with ripe fruits and balancing acidity with a fine line in vivid apple flavors. Drink now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Canard-Duchêne NV Rosé Brut (Champagne). In a soft style with a relatively high dosage, this Champagne is ripe and fruity. It has red-berry flavors alongside a good dollop of acidity at the end. Drink now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$54

88 Champagne Brigitte Delmotte NV Brut Réserve (Champagne). This Champagne, produced by winemaker Julien Fourrier in honor of his mother, is a ripe, rich wine, full in the mouth and with red apple and spice flavors. It is ready to drink. J & J Winery. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

88 De Saint Gall NV Le Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Brut (Champagne). Lemon and green-apple aromas meet tight stony minerality from Chardonnay grown on the Côte des Blancs. The Grand Cru status shows in the Champagne's tight texture that enables the fresh fruits and a nervy aftertaste. The wine is ready to drink. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

88 De Saint Gall NV Le Tradition (Champagne). A high 66% of aged reserve wine give this Champagne a sense of maturity. Almond and toast aromas are lifted by citrus flavors. The blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay is satisfyingly ripe with rich fruits, shot through with acidity. This wine is ready to drink. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Philippe Fontaine NV Rosé de Saignée Brut (Champagne). A rosé produced by extracting color from the skins of the grapes (rather than the usual addition of red wine), this Champagne has a light structure to go with the ripe red fruits. The

wine is taut, textured and ready to drink. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$57

88 Philippe Fontaine NV Tradition (Champagne). Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir are blended together in the nonvintage Champagne of this producer. They give a ripe wine, with rich white fruits, lightly tangy and textured. It is ready to drink. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$51

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

90 Château Fleur Cardinale 2021 Intuition (Bordeaux Blanc). With a blend that includes a good proportion of perfumed Sauvignon Gris, the white wine from this Saint-Emilion estate is ripe and full. Spice and hedgerow perfumes give this wine attractive complexity. Drink it from later this year. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Château Le Grand Verdu 2021 Grande Réserve (Bordeaux Blanc). Made from Sémillon vines up to 70-years-old, this wine is ripe and fruity. It has layers of spice along with the beginnings of a fine creamy, full character. It is a delicious wine that will be ready later this year. Vinera Wine Society. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

88 Château la Freynelle 2023 (Bordeaux Blanc). With its grassy Sauvignon Blanc flavors, this is crisp and fresh young wine. A herbal edge is mitigated by the creamier Sémillon in the blend. Drink the wine from later this year. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Bernard Magrez 2022 Bernard Magrez Bordeaux (Bordeaux Blanc). A citrus fresh wine that is crisp and bright. The wine has weight and richness. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Château Virevalois 2023 Sauvignon (Bordeaux Blanc). Mainly Sauvignon Blanc with just a touch of Sémillon, the wine is fruity and herbal. Its grassy edge needs to soften to bring out the potential of the citrus flavors. Drink from later this year. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

88 Monfollet le Valentin 2023 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux). Rich and fine dense white fruits with toast from wood aging. The packed character of

this wine is lifted by lively acidity. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 Monfollet le Valentin 2023 Cuvée M (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux). Blending Savignon Blanc and Sauvignon Gris, this wine is dominated by youthful herbal flavors. It is toasty from wood aging, still young with youthful acidity. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Monfollet le Valentin 2023 Cuvée M (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux). As a blend of Savignon Blanc and Sauvignon Gris, this wine is dominated by youthful herbal flavors. It is toasty from wood aging, still young with youthful acidity. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

87 Château Monfollet 2023 Icône (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux). Bright, young and fruity, this is a crisp wine with a toasty element from wood aging. The wine is rich, textured with a spicy backdrop. Drink this wine from 2025. One Vine Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

SAUTERNES

92 Château de Rolland 2022 (Sauternes). While the wine is young, it has all the makings of a fine wine. Its acidity contrasts with the spice and layers of developing botrytis to give a wine ready for further aging. Drink from 2026. Organic. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Graves 2020 (Sauternes). Owned by the same family for four generations, currently Michel and Florence Bernard, this estate is situated at the heart of Barsac. The taste revels in its developing botrytis and richness, while guarding fresh acidity, ripe orange marmalade and great style. Drink from 2026. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Château Bastor-Lamontagne 2018 Les Remparts de Bastor-Lamontagne (Sauternes). This is the second wine of Bastor-Lamontagne. It is already developed and ready to drink. The botrytis richness and sweetness are integrated into a ripe character that shows balance. Acidity and marmalade flavors give the wine a juicy character. Organic. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

91 Château Lamourette 2016 (Sauternes). The wine's richness is now reaching its peak. The acidity that balances the ripe yellow fruit and mango flavors offers dense botrytis and spice from the wood aging. Drink from 2025. Alain Junguenet Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

90 **Château Lapinesse 2022 Cuvée L (Sauternes).** This poised wine is young, full of sweet orange flavors and with a tangy texture. It has juicy acidity that still needs to fully integrate to bring out the botrytis. Drink the wine from 2027. Road Cru. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

90 **Château Laville 2018 (Sauternes).** The wine, now in its mature phase, is ripe and dense. The botrytis has filled out and fully integrated giving sweet apricot and spice flavors. It is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$47

89 **Château de Rolland 2020 (Sauternes).** While the wine is labeled as Sauternes, it does in fact come from Barsac, which explains its lightness and elegance. At its core, dense botrytis brings richness and concentration. Drink this wine from 2025. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 **Château Cantegril 2018 (Barsac).** Owned by the Dubourdieu family, this estate with a long history has produced a wonderfully balanced and poised wine. It has richness along with orange marmalade flavors, but is also light and lined with acidity. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Bernard Magrez 2022 L'Ame de Pape Clément (Graves).** With its touches of Muscadelle and Sauvignon Gris, this is a fine herbal and green-fruit-flavored wine. It has freshness alongside the richness of the ripe fruit. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Celene NV Opalie Brut Blanc de Blancs (Crémant de Bordeaux).** From Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon with a touch of Muscadelle, this is a fresh while also rounded sparkling wine. It has a fine balance that gives it poise between fruit and texture. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

89 **Celene NV Ballaran Cuvée Noble Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux).** From the heart of the Entre-deux-Mers, this sparkling wine is softly textured. Its open red-apple flavors and hints of toast give a touch of maturity. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

88 **Château Goudichaud 2022 (Graves de Vayres).** Light oak aging has softened the wine's intense Sauvignon Blanc flavors. It is still fresh with a rounded character that gives it a balance between richness and crispness. Drink now. Serendipity Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

BORDEAUX ROSÉ

88 **Vignobles André Lurton 2022 Diane (Bordeaux Rosé).** This soft wine with its high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon is rich and full of red-berry flavors. The wine is lightly juicy, balanced and ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. RBE Drinks. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 **Château la Freynelle 2023 (Bordeaux Rosé).** Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is fruity and ripe. Acidity keeps it all fresh and emphasizes the wine's blend of red fruit and citrus flavors. Drink from later this year. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

86 **French Blue 2023 (Bordeaux Rosé).** This fresh and fruity wine is light and crisp. Its raspberry flavors are light and bright. The wine is simple and ready to drink. C. Mondavi and Family. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

BORDEAUX RED WINES

90 **Château Croix de Labrie 2020 Camille de Labrie (Bordeaux).** From this estate in Saint-Emilion comes a Bordeaux appellation blend. The wine is spicy and full of fresh, young black fruits. The wine's structure is dense, bursting with ripeness. Drink from 2025. Heidelberg Distribution. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Château les Songes 2022 (Bordeaux).** This a ripe, juicy wine with firm tannins and black fruits. It is solid, dense and full of structure. The wine needs to age further and will be ready from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2018 L'Instant Bécot (Bordeaux).** This is a smoky wine from the producers of a Saint-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé estate. With this pedigree, the wine has richness and dense black fruits. It needs to age further. Drink from 2025. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 **Château la Freynelle 2020 (Bordeaux).** This is a ripe wine, full of red fruits with further touches of black fruits. The tannins are still very present, needing to soften. The wine, though, has potential, so wait to drink until 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

89 **Château Moulin Boyer 2021 (Bordeaux).** This is a balanced wine with ripe black fruits and a core of firm tannins. It is juicy, still

structured with acidity and fine future. Drink from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 **Bernard Magrez 2022 Bernard Magrez Bordeaux (Bordeaux).** With its heavy bottle, this is obviously aimed to be a cut above normal Bordeaux. The wine, too, with its weight and richness is noticeably dense. It is a full wine, ready to drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Jamais Renoncer 2021 (Bordeaux).** Ripe and juicy, the wine has layers of black-berry fruits and tannins. The wine's structure suggests a good future. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château la Freynelle 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Bordeaux).** This wine, pure Cabernet, has tannins with rich black-currant fruits and acidity. The wine's potential is very present, juicy berry flavors give freshness at the end. Drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

88 **Château Pied d'Argent Bellevue 2021 Cuvée Haute Couture (Bordeaux).** The wine is fruity with acidity and black-currant flavors. Its light texture and freshness give the wine a bright character. It is aging fast, drink from 2025. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 **Château Vieux Chêne 2022 (Bordeaux).** The tannins of this wine are subsumed by the black-currant fruits and acidity. It is full of ripeness, with acidity coming through strongly at the end. Drink from 2025. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Virevalois 2019 (Bordeaux).** A mature wine, ripe with soft tannins and juicy black fruits, this is generous and open. The light structure suggests the wine is ready to drink. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Vignobles André Lurton 2020 Diane (Bordeaux).** Bottled without added sulfur, this wine is ripe, soft and succulent. Blackberry flavors are balanced by the warm tannins and fruit. Drink now. RBE Drinks. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 **Bertrand Roy 2022 100% Fair Trade (Bordeaux).** Powered by black fruits and with soft tannins, this is a rich wine from Bertrand Roy, the fourth generation at Château Haut Vieux Chêne in the Blaye region. Its density and balanced acidity are young, while also soft. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

87 **Château Bois Pertuis 2021 (Bordeaux).** This is a light, fruity wine with soft tannins and black-currant flavors. It is juicy, freshly layered with acidity and will be ready from 2025. Advantage International. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château Saint-Martin 2022 (Bordeaux).** The wine may be young, but also the future is good. The black fruits and balanced acidity are fresh with final tannins for the long term. Drink from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 **Château Terre Blanche 2022 (Bordeaux).** This wine, aged in tank, is fruity and lightly textured. Black-currant flavors are right up front with freshness and acidity. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

90 **Château le Grand Verdu 2021 Grande Réserve (Bordeaux Supérieur).** From a selection of the five best vineyard plots of this estate, this wine is dense and rich. Black fruited and still young, rich tannins are balanced with juicy acidity that gives a spicy wood-aged character to the wine. Drink from 2026. Vinera Wine Society. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

88 **Château Pascaud 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A single-vineyard Merlot from close to Fronsac has produced a ripe wine. Generous black fruits and balanced tannins give the wine a rounded character. It should be ready from 2025. Europvin USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Jean-François Reaud 2022 Coteaux d'Estuaire (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Made of almost entirely Merlot, this juicy wine, with its ripe tannins, is full and fruity. The wine is likely to be ready to drink soon and from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

PUISSEGUIN SAINT-ÉMILION

92 **Château Bernon Bécot 2019 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** This is a rich wine, full of black fruits that have now softened comfortably. It is ripe, mainly Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Franc, with a succulent final taste. Drink this wine from 2025. Worldwide Libations. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

92 **Château Bernon Bécot 2016 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** Owned by the same family as Beauséjour Bécot, a classed growth in Saint-Émilion, this mature wine comes from a 22-acre vineyard, mainly planted to Merlot. The wine is dense and dark, the black fruits full of juicy black-

currant flavors. The wine is very ready to drink. Worldwide Libations. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 **Château des Laurets 2020 Sélection Parcel-laire (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** A selection of vineyard parcels gives a powerfully rich Merlot. Aged in wood, the wine is dense, hinting at spice and with concentrated tannins. The wine is smoky at the end and will be ready from 2026. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

90 **Château Puisseguin la Rigodrie 2022 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** Blending Merlot and the two Cabernets, this wine has density and structure. With its vibrant black fruits and juicy acidity, the wine is young, still embedded in tannins. Drink from 2026. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château des Laurets 2021 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** From one of the estates run by the Edmond de Rothschild family, this wine is juicy with blackberry fruits backed by generous tannins. Mainly Merlot, the wine is set for further aging. Drink from 2027. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

88 **Pierre Faytout 2022 100% Fair Trade (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** Pierre Faytout, who calls himself an ethical winemaker, brings five generations of winemaking to the estate. This structured wine offers ripe tannins and rich berry flavors. It is a young wine with bright acidity and a firm structure. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

90 **Château Haut Prieur 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a smoky wine, blending Merlot and Malbec. Rich tannins and fine juicy acidity are still full of vivacity and youth. Drink this ripe wine from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château la Cure 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A ripe, full-bodied spicy wine, this is juicy and solid. Firm tannins and blackberry fruits together give a powerful boost to this bottling. It is likely to be ready from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$40

89 **Château Beaumont Les Pierrières 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This blend of Merlot with 25% Cabernet Sauvignon is rich and fruity. Its tannins are still present alongside juicy black-currant fruits. It is already a drinkable wine, but will be better from 2025. Continent Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château Gontier 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Half of this wine was aged in wood, giving it some rich tannins as well as retaining fragrant black-currant fruits. It is generous and will be ready from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 **Michelle Brimaud 2020 100% Pourpre (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** It is rare to find a 100% Malbec in Bordeaux and Michelle Brimaud's Blaye vineyard is one of the few places where it works. This dense pourpre (purple) wine, a word taken from Old French, contrasts with the fresher edge of acidity. It is ripe and ready to drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Barbé 2021 L'Allègre (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is young, but its mature outlines are already apparent. Tannins are softening in this juicy wine and opening it up. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

88 **Château Haut Lignac 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A juicy blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is fruity with red-berry flavors. Forward acidity suggests the wine's youth and it will be worth waiting. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Pardaillan 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Up to two years in wood have given this wine its ripe and polished character. The wine's density and dry core suggest further aging potential. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

88 **Jean-François Reaud 2022 Les Hauts de Piquerelle (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** While the wine has richness, it also has a core of solid tannins. Spice and black-coffee flavors contrast with the wine's black fruits and acidity. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

87 **Jean-François Reaud 2022 Baronne de Vignonnnet (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a fresh wine—bright and juicy, and showing sunny fruitiness. Despite its inherent weight, catch the acidity at the end. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

CÔTES DE BOURG

89 **Château Beaubourg 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** A ripe, full and juicy wine, this has bold tannins and ripe black fruits. It is dense with concentration and structure that is still softening. Drink from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 **Jean-François Reaud 2022 Seigneur de Bergemont (Côtes de Bourg).** The wine is

BUYINGGUIDE

rich, with dark chocolate and spice flavors. They match the ripe black-plum flavors. This is a full-bodied wine that will develop well. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

88 David Arnaud 2020 Noir des Vigne (Côtes de Bourg). From Château Aubastons' fifth generation, Arnaud, the blend is solely of the oldest Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc vines on the property. The well-structured wine has fine black fruits and a layer of tannins. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 Jean-François Reaud 2022 Baron de Terrefort (Côtes de Bourg). A ripe wine showing the rich black fruits of the vintage. It is a full wine, with a solid texture. It should have a good future. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

94 Château Meyney 2021 (Saint-Estèphe). This wine has density and some firm tannins. A spectacular vineyard that faces the Gironde estuary, this estate gives a rich wine that needs some serious aging. Drink this wine, with its black-currant fruits and solid tannins from 2027. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Bernard Magrez 2019 Château Bernard Magrez (Saint-Estèphe). A firm, black wine with rich fruits and solid tannins. The wine's acidity and freshness back up its full-bodied character. Drink this powerful wine now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Lalande de Pez 2020 (Saint-Estèphe). Ripe black fruits come from this wine, grown in a vineyard on the Pez plateau at the heart of Saint-Estèphe. It is structured, with some solid tannins at its core. Drink from 2026. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

LUSSAC SAINT-ÉMILION

89 Château Puy Galland 2022 (Lussac Saint-Émilion). Owned by the same family for four generations, this estate has produced a blend of Merlot and the two Cabernets. It is full of texture that balances with blackberry acidity. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Tour Perruchon 2022 (Lussac Saint-Émilion). This rich, dense wine is concentrated and packed with black fruits. It is young, with great potential of tannins under the fruitiness.

