

WINEENTHUSIAST **BUYING GUIDE**

DECEMBER 2026

THIS MONTH

14	FRANCE	133	AMERICA
52	ITALY	133	OREGON
80	PORTUGAL	141	WASHINGTON
90	SPAIN	145	TEXAS
100	GERMANY	145	NEW YORK
117	ROMANIA	147	AUSTRALIA
117	GEORGIA	148	NEW ZEALAND
117	BULGARIA	149	SPIRITS
117	CALIFORNIA		



TK CREDIT

FOR ADDITIONAL
RATINGS AND REVIEWS, VISIT
WINEENTHUSIAST.COM/RATINGS

Montepulciano grapes are
pressed during harvest at
Emidio Pepe in Abruzzo,
Italy.

WE ASKED OUR TASTERS:

What's one bottle you've been saving that you plan to open this holiday season?



I've been hoarding a magnum of Hirotake Ooka's Domaine La Grande Colline 2012 Vin de France (formerly Saint-Joseph) for exactly this kind of occasion. Ooka made beautifully idiosyncratic Syrah in the Northern Rhône before packing up and returning to Japan, so these bottles aren't getting any easier to find. A magnum is a terrible thing to drink alone, and the holidays finally provide enough thirsty people to justify pulling the cork.

—Aleks Zecevic



This year, I want as many people around the table as possible, so it's (finally) time to break out the 1970 Fonseca vintage Port. One bottle can feed an army. It's a magical vintage at its peak, so everyone gets a taste of history.

—Nils Bernstein



When I was in Israel earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit Amichai Lourie, CEO and chief winemaker at Shiloh Winery, whose vision really impressed me. I'm looking forward to opening his 2023 Secret Reserve Cabernet Franc, which I have stocked away because I appreciate the grape's expressiveness whether it's grown in cool or warm regions.

—Reggie Solomon



I want to pour something that will stop my family in their tracks while they inhale heavy, rustic dishes. A Châteauneuf-du-Pape blanc with a bit of age and aeration should do the trick. Layers of complexity to soothe the soul and perhaps complicated family conversations.

—Anna-Christina Cabrales



Big groups and big meals call for big bottles! I've been eyeing some magnums of 2018 Pinot Noir from Sangiacomo and Emeritus that will be amazing with my wife's roasted pork shoulder. And Champagne. Always Champagne.

—Tom R. Capo



I have a three-liter bottle of Bérêche Brut Champagne that I can't wait to open with friends and family on Christmas Day. But first, my lady and I will start at home, over gifts and a great breakfast. There's nothing like good bubbles for celebrating, and a large format will get us through the day.

—Michael Laudenslager

STAFF EDITORS

Anna-Christina Cabrales:

Burgundy, Champagne, Rhône Valley

Cody Wexler:

Provence, Bandol, Méditerranée

WRITERS AT LARGE

Michael Alberty:

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

Danielle Callegari:

Tuscany & Southern Italy

Tom R. Capo:

Sonoma County, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas

Cheron Cowan:

U.S. states from Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi to the East Coast (excluding New York)

Matt Kettmann:

Central Coast & Southern California, Languedoc-Roussillon

Kara Newman:

Spirits & Ready-to-Drink

Michael Laudenslager:

Subregions of Tuscany, Southern Italy & Sardinia

Christina Pickard:

Australia, New Zealand, England, New York

Tonya Pitts:

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

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Piedmont & Northern Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland

Emily Saladino:

Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lebanon

Reggie Solomon:

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

John Sumners:

Portugal & Northeast Spain

Jesica Vargas:

Latin America & Africa

Roger Voss:

Bordeaux, Corsica, Southwest France

Aleks Zecevic:

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



98 **Pisoni Estate 2024 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** An epic wine from an iconic vineyard, this is one of the best Pinot Noirs from this vintage. The all-consuming nose presents waves of black cherry, cola spice, and Dr Pepper slushie aromas. Creamy and yet buoyant in acidity, the palate unleashes pristine cherry and strawberry flavors that are lifted by expertly detailed black pepper, ginger, and cardamom elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$110



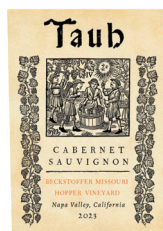
97 **Argiano 2021 Vigna del Suolo (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is layered and complex, with fresh black cherries, pomegranate, and figs, then savory bergamot, old leather, graphite, and crushed stones. Savory and intensely spicy flavors dominate the palate, but with warm citrus and ripe, juicy cherries flooding the mouth. Ultrarefined but powerful tannins provide a comforting strength. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300



97 **Pago de Carraovejas 2021 Cuesta de las Liebres (Ribera del Duero).** Mashed blackberry and black-currant reduction flavors have both concentration and pristine focus and purity in this phenomenally refined and polished beauty. It's all framed by detailed integrated spice, tobacco, chalk dust, and a lift of violets. This is a truly great bottling worthy of some patience in the cellar. Wait until 2030 to pop. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —J.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$250



97 **Sandeman 2024 Vintage (Port).** Concentrated and already in great harmony, this Sandeman Vintage brings seamless charm and power. Cassis, raspberry chutney, blueberry, and baked Mission fig all surge together, topped by complexities of red rose, dried autumn leaves, leather, licorice, and dark chocolate. Fine, firming tannins run start to finish, with superb focusing acidity giving an air of elegance. In its prime from 2040 onward. Evaton, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —J.S.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$140



97 **Taub Family Vineyards 2023 Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Gorgeously aromatic of black plums and crushed cherries mingle with gravel, peppercorn, and freshly ground espresso on the nose of this intense wine. The palate brings flavors of fresh blackberry, Bing cherry, dusty cocoa, graphite, violets, and dried sage in a framework of opulent tannin and neatly balanced acid. It's hard to be patient, but give this some time to soften in the cellar. Best from 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$184



96 **Brassfield Estate Winery 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley).** This high-elevation region is known for its rich volcanic soil that produces complex wines. Opulent aromatics offer lush blackberry, black currant confiture, sage, dried violets, and caramelized French oak on the nose. On the palate, the flavors highlight tart boysenberry, blueberry, blood orange cream, cardamom, and maple, wrapped with elegant, supple tannins on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$105



96 **Brooks 2021 Sparkling Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills).** Aromas are a pretty mix of lime zest, wet slate, and a cup of Earl Grey tea served with a dollop of milk. That lime and bergamot combination makes for a compelling perfume. Backed by acidity that will give you chills, the wine's lemon-lime, tart pear, yeast, and sodium-laden mineral-water flavors feel crisp and refreshing. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

WINEENTHUSIAST BUYINGGUIDE

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

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

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

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

Special Designations	Editors' Choice:	Are products that offer excellent quality at a price above our Best Buy range, or a product at any price with unique qualities that merit special attention.
	Cellar Selections:	Are products deemed highly collectible and/or requiring time in a temperature-controlled wine cellar to reach their maximum potential.
	Hidden Gems:	Are products that are not your typical regional finds, but should not be missed. These fun, esoteric wines are priced above \$20 and score above 87 points.
	Best Buys:	Are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. Wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$20 or less, and are designated Best Buys after surpassing 85 points and a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark.

SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW:

Products should be submitted as detailed in our FAQ, available online via wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating. Address inquiries to tastings@wineenthusiast.com.

LABELS:

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

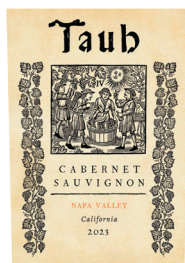
Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at wineenthusiast.com/ratings



96 Lytle-Barnett 2021 Le Mèlangeur Pinot Meunier (Yamhill-Carlton). Be sitting down when you sip this traditional-method sparkling wine for the first time, as it might just make you weak in the knees. It is that good. The opening aromas of citrus and baked goods will have you pining for a lemon tart housed in a butter crust. Elevated acidity and ticklish bubbles then light up the wine's lemon, lime, rosemary, and almond flavors. This 100% Pinot Meunier, a rarity in Oregon, spent four years en tirage, with a disgorgement date in March 2026. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90



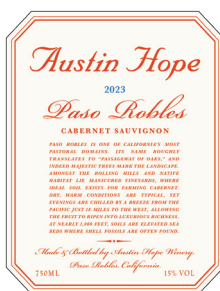
96 Morgan 2024 G 17 Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands). This Syrah, which includes 8% Mourvèdre and 6% Grenache, is a bit shy at first but then reveals aromas of violets, lilacs, and clean purple fruit. The palate offers a similarly purple combo of fruit and flower flavors, but fresh and lively pepper spice gives it compelling detail. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28



96 Taub Family Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Aromas of fresh raspberries, dark cocoa, and purple flowers waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate possesses bright acidity and nice depth of tannin, with flavors of freshly crushed plum, espresso, mint, tobacco, and sandalwood that linger for over a minute on the finish. Loving the price-quality ratio on display here: For Napa Valley, this wine represents exceptional value. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$64



95 Aperture 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Aromas of dark berries, pencil, mint, and roses waft from the glass on the nose of this Cabernet. The palate delivers powder-fine tannins and juicy acid framing flavors of black plum, cracked pepper, sage, and espresso across the generous finish. Yummy now, this will soften nicely for a decade. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