Worth aging, ready to drink from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Noémie Tanneau 2020 Le Chant du Lorient (Lussac Saint-Émilion). Dark chocolate and ripe black fruits mark out this lightly structured wine. It is juicy, full of berry flavors and touched by spice. Noémie Tanneau took up winemaking in 2012 and is the owner of Château Saint Ferdinand. Drink this new wine now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

SAINT-ÉMILION

93 Château Chauvin 2021 (Saint-Émilion). A powerfully rich wine from an estate that is seriously improved. The wine's black-plum fruits and firm tannins are full of potential. This is a wine to age. Drink from 2027. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

92 Château Larcis Ducasse 2018 Murmure de Larcis Ducasse (Saint-Émilion). Almost entirely Merlot, this second wine of Larcis Ducasse is juicy and jammy. Its structure is firm with great black fruits and spice. The wine, still packed with tannins, is likely to be ready from 2025. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Château de Lescours 2016 L de Lescours (Saint-Émilion). The wine, still young, presents dense tannins and ripe black fruits. It has a solid core of tannins and a succulent richness. Drink from 2025. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Château Fleur Cardinale 2021 (Saint-Émilion). This Saint-Emilion Grand Cru Classé wine is packed with black fruits. Tannins are present but softening well. Blackberry flavors also will open and integrate as this structured wine matures. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

91 Pierre Brune 2022 (Saint-Émilion). For full review see page 13. Serge Doré Selections. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Château de Lescours 2015 L de Lescours (Saint-Émilion). This powerfully rich wine, now very mature, has hints of mushroom to go with juicy black fruits. Drink the wine now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

90 Château Grand Corbin 2021 (Saint-Émilion). One of several estates in Saint-Emilion under the Corbin name, this is a dense, structured wine. Its blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc gives tannins and richly juicy black fruits. Drink from 2026. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

89 Château Fleur Cardinale 2021 Intuition (Saint-Émilion). This second wine of Château Fleur Cardinale is a blend of 77% Merlot and 23% Cabernet Franc. The wine is structured, but opening out to emphasize the blackberry fruits. Drink this wine, as the tannins soften, from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Château la Pointe Bouquey 2021 (Saint-Émilion). On the Dordogne plain below Saint-Emilion, this estate in its eighth family generation has produced a spicy, juicy wine. Its dominant Merlot gives it an underlying jaminess and cushioned feel. It is an attractive wine that will be ready from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Château Patris 2022 (Saint-Émilion). Matured in stainless steel, the wine is full of juicy Merlot, generous tannins and a succulent aftertaste. The wine is likely to be ready to drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

POMEROL

95 Château Petit Village 2021 (Pomerol). The solid tannins of this rich wine are full of potential. It has a dense character with firm black fruits and powerful Merlot. The wine will age well: think about drinking from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

94 Château Beauregard 2021 (Pomerol). This fine estate in the heart of Pomerol has produced a richly textured, smoky wine, lifted by acidity. It is balanced while also dense and packed with black fruits and tannins. Drink this ripe wine from 2027. Organic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

93 Château Petit Village 2021 Le Petit Petit-Village (Pomerol). The second wine from this much-improved estate is a fine reflection of the top wine. With its bold black fruits and texture that is smoothing well, this is a rich wine. Tannins and acidity are already well integrated and promising. Drink the wine from 2026. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

92 Château Bel-Air 2019 L'Ermitage de Bel-Air (Pomerol). A Merlot-rich wine, this second wine of Bel-Air shows powerful tannins and rich black fruits. It is smoky and juicy, still solid with tannins and a dense texture. Age the wine further and drink from 2026. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Château de Sales 2021 (Pomerol). This mainly Merlot wine is bright with a plump structure and ripe tannins. It is full, but balanced with fruit

and acidity. Drink this generous wine from 2027. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

LISTRAC-MÉDOC

94 **Château Clarke 2020 (Listrac-Médoc).** A grand vintage for this Edmond de Rothschild family-owned estate. The wine is rich, powerfully textured. It is solid with tannins that are considerable to balance the black fruits. This will age many years, drink from 2027. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 **Château Clarke 2021 (Listrac-Médoc).** Purchased by Edmond de Rothschild in 1973, this estate is now running at a smooth level of quality. This new release is dense, the tannins forming a core of dryness as well as potential. The black-currant fruit is bright with fine acidity and great depths. Drink from 2027. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 **Château Fourcas Dupré 2021 (Listrac-Médoc).** Among the most well-known estates in Listrac, this chateau to the north of the village has given us a wine that brings out the fruit and holds back on the tannins. The wine's black-currant juiciness is forward and will soften back into the structure. Drink from 2027. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

HAUT-MÉDOC

94 **Château Cantemerle 2021 (Haut-Médoc).** This wine comes from one of the first of the grand estates when driving north up the Médoc. The wine brings out the brightness of the vintage as well as its structure and potential for aging. This is balanced, fruit and tannins allied with succulent acidity. Drink from 2027. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 **Château Tour Carmail 2022 (Haut-Médoc).** This young ripe wine's tannins and structure are boosted by the potential of the rich black fruits and solid tannins. The wine should age well, so drink from 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

89 **Château Tour Carmail 2021 (Haut-Médoc).** This estate, under the ownership of classed growth Rauzan Gassies in Margaux, has produced a fruity wine, very in style with the vintage. Blackberry flavors are softening into the structure, so expect the wine to be ready from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 **Jean-François Reaud 2022 Cap Ferre (Haut-Médoc).** A full, structured wine, this is concentrated and dense. It has juicy, jammy Merlot

with acidity and black-currant fruits. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

94 **Château Grand-Puy Ducasse 2021 (Pauillac).** This estate, whose chateau is on the Gironde estuary front in Pauillac, is a solid, tannic wine. Its Cabernet Sauvignon brings out black-currant fruits and shows fine potential. It is a wine for aging, drink from 2027. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

94 **Château Kirwan 2021 (Margaux).** This renowned estate, owned by Bordeaux négociant Schröder & Schöler, has produced a balanced wine, full of structured fruit as well as a core of tannins. It has the elegance that goes with the Margaux appellation and brings considerable potential. Drink from 2027. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

93 **Château de Fieuzal 2019 L'Abeille de Fieuzal (Pessac-Léognan).** The second wine of classed growth Fieuzal, this is ripe with smooth tannins that are dense under the black-currant fruits. The wine is textured with a juicy aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2025. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 **Château du Grand Soussans 2022 (Margaux).** From the northern part of Margaux, the wine is stylish with rich tannins and black fruits. With a fine structure, the young wine is worth aging. Drink from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 **Château du Moulin Noir 2018 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** A perfumed wine, with fine tannins giving a smoothly textured wine that is now ready to drink. It is juicy, with blackberry fruits and light tannins backed up by richness. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 **Château Malmaison 2021 (Moulis-en-Médoc).** One of the estates run by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, this wine is solid and rich. The Moulis appellation, with its blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, presents a spicy, juicy wine and full of black-currant fruits. Drink from 2026. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 **Château Moulin de la Bridane 2020 (Saint-Julien).** One of the few estates in Saint-Julien that is not a classed growth has produced an elegant wine very much in the style of the appellation. Black-currant fruits, ripe tannins and structure are all coming together in a wine that needs aging. Drink from 2026. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 **Château Richebon 2022 Cuvée les Grands Monteils (Pauillac).** Unusually for a wine from Pauillac, there is a majority of Merlot in this blend, instead of Cabernet Sauvignon. Rich in black fruits with a core of solid tannins, it is a wine with worth aging. Drink from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

90 **Château de Chambrun 2021 (Lalande de Pomerol).** This 30-acre vineyard, planted with an increasing amount of Merlot, is now producing a richly dense wine. With 80% oak aging, the wine has a smooth texture, bringing out ripe blackberry fruits. Drink from 2027. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

90 **Château Malengin 2021 Cuvée Eve (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** This Merlot-dominated wine, partly aged in amphoras, is impressively smooth. Its tannins are rounded and soft already, the blackberry fruits bring out balanced acidity. Drink from 2026. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

90 **Château Puyfromage 2019 Albert Signature (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux).** The tannins are now satisfyingly soft, blending well with the black fruits. It is a succulent wine with black-currant flavors just finished with a burn of pepper. Drink the wine 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

89 **Bernard Magrez 2019 L'Ame de Pape Clément (Graves).** A fresh and juicy wine with soft tannins that are now maturing. The wine has been made in the spirit of Pape Clément, although the fruit does not come from the chateau. It is attractive and ready to drink. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Puyfromage 2020 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a juicy wine with a fine balance that is developing well. Its potential is there, ripe with softening tannins and blackberry flavors. Drink this wine from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

89 **Château Tour d'Eyquem 2022 (Côtes de Bordeaux).** A full-bodied wine with its rich tannins and solid black-plum fruits. Juicy and perfumed, with some wood aging, the wine is balanced and likely to be ready from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 **Château Vircoulon 2022 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux).** From the slopes of some of the furthest-east vineyards of Bordeaux, Christophe Porcher has crafted this ripe, open wine. With its rich tannins and black fruits, it has weight and potential. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Château des Maures 2022 (Lalande de Pomerol). The wine is rich, from a region close to Pomerol itself. It is lightly structured with ripe acidity. Black fruits are dominant and aging is likely. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

85 Château la Freynelle 2023 (Bordeaux Clairet). This deep-colored rosé or, if you will, a light-colored red, has light tannins and perfumed fruits. It is a young wine, its green flavors still dominant. As they soften, the wine will fill out. Drink from later this year. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

85 Château Vieille Tour 2021 (Côtes de Bordeaux). This is a light wine, fruity with acidity and black-currant flavors. It is fresh, bright and likely to be ready soon. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

SPAIN WHITE WINES RÍAS BAIXAS

94 Bodegas Chaves 2018 Cinco Islas Oro Old Vines Grand Cru Terraces (Rías Baixas). Medium yellow in color, this wine has a nose of passion fruit and honeysuckle. It opens on the palate with peach and nectarine flavors that are joined by notes of Valencia orange, Turkish delight and a closing note of saline all wrapped up in a full-textured wine with a vein of acidity. Boutique Wine Collection. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Bouza do Rei 2021 Gran Seleccíon Albariño (Rías Baixas). Aromas of Anjou pear, Fuji apple and lemon zest pave the way for mango, passion fruit, sliced ginger and lemon-blossom flavors with a nice touch of saline. Brilliant acidity and a touch of iodine endure on the palate. Alphapac A Marketing Company. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Caeira 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Medium-straw-colored in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of grapefruit, green apple and dried thyme. It is round on the palate and has pineapple, yellow cherry, bergamot and honeysuckle flavors. A soft floral note and a hint of salinity linger in the mouth. Matarromera USA, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

93 Mar de Envero 2022 Sobre Lías (Rías Baixas). A touch of bramble joins aromas of pineapple and peach. There's a nice savory herbal note and a hint of eucalyptus just beneath grapefruit, mango and passion fruit flavors nested within a layer of

shimmering acidity. Sacred Thirst Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Castro Martin 2022 Sobre Lías (Rías Baixas). This light-straw-colored wine offers aromas of Bartlett pear, dried thyme and sliced ginger. Ginger notes continue to the taste buds along with pineapple, passionfruit and grapefruit flavors. There is a hint of fresh sage in the bright finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

91 Bouza do Rei 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This light-straw-colored wine has a nose of Bartlett pear and almond toffee. Vivid acidity plays backup for flavors of pineapple, lemon zest, clementine and jasmine that fade into a floral-infused finish. Alphapac A Marketing Company. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Just B 2022 Prado do Valo Joven (Rías Baixas). This pale-straw-colored wine offers a bouquet of honeydew melon, Gala apple and honeysuckle. Peach, cantaloupe, orange blossom and oyster-shell flavors are swathed in vivid acidity that evaporates into a slightly salty finish. Angelini Wine. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Quinta Couselo 2022 Quinta de Couselo Rosal (Rías Baixas). Mostly Albariño with small amounts of Caiño Blanco and Loureiro, this wine has aromas of Bartlett pear, apricot and orange blossom. It is light on the palate and has a nice sense of brightness with flavors of Fuji apple, lemon-lime, jasmine and passion fruit that wind down to a floral-infused finish. Antalva Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

90 Bouza do Rei 2022 Lagar de Bouza Albariño (Rías Baixas). Aromas of lemon, lime and slivered ginger emanate from the glass. Notes of lemon and ginger continue on the palate and are joined by flavors of green apple, yellow plum and honeysuckle. Brilliant acidity lasts into a lemon zest finish. Alphapac A Marketing Company. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Don Pedro de Soutomaior 2022 (Rías Baixas). Aromas of passion fruit and honeysuckle lead the way for mango, pineapple, grapefruit and orange-blossom flavors. Enticing acidity and a soft floral note persist on the palate. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Just B 2019 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Light straw colored, this wine has a nose of mango and guava with a touch of bramble. It has a soft, almost creamy texture and flavors of lemon-lime, Granny Smith apple, pineapple, flint and ginger. A splash of lemon zest lingers on the palate. Angelini Wine. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 Lagar da Condessa 2022 (Rías Baixas). Medium-straw-colored, this wine has aromas of peach, yellow currant and a hint of thyme and lavender. It is slightly creamy and has apricot, nectarine and aniseed flavors, with a touch of vanilla that lingers on the palate. Gil Family Estates. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Vionta 2022 (Rías Baixas). For full review see page 16. Freixenet Mionetto USA.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Castro Martin 2022 A20 Sobre Lías (Rías Baixas). Aromas of lemon-lime, mango and white pepper waft from the glass. This soft-textured wine has peach, pineapple, orange blossom and ginger flavors. A soft note of saline lingers into the zesty finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

87 Just B 2022 Croque (Rías Baixas). Aromas of pineapple and river rocks lead the way for passion fruit and grapefruit flavors with a hint of dried Mediterranean herbs. This is an easy-drinking wine that delivers bright flavors from first sip to finish. Angelini Wine. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 Kentia 2022 (Rías Baixas). This pale-straw-colored wine has a nose of Gala apple, guava and jasmine. It is bright on the palate from first sip through finish and offers pineapple, grapefruit and rose-petal flavors. Gil Family Estates. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Quinta Couselo 2022 Turonia (Rías Baixas). Aromas of pineapple and lemon zest set the scene for grapefruit, nectarine, rose petal and honeysuckle flavors. This is an easy-drinking wine that is bright on the palate from the very first sip. Antalva Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

86 Lagar da Condessa 2022 O Fillo da Condessa (Rías Baixas). Aromas of pear and passion fruit pave the way for lemon, green apple and honeysuckle flavors. This easy-drinking white wine has vivid acidity and a closing note of dried thyme. Gil Family Estates. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

RUEDA

93 Belondrade 2021 Belondrade y Lurton (Rueda). Bright golden yellow in color, this wine has a nose of pineapple and mango. It is full in the mouth and offers tropical-fruit flavors alongside notes of vanilla, orange blossom and a closing note of saline. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 Cuatro Rayas 2022 Cuarenta Vendimias Sobre Lías Verdejo (Rueda). This light-yel-

low-colored wine has a nose of grapefruit, mango and rose petal. It is full textured and offers peach, pineapple and jasmine flavors, and a bold vein of acidity that livens the taste buds from first sip to finish. Vinamericas, Inc.. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Valdehermoso 2022 Lagar del Rey Verdejo (Rueda). A bouquet of peach, lemon and jasmine paves the way for nectarine, Gala apple, honeysuckle and dried thyme flavors. A sense of creaminess takes over the palate and endures alongside notes of sage and lemon zest. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Hermanos Lurton 2022 Sobre Lias Verdejo (Rueda). Medium straw in color, this wine has aromas of grapefruit, flint and sage leaf. This nicely textured wine has pleasant acidity that backs passion fruit, pineapple and orange-blossom flavors with a touch of marjoram in the vivid finish. Pardela USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Emina 2022 Verdejo (Rueda). Aromas of Granny Smith apple, nectarine and slivered almond set the stage for pineapple, lemon zest, sage leaf and honeysuckle flavors. This easy-drinking wine is bright on the palate from the very first sip. Solera Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Cuatro Rayas 2022 Nave Sur Verdejo (Rueda). This pale straw-colored wine has a bouquet of white peach, lemon zest and fresh parsley. It is bright in the mouth, offering Fuji apple, apricot and dried Mediterranean herb flavors with a closing touch of smoke and splash of Valencia orange. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Naia 2022 (Rueda). Almost clear in the glass, this wine has aromas of lemon and honeysuckle with a hint of hazelnut. It is brilliant on entry, offering lemon-lime, grapefruit and Turkish delight flavors that persist on the palate. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Pinea 2021 Korde Blanc (Ribera del Duero). Made with 100% Albillo Mayor, this wine has aromas of pineapple, lemon blossom, vanilla and dried Mediterranean herbs. It has a full, creamy texture and flavors of Bartlett pear, pineapple, passion fruit and salted almond toffee. It feels luscious in the mouth and evaporates into a vivid finish. Drink through 2028. Winesmith. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Pago Finca Élez 2021 Chardonnay Fermentado en Barrica (Finca Élez). This light-yellow-colored wine has a nose of chirimoya, lemon curd and vanilla. It is full on the palate, with a

creamy texture and lemon-lime, Golden Delicious apple, toffee and hazelnut flavors. Dazzling acidity sticks around long after the last sip. Ambrosia Fine Wines. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

92 Pago Finca Élez 2021 El Secreto de LZ (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Aromas of Anjou pear and lavender set the scene for passion fruit, ripe summer peach, dried apricot, vanilla and rose-petal flavors. This well-textured wine offers brilliant acidity and a lingering note of Turkish delight. Ambrosia Fine Wines. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

90 Belondrade 2022 Quinta Apolonia (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Aromas of Seckel pear and sage leaf waft from the glass. This full-textured white has flavors of Fuji apple, pineapple, grated ginger and orange blossom with citrus notes that linger on the tastebuds. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Cellers Unió 2022 Perlant Blanc (Montsant). This light-yellow-colored wine has a bouquet of mango, passion fruit and jasmine. A blend of Garnacha Blanca and Macabeo, it has a soft floral taste profile accented by flavors of pineapple and nectarine and a long-lasting vein of acidity. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Chozas Carrascal 2021 Las Dos Ces Blanco Macabeo-Sauvignon Blanc (Utiel-Requena). Pale yellow in the glass, this wine has aromas of yuzu, Valencia orange and sage leaf. Flavors of peach, passion fruit, rose petal and a hint of fresh mint are backed by brilliant acidity that endures on the palate. Wine For The World. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Parajes Del Valle 2022 Macabeo Ecológico (Manchuela). Aromas of peach, sage and ginger waft from the glass. There are nice savory notes of dried Mediterranean herbs and brined green olives alongside mango and pineapple flavors. Bright acidity and a closing note of saline make this a perfect pour alongside oysters, clams or boiled shrimp. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 Sierra Norte 2022 Paraje Fuentesecca Macabeo-Sauvignon Blanc Organic (Utiel-Requena). This light-straw-colored blend of Macabeo and Sauvignon Blanc has a nose of pineapple, grapefruit and fresh ginger. It offers refreshing flavors of lemon-lime, white peach and orange blossom that evaporate into a vivid finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

83 Mary Taylor 2021 Viñas en Villarrobledo (La Mancha). Aromas of apricot, Valencia orange and dried thyme set the stage for apple cider, Sevilla

orange and sage flavors. This one really makes you pucker up! Mary Taylor Wine. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

SPARKLING WINES

93 Bodegas Chaves 2020 Cinco Islas Oro Brut Nature (Rías Baixas). Light straw in color and with a persistent stream of bubbles, this sparkling Albariño has a bouquet of peach and lemon zest. It is full textured and has flavors of nectarine, Granny Smith Apple, lemon curd and rose petal swathed in bold effervescence and shimmering acidity. Boutique Wine Collection. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

87 Bocopa NV Marina Espumante Brut (Alicante). With a soft column of bubbles, this sparkling blend of Chardonnay and Macabeo has aromas of peach, pear and baking bread. Flavors of green apple, guava, brioche and salted almond are bolstered by a streak of acidity and note of lemon zest that linger on the palate. Medco Atlantic. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$13

ROSÉ

93 Pinea 2021 Korde Rosé (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 9. Winesmith.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

SPAIN RED WINES

NAVARRA

94 Bodegas Escudero 2019 Logos II (Navarra). For full review see page 4. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Otazu 2018 Reserva Clásico (Navarra). This deep ruby-colored wine has aromas of black currant, mocha and lavender. Black currant, black cherry and dark-chocolate flavors with a touch of mint ply the palate alongside opulent tannins that wind down to a smooth, lingering finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

93 Pleno 2018 Reserva (Navarra). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of black currant, dark chocolate and dried Mediterranean herbs. It is brighter on the palate than expected, offering polished tannins and pomegranate, red plum and mocha flavors with a touch of oregano in the lengthy finish. 4Front Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Castillo de Enériz 2020 Crianza (Navarra). Deep violet red in the glass, this wine has

BUYINGGUIDE

aromas of raspberry, orange zest and clove. A pleasant touch of Turkish delight underlies flavors of black cherry, baking spice and eucalyptus that are encased in a sheath of velvety tannins. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Príncipe de Viana 2019 Edición Crianza (Navarra).** Aromas of cherry, dried thyme and vanilla set the stage for pomegranate, cherry, sage leaf, black-olive paste and roasted red-pepper flavors. Bright acidity and feathery tannins stroll arm and arm into a pleasing finish. The Sorting Table. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

RIOJA

94 **Carlos Serres 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja).** Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of black currant, sage leaf and cedar block. An underlying note of pomegranate lightens the load of muscular tannins that encase blackberry, anisette, and juniper-berry flavors with earthiness that persists into the lengthy finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

94 **Marqués de Cáceres 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja).** For full review see page 6. Vineyard Brands.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

94 **Ramón Bilbao 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja).** Aromas of Chambord, butterscotch and sage leaf emanate from the glass. Vigorous tannins provide a frame to blackberry, Mission fig, clove, nutmeg, dark chocolate and eucalyptus flavors. Well-integrated acidity plies the palate and stays there for a while. Zamora Company USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

93 **Finca Valpiedra 2016 Reserva (Rioja).** This ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of black currant, tobacco leaf and a hint of green bell pepper. There is a savory, earthy quality on the palate underlying cranberry, pomegranate, dark chocolate and dried thyme and sage flavors. Plush tannins and brilliant acidity linger harmoniously after each sip. Winebow Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 **Montecillo 2015 Gran Reserva Tempranillo-Graciano (Rioja).** For full review see page 9. Evaton, Inc.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

92 **Finca Valpiedra 2019 Petra de Valpiedra (Rioja).** Deep garnet in color, this single-varietal Garnacha has a nose of black cherry, caramel and nutmeg. Bright fruit and soft baking spice flavors wrapped in silky tannins enliven the palate and drift into a cranberry and orange-zest finish. Winebow Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

92 **Viña Bujanda 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja).** This dark garnet-colored wine has aromas of cherry, milk chocolate and sage. Velvety tannins and moderate acidity back up raspberry, Mission fig, mocha and thyme flavors that wind down to a dried herb-infused finish. Winebow Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

RIBERA DEL DUERO

99 **Pinea 2018 PSOUL Single Vineyard Single Barrel (Ribera del Duero).** Just one 500-liter barrel was made of this single-vineyard wine. Dark violet-red in the glass, it has a bouquet of cassis, lavender, cocoa powder and sage leaf. It is luscious on entry, with downy tannins, brilliant acidity and fruit of the wood flavors mingling with notes of milk chocolate, coffee, lilac and orange zest. Each sip seems more impressive than the one before. Drink through 2038. Winesmith. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$500

97 **Sei Solo 2019 (Ribera del Duero).** Made with Tempranillo from 60- to 100-year-old vines, this wine has a bouquet of purple plum, black currant and a hint of cedar. Plush tannins and striking acidity provide a backdrop to black cherry, Mission fig, caramel, milk chocolate and juniper-berry flavors. I did not want this wine to end; it is a gorgeous pour on its own, but to get the most out of it enjoy it alongside a Porterhouse or Tomahawk steak. Drink through 2034. Kysela Père et Fils. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$108

96 **Dominio de Calogía 2020 by José Manuel Pérez Ovejas (Ribera del Duero).** Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberry, raspberry, dark chocolate and caramel. It is full on the palate, offering vivid acidity, luxurious tannins and black currant, Mission fig, lavender, crème caramel, and fennel-pollen flavors. The smooth, lengthy finish is marked with notes of chocolate-covered cherry. Drink through 2040. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$133

96 **Lagar de Proventus 2019 TM (Ribera del Duero).** This deep garnet-colored wine offers a cherry pie, caramel and dark-chocolate bouquet. The chocolate and cherry transition to the palate and meet up with muscular tannins and elderberry, anisette and eucalyptus flavors. Tannins take center stage right now, but will definitely mellow out with a few years of bottle age. Drink 2025–2034. MHW, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

96 **Pinea 2018 Single Vineyard (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 3. Winesmith.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$175

95 **Alonso del Yerro 2020 María (Ribera del Duero).** Inky garnet in color, this wine has a nose of purple fig, black-olive paste and chocolate-

covered coffee bean. Sourced from two high-altitude plots, it has black cherry, blackberry, eucalyptus, violet and milk-chocolate flavors. Muscular tannins coat the tongue and gums, but well-integrated acidity keeps the whole affair afloat into an animated finish. Drink through 2035. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

95 **Martín Berdugo 2016 Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** Dark violet-red to the eye, this wine features blackberry, cassis and baking-spice aromas. Coffee and coconut notes are joined by Chambord, black cherry, clove and violet flavors that come swaddled in layers of opulent tannins. A touch of eucalyptus makes its way into the enduring finish. Drink through 2033. Rabelais Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

95 **Ramos Ducher 2019 Nicéforo (Ribera del Duero).** This deep violet colored wine offers aromas of blackberry, milk chocolate and aniseed. Barely-there tannins supply a soft backdrop to blackberry, raspberry, milk chocolate and fennel pollen flavors that linger into a gorgeous finish. Produced in very small amounts from a plot planted in the 1940s, only 720 bottles of this wine were imported into the United States. W. Direct. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

95 **Santa Eulalia 2017 Conde Siruela Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of purple plum, mocha and aniseed waft from the glass. Deep garnet in color, this wine offers opulent tannins and black cherry, cassis, crème brûlée, chocolate-covered espresso bean and violet flavors that wind down to a milk-chocolate and orange-zest finish. Alphapac A Marketing Company. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

95 **Valtravieso 2018 Gran Valtravieso (Ribera del Duero).** Dark violet-red in the glass, this wine offers a nose of elderberry and chocolate-covered mint. Dark fruit of the wood flavors arrive on the taste buds alongside vigorous tannins and cocoa powder, licorice, eucalyptus, orange zest and lavender notes. A gorgeous vein of lingering acidity enlivens the palate into the lengthy finish. SAWM Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$170

95 **Vega Sicilia 2019 Alion (Ribera del Duero).** Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of black cherry, rose petal and baking spice. Luxurious tannins and nicely balanced acidity support flavors of blackberry preserves, chocolate-covered espresso bean and anisette. The lengthy finish is marked with notes of lavender and spice. Europvin USA. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$148

95 **Vizcarra 2020 Inès (Ribera del Duero).** The scent of black cherry, raspberry, caramel and licorice wafts from the glass. Flavors of Chambord, milk chocolate, toffee, anisette and lavender

are swaddled in plush tannins that build on the tongue and gums and then peel away to reveal an enduring note of caramel. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$165

94 Bodegas Briego 2019 Adalid Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This deep garnet-colored wine offers aromas of blueberry pie, baking spice and marjoram. Nice notes of butterscotch and orange zest underlie raspberry, Mission fig, menthol, cocoa powder and lavender flavors that are swaddled in an ample and long-lasting layer of downy tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

94 Dominio de Atauta 2019 Torre De Golbán Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Dark ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry jam, caramel and a touch of earthiness. Bold acidity offers an excellent foil to muscular tannins; both support raspberry, black cherry, dried thyme and mocha flavors that evaporate into a drawn-out and surprisingly bright finish. Aviva Vino. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

94 Pinea 2020 17 (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 6. Winesmith.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

94 Santa Eulalia 2017 Riberal Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This dark-violet-colored wine proffers a bouquet of slightly brambly blackberries and raspberries, olive tapenade, dark chocolate and fennel bulb. It is full on the palate, with brawny tannins and cassis, blackberry, sage leaf, roasted fennel, butterscotch and orange-zest flavors. Pleasant notes of saline and flint linger on the tongue. Universal Brands. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$51

93 Dominio de Atauta 2019 La Celestina Vendimia Seleccionada (Ribera del Duero). This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of blackberry, cocoa powder and dried thyme with a hint of eucalyptus. Black cherry, black currant, sage leaf and dark-chocolate flavors are set into a framework of opulent tannins that drift into a long, satisfying finish. Aviva Vino. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$29

93 Hesvera 2021 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine offers aromas of black currant, cocoa powder and candied violets. Grippy tannins offset by animated acidity back up pomegranate, Mission fig, butterscotch, cocoa powder, lavender and sage-leaf flavors. Tannins endure on the palate, along with a distinct note of salinity. M&C of Orlando. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

93 Lagar de Proventus 2019 Tresmano (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of black plum, black currant and olive paste set the stage for blackberry jam, anise, licorice, dark chocolate and violet flavors. Spice notes slightly outweigh those of fruit, while slightly grippy tannins are well matched by

brilliant acidity that lingers on tongue and gums. MHW, Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Navarro Balbás 2019 Nabal Crianza (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 9. W. Direct.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Santa Eulalia 2020 Riberal Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis, star anise and coffee bean. It has a bit of a spicy edge, with flavors of five-spice powder and mint tea backing up black currant, Mission fig, dark chocolate and lavender flavors. Tannins start out soft, slowly build in volume and then drift away into a lively finish. Universal Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

93 Santa Eulalia 2019 Conde Siruela Crianza (Ribera del Duero). This deep ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of Luxardo cherry, cassis, caramel and cedar chest. Layers of caramel and butterscotch are woven into velvety tannins side by side with black cherry, Chambord and licorice flavors. The enduring finish wields a touch of spice. Alphapac A Marketing Company. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Sei Solo 2019 Preludio (Ribera del Duero). This deep violet-colored wine has a nose of brambly black and red berries, crumbled sage and a hint of lavender. There's a light touch of wood, thanks to aging in 600-liter barrels, which offers satiny tannins and touches of coffee and spice to bright pomegranate and raspberry flavors. The vivid finish is marked with notes of mocha and violet. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

93 Valtravieso 2019 Finca la Atalaya Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This dark garnet-colored wine has aromas of blackberry, mocha and a hint of green bell pepper. Rugged tannins play host to cherry, cassis, eucalyptus, mint, clove, dark chocolate and orange zest flavors. Notes of mint and cocoa endure on the palate. SAWM Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$48

92 Martín Berdugo 2021 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of cherry preserves, milk chocolate and dried marjoram. Mint and eucalyptus notes dominate the taste profile alongside notes of black cherry, mocha, tarragon and lavender. Brawny tannins are kept in check by energetic acidity. Rabelais Wines. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Valtravieso 2019 VT Vendimia Seleccionada (Ribera del Duero). A blend of Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this wine has aromas of ripe summer cherry and milk chocolate. It is fresh and juicy at first sip, with pomegranate and raspberry flavors followed by anisette, mint tea, cocoa powder and orange-zest notes. Well-matched

rugged tannins and brilliant acidity vie to keep their hold on the palate. The former wins out alongside a strong eucalyptus note. SAWM Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

91 Hesvera 2022 Roble (Ribera del Duero). This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of Mission fig and mocha. There is a nice layer of spice in the first sip, followed by flavors of caramel, black cherry, purple plum, milk chocolate and lavender wrapped in a layer of downy tannins. The finish is marked with touches of violet and clove. M&C of Orlando. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