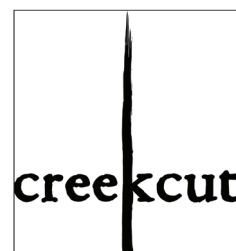
95 Austin Hope 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Potent aromas of black plum, fig, vanilla cookie, and spice cake make for a lavish nose on this reliably satisfying Cab from a prominent Paso player. That lush style cruises into black cherry and milk chocolate flavors on the palate, with creamy tannins encasing them all. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$62



95 Brancaia 2022 Brancaia Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Perfumed, spice-laden aromas make for a heady, rich, indulgent nose. The palate stays luxe, with pomegranate seeds and red plums popping over a foundation of dark chocolate ganache garnished with candied orange peel, all hemmed in by sleek yet powerful tannins. Gallo. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80



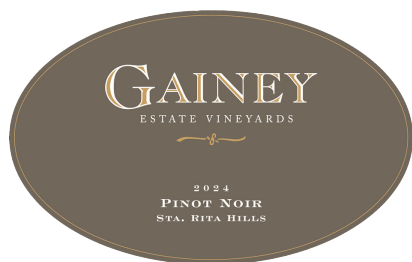
95 Brassfield Estate Winery 2023 Block 14 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). The single-vineyard selections from this producer display how soils dictate the flavor profile of a wine. This delectable beauty is lush, with aromas of dark berries, eucalyptus, sagebrush, cardamom, French oak, and crushed florals on the elegant nose. The flavors on the palate are fresh boysenberries, blueberries, rhubarb, fennel, allspice, and tobacco leaf, morphing into sweet dark chocolate and mouth-watering tannins. Cellar until 2034 or drink now and decant. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



95 Creekcute Winery 2023 Syrah De Saule Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). The aromas on this rich Syrah, of which 80% was aged in new French oak, recall a molten lava cake oozing with blackberry coulis. That blackberry core persists on the hefty palate, where it benefits from hints of wild thyme and lilac. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$80



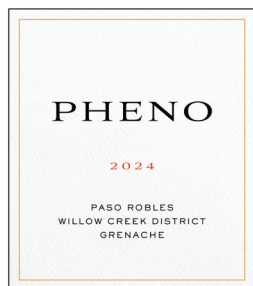
95 Davies Vineyard 2022 Jamie Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). Bombastic aromas of candied cherry, plum liqueur, mint leaf, and licorice explode from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is equally expressive with flavors of raspberry jam, blueberry coulis, chopped herbs, cinnamon, and chocolate mingling all throughout a long finish. Fans of a ripier, more concentrated style will love this. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$275



95 Gainey 2024 Estate Vineyards Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a masterful appellation cuvée at a stunning price. Clean aromas of strawberry and Bing cherry are juicy and intense yet balanced with light herb elements on the nose. The palate grows into black cherry compote, star anise, and mace flavors. Enjoy any day of the week or for a special occasion. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36



95 Iron Horse Vineyards 2018 Golden Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). The nose of this magnum-only bottling delivers aromas of bright citrus, yeasty brioche, toasted almond, and candied ginger. On the palate, gorgeous lacy texture and vibrant acidity frame flavors of grilled pineapple, Meyer lemon, green apple, fresh green herbs, and white flowers across a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$195/1.5L



95 PHENO 2024 Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Inspired by Priorat blends, this bottling by David Galzignato includes 24% Cabernet Sauvignon. It opens with alluring aromas of baked strawberry, toasted peppercorn, and light cocoa on the nose. The palate's creamy, well-managed tannins wrap around suavely presented flavors of baked cherry, pecan, and cocoa, as tannins grow more firm toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



95 Podere Sapaio 2024 Volpola (Bolgheri). The nose invigorates with aromas of pepper, crushed rocks, tobacco leaf, and black plum. Ripe, juicy, fresh blackberries and black cherries pop on the palate, then give way to more peppery earth. Sturdy tannins frame a balanced finish of refreshing herbs and chili-pepper heat. Lyra, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36



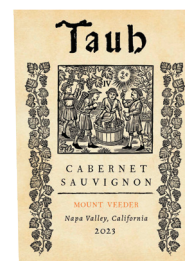
95 Poggio al Tesoro 2022 Dedicato A Walter (Bolgheri Superiore). Brown sugar and figs on the nose are grounded in potting soil and wild fennel. The palate is flooded with sweet macerated berries, topped with orange zest on an indulgent bed of chocolate and espresso. Dense but athletic tannins and a peppery heat on the finish result in a wine that is elegant and composed. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$295



95 Poggio al Tesoro 2022 Sondraia (Bolgheri Superiore). A herbaceous, cool, fresh nose gleams with aromas of white pepper, herbs, crushed stones, and new leather. Dark fruit, acid, and salt bounce all over a palate that is juicy, but also tart and lively, and with silk ropes of tannins reining everything in. A sophisticated wine. Gallo. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$125



95 RJA Family Wines 2023 JDA Project Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The Syrah is made with fruit from the J. David Vineyard, with the wine spending 26 months in a combination of 600-liter puncheons and neutral French oak barrels. The aromas are a mix of black and blue fruit, white pepper, sage, and a nice amount of bacon fat and wet stones. Blueberry compote and candied lavender flavors are then pierced by seared steak and cumin notes that bring the house down. Balancing the fruit is the wine's raging acidity and velvety tannins. Yowza. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$95



95 Taub Family Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). The unmistakable mountain character of this Cabernet oozes from the glass, with aromas of spiced black plum, crushed Bing cherry, cocoa, and flowers on the nose. The palate feels nervy and dense, with opulent tannin and vibrant acidity framing flavors of black fruits, earthy spice, espresso, and lingering nuances of violets and sage across the very long finish. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$114



94 Alta Mora 2024 (Etna Bianco). A subtle nose unveils aromas of white flowers, crushed rocks, seashells, and new leather. The savory, salty palate is headlined by tart citrus and tree fruit, and has a taut, linear overall feel. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31



94 Antinori 2021 Pian delle Vigne (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose has an earthy, umami feel, with aromas of damp soil, mixed herbs, espresso, bergamot, and Mission fig. The palate brings more figs, citrus, herbs, and earth, then a finish of chocolate and coffee that is framed by textured, refined tannins. Vinattieri 1385. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85



94 Aubaine 2024 L'elu Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This tightly wound beast may require taming via decanting or cellaring. Rest assured that your patience will be rewarded. L'elu begins with earthy aromas of Stargazer lilies, loamy soil, and a mixed medley of raspberries, blueberries, and any number of berry cousins. The flavors are a one-two punch of tart blackberries and extra-virgin olive oil, along with a bit of espresso. The wine's tannins ripple and flex like jaguar muscles, stalked by crisp acidity. Enjoy 2027-2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$95



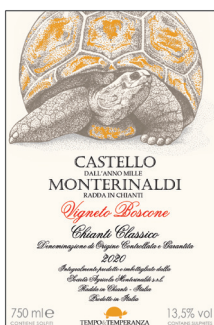
94 Aubaine 2024 Windfall Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). The earth and funk combine in George Clinton-esque fashion, with aromas of blackberry tea, worn leather, and loamy soil combining in compelling fashion. The wine's flavors include not-quite-ripe blackberries, straw, black walnuts, and espresso served with a twist of lemon, all cruising gracefully along the wine's smooth texture. The wine is nicely balanced, with zippy acidity matching nicely with fine-grained tannins. Enjoy now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$75



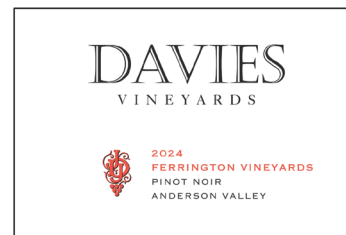
94 Benziger Family Winery 2024 Spirit & Earth Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Dazzling aromas of roasted citrus, fresh apple, lemon blossom, buttered popcorn, and river stone pop on the nose of this biodynamically farmed Chardonnay. The palate is a wave of lively tropical acidity, with flavors of Meyer lemon, Gala apple, tangerine, pineapple, orange blossom, and lemon verbena surging across the long, satisfying finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



94 Castello di Gabbiano 2021 Vigneto Bellezza Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose energizes with aromas of blackberry, tea leaf, topsoil, fennel, and mint. The palate is fresh, cool, and salty, but balanced, with blueberries joining the blackberries above a foundation of damp earth and lots more herbs. Treasury Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



94 Castello Monterinaldi 2020 Vigneto Boscone (Chianti Classico). The nose has the umami, sanguine feel of black olives, oregano, topsoil, pepper, and dried Mission fig. On the palate, bright, fresh, crunchy fruit notes combine with citrus warmth and saline bounce to create a decidedly youthful and energetic wine. Vinifera Imports Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$79



94 Davies Vineyard 2024 Ferrington Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This sumptuous wine offers aromas of deep blackberry, red currant confiture, violets, alpine herbs, molasses, black tea, and Tahitian vanilla on the nose. The flavors are bright, ripe raspberry, bourbon-soaked Bing cherry, cardamom, and smoked paprika wafting through to silky tannins on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85



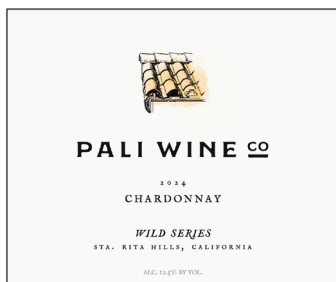
94 Dominios de Mgp 2022 Casa Turus Tempranillo (Valencia). This is an impressive wine. Ruby in color, elegant, concentrated, earthy aromas of black cherry, smoky blackberry, and red currant unwind on the nose that deservedly takes its time to unfurl. Luxurious, well-integrated, confident black fruit fills the palate undergirded by forest floor that leads into a sustained, elongated finish. Vidalco International LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76