91 Santa Eulalia 2022 Conde Siruela Roble (Ribera del Duero). Bright garnet in color, this wine has aromas of cassis, black plum and star anise. It is a little spicy, with clove, licorice and dark-chocolate notes alongside black cherry, blackberry and caramel notes. Plush tannins lightly coat the tongue and gums. Alphapac A Marketing Company. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Santa Eulalia 2022 Riberal Roble (Ribera del Duero). This garnet-colored wine has aromas of cassis and caramel. A sheath of lightweight tannins encases blackberry, cherry cola, butterscotch and violet flavors, while a bold vein of acidity illuminates the taste buds. Universal Brands. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Martín Berdugo 2022 Joven (Ribera del Duero). This cherry-colored wine has aromas of blueberry pie with a dusting of clove. It is juicy in the mouth, with fresh flavors of pomegranate, raspberry, vanilla and candied violet encased in a web of silky tannins. A lingering floral note marks the vivid finish. Rabelais Wines. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Valtravieso 2020 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of cherry cola, orange zest and Dutch cocoa pave the way for raspberry, Mission fig, milk chocolate, sage leaf, mint and violet flavors. There is a nice note of cranberry that keeps the palate buoyed, despite lingering robust tannins. SAWM Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

89 Alonso del Yerro 2019 (Ribera del Duero). The scent of black cherry, milk chocolate and espresso wafts from the glass. Chocolate, vanilla and mint notes open on the taste buds, followed by blackberry, cassis, and tangerine-zest flavors. Tannins feel slightly stiff up front, but mellow out into a smooth finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Santa Eulalia 2022 Conde Siruela Joven (Ribera del Duero). This deep violet-colored wine has a nose of cherry pie and butterscotch. Feathery tannins mingle with flavors of blackberry jam, caramel, anise and eucalyptus. This easy-

BUYINGGUIDE

drinking red wine winds down to a lingering soft butterscotch note. Alphapac A Marketing Company. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

TORO

97 Numanthia 2016 Termanthia (Toro). Dark ruby to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of Mission fig and chocolate-covered caramel. Made with Tinta de Toro (Tempranillo) from vines with more than 100 years of age, its lush tannins and a sense of earthiness are the first things one notices. Flavors of dark chocolate, cassis, cherry cola and black truffle are infused with a touch of acidity that livens the palate. It's beautiful right now, but this is one to lay down and visit in a few more years. Drink 2026–2036. Moët Hennessy USA. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$230

94 Numanthia 2018 (Toro). This deep garnet-colored wine has a nose of Chambord, dark chocolate and a hint of eucalyptus. It is a touch spicy at first, with clove, mint tea and star anise flavors joined by those of butterscotch, cherry pie and mocha. Intertwined layers of luxurious tannins and vivid acidity float away and leave traces of cocoa on the palate. Moët Hennessy USA. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Numanthia 2020 Termes (Toro). Aromas of cassis, dark chocolate and leather set the stage for blackberry, cocoa powder, caramel, violet, orange zest and sage leaf flavors. Plush tannins coat the tongue and gums and drift off into a milk chocolate and cherry finish. This fresh wine from Toro is a nice example of a Tinta de Toro, the local name for Tempranillo, that does not break the bank. Moët Hennessy USA. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

LA MANCHA

95 Pago de Vallegarcia 2019 Alfonso Cortina (La Mancha). Made with 71% Cabernet Franc and 29% Cabernet Sauvignon, this dark ruby-colored wine has a nose of black cherry, Mission fig and mocha. Flavors of blackberry, cassis, bittersweet chocolate, mint tea, caramel and violet are wrapped up in velvety tannins that endure into a satisfying finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

92 Pago de Vallegarcia 2021 Hipperia (La Mancha). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot has a nose of fruits of the wood, lavender and flint. Tannins hit hard and heavy at first, but back away to be joined by vivid acidity and pomegranate, Mission fig, dark chocolate, butterscotch, licorice and orange zest flavors. A soft floral note flits among deep fruit flavors in the slightly grippy finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Pago de Vallegarcia 2021 Petit Hipperia (La Mancha). Aromas of black plum, pomegranate and coffee bean waft from the glass. Cassis, chocolate-covered espresso bean, anise, eucalyptus and orange-zest flavors are encased in athletic tannins that maintain hold of the palate. This wine would be terrific alongside barbecued ribs or a juicy burger with just enough fat to balance out the tannins. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Finca Antigua 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Crianza (La Mancha). With aromas of purple plum, green bell pepper and a touch of cumin, this wine has blackberry, black-olive paste, bittersweet chocolate and sage-leaf flavors. Robust tannins drift away and leave a sense of brightness. This wine would go well with a juicy burger or side of barbecue ribs. Winebow Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

VALENCIA

92 Bodegas Neleman 2021 Nucli Organic Wine (Valencia). This blend of Tempranillo and Bobal has aromas of Chambord, espresso bean and dried thyme. Downy tannins are wrapped around upfront flavors of blackberry and raspberry that are followed by bold notes of dark chocolate, sage leaf and rose petal. A pronounced floral note and soft acidity linger in the mouth. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

91 Bodegas Los Frailes 2020 Sinergia Cabernet Sauvignon (Valencia). Dark violet in the glass, this wine offers aromas of purple plum, black-olive tapenade and milk chocolate. It is equal parts fruity and savory, with flavors of pomegranate, red currant, sage leaf, olive paste and dark chocolate. Athletic tannins build in volume and gradually dissolve into a vivid, berry-splashed finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

90 Bodegas Murviedro 2020 Vño de Parcela CV05 Cabernet Sauvignon (Valencia). This blackberry -am-colored wine has a nose of black cherry, coffee bean and green bell pepper. It has an earthiness and depth that contrast with dark-berry flavors and touches of acidity. Coffee and pepper continue on the palate along with muscular tannins and an enduring note of dark chocolate. Schenk Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Vicente Gandia 2021 El Miracle No 1 (Valencia). This wine has aromas of black plum, sage leaf and green bell pepper. Bright cranberry and pomegranate flavors are joined by bittersweet chocolate, dried sage, aniseed and roasted yellow-pepper flavors. A strong vein of acidity stands in contrast to brawny tannins that endure on the tongue and gums. Vicente Gandia USA. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

UTIEL-REQUENA

91 Bodegas Murviedro 2019 Sericis Cepas Viejas Bobal (Utiel-Requena). Aromas of cassis, tobacco leaf and leather emanate from the glass. Dark berry, cocoa powder, orange zest, coffee bean and marjoram flavors are set into slightly grippy tannins that endure on the tongue and gums. Schenk Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Bovale 2020 Old Vines Bobal (Utiel-Requena). Deep ruby in color, this wine offers a bouquet of cherry liqueur, green bell pepper and olive tapenade. A soft note of bell pepper continues on the palate alongside black cherry, sage, roasted yellow pepper, brined olive and cocoa flavors. Well integrated acidity balances out the heaviness of muscular tannins. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Vegalfaro 2021 Caprasia Anfora Bobal (Utiel-Requena). Dark violet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of black plum, fresh sage and sauteed mushrooms. Mouth-drying tannins and soft acidity play host to Mission fig, mocha, orange zest, lavender and dried-thyme flavors that evaporate into a grainy finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Sierra Norte 2022 Paraje Fuentesecca Bobal-Cabernet Sauvignon Organic (Utiel-Requena). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of black currant, dried thyme and lavender. Bright on entry, it offers flavors of pomegranate, cranberry, fresh sage and black olive. Glossy tannins slowly build in volume and fade to reveal a finish marked with orange zest and cocoa powder. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Sierra Norte 2021 Paraje Fuentesecca Bobal - Cabernet Sauvignon Made With Organic Grapes (Utiel-Requena). This deep garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of brambly fruits of the wood and dried Mediterranean herbs. It is soft on the palate, with feathery tannins and blackberry, eucalyptus, marjoram and lavender flavors. Closing notes of mint and milk chocolate make for a nice touch. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

DOMINIO DE VALDEPUSA

95 Marques de Griñon 2019 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Dominio de Valdepusa). This dark violet-colored wine has a bouquet of black cherry, cocoa powder and lavender. There is a soft floral opening note that is followed by black cherry, raspberry, sage and dark-chocolate flavors with a tiny hint of eucalyptus. Plush tannins drift off into a lavender and orange-zest-scented finish. Drink through 2039. Vinamericas, Inc.. —M.D.
abv: NA **Price:** \$40

94 Marques de Grifón 2019 Graciano (Dominio de Valdepusa). Bright ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of cassis, red plum, dark chocolate and dried thyme. Plush tannins that start out soft and slowly build in volume are wrapped around black cherry, raspberry, cocoa powder, coffee bean and orange-zest flavors. A nice vein of acidity sails into the lengthy finish. Vinamericas, Inc.. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Marques de Grifón 2019 Petit Verdot (Dominio de Valdepusa). This deep violet-red-colored wine has a nose of cherry liqueur, milk chocolate and violet. It is soft and bright at first sip and then fills the mouth with luxurious tannins and raspberry, Mission fig, mocha, lavender and dried sage flavors. There is a nice counterbalance between acidity and tannic weight. Vinamericas, Inc.. —M.D.
abv: NA **Price:** \$40

93 Marques de Grifón 2020 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Dominio de Valdepusa). Aromas of blackberry, milk chocolate and violet waft from the glass. This wine feels good on the palate, offering luxurious tannins and flavors of fig preserves, cherry pie, mocha, dried thyme and an underlying hint of earthiness. It delivers a final note of cherry pipe tobacco on the close. Vinamericas, Inc.. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

OTHER RED WINES

93 Finca Moncloa 2019 (Vino de la Tierra de Cádiz). Aromas of red currant, mocha and eucalyptus prepare the taste buds for black currant, blackberry, mint tea, dark chocolate and violet flavors with a hint of black pepper. Midweight tannins flit across the tongue and gums and slowly saunter away, leaving behind a bright fruit note. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Cellers Domenys 2020 Nat 1917 Cabernet Sauvignon (Penedès). Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis, black-olive paste and green bell pepper. It has a nice earthy character on the palate, with flavors of blackberry, purple plum, dried sage and thyme and a hint of leather. Polished tannins and gentle acidity endure on the tongue and gums. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$63

92 Pago Finca Élez 2021 Las Teselas de Élez (Finca Élez). A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot, this wine has a bouquet of pomegranate, mocha and clove. Bright cranberry and raspberry flavors mingle with polished tannins and notes of milk chocolate, nutmeg and orange zest. This is a lightweight red wine that would pair well with pork chops, roast chicken or even grilled tuna. Ambrosia Fine Wines. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Finca el Molar 2020 Bobal (Manchuela). Aromas of black and red berries, menthol and

dark chocolate pave the way for cranberry, Mission fig, olive tapenade, ground black pepper and cocoa-bean flavors. Vigorous tannins slowly mellow out, while vivid acidity brightens the palate from first sip to lingering finish. Mary Taylor Wine. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Bodegas Albero 2022 Isabella Bobal (Ribera del Júcar). This deep garnet-colored wine has aromas of Chambord, cocoa powder and orange blossom. It is juicy at first sip and the brawny tannins settle in, joined by Luxardo cherry, blackberry pie, dark chocolate, violet and orange-zest flavors. A soft touch of earthiness adds interest to the finish. Sandalo Organic Estates. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Hammeken Cellars 2022 Nanit Natural (Manchuela). This violet-red colored wine has a nose of cherry, blackberry and wet forest floor. Cranberry, pomegranate, orange zest, lavender and dried-thyme flavors mingle with vivid acidity and lightweight tannins that evaporate into a slightly tart finish marked with a touch of florality. MHW, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Bodegas Albero NV Nuñez de Garay (Ribera del Júcar). Aromas of blackberry, dried thyme and orange zest pave the way for purple plum, dark chocolate, sage leaf and black-olive flavors. Tannins come on pretty hard and heavy, but there's ample acidity to balance them out. Sandalo Organic Estates. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

DESSERT WINES

95 Fondillón 1996 (Alicante). The color of strong brewed tea, this wine has a bouquet of caramel and sea salt. It has a salty tang that is a nice foil to toasted almond, milk chocolate, espresso, apricot and butterscotch flavors that endure into a soft, minty finish. Drink through 2046. Massanois Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$125

90 Bodegas Xaló NV Mistela Vall de Xaló (Alicante). This golden-yellow wine has aromas of dried apricot, candied orange peel and a hint of baking spice. It is lightly viscous in the mouth and has canned peach, lemon meringue pie and rose-water flavors with a soft touch of clove. It's the sort of dessert wine that would be perfect with flan, crème brûlée or vanilla ice cream. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$4/500 ml

90 Fuego Lento NV Cosecha Tardia Dolç d'Alexandria (Alicante). Deep gold in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of orange marmalade and peach pie with a whiff of mint leaf. It is a touch syrupy on the palate and offers flavors of apricot preserves, orange marmalade, clove and

mint tea with an underlying bright note of orange zest. Medco Atlantic. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES VINHO VERDE

90 Quinta do Côtto 2021 Paço de Teixeira Avesso (Vinho Verde). Pure Avesso from southern Vinho Verde, the wine has bright acidity along with ripe white fruits. It is a textured, structured wine that is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Quinta do Côtto 2023 Granito Teixeira (Vinho Verde). The five varieties in the blend of this wine come together with a tight mineral texture from the granite texture. The wine is fresh with acidity and light, bright fruit. Drink from later this year. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Quinta do Côtto 2023 Teixeira (Vinho Verde). Crisp and light, this wine from the south of the Vinho Verde region also has some ripeness. It is young and full of white fruits. Drink later this year. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Casa de Vila Verde 2023 Tiroliro (Vinho Verde). With a light tongue prickle, this off-dry wine is fruity and soft. Green fruits and acidity are balanced by a tangy texture and a light touch. Drink the wine now. Artisans & Vines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

DOURO

93 Quinta de São Luiz 2019 Winemaker's Selection (Douro). Rich and wood aged, this white wine is finely chiseled. Its white fruits and texture are laced with toastiness and spice. The wine is impressive and is just ready to drink. Wine In Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Colinas do Douro 2020 Quinta da Extrema Ensaios Extremes (Douro). A native Douro grape, the rare Rabigato's mineral texture gives it a structure and tense acidity. Wood aging has added spice and polished the wine, bringing out fruit and acidity. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Colinas do Douro 2020 Seixo Amarelo Reserva (Douro). Grapes from a vineyard planted on granite soil has produced an intensely fruity wine. Fresh apple and kiwi flavors are lifted by spice fla-

BUYINGGUIDE

vors. Drink this wine now. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

89 Colinas do Douro 2022 Quinta da Pedra Cavada Reserva (Douro). This is a tangy, crisp wine with touches of wood aging. Apples and pear flavors mingle with tight acidity and a touch of minerality. The wine needs some more time, drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Colinas do Douro 2021 Reserva (Douro). Lightly wood aged, the wine is ripe and spicy. It has a rich edge along with plenty of acidity. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Quinta do Crasto 2022 Superior (Douro). A blend of Viosinho and Verdelho brings out waves of aromatic apple and lychee freshness. The wine is crisp with acidity, showing lemon flavors and a mineral texture. Drink from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Quinta do Vale Meão 2022 Meandro (Douro). The white wine of Meão comes from individual parcels in the estate. It is a fresh style with great acidity and minerality from the schist soils. Drink from 2025. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

88 Quinta de São Luiz 2022 Reserva (Douro). This creamy wine is textured, layering fresh white and citrus fruits with a touch of spice. Drink this young wine from 2025. Wine In Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Quinta dos Avidagos 2022 Reserva Branco (Douro). The wine's fruit is forward, crisp and bright. Apple flavors and plenty of acidity keep the wine fresh with a light mineral texture in the background. Drink from 2025. Vino Vero. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Santos & Seixo 2022 Cevê Reserva (Douro). Light oak fills this wine out very satisfactorily. The acidity has already softened, the citrus flavors rounded and textured. Drink the wine now. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Quinta do Crasto 2022 Crasto (Douro). Crisp citrus and green pear perfumes give a wine that is both tightly aromatic and cut with acidity. It is crisp with a steely edge from the Gouveio in the blend. The wine will be ready from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Santos & Seixo 2022 Pingo Doce Reserva (Douro). Produced for a Portuguese super-market chain, this lightly mineral wine with citrus

and fresh kiwi fruit flavors. It is fresh and fruity, ready to drink now. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Santos & Seixo 2022 Santos da Casa Fazem Milagres (Douro). This blend of Rabigato, Gouveio and Codega do Larinho is aromatic with touches of tropical fruits as well as kiwi flavors. It is an attractive wine, ready to drink from later this year. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Colinas do Douro 2022 Superior (Douro). A blend of four varieties grown at 1,500 feet in a cool vineyard, this is lively and tangy. It has a fresh lime and spice edge with acidity and a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Colinas do Douro 2017 Quinta da Extrema (Douro). A very mature wine with spice and secondary flavors, this is probably too old. If you like this style, drink now. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