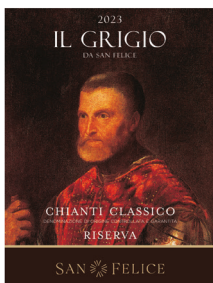
94 King Estate 2021 Bradshaw Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). With aromas worthy of a flower shop, the Bradshaw Vineyard Pinot Noir offers a literal bouquet of fresh rose petals, earthy daisies, lavender, thyme, black pepper, and boysenberries. Thanks to the support of acidity that bounces like a Superball and velvety tannins with a subtle grip, the wine's ripe blackberry, rose water, rosemary, marjoram, and saline flavors feel juicy and positively electric on the palate. Enjoy this balanced beauty, which is my favorite Bradshaw since Terry or Carrie, from now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$70



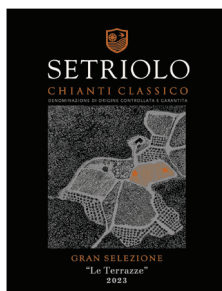
94 Lytle-Barnett 2019 Brut Sparkling Blend (Eola-Amity Hills). Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from the Willamette Valley have rarely combined in such splendid fashion. Lytle-Barnett's Brut was fermented in lots in French oak barrels and stainless steel drums, followed by six years en tirage and a June 2026 disgorgement. Its aromas are a wondrous blend of melon, earth, toast, macadamia nuts, and a tropical hint of Hawaii's lilikoi flowers. Backed by jazzy acidity, the wine's flavors of lemon curd on English muffins and a cup of chamomile tea send an jolt of energy to the part of the brain that regulates pleasure. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45



94 Pali Wine Co. 2024 Wild Series Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Baked apple, singed lime, and toasted pine-nut aromas make for an intriguing nose on this bottling. There's a blast of acidity on the palate, where lemon, apple, and chamomile flavors meet with hints of earthiness. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30



94 San Felice 2023 Il Grigio Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of new leather, crushed rocks, and wild herbs greet you, then black cherries and blackberries join. On the palate, those dark fruit elements are complemented by dark chocolate and licorice, creating a structured feel through the finish. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35



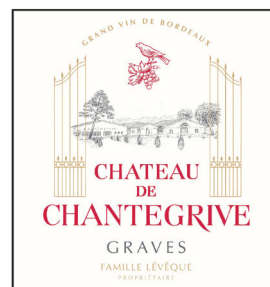
94 Setriolo 2023 Gran Selezione Le Terrazze (Chianti Classico). Aromas of new leather, peonies, violets, pepper, and tart blackberries sparkle on the nose, then lead into a palate where dark fruit leads the way, above mocha undertones, before currents of chili pepper and salt draw out a latent earthiness on the finish. Kysela Pere et Fils, LTD. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69



93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). From a volcanic site, this wine is aromatic with rich cassis, boysenberry, dried sagebrush, maple, Tahitian vanilla, and wildflowers on the nose. The flavors on the palate are juicy red plum, pomegranate, orange rind, nutmeg, and star anise, with heightened acidity on the finish. Aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35



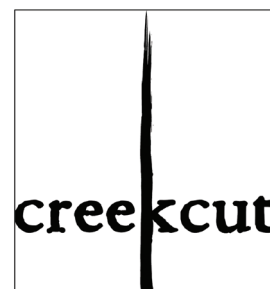
93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). This rich volcanic site is a location for thought-provoking Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromatics on the nose of this vintage are dark berries, fresh sage leaf, mocha, fresh florals, and gently toasted oak. Flavors convey opulent blackberry, tart black currant, allspice, and citrus cream, leading into a supple, dry finish. Aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35



93 Château de Chantegrive 2024 (Graves). This ripe wine is structured and laden with black fruits. They are balanced with tannins and hints of the wood aging, evident also in the aroma. The wine has potential. Drink from 2029. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29



93 Colle Bereto 2021 Colle Bereto Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). On the nose, dried cherries, Mission figs, and pomegranate play on a dark chocolate backbone. Black cherries and blackberries headline the palate, until mocha and licorice emerge on the finish. Chewy tannins balance spirited acid. Classic Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$140



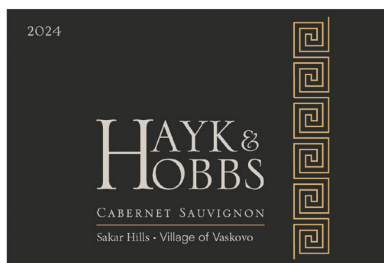
93 Creekcut Winery 2023 GSM (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Quite dark in the glass, this is a potent blend of 36% Grenache, 32% Syrah, and 32% Mourvèdre, starting with cassis and hoisin aromas on the nose. The palate is lavish and suave in texture, presenting roasted fruit and nutmeg flavors that finish on a peppery spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$80



93 De Alberto NV Dorado (Rueda). Amber in color, fragrant, layered, perfumed aromas of dried fig, baking spice, and candied pear open on the nose along with orange marmalade and honey-drizzled baked apple. The palate boasts classic rancio flavors of bread dough, yogurt, and brioche completing with a long, bready finish. Cuddihy Wine Importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$71/500ml



93 Grapestake Cellars 2024 Merlot (Templeton Gap District). There's a fresh snappiness to the nose of this bottling, which is full of red fruit and cinnamon spice aromas. The palate starts with clean cherry and blackberry flavors that pick up toastiness as the tannins grow quite leathery and serious by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65



93 Hayk & Hobbs 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sakar Hills). Fragrant aromas of chocolate-covered raspberry, bread dough, and red plum are accented by blueberry and crème de cassis on the nose. An earthy palate frames red and black fruit that leads into meadow grass, white-button mushroom, and muddled cherry. G&B Importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$49



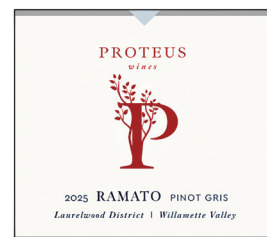
93 King Estate 2021 Blackjack Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a beautiful expression of the Dijon 777 clone, with the wine's name a nod to the fact that three 7s added up equal 21, a.k.a. "Blackjack." What a winning hand, beginning with the wine's blackberry and strawberry sorbet fruit aromas. Blackberries mix with tangerines on the palate, with an additional lemongrass-tea flavor hovering in the background. You aren't gambling with this Blackjack, so double down. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$78



93 King Estate 2022 Grand Oak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). The wine's aroma of a blackberry pie cooling on a windowsill takes me right back to my grandmother's Kansas kitchen. The fruit is accompanied by aromas of baled hay and a wisp of marshmallow. The Grand Oak is nicely balanced, with its black currant, oregano, and cedar flavors gliding along the palate, propelled by juicy acidity and supported by velvety tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74



93 Monte da Raposinha 2021 Grande Reserva (Alentejano). This has superb overall balance and structure, as cassis, blueberry, and red cherry compote come together with sandalwood, licorice, leather, violets, and a hint of balsamic, all led by a fine line of integrated acidity. Another example of 2021 brilliance from Alentejo, it'll drink well through 2032. M Imports, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48



93 Proteus 2025 Ramato Pinot Gris (Laurelwood District). A persimmon-hued skin contact wine, this tip of the cap to Italy is a great aperitif. Every sniff and sip of Ramato makes me feel like I'm on a summertime patio. The aromas blend orange blossoms and orange zest with hints of cinnamon and pear-fruit leather. Backed by a bit of tannic structure and modest acidity, the wine's orange zest, white tea, and wet-slate flavors last a good long time. Ramato for the win if you are serving pork and holy basil stir fry. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$48



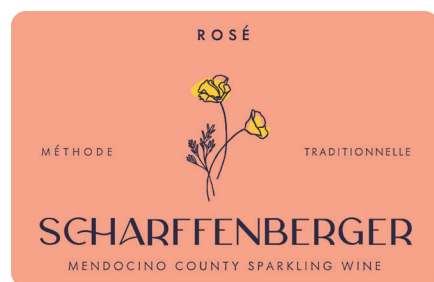
93 Proteus NV Blanc de Blancs Extra Dry Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This is one tart and tangy treat. It all starts with the wine's aromas of tart pineapple, fresh-cut grass, chamomile flowers, and a dollop of ripe pears, all delivered by a tight column of brisk bubbles. The flavors range from lemon-drop hard candies and sweet yellow apples to ginger, lime, and lemongrass tea. This wine will make a fine pairing with fresh goat cheese spread on crostini. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$55



93 San Simeon 2024 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This is a darkly composed Pinot Noir, starting with baked plum and stewed cherry aromas on the spice-laden nose. The palate is full and stiff with tannins, as mulberry and more plum flavors are decorated with peppercorn spices. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



93 Scharffenberger Cellars NV Brut Excellence Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). Sunshine in my pocket—that's what I think when this is in the fridge. The wine is electric, with snappy aromas of Golden Delicious apple, pear, guava, and brioché. The midpalate brings medium mousse with tiny bubbles, along with silky acacia honey, yellow plum, quince, and allspice, cascading into a supple, mineral, and long finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24



93 Scharffenberger Cellars NV Rosé Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This wine is exuberant, with aromas of white strawberry, stone fruit, citrus, and fresh florals on the nose. The midpalate delivers medium mousse with tiny bubbles, tart raspberry-pomegranate, brûléed satsuma orange, spearmint, and white tea, catapulting into mouthwatering acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30