86 Quinta dos Avidagos 2022 (Douro). Full of fruit with a touch of minerality in its texture, the wine is bright and fresh. Its acidity brings fine lemon flavors and a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Vino Vero. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

LISBOA

89 Adega Mãe 2020 Vinhas Velhas (Lisboa). The Vidal grape is a really local variety to Lisboa. With its crisp texture and heart-stopping acidity, the wine is fresh with concentration from the old vines. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 DFJ Vinhos 2022 Aluado Chardonnay (Lisboa). This is a ripe, fruity wine with white fruits and a creamy texture. It is fresh, while rounded, a young wine that is ready to drink. Lionstone International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 DFJ Vinhos 2022 DFJ Alvarinho-Chardonnay (Lisboa). The wine is soft, hinting at a spicy backdrop to the rounded blend of Alvarinho and Chardonnay. The wine is light, bright and ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 DFJ Vinhos 2022 Point West (Lisboa). This easy blend of Alvarinho and Chardonnay is fresh and fruity. Acidity goes with apple fruits and citrus to give a balanced wine, ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Casa Santos Lima 2023 Stones & Bones (Lisboa). This light wine is crisp and fresh with acidity and a bright herbal texture. It has intense

tangy flavors, layered with citrus. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Wine Attitude 2020 Lés-a-Lés Cerceal-Malvasia Fina (Távora-Varosa). From a small mountain appellation south of the Douro Valley, this is better known for its sparkling wines. This unusual still wine is fresh, fruity and perfumed. It has some attractive acidity, giving a bright, tangy character. Drink now. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

TEJO

90 Quinta da Alorna 2021 Reserva das Pedras (Tejo). This wood-aged fruity wine is textured and spicy. Ripe white-fruit flavors are laced with acidity and a squeeze of lemon. Drink the wine now. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

90 Santos & Seixo 2021 Encosta do Sobral Grande Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Tejo). A spicy wine with wood aging and balanced acidity. White fruits are laced with citrus and a touch of toast. It is a delicious wine, touched by minerality. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Quinta da Alorna 2022 Cardal (Tejo). Fernão Pires and a touch of perfumed Verdelho give this wine its freshness and light minerality. The wine's fruitiness means it is ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

87 Santos & Seixo 2023 Encosta do Sobral Selection (Tejo). This young wine is packed with fruit from the blend of Arinto, Fernão Pires and Verdelho. Its citrus flavors are enhanced by white fruits and tangy acidity. Drink from later this year. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Santos & Seixo 2023 Encosta do Sobral Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo). Fresh and herbal, this is a crisp wine with acidity and a light texture. It is young, full of fruit and likely to be ready later this year. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Rosa Santos 2015 Grande Reserva (Colares). A rare wine from a small coastal region west of Lisbon, this is aged in large wood vats. It has a light oxidative quality that brings character and adds to the wine's special nature. The wine is ready to drink. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$210

92 Quinta da Taboadella 2021 Grande Villae (Dão). This is beautifully formed wood-aged wine. It is rich with a combination of green fruits

and tropical flavors. Structured and mineral, with a cool aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

89 **Wine Attitude NV Lés-a-Lés Arinto de Pedra e Cal (Bucelas).** From the home of Arinto in the Lisboa region, this wine is crisp and light. It has fresh sliced apple and citrus flavors that are full of fruit and poise. Drink now. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

88 **J. Portugal Ramos 2023 Pouca Roupá (Alentejano).** This is a tropical take on Sauvignon Blanc. Touches of peach and pineapple go alongside the citrus; tangy and fresh. The wine needs to calm down and will be ready to drink from later this year. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

ROSÉ

87 **Quinta dos Avidagos 2022 Reserva Rosé (Douro).** Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz are blended in this lightly textured rosé. Full of red fruits, laced with acidity, the wine is ready to drink. Vino Vero. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

PORTUGAL RED WINES DOURO

98 **Quinta do Vale Meão 2021 (Douro).** For full review see page 3. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$119

95 **Quinta do Crasto 2019 Vinha Maria Teresa (Douro).** At least 54 varieties of old vines are in this single-vineyard wine. The wine has spice, vanilla, leather and mushroom aromas. It is a powerful wine that has great potential, rich tannins and concentration. Drink from 2027. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$242

95 **Quinta do Portal 2017 Quinta dos Muros M7 (Douro).** This field blend of up to 29 different varieties come from a single vineyard. It is a rich wine, packed with rich, concentrated tannins as well as black fruits and spice. Aged for over two years in wood, the wine is still developing. Drink from 2025. M Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$240

95 **Quinta do Vale Meão 2021 Monte Meão Vinha dos Novos (Douro).** For full review see page 4. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

94 **Quinta do Crasto 2019 Touriga Franca (Douro).** This Touriga Franca comes from the Crasto home vineyard. The wine's toast, herbs and wild berry aromas are reflected in the solid, perfumed flavors, blueberry fruits and refined texture. The wine will be ready from 2026. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 **Quinta do Portal 2019 Auru (Douro).** Fermentation in small open-topped tanks has given this wine an open, rich character. It is a powerful wine, but one that is laced with acidity. Bold black-plum fruits have been enhanced by 18 months in wood. This is an impressive wine that should be ready from 2027. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$225

94 **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2020 Vinha Centenária Referencia P28/P21 (Douro).** The wine is part of a small series of single-parcel wines, blending one variety (P28 Tinta Roriz) with a field blend from a centuries-old vineyard on a 600- to 800-foot slope. The wine is packed with dark tannins and rich black fruits. The smooth, firm character is mixed with an age-worthy ripeness. Drink from 2027. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$149

94 **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2020 Vinha Centenária Referencia P29/P21 (Douro).** This wine, from a single parcel comes from a blend of Touriga Nacional (P29) and an old multi-variety field blend (P21). It is a powerful, perfumed wine with rich tannins and a solid structure. It is an impressive, smoky wine that still needs aging. Drink from 2027. Wein Bauer Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$149

93 **Domingos Alves de Sousa NV Bota Velha Reserva Unico (Douro).** Domingos Alves de Sousa went to the cellar to create a powerful blend from 2017, 2019 and 2020 wines. Dense and structured, it is impressive with concentrated black fruits and layered tannins. Although it can be drunk now, it will be better from 2026. Wine Bridge Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$99

93 **Quinta de São Luiz 2018 Vinhas Velhas Grande Reserva Vinha da Rumilã (Douro).** A parcel of old vines in a field blend has produced a serious, very age-worthy wine. It is dense without being powerful, so balanced with juicy black fruits and layers of tannins. Drink the wine from 2025. Wine In Motion. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$120

93 **Quinta do Crasto 2021 Reserva Old Vines (Douro).** Black plum, mint and dense wood aromas are the result of oak aging and concentrated fruit from 70-year-old vines. The Crasto vineyard is rich in mixed plantings and this wine shows the resulting complexity alongside the fruits. Drink

from 2027. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

93 **Quinta do Portal 2020 Grande Reserva (Douro).** Long aging in wood has given this wine its density and richness. There is a fine polished character that brings out the wine's structure, relying on the tannins for further aging. Drink from 2027. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 **Burmester 2019 Quinta do Arnozelo Grande Reserva (Douro).** Wood aging gives a succulent, juicy wine, rich in black fruits that are balanced by acidity and structure. It demands more aging and should be ready from 2025. Wine In Motion. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 **Casa de Cambres 2018 Grande Reserva (Douro).** This producer is based in Lamego in the Douro hills to the south of the Douro river. Aging in oak on its lees for nine months, the wine has a polished ripe feel, full of solid tannins that is still maturing. It is a rich, dense wine, ready from 2025. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 **Colinas do Douro 2020 Quinta da Extrema Ensaios Extremes (Douro).** A powerful, structured wine, this is rich in tannins and black fruits. It is solid, spice from wood aging giving ripeness and touches of pepper. The wine still needs to age, drink from 2026. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Colinas do Douro 2020 Quinta da Extrema Ensaios Extremes (Douro).** Spicy and rich, this wine is full of black fruits. Wood aging and tannins have power and density. Just let the wine age further, drink from 2026. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 **Colinas do Douro 2020 Quinta da Extrema Reserva (Douro).** From the eastern Douro Superior region, this wine is bold, rich and full of dark fruits. It has a fine structure to support the blackberry flavors. Drink this dense wine from 2025. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 **Colinas do Douro 2019 Reserva (Douro).** Vines grown at 1,800 feet give this wine a fine structure and texture. The tannins and solid core of the wine are still young, offering a fine support for the black fruits. Drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Quinta da Cuca 2017 Reserva (Douro).** With still-firm structure, this wine has black fruits, a dense texture and concentration. There are light perfumes from the Touriga Nacional in the blend, giving a rich wine. Drink now or keep until 2025. New Heights Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$64

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Quinta de São Luiz 2019 Vinhas Velhas Grande Reserva (Douro). Old vines, mainly Touriga Nacional, are the source of this dark, dense wine. Maturing well, its tannins still need more time to soften. Blackberry flavors remain in the background along with the wine's structure. Drink from 2026. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

92 Quinta do Crasto 2019 Touriga Nacional (Douro). Touriga Nacional, the premium variety of the Douro, is treated to a powerful version in this wine. Black-currant fruits, violet spice and perfume aromas are sustained with toast, dark berry fruits and succulent acidity. Drink the wine from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

92 Quinta do Portal 2021 Reserva (Douro). A rich wine, aged for nine months in wood, this is balanced and full of fruit. Its black-currant flavors are ripe, while seared with acidity. The wine needs some more time, so drink from 2027. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Quinta do Vale Meão 2021 Meandro (Douro). For full review see page 12. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Quinta dos Avidagos 2019 Grande Reserva (Douro). This producer seems to specialize in wines that are powerful and rich. This wine is massive, yet balanced with acidity as well as generous black fruits. It has style as well, blending concentrated tannins and that touch of acidity. Drink from 2025. Vino Vero. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Colinas do Douro 2021 Seixo Amarelo Reserva (Douro). A 12-acre vineyard that dates back to 1840 has given a balanced, richly fruity wine. Tannins and a core of black fruits are still young, ready to develop further. With its concentration, the wine will age further. Drink from 2026. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Colinas do Douro 2020 Quinta da Pedra Cavada (Douro). This quinta is at high altitude in Douro Superior. Its dense black fruits and ripe tannins are encased in a rich texture backed by succulent acidity. Drink this wine from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Quinta de São Luiz 2021 Reserva (Douro). This blend of Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz presents two staples of red wines in the Douro. The wine was aged in wood, giving succulent richness and a smooth texture that means the wine is almost ready to drink. Just wait until 2025. Wine In Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Quinta do Crasto 2020 Superior (Douro). From Crasto's vineyard in the Douro Superior, the wine has a smoky and warm-herb aroma. It has dense tannins and juicy black-currant fruits. The character is forward, ripe and young. Concentrated fruits are ready to soften further. Drink from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

91 Santos & Seixo 2020 Perspectiva Reserva (Douro). A powerful wood-aged wine, this is solid with dense black fruits. It shows a fine structure typical of the Douro. With spice and lots of potential, the wine will be best from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Colinas do Douro 2021 Barquinha Reserva (Douro). From high-altitude vines, this wine is richly textured, while also balanced and full of fruit. The acidity of the wine brings freshness that will soften. Drink from 2026. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Colinas do Douro 2021 Quinta da Pedra Cavada Reserva (Douro). A smoky, ripe wine with rich black fruits and a firm structure. Black fruits are developing well, promising a full-bodied juicy and rich wine. Drink this solid wine from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Quinta do Crasto 2021 Altitude 430 (Douro). The 1,400 foot-altitude of this vineyard of Tinta Francisca and Touriga Nacional has given the wine a pale ruby color. It also shows in the cool character of the aroma of intense crushed cherries. The wine is juicy with raspberry and peppered strawberry flavors. Drink from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

90 Santos & Seixo 2020 Cevêr Reserva (Douro). Aged in wood for a year, the wine is full bodied and rich. Spicy with a mineral edge, it is full of ripe black fruits under the wine's solid structure. Drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Colinas do Douro 2017 Quinta da Extrema (Douro). This high-altitude vineyard is dense with tannins and solid black fruits. It is full of juicy fruits that are dark and powerful. It is a good ready-to-drink introduction to the Upper Douro. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69

89 Domingos Alves de Sousa 2021 Bota Velha Reserva (Douro). The name of the wine—literally “old boots”—is a reference to the footwear of vineyard workers. It is full of black-fruit flavors with a strong touch of minerality. Spice from wood aging gives the wine its extra concentration. Drink from 2026. Wine Bridge Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Quinta do Portal 2021 Colheita (Douro). A blend of Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca, the wine is young, fruity and laced with acidity. It is succulent, its ripeness going with the spice of light wood aging. Drink now or wait to 2026. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Quinta dos Avidagos 2020 18 (Douro). A rich, heavy wine made using carbonic maceration that enhances the fruit. It has the density of a Port, but even at 18%, it is a wine. The wine has enormous black fruits and powerful spice flavors. Drink now. Vino Vero. —R.V.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$35

89 Santos & Seixo 2020 Perspectiva (Douro). With a blend of Touriga Franca, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Amarela, this wine is balanced. Its ripe tannins and bold black fruits show richness along with spice from wood aging. The wine has a fine texture that brings out the further promise of the wine. Drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

88 Quinta da Basília 2018 Super Premium Vinhas Velhas (Douro). This is not just “Super Premium,” but super heavy as well. It has rich, solid tannins and big black fruits with touches of pepper from the high alcohol. The wine is ready to drink. New Heights Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$84

88 Quinta do Crasto 2020 Crasto (Douro). Ripe raspberry and red-plum aromas show this wine to be led by its fruit. Light tannins and bright and succulent strawberry flavors are right to the fore. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Santos & Seixo 2020 Cevêr (Douro). Rich tannins and solid tannins give this dense wine a solid character. The wine is full, its blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz is classic Douro. The wine is ready to age further, drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$9

87 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2022 Unoaked (Douro). A black-fruit-flavored wine that emphasizes blackberry flavors. The wine is juicy and rich, ready to drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

LISBOA

91 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Aluado Reserva (Lisboa). For full review see page 18. Lionstone International. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 Casa Santos Lima 2020 Reserva (Lisboa). This blend of four varieties, including Touriga Nacional and Alicante Bouschet, marries

structure and richness. It is a dense wine, full of black fruits and tannins that are just beginning to soften. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Casa do Lago Grande Reserva (Lisboa).** For full review see page 20. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 **Casa Santos Lima 2022 Stones & Bones Reserva (Lisboa).** A richly textured wine with ripe black fruits, this is a plump, bold wine that will age fast. It already has plenty of spice, acidity and structure. Drink this well balanced wine from 2025. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 **Casa Santos Lima 2021 Colossal Touriga Nacional (Lisboa).** From selected Touriga Nacional, the wine has spice, perfumed black fruits and a fine structure. The wine is concentrated, the tannins giving a core of dryness. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 **DFJ Vinhos 2022 Aluado Alicante Bouschet (Lisboa).** This rich wine with its dense Alicante Bouschet texture is also juicy and spicy. Black fruits and ripe tannins give the wine fine concentration allied to the lighter alcohol. Drink from later this year. Lionstone International. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **DFJ Vinhos 2020 Patamar Reserva (Lisboa).** A fruity blend of four varieties, including the rare Caladoc, the wine is lightly structured with spice and tannins to support the red-berry fruits. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

89 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Portada Lote DFJ Reserva (Lisboa).** This is a firm, structured wine with rich tannins and layers of toastiness. Black fruits and a dry core of tannins suggest the wine could age further. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

88 **Adega Mãe 2018 Castelão (Lisboa).** The wine is soft, light in color with a bright texture. Juicy and fresh, the wine with its spicy edge is now ready to drink. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