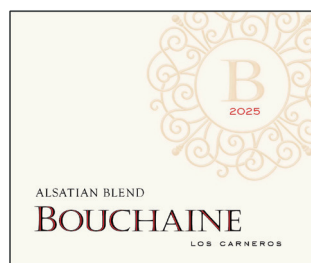
93 St. Supéry 2023 Dollarhide Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Deep, concentrated aromas of blueberry, black cherry, minty herbs, and violets drive the nose of this wine. The palate is decadently tannic, with supple acid and flavors of roasted plum, espresso, chocolate, and gravel that persist throughout a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$135



93 St. Supéry 2023 Élu Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Punchy aromas of black currant, cranberry, cinnamon, and dark cocoa pop on the nose of this blend. The palate offers layers of rich tannin and lively acidity alongside flavors of dusty cherry, licorice, stemmy green herbs, and gravel before a long finish with echoes of purple flowers and tangerine zest. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100



93 Ten Acre 2024 Alder Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). This wine is rich and round, with aromas of baked Gala apple, ripe pear, citrus, baking spices, orange blossom, sedimentary rock, and subtle oak on the nose. The flavors convey lush brown pear, peach, apples sautéed in cinnamon, clove, and caramelized orange rind. Racy acidity is layered throughout the mouth, leading to a supple, dry finish. The vineyard source is filled with unique old-vine grape varieties. Grab a glass and purchase a case of this wine. The vineyard might not be around much longer. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65



92 Bouchaine Vineyards 2025 Alsatian White Blend (Los Carneros). Vibrant aromas of lychee, lemon blossom, lime zest, and herbs drive the nose of this Alsatian-style blend. The palate brings flavors of fresh citrus, punchy florals, and a well-rounded and pithy mouthfeel before the finish lingers, with echoes of candied citrus and chopped lemon balm. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55



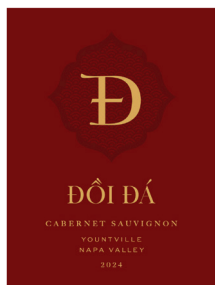
92 Brancaia 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose brings textured aromas of dirt, brambles, bitter cocoa, and coffee grounds. On the palate, tart blackberries and black plums star above a foundation of dark chocolate and earth, before a salty, herbaceous finish. Gallo. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24



92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2025 Estate Pinot Gris (High Valley). Bright, this wine offers aromas of papaya, kiwi, cantaloupe, citrus, dried herbs, and mineral on the nose. Flavors on the palate convey juicy white nectarine, peach, yellow apple, orange blossom, fennel, and acidity on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22



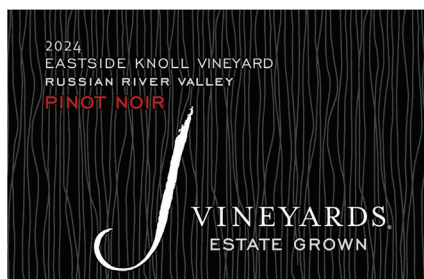
92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2025 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley). Zesty, this wine features aromas of citrus blossom, Meyer lemon, nettles, and mineral on the nose. The flavors are juicy and fresh, with pineapple, makrut lime, kiwi, melon, spearmint, and acidity on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



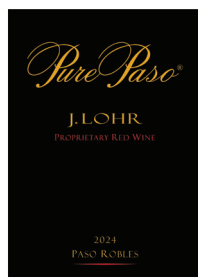
92 Dôl Dá 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). On the complex and intense nose, this Cabernet delivers aromas of boysenberry, black plum compote, mint, and balsamic. The palate shows a wealth of powder-fine tannin, lively acidity, and flavors of roasted berries, pithy orange, slate, purple flowers, and herbs across a firmly structured finish. Great value here in this category. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50



92 Domaine François Cartier 2024 (Touraine Chenonceaux). This cerebral wine has an alluring, savory nose of yellow apple, freshly cut field grass, white peach skin, and forest floor that comes together seamlessly in the glass. The palate is gentle, with delicate layers of orchard fruit framed by shattered stone and baby's breath. Pair with quiche Lorraine, potato Crêcy, and roasted vegetables. Old Creek Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28



92 J Vineyards 2024 Eastside Knoll Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Punchy aromas of maraschino cherry, cinnamon, dark chocolate, and rose petals waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate possesses superfine tannin, juicy acidity, and flavors of roasted berry, candied cherry, cola spices, minty herbs, orange peel, and floral pot-pourri across a generous finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65



92 J. Lohr 2024 Pure Paso Red Blend (Paso Robles). Very dark in the glass, this wine is rich with sea salt caramel and baked black-cherry aromas on the warm, lavish nose. Much drier than expected, the palate offers ample blueberry and violet flavors wrapped in stony tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27



92 King Estate 2019 Bacchus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahlukle Slope). Rich fruit aromas of dark plums and black cherries mingle with puffs of cigar box and sweetpea flowers. This is a balanced Cabernet Sauvignon with a delightful 13.5% abv and a finish as long as *Oppenheimer*. Crunchy acidity and silky tannins offer ample support for the wine's dark plum, Rainier cherry, and cedar flavors. The wine's flavors definitely match its aromas, which in this case, is a good thing. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$65



92 King Estate 2022 King James Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A tart and tangy aroma combination of red cherries and pomegranate seeds is surrounded by the wine's cedar and citrus notes. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir, with modest alcohol by volume, zingy acidity, and velvety tannins. The wine's flavors of smoked cherries, orange peel, nutmeg, and cedar fall fresh and lively on the palate. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$65



92 Lamole di Lamole 2024 Maggiolo (Chianti Classico). The nose pops with tart aromas of cherries, cranberries, hibiscus, and peonies. On the palate, cranberries, cherries, and red plums that are sweet and ripe, but still tangy, star, creating a lively, fresh feel through the finish. Herita USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



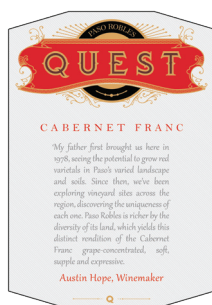
92 Paco & Lola 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This is a characterful Albariño. Pale lemon in color, attractive, savory aromas of herb mélange, chopped yellow apple, and orange zest run hand-in-hand through a late-summer meadow of field grass. The palate begins with a smile-inducing burst of tangy acidity that moves into green orchard fruit that leads into a citrusy, chalk-dusted finish. Dreyfus Ashby & Co. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24



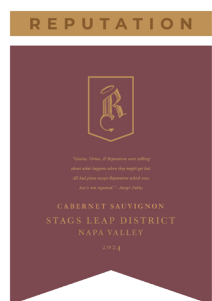
92 Poggio al Tesoro 2024 Il Seggio (Bolgheri). The nose opens savory, with aromas of black olive, wild oregano, and pepper, then floral notes of peonies, violets, and new leather emerge. The palate leads with violet candy and milk chocolate, then returns to the savory notes, before concluding with candied walnuts and citrus. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 25% **Price:** \$58



92 Poggio al Tesoro 2025 Solosole Vermentino (Costa Toscana). The nose entices with aromas of almond butter, lemon zest, honey dew, and jasmine. The palate is a swirl of lemon and lime over salty crushed rocks: zesty, tangy, and mineral. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30



92 Quest 2024 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). This highly stylized wine shows a mintiness that is unique and yet compelling for those who enjoy it. Aromas of black cherry, pepper, and that green herbaceousness entertain the nose. The palate's spear-mint edge enlivens the cassis and tobacco leaf core, as firm tannins hold it together. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27



92 Reputation 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Big, bold aromas of spiced plum compote, mixed berry coulis, milk chocolate, and mint pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate possesses a wealth of hefty tannin framing flavors of roasted cherry, black plum jam, cedar, cocoa, and cinnamon across the finish. Give this a little time to unwind and enjoy with a coffee-crusted rib eye. —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75



92 Ten Acre 2022 Alder Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This wine is savory, with aromas of cranberry-raspberry, star anise, portobello mushroom, sagebrush, and toasty oak on the nose. Flavors convey plush, dark strawberry, huckleberry, citrus rind, and allspice, with supple tannins to finish. Cellar until 2035, or decant and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80



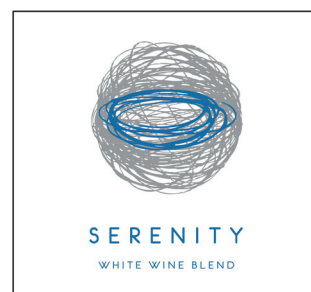
92 Viticcio 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose entices with aromas of pepper, earth, dark fruit, and spices. A cohesive palate layers sweet blackberries and black cherries with dark chocolate, beneath a generous amount of black pepper, before a bitter citrus finish structured by sleek tannins. Serendipity Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35



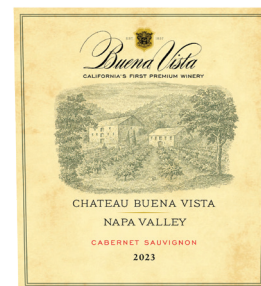
91 Borsao 2023 Tres Picos (Campo de Borja). As is usual, this Tres Picos is flashy, bold, and flavor packed, with sweet scents of wild red berry pie, dates, and vanilla cream lifted by red rose and grounded by bacon fat. Nice focusing blood-orange acidity keeps it on track. While neither shy nor subtle, it is deliciously decadent to drink, especially with smoked and grilled meats. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23



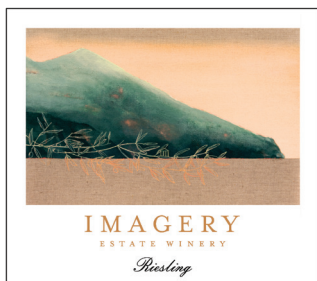
91 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (High Valley). This wine is vibrant, with lush aromas of Bing cherry, raspberry, incense, sage, and French oak on the nose. The flavors are supple, offering dark damson plum, cranberry, crushed fennel, and slivers of bittersweet chocolate, cruising into supple tannins to finish. Aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32



91 Brassfield Estate Winery 2025 Serenity White Blend (High Valley). This wine is fresh, with aromas of orange blossom, Bosc pear, yellow apple, cinnamon, papaya, and sedimentary rocks on the nose. The flavors feature yellow pear, green apple, pomelo, white nectarine, white pepper, and mineral on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22



91 Buena Vista 2023 Chateau Buena Vista Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Robust aromas of black plum, cassis, cigar tobacco, and spearmint swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate brings smooth tannic structure and zippy acid framing flavors of blackberry coulis, black cherry compote, chocolate, and green herbs at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



91 Imagery Estate Winery 2025 Upper Ridge Vineyard Riesling (Pine Mountain-Cloverdale Peak). Loads of flower, bright citrus, and fresh herb aromas pop on the nose of this high-elevation Riesling. The lively and rounded palate brings flavors of tart peach, pineapple, citrus blossom, and candied ginger before a long, mineral-driven finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38



91 King Estate 2024 Steiner Block Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This homage to Rudolf Steiner, a pioneer of biodynamics, was whole-cluster pressed, settled, racked, and fermented entirely in concrete before *surlie* aging for eight months in a concrete egg. The resulting aromas are a crisp and fresh combination of Cosmic Crisp apples, lime zest, and wet slate. With exhilarating acidity that makes the mouth water, the wine's incredibly tart lemon, lime, and green apple flavors zip across the palate in brisk fashion. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32



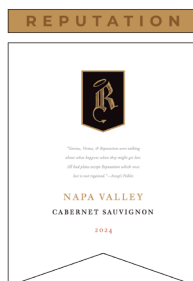
91 King Estate 2025 Croft Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). I realize that most folks don't think about Sauvignon Blanc when they think about Oregon wines, but they should. Croft Vineyard has a long history with the grape and the King Estate version is excellent. The wine leads with aromas of earth and lime zest before developing notes of green apple and wet stones. Propelled by brisk acidity, the wine's flavors of green apples, green tea, and passion fruit leave a crisp and clean impression on the palate. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32



91 Monte da Raposinha 2024 Reserva (Alentejano). Serving silky and seductive fruit with a perky line of focusing acidity, this is already in a great place. Blueberry tart, cassis, and cherry reduction all team up on the nose, with complexities of allspice, sweet tea leaf, licorice, and violets joining the party. Everything is nicely balanced, and it should show well for the next six-plus years. M Imports, LLC. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29



91 Prunai 2020 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Black cherries, Mission figs, and pomegranates open the nose, then savory hints of hot tar, pepper, and herbs emerge. Blackberries and plums carry the tart, tangy fruit element onto the palate, but the herbs also persist through a finish of salt and bitter citrus. Still youthful and lively. Serendipity Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50



91 Reputation 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Robust raspberry, milk chocolate, and licorice aromas pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is broad and weighty, with neatly balanced acid and plush tannin framing flavors of concentrated cherry, cocoa, cinnamon, and flowers before the smooth finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



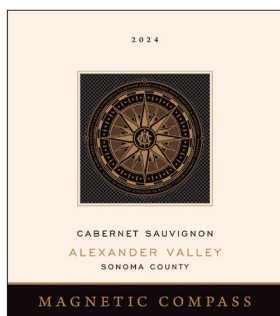
90 Campo Viejo 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Showing in its prime notes of brandied cherry, licorice, leather, tobacco, and a dash of balsamic, this freshly focused and medium-bodied offering will be a welcome pour at the dinner table. Some sweet chalk tannins give framework to the elegant flavors on the finish. Vinarchy. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25



90 Col du Vent 2025 (Languedoc). Lush and dark aromas of woodspice, carob, and dried soil are intense on the nose of this blend of 45% Grenache, 45% Syrah, and 10% Carignan. Persistent acidity on the palate gives life to the dried cherry and herb flavors, finishing in a strong violet kick. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35



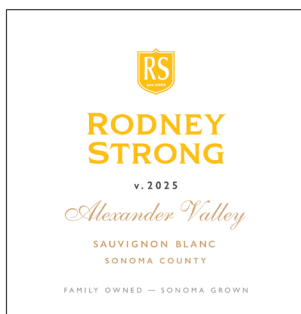
90 Goldschmidt Singing Tree 2025 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This light and lifted wine delivers aromas of bright citrus, white flowers, cinnamon, and candied lemon peel on the nose. The palate possesses bright acid and firm grip, with flavors of pithy citrus, fresh Gala apple, pineapple, and shattered stone before an elevated floral finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25



90 **Magnetic Compass 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Aromas of raspberry pie, chocolate, and fresh spearmint drive the nose of this wine. The palate is soft but focused, with grippy tannin, zippy acid, and flavors of roasted berries, plum compote, green herbs, and purple flowers at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



90 **Precision 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Dark berry, purple flower, and coffee aromas swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate brings flavors of black plum skin, Bing cherry, cocoa, turned earth, and stemmy green herbs across the floral finish. Enjoy this easygoing Cab with burgers or chops. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

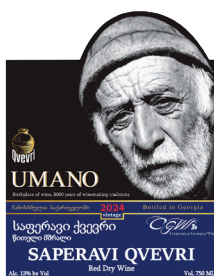


90 **Rodney Strong Vineyards 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Alexander Valley).** Zesty aromas of Meyer lemon, pomelo, white flowers, and dried sage drive the nose of this wine. The palate displays rich texture and bright acid, with flavors of roasted pineapple, pithy lime, stemmy herbs, and citrus blossom along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

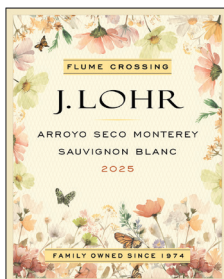
BEST BUYS



92 **Parker Station 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County).** This project is a partnership among numerous longtime growers in the region, but this bottling is just great even without the feel-good aspect. Aromas of grass, peach, and sansho pepper slide from the nose into a palate that blends subtle and salted stone-fruit flavors with zesty caviar lime notes. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



91 **Corporation Georgian Wine 2024 Qvevri Umano Saperavi (Kakheti).** Vibrant red berry and citrus aromas leap out of the glass of this Saperavi made in qvevri, Georgia's heritage clay amphora. Minerally, herbaceous, and black tea notes add complexity to the structured palate. The finish is bright and tannic. Georgia Products Inc. *Best Buy.* —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

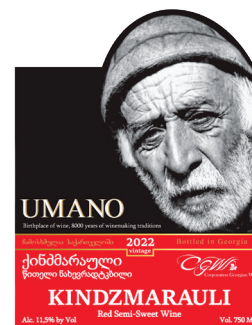


91 **J. Lohr 2025 Flume Crossing Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco).** Limeade and grass aromas meet with a rocky minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate pairs peach with grass and apple skin flavors, touching on all the grape's main hallmarks. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

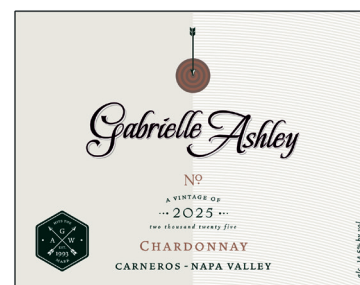
BEST BUYS



91 **Tenuta di Lilliano 2024 (Chianti Classico).** The nose is spicy, tangy, and earthy, then the palate balances things out with notes of fresh, warm citrus and ripe red berries. That bright, light liveliness crescendos on the finish, on the back of a wave of acid and salinity. Vintage Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19



90 **Corporation Georgian Wine 2022 Umano Saperavi (Kindzmarauli).** Made from what's arguably Georgia's best-known indigenous red-wine grape, this lively bottle has red cherry and plum aromas and flavors with herbaceous undertones. The structured palate is bright and balanced with a crisp, tannic finish. Georgia Products Inc. *Best Buy.* —E.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18



90 **Gabrielle Ashley 2025 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Punchy aromas of grilled pineapple, apricot, lemon peel, and flowers swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate pops with bright acid and grippy texture that frame flavors of honeyed stone fruit, mango, honeysuckle, candied ginger, and salty lemon through the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



90 **Henri Bourgeois 2025 Sauvignon Blanc Pure (Vin de Pays du Val de Loire).** Aromas of freshly sliced apple, white nectarine skin, and lemon peel open on the nose of this wine, followed by meadow grass and crushed stone. A veil of green pear and saline raises orchard fruit that is lifted by wet rock and baby's breath on the tart finish. Monsieur Touton Selection. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18



90 **King Estate 2025 Artisan Series Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** The Artisan Series is fermented entirely in stainless steel, followed by four months resting on its lees. The aromas are a mix of earthy marigolds, sweet passion fruit, and marzipan. With acidity crisp enough to induce goose bumps, this Pinot Gris' flavors of pink grapefruit and lime sorbet are nice and juicy. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$20