88 **Casa Santos Lima 2021 Colossal Reserva (Lisboa).** A cushioned, ripe wine, plump with black fruits and rich tannins. It is a bold wine, full and powerful. Drink from later this year. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Alta Corte (Lisboa).** This blend of Caladoc and Tinta Roriz is typical of a producer who has a fine track record of blending. This combination gives a fresh, spicy wine with

acidity and black-currant flavors. Drink now. Dionysos Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 **DFJ Vinhos 2020 Portada Lote DFJ (Lisboa).** A fresh, spicy wine with fine acidity and a juicy fruitiness. The wine is full of red berries and touched by spice. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 **Adega Mãe 2022 Dory (Lisboa).** Ripe berry flavors and soft tannins mark this wine. It has black-plum flavors with acidity and a generous texture. Drink the wine from 2025. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

87 **Casa Santos Lima 2022 Red Blend Portugal (Lisboa).** A blend of several varieties—a Portuguese skill—this wine is fruity and attractively fresh. It has red berries and spice, acidity and ripeness at the same time. Drink now. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Patamar Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa).** The wine is soft with bright red-berry flavors and a fresh line of acidity. It is lightly perfumed and full of spicy tastes. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

87 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Pedras do Monte (Lisboa).** A soft, fruity wine with ripe tannins and spice flavors. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Tinta Roriz, the wine is balanced and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Que Vida (Lisboa).** This blend of six varieties, including Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon, works well. It has perfumed black fruits along with light tannins and juicy acidity at the end. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 **Casa Santos Lima 2022 Sold Out (Lisboa).** A soft, fruity wine with red-berry flavors and light tannins. It has a fresh feel, bright with fruits and sure to be ready to drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

TEJO

91 **Quinta da Alorna 2020 Reserva das Pedras (Tejo).** From the pebbly soil at the heart of the Alorna estate, this wine is 100% Tinta Miuda. It is dense with ripe black fruits and a fine juicy character. It is a full-bodied wine, while also balanced and structured. Drink from 2025. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Fiuza 2022 Reserva Premium (Tejo).** Pure Alicante Bouschet gives a rich wine packed with young tannins and a solid core. It is a dense wine, as befits this variety, giving promising drinking from 2026. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 **Quinta Monteiro de Matos 2019 Reserva do Paul (Tejo).** A heavy bottle and high alcohol give this wine more than enough weight. It has powerful tannins with a solid texture and dark berry flavors. The wine is likely to be ready from 2025. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$70

88 **Santos & Seixo 2021 Cabeço da Pedra Reserva (Tejo).** With nine months in wood, this wine is ripe with blackberry flavors and touches of spice. The wine's richness brings out full flavors, while at the end, the wine shows a fresh juiciness. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Santos & Seixo 2021 Encosta do Sobral Selection (Tejo).** The blend of Touriga Nacional, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon has created a rich wine. Its black-currant fruits with acidity and a firm structure still have potential. Drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Quinta da Alorna 2022 Cardal (Tejo).** A bright and fruity wine, blending Castelão and Trincadeira. It is light with succulent acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

87 **Quinta da Alorna 2022 Lutra (Tejo).** This is an easy, fruity wine with soft tannins and red-berry fruits. It has lightness and immediate drinkability. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

87 **Santos & Seixo 2022 Sublinhdo (Tejo).** A blend of Castelão, Touriga Nacional and Trincadeira is full of black fruits, balanced acidity and ripe tannins. Drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

ALENTEJANO

93 **Rosa Santos 2020 Explicit X Vinhas Velhas (Alentejano).** This field blend of old vines is dark and finely proportioned. It has a solid core of tannins with a succulent texture that brings freshness. Drink this fine wine from 2025. NLC Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

92 **Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Vinha das Romas (Alentejano).** Syrah and Touriga Nacional are blended in this single-vineyard wine. It is a beautifully textured wine, its ripe tannins and black fruits polished by wood aging that give density and

BUYINGGUIDE

power. The wine should age further; wait to drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Rosa Santos 2020 Explicit (Alentejano). This is a blend of four varieties, including Alicante Bouschet and Touriga Nacional. It is serious, big and dense. Black fruits and rich tannins combine with weight and a touch of pepper from alcohol. Drink from 2025. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26

91 Parras Wines 2021 Pêra Doce Premium (Alentejano). This famous Portuguese brand is rich and full of black fruits. It is a ripe wine with structure and a core of tannins. Drink from 2025. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Casa Santos Lima 2020 Monte da Caçada Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano). A dark, firm wine, structured and still dense, this is concentrated. The black fruits and ripe tannins give a fine sense of power. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Monte da Ravasqueira 2022 Vinha da Coutada Velha (Alentejano). This single-vineyard wine with its powerful tannins has a fine dry core along with black fruits. Its four-grape blend, including Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, gives complexity and black tannins. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Parras Wines 2022 Montaria Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano). From the region that is the home of Alicante Bouschet, this wine is rich and dark. A bold, fruity wine, this is structured and young. Drink from 2026. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

88 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Fortissimo (Alentejano). The richness and warmth of the Alentejo climate is very evident in this concentrated wine. It is juicy, while having dense black-currant flavors and solid textures. Drink the wine from 2025. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Monte da Caçada Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano). Ripe, fruity and juicy, the wine has black fruits and balanced acidity. Drink this fresh wine with a light texture from 2025. OZ Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 Domingos Alves de Sousa 2019 Cinco Forais Reserva (Alentejano). With producer Abreu Callado at the helm, the wine is rich, still firmly structured. It is a dense wine with big tannins alongside the black fruits. Drink the wine from 2025. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Monte da Ravasqueira 2022 Lagar da Ravasqueira (Alentejano). Four varieties are in this blend whose name celebrates the open-top lagar where grapes are fermented into wine. It is a full-bodied wine, solid with tannins and black fruits. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Monte da Ravasqueira 2022 Ravasqueira Syrah (Alentejano). The bold perfumed tannins of this ripe wine give a core of solidity and structure. The wine is rich and packed with black fruits. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Parras Wines 2022 Montaria Touriga Nacional (Alentejano). Spicy and ripe, this textured wine has perfumed aromas and black fruits. Drink this rich wine from 2026. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2022 Guarda Rios (Alentejano). Soft red fruits are forward and fresh in this ripe wine. The light structure underlines a juicy wine that will be ready from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Parras Wines 2022 Montaria (Alentejano). A blend of Alicante Bouschet with Aragonez and Syrah, this is a spicy, slightly yeasty wine. Its black fruits are lined with tannins and lifted by acidity. Drink from later this year. Suitable for vegans. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

ALENTEJO

90 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2022 Premium (Alentejo). A juicy wine with ripe tannins, this is full of black fruits. It has a polished feel from light wood aging, while the blend of Trincadeira and Alicante Bouschet brings richness. Drink from 2025. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

90 Quinta do Quetzal 2019 Reserva (Alentejo). A richly wood-aged wine, this is open and dense. Spice and smoky tannins come from this dense wine with its Syrah and Alicante Bouschet. It is still on the young side and will be better from 2025. New Heights Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

90 Santos & Seixo 2021 Santos da Casa Reserva (Alentejo). A solid wine with rich black fruits that give this a ripe, spicy character. It is full, a polished wine that shows a fine future. Drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2021 Signature (Alentejo). Aged for nine months in wood, this is a structured wine. Its ripe tannins and

blend of Trincadeira, Aragonez and Alicante Bouschet is dense while preserving plenty of ripe fruits. Drink from later this year. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2021 Superior (Alentejo). A ripe blend of Syrah and Alicante Bouschet, this wine is solid with juicy black fruits and a core of tannins. Drink from later this year. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER RED WINES

93 Quinta da Taboadella 2021 Reserva Touriga Nacional (Dão). The wine brings together the granite soils of the Dão and the region's native variety. Its serious black fruits and tannins are powerful. Balanced, the wine is juicy and likely to age well. Drink from 2027. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Quinta do Crasto 2021 Superior Syrah (Duriense). This dense wine, with its full earthy spice and violet perfumes, is packed with black plum flavors. The tannins, cushioned by the fruit, are firm and solid. Drink from 2026. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Monte da Ravasqueira 2022 Porta d'Armas (Dão). This ripe, mineral-textured wine is stylish and full of young tannins. With its dry core and fine balance, the wine will be impressive with some aging. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Al-Ria Reserva (Algarve). The southern Portuguese coast of the Algarve is the inspiration for this bold, ripe wine. It has firm tannins with dark fruits and acidity. Drink the wine from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

86 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Al-Ria (Algarve). A rustic wine, with a layer of firm tannins alongside juicy acidity. Blackberry fruits are there, lying behind the structure. Drink from 2025. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

PORT

95 Quinta do Crasto 2019 Vintage (Port). A single parcel of the Crasto vineyard is the source of this Vintage Port. It is beautifully perfumed with aromas of fresh, young blackberry fruits, black pepper and touches of wood. The wine is balanced, its licorice and cushioned tannins giving a dry style. It will age well; drink from 2029.

Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$60

94 **Quinta do Crasto 2020 Vintage (Port).** A mixed-variety vineyard has produced a Port of great concentration. Two years in wood have preserved the wine's jammy black-cherry fruit aromas and sweet-blackberry flavors. They are sustained by a core of solid tannins and well-integrated spirit that will allow it to age gracefully. Drink from 2030. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$60

93 **Quinta do Crasto NV 20 Years Tawny (Port).** This 20-years-aged Tawny Port is at its optimum. Both wood aromas and flavors, and raisin flavors light the wine's structure. They are set against echoes of the original red fruitiness of the wine. Drink now or up to 2026. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$85

93 **Quinta do Vale Meão 2021 Vintage (Port).** The 2021 vintage was exceptionally cool, giving Ports that are full of depth and layered flavors that are gradually developing. This wine is beautifully balanced, promising considerable aging. Drink from 2030. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$95

93 **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2021 Vintage (Port).** The richness of this wine is palpable. It shows big tannins and black fruits on the dry side, but with a core that promises long-term aging. The wine's structure is impressive with a spicy finish of dried fruits. Drink from 2030. Wein Bauer Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$112

91 **Quinta do Crasto NV 10 Years Tawny (Port).** Balanced between fruit flavors and wood aging, this Tawny Port is full of dried-fruit aromas that bring out touches of wood and nutmeg. It is ready to drink, but because it was bottled unfiltered, it will age further. Drink now or up to 2026. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$48

91 **Quinta do Vale Meão NV 10 Years Tawny (Port).** Although this is labeled as an average of 10 years, this Port shows as much wood as youthful fruit. That gives it maturity, the dried fruits showing well against richness. Drink now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$35

90 **Quinta do Crasto 2017 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** Up to five years in wood before bottling have brought out black-cherry aromas and a balanced palate that shows raspberry flavors and hints of wood spice. The Port was bottled unfiltered so, although ready to drink, could age further. Suitable for vegans. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$27

GERMANY

RIESLING

98 **Robert Weil 2022 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Trockenbeerenauslese Riesling (Rheingau).** The thick and syrupy texture makes you want to pour this over your crêpes—and you probably wouldn't regret it. However, this is pure excellence in the glass, with an earth and mineral component that is contributing to the already complex palate. Honey, apricot, lime and spice notes converge, all supported by a brilliant acidity. Starts out creamy, yet its freshness makes it easy to enjoy. A perfect way to end a meal. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection*. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$700/375 ml

95 **Robert Weil 2022 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Beere-nauslese Riesling (Rheingau).** Plenty of honeyed notes here, dripping over with overripe apricot, candied orange peel and guava. Acidity picks up midpalate, accenting the apricot and citrus flavors in this intense dessert wine. It's focused with balance coming from its powerful acidity. Fine tuned on the long, complex finish. Drink now–2050. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection*. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$340/375 ml

93 **Domdechant Werner 2014 Hochheimer Domdechaney Auslese Riesling (Rheingau).** A tasty combination of ripe apricot, lime and mineral. Intense and concentrated, yet the vivid structure driven by powerful acidity keeps it delineated and fresh. It is both mouth watering and mouth coating on the finish. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 7% Price: \$53

93 **Dr. Loosen 2022 Ürziger Würzgarten Auslese Riesling (Mosel).** A fresh and crackling uslese, with juicy yellow apple, quince paste, lemon curd and nectarine flavors that are accented by hints of white pepper and tarragon. Complex, featuring a well-honeyed finish that shows concentrated cream and spice notes. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$34/375 ml

93 **Dr. Loosen 2021 Estate Eiswein Riesling (Mosel).** Very pure and succulent, with the tropical fruit and lemon aromas and flavors getting a boost from its racy structure. Fuller in body and very sweet with a long spicy, zingy acidity. Fine harmony and length. Drink now–2045. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$45/187 ml

93 **Fritz Haag 2022 Juffer Sonnenuhr Auslese Riesling (Mosel).** This is generously packed, but maintains elegance, featuring a firm backbone of acidity and mineral details. Multilayered, with new elements emerging with each sip. Slate, red peach, brown sugar, honeysuckle and mangosteen fruit notes are the most prominent, leading to a long, mineral-laced finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$60/375 ml

93 **Fritz Haag 2022 Juffer Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** Beautifully delineated, pure and zingy. This shows expressive and concentrated notes of candied lime, vanilla and cream that mingle with the lively structure. Huge intensity of flavors and richness packed into this sleek frame. Drink now–2042. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$33

93 **Fritz Haag 2022 Juffer Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel).** This is seductive, combining velvety texture and beautifully integrated, but firm, acidity. A lacy quality offers an ideal backdrop for its peach, spruce, grapefruit, roasted nut and mineral flavors. A harmonious wine, with superb length and aftertaste. Best after 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$52

93 **Robert Weil 2022 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Auslese Riesling (Rheingau).** Concentrated, with orchard-blossom honey and candied orange notes all balanced by a vibrant structure. It evolves midpalate, offering roasted pineapple, cardamom and ripe apricot. The impression is one of a fresh, ripe juiciness with a lingering finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$90/375 ml

93 **Vereinigte Hospitien 2022 Scharzhofberger Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** This has a mineral aroma with lots of well-defined ripe tropical fruit and candied flavors, including pineapple, guava and mango. Fascinating notes of glazed citrus and herb chime in as well, with a plush finish that's filled with baking spice. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$30

93 **Wittmann 2022 Kirchspiel Westhofen GG Riesling (Rheinhessen).** Very pure and silky in texture, with an underlying creaminess to the explosively fruity flavors of apricot, prickly pear and mangosteen. Saline notes show midpalate, accented by white pepper hints. The spicy finish is long and lush. This is a classic example of a great dry German Riesling from 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$110

92 **Domdechant Werner 2022 Hochheimer Hölle Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau).** Attractive flavors of jujube, Bosc pear and quince mark this flamboyant Riesling. Shows verve and cut, with great acidity balancing out the sweetness, keeping it well defined through the lingering finish. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$35

92 **Dr. Loosen 2022 Erdener Treppchen Auslese Riesling (Mosel).** A rich, compact style, offering lemon and brioche aromas, and flavors, with a hint of saffron-glazed pear. Backed by a lively structure, this shows fine balance and a lingering aftertaste of white pepper and sea salt. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$34/375 ml

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Dr. Loosen 2022 Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Zesty and crunchy, with pure green apple, lemon-lime and tangerine flavors, supported by vibrant acidity. The focused finish shows accents of mint and basil. An interesting sweet, but balanced wine, delivering plenty of snap on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$34

92 Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken 2022 Bockstein Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). Precise, with acidity gallantly flowing, lending focus and bringing out lots of spice and mineral notes up front, while flavors of orchard blossom and white raspberry emerge midpalate. Shows complexity and harmony, though it becomes a bit taut on the finish, not yet showing its full potential. Best after 2026. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$42

92 Fritz Haag 2022 Juffer Auslese Riesling (Mosel). There's rapier-like minerality to the elegant, concentrated and refined apricot, blood orange and gooseberry jelly flavors, with hints of anise. The long, vibrant finish features spice, citrus and hints of sea salt. Pure and seductive, this is built for the long haul. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$43/375 ml

92 Fritz Haag 2022 Juffer Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). A classic style, offering floral, citrus, saline and mineral aromas and flavors. Ripe orchard and stone fruit give it a typical feel midpalate. This is delicate, displaying precision and intensity, and finishing with fine, stony cut. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$42

92 Fritz Haag 2022 Juffer Sonnenuhr Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). This dry Riesling offers mouth-watering acidity behind the flavors of ruby grapefruit, green apple and ripe lime. Features hints of white pepper, with a finish that delivers a flood of rich savoriness and dried green herbal notes. Best after 2026. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$72

92 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Abtsberg Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). This is ripe, offering notes of apricot, licorice and spice, but it's backed by mouth-watering acidity, which helps it stay persistent through the lingering aftertaste. It is tasty, but needs time to fully integrate. Best after 2028. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$65

92 Robert Weil 2022 Kiedrich Gräfenberg GG Riesling (Rheingau). Powerful acidity takes over the citrus and orchard-fruit flavors. A bit hard to understand now, but flavors of kumquat and quince emerge with air, while eucalyptus, mineral and spice details add to the charm. Nicely knit, but could use a few more years to fully harmonize. Best after 2027. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$90

92 Robert Weil 2022 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). Attractive flavors of jellied citrus, guava, ripe apricot and quince mark this exuberant, open-knit version. It shows great energy and cut, which keep it well defined through the lingering aftertaste. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% Price: \$90

92 Vereinigte Hospitien 2022 Scharzhofberger GG Riesling (Mosel). This is showing beautifully, with a gorgeous mix of oyster shell and flint notes that glide along the edges, while the core features elderflower, persimmon and Meyer lemon flavors. Texturally seductive, this would benefit from a bit more time in the bottle, but is tasty now. Best after 2026. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$40

92 Wittmann 2022 Brunnenhäuschen Westhofen GG Riesling (Rheinhessen). This is lush in flavor, but elegant on its feet. It is well spiced, with loads of green peach, baked apple, white cherry and pear flavors that feature touches of smoked sea salt. Sage cream notes emerge in the midpalate and the finish lingers with rich savory and mineral accents. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$125

92 Wittmann 2022 Westhofen Aulerde GG Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). There is a pleasant leesy reduction, as this offers a rich mix of chalky mineral, spice, peach and pear aromas and flavors, with hints of orange. Fresh and juicy, with fine equilibrium and supple texture. It features nice length and grip on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$90

92 Zilliken 2022 Saarburb Alte Reben Trocken Riesling (Mosel). An elegant, floral, dry white showing jasmine and apricot flavors, with a silky texture and an intense mineral core. The long finish features smoky notes with hints of tropical fruits. Juicy yet refined. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$46

91 Dr. Hermann 2022 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This features a honed and perfumed aroma with flavors of white plum, green peach and tropical fruits that are rich and well spiced. Lanolin and dried sage notes show on the powerful finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$26

91 Dr. Loosen 2022 Erdener Treppchen Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This is open knit with notes of nectarine, guava and spice. Lively acidity runs through, keeping the elements in harmony and imparting firmness on the finish. Good length. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$28

91 Dr. Loosen 2022 Erdener Treppchen Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). This shows good intensity and concentration to the ripe peach, apple and

melon flavors, accented by notes of dried mango. Zesty midpalate, presenting a finish that lingers with mineral details. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$34

91 Dr. Loosen 2022 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese Riesling (Mosel). On the candied side, like fruit caramels, displayed on a lightweight, graceful frame. This offers a mineral note in the background and it's all supported by a racy structure. There's beautiful purity on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$34/375 ml

91 Dr. Loosen 2022 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Elegant and full of ripe apple, pear and peach flavors in an attractive, easy-going way. It is balanced, with enough complexity to keep it interesting, yet not too intellectual. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$34

91 Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken 2022 Rausch Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). A well-rounded Riesling, with notes of ginger framing the core of crisp pear, lime and kumquat fruit. This combines ripeness with elegance, driven by vibrant acidity that stays persistent and focused on the inviting finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$51

91 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Abtsberg GG Riesling (Mosel). There is a slight fizz, even reduction to this white, yet with a beam of vibrant acidity keeping this upright and linear. An attractive dusty mineral element underneath the quince, apple and lemon flavors gives this hope. This needs more time to reveal all of its strengths. Best after 2027. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$85

91 Wittmann 2022 Niersteiner Trocken IG Riesling (Rheinhessen). There are plenty of savory accents to the flavors of dried apple, green pear and ginger. Balanced and filled with mouth-watering acidity. The finish features lemon curd and dried mint notes. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$52

90 Domdechant Werner 2022 Hochheimer Kirchenstück Trocken Erste Lage Riesling (Rheingau). This is dry and zesty, yet showing violet, passion fruit and grapefruit aromas and flavors, which provide pleasure. Harmonious and fresh, with a lingering juniper accent. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

90 Dr. Loosen 2022 Bernkasteler Lay Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This shows a little bit of lusciousness, but the acidity keeps it honest. Features notes of sweetened chamomile tea, with lemon and quince notes mingling at the core. Mineraally accents emerge before the long finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$28

90 Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken 2022 Rausch Diabas Riesling (Mosel). Pure but with slight sweetness, showing crunchy green apple and lemon-lime flavors matched to dried green herbal accents. Stony slate details show on the piercingly fresh finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$44

90 Fritz Haag 2022 Paulinshofberg Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). Peach, apricot and floral aromas and flavors highlight this dry Riesling. Plump, with enough acidity and crunchy texture to counter all the elements. Fine length. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$62

90 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2020 Forst Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Though pretty dry, this Riesling is rich and fleshy, with freesia, lemon, apple and mineral aromas and flavors, followed by a long savory finish. The vibrant structure gives it an immediate appeal. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

90 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Abtsberg Superior Riesling (Mosel). Invigorating, firm and savory, with pure-tasting and mineral-infused flavors of green apple, peach and ripe citrus. Dried herbal notes linger on the lushly spiced finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

90 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Herrenberg GG Riesling (Mosel). This is reductive at this point, so it needs air. Hints of tarragon, savory mineral and yellow apple emerge, hinting at what will this become. Concentrated mineral notes linger on the almost smoky finish. Best after 2027. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$85

90 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Herrenberg Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Ripe and creamy, with a vibrant structure, this offers flavors of apricot and lime, with a hint of anise. Well structured and intense, just finishing on the coarse side. Give it some time to shine. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$45

90 Robert Weil 2022 Kiedrich Turmberg Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). This shows aromas of grapefruit, peach blossom and mineral to the elegant profile and silky texture. This is harmonious and classic, with a lingering aftertaste of citrus and mineral salt. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

90 Robert Weil 2022 Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). A lighter style, sleek and tangy. Offers apple, pear and lime flavors, with a layer of mineral on the finish. Focused and vivid. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$45

90 Ulrich Langguth 2022 36 Degrees Piesporter Günterslay Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). An

elegant version, offering aromas of mint, while the palate features a mix of orchard and stone fruit, supported by a vibrant acidity. Sweet spice notes linger on the finish. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$26

90 Wittmann 2022 Westhofener 1G Riesling (Rheinhessen). The ripe citrus and white raspberry flavors tighten up with a mix of flint and savory herb notes. The kumquat, citrus peel and licorice accents lend plenty of zest to the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Domdechant Werner 2022 Hochheimer Domdechane Trocken Erste Lage Riesling (Rheingau). Driven by powerful spiced apple, quince, nectarine and lemon flavors that take on a rich smokiness. Well structured, with plenty of snap on the finish. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Dr. Loosen 2022 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). The spicy citrus and ripe tangerine flavors fill this with a fruity vibrancy. Hints of smoke carry into the moderately long and spice-infused finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Dr. Loosen 2022 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Cooked apple and white-currant flavors are accompanied by hints of pineapple in this friendly version. Finishes with delicate spicy notes that are framed by mineral accents. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$28

89 Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken 2022 Bockstein Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Mouth-watering flavors of glazed apple, apricot and quince paste are expressive and well spiced in this off-dry version. Creamy and rich on the chiseled finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken 2022 Rausch Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This Kabinett switches on the treble, showing clarity to the peach, lemon, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg flavors. Opulent in texture and lively, but lacks the cohesion of the best in this group. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$37

89 Fritz Haag 2022 Brauneberg J Trocken Riesling (Mosel). A light white, with yellow apple flavors and hints of prickly pear and jasmine. Well knit, featuring pronounced but well-integrated acidity and a crunchy, mineral texture. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

89 Fritz Haag 2022 Juffer Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Alluring notes of quince and roasted pineapple mark this crunchy white, with

vibrant acidity providing support and keeping this focused on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

89 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2020 Hohenmorgen GG Riesling (Pfalz). A firm, dry Riesling, taut and austere in flavor, with citrus, passion fruit and white pepper notes. Candied basil and luscious anise notes chime in on the lithe finish. This needs a bit more time, so be patient. Best after 2026. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$115

89 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2019 Jesuitengarten GG Riesling (Pfalz). This shows slight oxidative flavors upfront, with toasted hazelnut, but that is quickly taken over by a lightly smoky aroma and flavors of cherry, currant and Fuji apple. Brisk acidity shows on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$148

89 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Grünhäuser 1G Riesling (Mosel). Very zesty, with vibrant notes of Fuji apple, red peach and Asian pear flavors that feature a silky texture. The finish echoes with cream and spice nuances. This needs a little more time to free itself. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$39

89 Robert Weil 2022 Kiedricher Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). A zesty, tangy style, with lemon and lanolin favors fused to a linear frame. It is nicely built with a balanced and moderately long, salty aftertaste. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Ulrich Langguth 2022 50 Degrees Piesporter Günterslay Auslese Riesling (Mosel). This is lighter, with a lovely interplay between the peach and citrus notes and firm structure, buffered by a rich midpalate. Good length with an inviting floral note. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$35

89 Ulrich Langguth 2022 Piesporter Goldtropfchen Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel). Slight sunburnt flavors are offset by floral notes of elderflower and rose, while firm acidity carries out apricot jam and sage-honey flavors. Turns slightly compact on the finish, where the floral notes echo. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Villa Huesgen 2022 Enkircher Steffensberg Old Vines Riesling (Mosel). A bit shy on the nose, but it features ripe flavors of glazed citrus, baked peach and apple, with notes of apricot and marmalade. Finishes with spice and savory accents. Quintessential. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Dr. Hermann 2022 Dr. H Riesling (Mosel). Offers peach and apple flavors, with some cream accents. The sweeter finish is full of spice,

BUYINGGUIDE

showing notes of dried, savory herbs and dried apricot. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$26

88 Fritz Haag 2022 Brauneberg Tradition Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Very light and elegant, but featuring good intensity to the fruit and minerality, with a firm spine of acidity lending balance. Subtle sweetness marks the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Fritz Haag 2022 Juffer Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Delivers powerful acidity that supports the ripe, exotic flavors of guava, linking them to spice and mineral notes. This shows sweetness, but it is well balanced. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$29

88 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2022 Riesling (Pfalz). Quite zesty, featuring honeysuckle and cream hints behind the mix of orchard and stone fruit. Inviting finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$25

88 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2022 Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Electric, with flavors of apple, peach and mineral. Balanced, leaving a lingering, mouth-watering finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Schloss Riesling (Mosel). Offers aromas of green peach, with flavors of lime and gooseberry. Intense acidity behind the dried green herbal accents, leads to a crackling finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

88 Von Schleinitz 2020 Dangerous Riesling (Mosel). This is interesting and tasty, with plenty of herbal notes to the tangerine and lemon-lime flavors. It lacks complexity to be outstanding, but it is charming. The Marchetti Co. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

88 Wittmann 2022 Estate Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). A racy edge marks this crisp white. Grapefruit, lemon and apple notes mingle with the supple texture and a chalky element emerges on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

87 Domdechant Werner 2022 Hochheim Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Ripe citrus and persimmon flavors give this good lift, showing plenty of minerality midpalate. Very crisp finish, with lingering notes of lemon curd. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

87 Dr. Loosen 2022 Red Slate Dry Riesling (Mosel). Taut and crisp, with mineral flavors that are infused with notes of dried sage. Inter-

esting mix of honey and lanolin on the moderate finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

87 Fritz Haag 2022 Estate Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Light and airy, with vibrant apple, green peach, currant and gooseberry flavors, notes of dried mint linger in the background. The spicy finish is moderately long. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 MAXiMiN Riesling (Mosel). Soft and silky, with charming floral and fruit elements backed by impressive acidity. Green apple and kiwi linger on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Schloss Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Candied berry and citrus notes mark this Riesling, which starts out fresh and almost fizzy, and turns sweet midpalate. It may improve with time, but best to drink soon. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$30

87 Ulrich Langguth 2022 36 Degrees Piesporter Günterslay Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Open textured and juicy, featuring aromas and flavors of ground ginger, clementine zest and nectarine. Not too complex, but appealing. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$24

87 Ulrich Langguth 2022 36 Degrees Traubener Gaispfad Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Elegant, yet with density, offering grapefruit and peach flavors backed by a firm structure. The acidity and mineral character refresh the long finish. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$25

87 Vereinigte Hospitien 2022 Scharzhofberger Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Juicy with a prominent turmeric flavor to the baked peach, grapefruit and ripe citrus. Tarragon and crystallized ginger accents mark the moderate finish. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$20

87 Villa Huesgen 2022 Blue Slate Dry Riesling (Mosel). The baked peach and ripe-apple flavors are broad, featuring notes of glazed apricot. Moderate length. Quintessential. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$33

87 Villa Huesgen 2022 Enkircher Steffensberg Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Cinnamon and pineapple aromas and flavors are backed by a lush texture and crisp acidity in this broad Kabinett. Quintessential. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Von Schleinitz 2020 Nitor Dry Riesling (Mosel). A delicate white, with petrol

hints behind the notes of green apple and slivered almond. Moderate length. The Marchetti Co. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$27

87 Zilliken 2022 Butterfly Riesling (Mosel). Offers aromas of green peach, with flavors of lime and gooseberry. It offers loads of acidity behind the dried green-herbal accents. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

86 Domdechant Werner 2022 Classic Riesling (Rheingau). Enticing floral, chamomile and peach aromas and flavors, with good focus all tied together by vibrant acidity. Just a tad raw on the finish now. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

86 Domdechant Werner 2022 Hochheim Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). Aromas and flavors of persimmon are joined by notes of spiced apple and dried citrus in this dryerkabinett style. Hints of white pepper flash on the finish. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$20

86 Fritz Haag 2022 Estate Riesling (Mosel). This is light, showing glazed citrus and dried apricot flavors, with a juicy core. A bit chewy on the finish, with hints of tropical fruits. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

86 Robert Weil 2022 Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). A light, dry Riesling, with slight fizziness midpalate, while notes of green apple and bitter almond come in right after. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

86 Villa Wolf 2022 Riesling (Pfalz). Friendly and easy to enjoy, with a touch of sweetness embracing the mix of orchard and stone fruit. Moderate length. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

85 Domdechant Werner 2022 Guts Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). A burst of peach, mineral and white pepper is underscored by bracing acidity in this dry white. It finishes a little tart. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

85 Dr. Loosen 2022 Blue Slate Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). A light Kabinett, with understated aromas and flavors of orchard blossom, white peach and lime. The finish is direct and moderately long. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$22

85 Dr. Loosen 2022 Dr. L Dry Riesling (Mosel). This features honeyed notes to the ripe apple and citrus peel flavors. Smoky accents show on the broad finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

85 Ulrich Langguth 2022 12 Degrees Gourmet Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Shows lively acidity, but the flavors are light, with modest citrus and peach notes. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 105% **Price:** \$14

85 Ulrich Langguth 2022 12 Degrees Gourmet Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Shows languid baked apple and pie-crust aromas and flavors up front, with just enough zip to keep the off-dry finish focused. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Villa Wolf 2022 Dry Riesling (Pfalz). Silky, with pungent grapefruit flavors and a touch of spice and crunchy mineral on the finish for added interest. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

84 Ulrich Langguth 2022 36 Degrees Trabener Gaispfad Trocken Riesling (Mosel). A touch off dry, with some nutty notes to the straight-forward white-fruit flavors. Savory herbs show on the finish. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

83 Dr. Loosen 2022 Dr. L Riesling (Mosel). A bit washed out with the barest hint of sweetness, this has peach flavors and a fresh finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$13

83 Ulrich Langguth 2022 36 Degrees Enkircher Ellergrub Alte Reben Riesling (Mosel). Woolly and herbal, with subtle candied notes accenting the red-peach flavors. Sabaca Beverage Group Miller Squared, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$20

PINOT BLANC

90 Maximin Grünhäuser 2022 Pinot Blanc (Mosel). Fresh and lively, offering vivid flavors of Bosc pear and green apple, with hints of mineral and floral combining in a distinctive package. Lovely effort. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