90 **King Estate 2025 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** The first aroma wave is dominated by Golden Delicious apples and Stargazer lilies. Then you get this incredibly clean combination of laundry hanging on the clothesline, likely washed with lemon-scented French laundry powder. The wine's flavors are on the rich side, as lemon gelato, lime, and gingersnap flavors zip across the palate, fueled by crisp acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$20

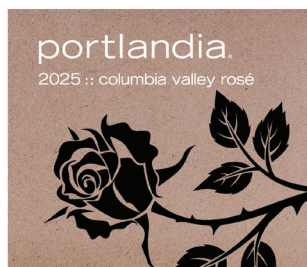
BEST BUYS



90 **Maison Dourthe 2023 N°1 de Dourthe (Bordeaux).** This blend, created in the 1970s, is well balanced. Black currant aromas and berry flavors are underlined by ripe toastiness. The wine is elegant and ready to drink in late 2026. C&C USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18



90 **Martín Códax 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Pressed lemon peel, white nectarine, and generous florals fill the nose along with acacia and orange blossom. Soft in texture, the palate echoes in like intensity adding in saline-dusted apple and baked lemon. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16



90 **Portlandia 2025 Rosé (Columbia Valley).** While the grapes involved in making this wine are a mystery to me—Syrah perhaps—I am quite certain that it is one heck of a nice pink wine bargain. A prominent peach aroma is accented by notes of white clover interspersed in a field of wild grasses. The wine's acidity kicks out the jams, adding a juiciness to flavors of not-quite-ripe nectarines, lemon-grass tea, and Bazooka bubble gum. This is flat-out Columbia Valley fun, no matter what the grapes are. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



90 **Portlandia 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** Hey, Sauvignon Blanc fans, here's a great value that you need to take a look at, even if you aren't a Portlandian. Classic pineapple, guava, and fresh-cut grass aromas lead to tangy flavors of lemon sorbet, guava, and lime zest. Throw in some acidity that will wake the dead, and you've got yourself one snappy poolside sipper. Just add flip-flops and tanning lotion. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15



87 **Campo Viejo 2020 Reserva (Rioja).** Soft in texture, with bright fruity freshness, this offers aromas of black raspberry and dried cherries tied to accents of cedar, clove, peppercorn, and hot stone. Subtle tannins run underneath, and it all closes with a genteel finish. Try it with pastrami or spice-rubbed pork. Vinarchy. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

CHAMPAGNE

VINTAGE

98 **Bollinger 2018 La Grande Année (Champagne).** A wine built on generosity, precision, and layered depth. The nose alone is remarkably complex, offering crushed raspberry, white peach, blood orange, rose hip, jasmine, saffron, patisserie, fresh ginger, and hazelnut. On the palate, concentrated, pure red berries rest atop delicate spice, yeast, and fine clay. Divine and harmonious, this expression should only deepen with additional cellaring. Vintus Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$269

98 Bollinger 2016 La Côte aux Enfants Champagne (Champagne). A complex nose built on particulars, a fresh handful of black cherry, mirabelle plum, quince, bergamot, jasmine, and an edge of wild mint. The palate of this wine has a satin-like texture, with brisk acidity, quince, dried citrus, and dark fruit persisting gently and long into a soft, chalky-saline finish. This is one built to cellar and watch. *Vintus Imports. Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$1715

98 Louis Roederer 2015 Cristal Rosé (Champagne). This expression captures your attention and, if only for a moment, offers refuge from the world's noise. The 2015 finds itself in a wonderful spot, its early intensity and presumed texture giving way to elegance and precision. The nose and palate share a genuine fineness, delivering wild berries, blood orange, peach blossom, jasmine, and light patisserie, and fine saline chalkiness with such energy and elegance that it's absolutely stunning. Brilliant acidity and dry extract carry through with precision and elegance, making it exciting to watch how this wine evolves. *Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$725

97 Leclerc Briant 2019 Le Trois Clochers Villers-Allerand Premier Cru Extra Brut (Champagne). A stunning nose on this wine melds ripe orchard fruit, bergamot, white truffle, candied ginger, sweetpea florals, white chocolate, fresh pastry, and fine chalky dust. It is seamless and complex from the first breath. Very fine mousse and brilliant acidity awaken layers of Pink Lady apple and pulverized stone chalk. Linear and full of energy, this is a wine of remarkable depth and precision, with more to give through 2040 and longer. *Twins Bordeaux. Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$185

97 Louis Roederer 2019 Blanc de Blancs (Champagne). Created like detailed embroidery on delicate lace, this wine embodies elegance. A beautiful, melded bouquet of orange blossom, quince, chamomile, Marcona almond, jasmine, and fine chalk greets the nose. The palate is silky and effortless, offering white peach tartlette, makrut leaf, and white tea before a chiseled chalk finish. Stunning, and this should only reward with further cellaring. *Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$125

96 Champagne Ayala 2019 Le Blanc de Blancs A/19 Extra Brut (Champagne). A delicate nose carries high tones of peony and honeysuckle, layered with white peach, honeycomb, pastry dough, white tea, ginger, and cardamom. The palate is round yet precise. White peach and sweet baking spice linger on the midpalate before giving way to honeycomb and pulverized clay-chalky minerality. Rich yet elegant, this wine is hard to put down thanks to its generosity. It should only reward with more time in the cellar. *Vintus Imports.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$134

96 Mandois 2013 Victor Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). An energetic nose on this bottling offers white peach and yellow and mirabelle plum, set atop a chiseled layer of chalk and wet limestone. Round in the mouth and balanced by crisp acidity, the wine carries an endless soft chalkiness through the finish. Delicious, and a great way to kick off any event. *Albert Bichot USA. Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$144

95 Champagne Ayala 2016 N°16 Blanc de Blancs (Champagne). A layered, stunning opening brings golden apple, peach blossom, plum skin, taffy, salted brioche, rose hip, and oyster-chalky minerality to the nose. The palate offers orchard fruit and hints of cherry against chiseled chalk and soft clay. It is creamy, with a savory, umami edge that keeps the palate engaged throughout. Pour this alongside a rich seafood dish, like lobster with drawn butter, to match its creamy texture and layered depth. *Vintus Imports. Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$175

95 Champagne Philipponnat 2018 Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Champagne). A restrained nose on this wine offers shy orchard fruit, light baking spice, honeycomb, delicate wild florals, and even a whisper of white truffle. The palate is precise, with acidity that throws the presence of Gala apple and Anjou pear into sharp relief. A long finish of pulverized chalk and citrus pith follows. An elegant expression that should serve as a natural pairing with clean cuts of raw fish and briny oysters. *Demeine Estate.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$135

95 Louis Roederer 2018 Brut Vintage (Champagne). A precise nose offers lean orchard fruit, acacia, and soft chalky clay. The palate of the wine feels weightless despite its gravitas, carried by mouthwatering acidity. It is creamy, with a fine mousse and bright saline edge, while white peach and white blossom keep things fresh through a chalky, saline finish. Classic and clean, it is perfect to kick off an event. *Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$112

94 Champagne Carbon 2002 Bugatti EB01 (Champagne). Precise and complex, the nose brings Pink Lady apple, white peach, acacia, salted butter, marzipan, and pie crust together in the most delicious way possible. The palate confirms how stunning this wine is, as chalk and crushed oyster shell meld into ripe orchard fruit, light pastry, and a sprinkle of flaky salt. This is one to kick off any celebration. *Old Creek Imports.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$200

94 Champagne de Saint-Gall 2012 Orpale Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru (Champagne). Yellow plum, quince, jasmine, dough, and fresh almond create a really crisp nose on this wine. The palate delivers delicious Anjou pear, white nectarine, soft chamomile,

and iris florals leading into a great yeasty finish that feels classic yet fresh. It's hard to put down. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$160

94 Champagne Mailly Grand Cru 2015 Les Échansons Brut (Champagne). A delicious nose on this wine offers Gala apple and red cherry tartlette with pastry cream, topped with light honey. It is precise, with a fine mousse and linear acidity. The palate is fresh, opening with white blossom and jasmine before finishing on chalk, wet stone, and saline minerality. Graceful and enjoyable now. *Saranty Imports.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$230

94 Louis Roederer 2018 Vintage Rosé (Champagne). A classic, elegant go-to rosé, this expression hits all the right notes for the price. Delicate wild berry, peach blossom, violet, and rose sit atop a soft patisserie backdrop, enticing on the nose alone. The palate is generous while maintaining its elegance, delivering fruit, spice, and chalk beautifully across a long finish. Enjoy it now, give it as a gift, or simply keep it as a staple in the cellar. *Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120

94 Mandois 2020 Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). An energetic nose on this wine offers white peach, apple flesh, quince, white nectarine, wisteria, and almond paste, precise from the first sniff. The palate reflects that same energy, linear and taut, drawing out fine chalky minerality that weaves through white pear and grapefruit pith. Plenty of coiled energy here has yet to unfold. *Albert Bichot USA.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$96

93 Champagne Alfred Gratien 2018 Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Brut (Champagne). A pure nose on this wine offers Pink Lady apple, peach blossom, tangerine, brioche, and light honey. The palate is generous, intensified by saline minerality that highlights white peach, wet stone, and a light edge of flint. Layered and precise, it is surprisingly accessible now. *Freixenet Mionetto USA.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120

NONVINTAGE

96 Bollinger NV PNTX20 (Champagne). There's a beautiful wildness to this bouquet. Ripe orchard fruit meets fresh iris and violet blossoms, caraway seed, and savory herbs that keep unfolding with air. The palate is energetic and layered, opening with ripe white peach and tangerine, moving through spice and honey, then ending on a floral, vinous quality with fine chalk. Cellar several bottles, this is one to enjoy for years to come. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$186

95 Bollinger NV PN AYC21 (Champagne). Built with 49% reserve wines, including a portion aged in magnum from 2012, 2013, and 2014, this cuvée strikes a real sense of harmony. A perfumed

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nose offers peach blossom, bergamot, jasmine, and rose hip, given further dimension by fresh marzipan, brioche, patisserie, and sea spray. The palate turns linear and demonstrates purity with Gala apple, orchard fruit, and a floral layer that carries through the fine chalky finish. Seek this one out for a special occasion worth celebrating. Vintus Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$186

94 Champagne Laurent-Perrier NV Héritage Brut (Champagne). This cuvée draws its depth from reserve wines spanning 2019, 2018, 2016, and 2014, led by 55% Chardonnay. The nose opens with fresh pastry cream, ripe apricot, and orchard fruit, generous and inviting from the first pour. Classic and balanced, the palate holds defined orchard fruit and white floral notes while staying clean and precise throughout. Reliable in the best sense, this is a wine always worth keeping stocked in the cellar. Champagne Laurent-Perrier. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$130

93 Champagne Ayala NV Brut Nature (Champagne). A subtle nose on this wine stays clean and high toned. The palate is energetic, with bright saline acidity drawing out lean white peach, Marcona almond, sea spray, and clay-chalky minerality, edged with flaky salt. Enjoy now. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Champagne Joseph Perrier NV Cuvée Royale Brut Nature (Champagne). Fresh orange blossom, yellow peach, plum, croissant, and flaky salt define the nose on this wine. The palate is driven by chalk, limestone, and flaky salt, lean and marked by very bright acidity. This wine leans hard into high acidity and chalky minerality, ideal if that's the style you're after. Favorite Brands. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

93 Champagne Lenoble NV Dosage Zéro V.19 (Champagne). Drawing on 52% 2019 vintage, 48% reserve wine, and a splash of perpetual reserve dating to 2000, this wine opens with green apple, orange blossom, yeasty biscuit, and flaky salt on the nose. Creamy with good tension and vertical acidity, the palate coaxes out pithy citrus, chamomile, sourdough, wet stone, and sea spray. Brisk and clean, this wine pairs beautifully with raw seafood. Vineyard Road. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Champagne Ayala NV Brut Majeur (Champagne). The nose of this wine is classic, built on a prominent yeasty backbone, clean and true to type. The palate leans toward underripe and ripe white peach, green pear, rose petal, plum, and violet, edged with raw almond paste. Seek out this cuvée if you want less toasted brioche and more of a clean, fruity expression. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$68

92 Champagne Brimontcourt NV Brut Régence (Champagne). Fresh, crisp, and clean-cut, this Chardonnay-dominant wine leads with citrus and honeysuckle, layered with red berry undertones and

firm stone minerality. The palate turns focused with linear acidity, leaning toward citrus oil, white peach, and acacia honey, closing on a clean note of ocean spray and wet stone. This should pair beautifully with seafood, raw or cooked. Siema LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Champagne Charpentier NV Zéro Dosage Pinot Meunier (Champagne). White strawberry, talc, flint, raw almond, and pastry dough build into a strikingly focused nose. The palate turns angular and precise, with lean Asian pear framed by a mineral core of alluvial stone and struck flint. Enjoy now. Rooted Selections LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$90

92 Lanson NV Le Black Création 257 Brut (Champagne). The nose of this wine evokes a bakery just before the day's first batch goes into the oven, with ripe citrus and orchard fruit melded into a backdrop of raw, waiting dough. The palate turns crisp, leaning toward Bosc pear, white tea, wet stone, and cashew, closing on a note of alluvial stone. Clean and brisk with ample acidity, this should pair beautifully with plenty of spicy dishes. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$67

91 Champagne Saint Philibert NV Village Festigny Extra Brut (Champagne). Crisp Anjou pear, Pink Lady apple, white peach, fresh almond, acacia, and violet make for a nose that's inviting, clean, and moderately expressive. The palate of this wine is fruit driven, leaning into lively and crisp plum skin and pressed blackberry, before giving way to intense stony, chalky minerality and a flaky salt finish. Racy acidity keeps the wine focused throughout. A clean expression of Meunier. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$96

91 Champagne Signolle NV Pierre Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut (Champagne). Delicate on the nose, this wine shows Rainier cherry, sour cream, violet, fresh almond, and ocean spray. The palate is round yet linear, expressive with apple skin, lime, and rose petal, closing on a soft finish of brioche and white tea. An approachable expression, ready to enjoy now. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Romain Tribaut NV Pur Meunier Zéro Dosage Brut (Champagne). Orchard fruit and florals lead the nose, with white peach, Asian pear, bergamot, and peach blossom all clean and well defined. Bright acidity opens the palate into something broad and round, with ripe orchard fruit and grapefruit, touched by a lactic quality. The finish carries grapefruit pith, soft florals, and wet alluvial stone. Give this some aeration and pair it with spice-forward cuisine, a five-spice char siu would work nicely. W.Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$115

90 Champagne Vaucelle NV Terre de Nuances Blanc Vrai (Champagne). A bright, high-toned nose offers orange blossom, white peach, and green pear, clean and crisp throughout. The palate leans toward pear fruit, fresh almond, and salted bis-

cuit. Delicious and food-friendly, this should pair well with a wide array of appetizers. W.Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

90 Champagne Vaucelle NV Terre Natale (Champagne). Made of 100% Pinot Noir, this wine offers a charming nose, with freshly cut apples, citrus pith, white tea, and salted biscuit. The palate is straightforward, leaning into underripe orchard fruit before a soft, chalky finish. A great choice for an aperitif. W.Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$70

90 Gruet NV Sélection Brut (Champagne). Fresh plum, Pink Lady apple, marzipan, and violet come together in a focused nose on this wine. The palate is round, with a creamy mousse, opening on a chalky, milky note before a floral layer of iris and violet takes over. A classic, lively expression, perfect as an aperitif to kick off a large party. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

90 Philippe Fourrier NV Pinot Blanc (Champagne). A whole basket of orange fruit comes through on the nose of this wine, offering clementine, tangerine, kumquat and apricot. The palate turns lean, highlighting orchard fruit and orange oil, closing on a taut note of ocean spray and salinity. Refreshing, and a great aperitif. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$90

89 Champagne Dom Caudron NV Épicurienne Brut (Champagne). Orange oil, citrus pith, honeysuckle, and ocean spray define a nose that's quite textbook. The palate of the wine is classic and clean, offering fresh citrus and raw almond. The finish is slightly abrupt but carries a saline, stony note. Ocean South Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Champagne Roger-Constant Lemaire NV Sélect Réserve Brut (Champagne). Baked apple, lemon zest, marzipan, violet, acacia, and salted almonds define the nose of this wine. The palate is creamy and round, layered with citrus zest, white tea, underripe pear, talc, and alluvial stone, carried through to a soft, stony finish with mouthwatering acidity. Old Creek Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Champagne Dom Caudron NV Cornalyne Brut (Champagne). Clementine oil, lanolin, and acacia honey define the nose, with a savory, herbal edge reminiscent of green olive. Mouthwatering acidity gives a nice runway for citrus pith and white tea, closing on a subtle finish of alluvial stone. Pair it with jumbo shrimp. Ocean South Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$41

88 Champagne Dom Caudron NV Prédiction Brut (Champagne). Ripe citrus and orchard fruit dusted with confectioner's sugar, grapefruit, and ocean spray define the nose of this wine. The palate is pithy, with a soft peach midpalate, finishing on an

abrupt note of alluvial stone. Pair it with a semifirm goat cheese. Ocean South Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

87 Romain Tribaut NV La Vallée Pur Meunier Brut (Champagne). Clementine, white peach, white rose, washed-rind cheese, and river rock define this wine's soft. The palate carries a lightness, with citrus zest and ocean spray closing on a subtle finish of radish and flaky salt. W.Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$90

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES MEURSAULT

94 Xavier Monnot 2024 Les Charmes Premier Cru (Meursault). A really bright nose offers white peach, mirabelle plum, marzipan, fresh ginger, and chalky minerality, genuinely compelling from the start. It is viscous, with mouthfilling acidity that energizes a palate of acacia, chamomile, and gentle baking spice. Delicious and enjoyable now. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$230

94 Xavier Monnot 2024 Les Chevalières (Meursault). A very focused nose offers yellow plum, quince, walnut, chamomile, vanilla, and wet stone, genuinely inviting from the start. The palate of this wine is mineral laden, with bright acidity keeping things lifted. Pear, chamomile, and white pepper linger on the midpalate, finishing on acacia and wet stone. Layered and elegant, this wine is approachable now. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$140

93 Chapelle de Blagny 2024 Les Ravelles Premier Cru (Meursault). Quince, lemon pith, almond paste, and honeysuckle define the nose of this wine. The palate is driven by limestone, followed by gentle layers of lanolin and honeysuckle on the midpalate, finishing with vanilla and toast. Fleshy in texture with refreshing acidity, this wine is approachable now but can cellar with ease. French Libation / Elen-teny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$172