84 Villa Huesgen 2022 Dry Pinot Blanc (Mosel). This dry white shows jangly acidity and flavors of lemon curd and stone. Quintessential. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

83 Villa Wolf 2022 Pinot Blanc (Pfalz). Lean and tight, with green peach and lemon flavors that get a bit sharp on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Dr. Loosen 2022 Erdener Prälat Auslese Rieslaner (Mosel). Ripe and juicy, with a vibrant structure supporting the glazed peach, apple and baking-spice notes. Despite good concentration, this stays light on its feet and remains clean and precise on the crunchy, mineral finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$60/375 ml

90 Andi Weigand 2022 Dreamin' Of Sharin' Love Silvaner (Germany). This is cloudy in appearance, but don't let that deter you, as this shows beautiful notes of apple cider, passion fruit and ground ginger. It is distinctive and charming, featuring a light body, yet firm frame with slight chalkiness adding texture on the finish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

87 Villa Wolf 2022 Gewürztraminer (Pfalz). Slightly sweet and juicy, highly aromatic white, showing modest flavors of pink grapefruit sorbet and lychee, with candied orange peel on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Wittmann 2022 Estate Trocken Grauer Burgunder (Rheinhessen). Fresh and peachy, offering hints of almond and hazelnut with a bright, medium-bodied texture. Well spiced, featuring creamy accents on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

85 Villa Wolf 2022 Pinot Gris (Pfalz). This is fresh and light, with an herbal edge to the pear flavors, set on a silky frame. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

SPARKLING WINES

90 Maximin Grünhäuser 2019 Sekt Brut Sparkling Blend (Mosel). This is round and even a bit buttery, but with a firm backbone of acidity. Flavors of macerated apricot, kumquat, pastry dough, ground anise and pink grapefruit candy are knit to a fine texture, with an inviting finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

88 Robert Weil 2020 Brut Sparkling Blend (Rheingau). Well focused, with ginger and chamomile notes racing along in front of a core of lightly baked apple, brioche and persimmon. Shows good energy and cut. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$49

87 Dr. Loosen NV Extra Dry Sekt Riesling Sparkling Blend (Mosel). Aromatic, showing peach, hazelnut and butter notes in a crisp, light-bodied package. It's more open and fruity, with

decent intensity and length. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Dr. Loosen NV Dr. L Riesling Sparkling Blend (Mosel). A fresh and friendly sparkling, with apricot and blood-orange notes set on the lightly creamy bead. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Villa Wolf NV Pinot Noir Rosé Extra Dry Pinot Noir (Germany). This shows tangy acidity playing off the flavors of cherry granita and grapefruit zest. Lively and easy drinking, with a modest finish. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉ

85 Villa Wolf 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Pfalz). Watermelon and white-cherry flavors show a salty undertone in this rosé, with herb details on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

PINOT NOIR

90 Carl Ehrhard 2021 Rudesheim Berg Rose-neck Spätburgunder (Rheingau). A light-to medium-bodied elegant red, with rose petal tea and mulberry notes, accented by hints of orange peel and loam. Silky and vibrant, with a finish that shows persistence and focus. The Marchetti Co. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Wittmann 2021 Estate Spätburgunder (Rheinhessen). This shows flavors of bilberry and violet, with tannins that are in harmony with the rest, while the acidity gives this liveliness and keeps the wine focused. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

86 Villa Wolf 2022 Pinot Noir (Pfalz). This is light and refreshing, with a leafy green edge to the strawberry flavors, lingering quietly. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

85 Chiara 2021 Pinot Noir Pinot Noir (Pfalz). The crisp texture and flavors of candied cherry and crushed strawberry meld into the friendly finish. Grapejuice Group. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER RED WINE

85 Villa Wolf 2022 Medium Sweet Dornfelder (Pfalz). Smooth, friendly and lightly sweet, this shows vanilla overtones that fold into berry and plum flavors. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$13

SPIRITS



93 Boulard Calvados VSOP (France; Palm Bay International, Port Washington, NY). This is a blend of Calvados aged from four to 10 years. Packed with baked apple, vanilla, oak and warming spices, it has an overall effect that reads like shortbread cookies and apple compote warmed with cinnamon stick and clove. Hints of pecan, orange peel and black pepper add complexity. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50



88 Bols Porn Star Martini Cocktail (The Netherlands, Lucas Bols, White Plains, NY). With an eye-popping vivid orange hue and candied fruit aroma, this RTD is very much on the sweeter side, loaded with vanilla, orange lollipop and candied orange-peel tones. Shaken with ice, some foamy bubbles linger awhile on top. Made with Bols vodka, vanilla, Passoa liqueur, passion fruit and lime juice.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$13/375 ml

CALVADOS

97 Roger Groult Calvados 18 Years Old (France; PM Spirits, Brooklyn, NY). A great example of what Calvados can be. Big, bold tarte Tatin and baked apple mingle with a smoky hint, leading into a long, lip-smacking finish that sizzles with cinnamon and clove. A splash of water brings a ripe red-apple note forward.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$141/700ml

95 Coquerel Calvados 30 Years Old Single Cask (France; BCI, Houston, TX). Look for a deep amber hue and concentrated baked apple and dried cherry aromas, freshened with a violet hint. Each

CALVADOS

Normandy's signature Brandy.

A visit to Normandy, the region where France's apple (and sometimes also pear) based brandy is made, yielded this indelible memory: contented cows parked beneath an apple tree, happily munching on overripe, perhaps partly fermented apples that had fallen from the tree.

Those were some smart cows. Calvados—Normandy's signature apple brandy—is a treat worth getting to know.

Marked by rich baked-apple flavor and spice, Calvados is a pure expression of the French countryside, where hundreds of apple varieties grow. Often, the flavors are reminiscent of strolling through a French bakery: think tarte Tatin, spice cake, vanilla cream, and brioche slathered with butter and honey. That's a result of the underlying apples and pears, of course, while time spent in oak casks (and increasingly, barrels that previously held whiskey or other types of brandy, like Cognac) contribute rich vanilla and baking spice.

With all those delicious, dessert-y flavors,

it's tempting to relegate Calvados to just a dessert sipper. Resist that urge. Similar to France's grape-based brandies—Cognac and Armagnac—Calvados works well in cocktails too. If you're lucky enough to have a bottle on hand, try a Walnut Old Fashioned, as directed by Seattle bar pro Andrew Bohrer: Stir two

ounces of Calvados with ice, a quarter-ounce each of Demerara syrup and nocino (walnut liqueur), plus a couple of dashes of Angostura bitters. Or for spring, try Calvados muddled with strawberries and topped up with sparkling wine or soda water.

To be blunt, Calvados is underrated. If you're a fan of

Cognac or American brandy, Normandy's apple brandy is worth seeking out too. And based on our most recent round of reviews, Calvados in the 18- to 19-year-old range is a particular sweet spot for sipping.

If you don't believe us, just look to the contented French cows. They know the truth.

—Kara Newman

Calvados is a pure expression of the French countryside, where hundreds of apple varieties grow.

sip starts with dried apricot, dried apple and cocoa, expanding into a spicy flurry of cinnamon and clove. It dries to a well-worn, leathery finish that lingers on and on.

abv: 42% **Price:** \$170/700ml

95 Diurne Calvados 19 Years Old (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). The nutty aroma suggests pecan and toasted almond. First sips echo that quality, showing up as roasted nuts tossed with cocoa powder and ground coffee beans. A splash of water coaxes cooked fruit tones forward, including baked apple, dried dates and torched orange peel. The long, drying finish is delicately spiced with cinnamon, clove and nutmeg tingle.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$146/700ml

95 Diurne Calvados 31 Years Old (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Expect a nut-brown hue and aromas suggesting cinnamon-laced apple pie. Assertive, tingy clove, vanilla and black pepper leads,

followed by baked apple and pear drizzled with milk chocolate, joined by a fleeting orange-peel exhale.

abv: 44.8% **Price:** \$259/700ml

94 Coquerel Calvados XO (France; BCI, Houston, TX). Vanilla unfurls on nose and palate, plus a drying, leathery hint. Adding water unlocks lip-smacking hints of caramel, cocoa, cherry and baked apple, leading into a slightly astringent lemon peel finish. All together, the end result suggests caramel apple, a pleasing effect that keeps you dipping in for just one more sip.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$75/700ml

94 Diurne Calvados 18 Years Old (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). This brandy offers a shimmering golden hue and rich, concentrated butterscotch aroma and flavor. Plenty of piquant cayenne is joined by cinnamon and nutmeg, smoothed by honey and succulent hints of ripe pear, honey-

suckle plus a sprinkle of espresso. The finish is big and spicy-hot, appropriate for an overproof spirit.
abv: 50.8% **Price:** \$136/700ml

94 Roger Groult Calvados 8 Years Old (France; PM Spirits, Brooklyn, NY). Baked pear and almond aromas entice. The palate opens with apple butter and a hint of oatmeal cookie, leading to a long, delicate and slightly perfumy finish showing white flowers and pear blossoms, drying to a ginger tingle.
abv: 41% **Price:** \$85/700ml

94 Eric Bordelet Calvados 1976 Single Cask Selection (France, PM Spirits, Brooklyn, NY). This is a special bottling, aged 46 years, from a well-respected producer. Tart green apple leads the lean, drying palate, framed by leathery tannins, torched cinnamon and plum-skin pucker. The extremely long, complex finish suggests plum flesh, burnt orange peel and walnut, fading to nutmeg and cardamom.
abv: 44% **Price:** \$300/700ml

94 Roger Groult Calvados 25 Years Old (France; PM Spirits, Brooklyn, NY). Think apple cake dusted with cocoa powder and baking spice. This brandy opens with cinnamon and clove, followed by palate-coating vanilla, dried apricot and baked apple. The drying exit offers leather, cocoa and walnut. A pleasing sipper, with an extremely long finish.
abv: 41% **Price:** \$200/700ml

94 Diurne Calvados XO Pays d'Augemin 6 Years Old (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Look for a mild almond scent and complex, bolder flavors. Vanilla and dried apricot are laced with cardamom, clove and black pepper, plus a hint of maple sugar. A white-floral hint freshens the exhale.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$75/700ml

93 Coquerel Calvados Triple Cask Finish (France; BCI, Houston, TX). This is a 15-year-old apple brandy finished for nine months in a mix of casks that previously held a trio of French brandies: Cognac, Armagnac and "very old Calvados." The first sips exude mulling spices, baked apple and mocha. Complex, slightly drying flavors include orange oil and orange peel, hints of caraway, clove and anise. The overall impression is lip-smacking spice cake, finishing long and warming.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$85/700ml

93 Diurne Calvados 13 Year Old (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Burnished gold in the glass, this offers a mild apple blossom and honeycomb scent. The robust, lively palate bursts with allspice and ripe pear flavor. A splash of water coaxes more fruit tones including apple strudel, golden plum, caramelized pineapple and lemon peel. The spiced finish prickles with cayenne and ginger heat.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$109/700ml

93 Roger Groult Calvados 12 Years Old (France; PM Spirits, Brooklyn, NY). Expect a burnished gold hue and aromas of oak and red apple. That red apple note is echoed on the palate, alongside ripe banana and warm hints of maple, almond and walnut. The drying finish brings back toasted oak and spiced apple.
abv: 41% **Price:** \$107/700ml

92 Boulard Calvados XO (France; Palm Bay International, Port Washington, NY). A blend of brandies ranging from eight to 40 years old, this Calvados has a deep amber hue and aromas of vanilla, leather and red fruit. Sweetness and spice balance nicely. Cherry leather, dried apple and toasted almond play off dusty nutmeg, ginger, black pepper and cassia bark. Fleeting lemon-peel astringency refreshes the finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$90

92 Coquerel Calvados Finished in Bourbon Barrels (France; BCI, Houston, TX). Right off the bat, this brandy smells like whiskey, disclosing oak and vanilla, with just a passing whiff of baked apple. The first sips show palate-coating butterscotch, toasted almond and vanilla, lingering into a long and sticky finish that suggests butterscotch and honey drizzled over apples. Cinnamon heat frames the exhale. This is a four-year-old apple brandy finished in casks that previously held Willett bourbon. Limited edition. **Best Buy.**
abv: 41% **Price:** \$50

92 Coquerel Calvados Millésime 1972 Vintage (France; BCI, Houston, TX). A rare 50+ year vintage bottling deserves some TLC. Give it some breathing room in the glass, and perhaps a splash of water to take off the tannic edge. This brandy pours with a deep amber hue and toffee and dried cherry aromas, plus an almost meaty waft. Cherry is echoed on the palate, framed by lemon peel and raisin, leading into a drying finish with spice box and cigar-wrapper tones. The complex exhale includes violet, citrus and a mellow, almost savory hint.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$300/700ml

92 Diurne Calvados Domfrontais (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). This mellow and savory apple brandy offers roasted pineapple, plenty of honey and vanilla, and a hint of barbecue spices. Sea-salted citrus peel and a bright flicker of ginger linger into the exhale.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$58/700ml

91 Claque-Pepin Calvados XO Single Cask #077 Cognac Barrel Finish (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). A single cask bottled at an astonishingly high proof means robust flavor and extra alcohol heat. Bold allspice, sarsaparilla and marzipan aromas plus a hint of black cherry entice from the moment the liquid is poured. Even with plenty of water added, the palate explodes with hot spices such as clove, pepper and cinnamon red-hots. These

flavors linger into a barely tamed finish that evokes vanilla frosting sprinkled with cayenne.
abv: 61% **Price:** \$80/700ml

91 Roger Groult Calvados 3 Years Old (France; PM Spirits, Brooklyn, NY). Look for a golden hue and honey and almond aromas. The soft, light palate opens with Bartlett pear and hints of almond and coconut. A fresh white-floral note and spearmint tingle waft into the finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$62/700ml

90 Coquerel Calvados VS (France; BCI, Houston, TX). Aged a minimum of two years, this golden apple brandy offers rich honey and vanilla tones, finishing with hints of ground coffee and clove. A mellow apple-blossom note mingles with oak on the finish. Recommended for cocktail mixing. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$30/700ml

89 Diurne Calvados VS 2 Year Old (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Expect a golden hue and fresh Granny Smith apple aromas mixed with honey. The light palate opens with oak, toasted coconut and green and red apple notes. Ginger and fresh mint provide a tingly exhale. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$52/700ml

88 Boulard Calvados VSOP Rye Cask Finish (France; Palm Bay International, Port Washington, NY). This is a VSOP Calvados finished for 12 weeks in barrels that previously held American rye whiskey. Brisk aromas suggest hard cider and oak. The palate echoes oak, framing it with cocoa powder, baking spice and a long, baked-apple finish. Limited edition. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

ADDITIONAL BRANDIES

96 Frapin Cognac 1994 Single Cask (France; PM Spirits, Brooklyn, NY). With a deep amber hue and toffee aroma, this brandy opens with soft maple, vanilla and baked pear tones. A savory, almost barbecue-like hint teases in the background. The elongated finish mingles sweet and earthy tones reminiscent of caramel, roasted mushroom, dried orange, cardamom and smoked paprika, plus a mouthwatering saline hint.
abv: 47.3% **Price:** \$265/700ml

94 Martingale Cognac (France; Martingale Cognac, Mount Kisco, NY). Look for a honey hue and gentle tropical fruit and almond aromas. The palate skews sweet, opening with vanilla-cream pie sprinkled with cinnamon and black pepper, warming to brioche slathered with butter and honey. The long, elegant fade shows toasted oak and spice.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$120/700ml

93 Glacier 45 Copper Belt Brandy Aged 4 1/2 Years (USA; Glacier 45 Distillery, Baker City,

OR). This grape-based brandy is a collab between distillery Glacier 45 and winery Copper Belt. The end result is a juicy, fruit-forward spirit. Big, bouncy orange, kumquat and mandarin lead the palate, restrained by a ribbon of rich caramel. Baking spice dries the finish. ***Best Buy.***
abv: 42.5% **Price:** \$45/375ml

90 Markhor Brandy VS (USA; Donati Wine & Spirits, Templeton, CA). Rich toffee and maple tempered by oak lead to a quick burst of juicy red fruit. Adding water brings light baking spice to warm the finish. Recommended to mix. Grape-based brandy.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$65