93 Chapelle de Blagny 2024 Sous le Dos d'Âne Premier Cru (Meursault-Blagny). A round nose offers white peach, mirabelle plum, and chamomile, broad and focused. The palate of this wine turns toward ripe pear and white pepper, closing on a gentle finish of wet limestone. This is one to enjoy with a range of goat cheeses and crudités. French Libation / Elen-teny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$172

93 Olivier Ravoire 2024 Paladin (Meursault). This wine's fresh nose of ripe pear, quince, buttermilk, and white pepper feels genuinely inviting. Texturally, the palate is waxy but balanced by refreshing acidity, drawing out white peach and light almond on the midpalate. It finishes with vanilla, clove, and

chamomile. Layered and engaging throughout, the wine is approachable now but should also cellar well. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$100

93 Prosper Maufoux 2023 La Pièce Sous Le Bois Premier Cru (Meursault). White peach, marzipan, and chamomile define the rich nose of this wine. The palate opens with citrus zest, buttercream, and honeysuckle, finishing on wet stone and acacia. Round and weighty but balanced by its acidity, this should pair beautifully with pan-seared sweetbreads. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$220

93 Sylvain Debord 2023 (Meursault). The nose is fresh, with citrus oil and quince joined by floral overtones of peony, honeysuckle, and chamomile. It is linear and quite refreshing. The palate is lively with ripe pear, hazelnut, and acacia, finishing on wet river rock and green pear. Approachable now. HB Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$160

93 Xavier Monnot 2024 Le Limozin (Meursault). Intense yellow plum and white peach meet beeswax and acacia on the nose of this wine. The palate is delicious, offering golden apple, brioche, acacia, saffron and white pepper, finishing on oats. Balanced and delicious throughout, this pairs beautifully with ginger-forward curried dishes. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$140

92 Domaine Delagrang 2023 (Meursault). The fragrant nose of this wine offers lemon curd, lanolin, honeysuckle, and white pepper. Bright acidity keeps the waxy palate lively, with yellow plum, buttered toast, and acacia pulling through the midpalate. The finish is long, layered with vanilla and wet river rock. Enjoyable now. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$110

91 Domaine Louis Jadot 2023 (Meursault). Baked golden apple and white peach tartlette meet chamomile, saffron, and beeswax on the nose, with plenty going on. The palate of this wine is fleshy, offering citrus zest, toasted almond, and vanilla, finishing on light oat. Enjoy now. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$115

PERNAND-VERGELESSES

94 Maison Champy 2023 (Pernand-Vergelesses). Meyer lemon, bergamot, white tea, and Marcona almond define the nose of this wine. Great texture and acidity give way to a textured, terroir-driven palate that creates a nice runway for orange pith and sweet pea flower. The wine finishes on notes of white tea and raw almond. Elegant, it should only deliver more with time. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$58

94 Maison Champy 2023 En Caradeux Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses). Perfumed nose of bergamot, chamomile, marzipan, and vanilla is incredibly inviting. Baking spice and white tea carry through the midpalate, closing on a finish of ocean spray. Refreshing, with great textural mouthfeel. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$100

93 Domaine Marguerite Carillon 2024 (Pernand-Vergelesses). Peach blossom creates a nice aromatic overlay above lean citrus, banana, and a lactic edge on the nose of this wine. Rich, textured, and leaning full bodied, the palate expresses citrus zest and Marcona almond, closing on a touch of Greek yogurt. ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

93 Louis Latour 2022 En Caradeux Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses). Ripe white peach, straw, limestone, and alluvial river rock give the nose of this wine real presence. The palate is graceful and refreshing, opening with white florals before moving through citrus zest on the midpalate, a lactic creaminess lingering at the edges. Pour this one for a relaxed afternoon on the patio. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$61

93 Maison Champy 2022 En Caradeux Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses). Clementine, candied ginger, peach blossom, and acacia define the nose. The palate is graceful, with a pleasing mouthfeel, citrus pith, and whispers of tangerine leading into an alluvial stony finish. This wine is approachable now. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$90

CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

95 Roux Père et Fils 2023 Les Morichots (Chassagne-Montrachet). A sophisticated mélange of Pink Lady apple, peach, orange blossom, sliced pear, acacia, and cardamom builds depth on the nose of this wine. Medium bodied with a round textural feel, the palate is driven by bright, mouthwatering acidity that highlights citrus and lime zest, and finishes on a saline, stony finish. Refreshing, with cellaring potential through 2036 and more. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$112

94 Domaine Louis Jadot 2023 (Chassagne-Montrachet). Peach blossom, citrus oil, candied ginger, honeysuckle, and alluvial stone build an inviting nose on this wine. The palate opens with great mouthfeel and a burst of baking spice, followed by an elegant perfume of citrus and florals. Everything stays integrated and pretty through the finish. Elegant, with plenty more to give. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$125

94 Sylvain Debord 2023 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). An impressive nose offers citrus oil and ocean breeze,

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with light peach and talc. The palate is very precise. Delicate citrus pastry filling and light baking spice meet floral elegance and minerality that add depth. Very pretty. HB Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$270

93 Xavier Monnot 2024 En Remilly Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Perfumed and sophisticated, the nose offers light Meyer lemon, almond paste, floral notes, and wet stone. Round in the mouth, it opens with white pepper and citrus pith, moving through a midpalate of tangerine before an acidic lift gives length to the alluvial stone finish. Charming and accessible now. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$225

92 Sylvain Debord 2023 (Chassagne-Montrachet). A sophisticated nose on this wine offers citrus zest, wild white florals, white peach, and a slight vegetal edge. That citrus zest sensibility carries through the palate and lingers long on the finish. Delicious and approachable now. HB Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$195

91 Maison Champy 2023 (Chassagne-Montrachet). Citrus and pear meet strong blood-orange pith, acacia honey, and macadamia on the nose. The palate is medium bodied, with plenty of baking spice and white pepper leading to a gentle finish of citrus and pastry. Drink now. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$110

SANTENAY

93 Roux Père et Fils 2022 Beauregard Premier Cru (Santenay). The bouquet opens with light grapefruit pith, citrus oil, hazelnut, and wet crushed stone. The palate of this wine turns more floral, offering white peach enveloped in white blossom, peony, and chamomile. Bright acidity gives length to a finish of subtle vanilla and acacia. Enjoy now. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

92 Domaine Louis Jadot 2023 Clos de Malte (Santenay). A fresh nose offers lemon verbena, almond paste, cream, wet limestone, and a touch of white pepper. It is crisp, with round acidity brightening a midpalate of grapefruit pith, flint, and light ginger that lingers on the finish. This should be a great accompaniment to a salade niçoise. Kobrand. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

92 Domaine Roger Belland 2022 Beauregard Premier Cru (Santenay). A layered nose offers grapefruit pith, cream, elderflower, ginger, and wet limestone. The palate of this wine is lean, with crisp acidity, white blossom, and crushed stone persisting through to a finish of light toast. Enjoyable alongside briny oysters. Ansonia Wines. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

CHABLIS

93 Domaine Besson 2024 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis). Elegant aromas of Concorde pear, Fuji apple, and white peach skin lead into orange blossom with hints of bread dough on the nose. The palate echoes in parallel intensity revealing shattered stone that completes with the lightest touch of baby's breath on the finish. New Last Bottle Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$93

93 Domaine Besson 2022 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis). Alluring aromas of golden apple, ripe Bartlett pear, and bread dough entice the nose, joined by white nectarine skin and navel orange zest. Creamy in texture, well-integrated orchard fruit flavors shine, lifted by wet river stone and dried white blossom. New Last Bottle Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Domaine Louis Jadot 2023 Premier Cru (Chablis). Inviting aromas of muddled green apple, white peach skin, and lemon blossom converge on the nose of this wine, along with hints of nasturtium. The crystalline palate is built around a core of minerality that lifts crushed-shell-dusted fruit on a finish that refreshes and persists. Kobrand. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Capleia 2025 (Chablis). This wine seduces the nose with attractive savory aromas of meadow grass, acacia blossom, and chalk-dusted green apple. Tart minerality leads into muddled orchard fruit on a midpalate bathed in stony acidity, finishing with citrus uplift. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Domaine Besson 2024 (Chablis). Enticing aromas of lemon tart, white peach, and apple galette open on the nose buttressed by pastry and acacia blossom. Tangy Barlett pear leads into a stony midpalate that brings in a touch of saline on the chalk-dusted, citrusy finish. New Last Bottle Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Domaine Besson 2023 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis). Reserved aromas of Bosc pear, walnut skin, and lilac unfold into dried white blossom on the nose of this wine. Round and supple in texture, delicate orchard fruit rests on a foundation of stony acidity that picks up forest floor and lemon peel on the finish. New Last Bottle Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$115

91 Domaine Louis Moreau 2024 (Chablis). The nose begins with floral aromas of lilac, white rose petal, and orange blossom that lead into Anjou pear. Tart minerality opens on the attack followed by chalk-dusted green apple buttressed by lemon citrus that lifts and extends the finish. Pair with pan-roasted trout and pasta carbonara. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Gérard Bertrand 2024 French Flair Le Lumineux (Chablis). This wine abounds with

wonderful florality. Fragrant aromas of muddled white blossom, lilac, and pear galette are accented by pastry dough and a sprinkle of honeysuckle. The palate opens with spritzed-lemon that activates tart green apple and chalk-dusted sliced pear. USA Wine West. —A.C.C.

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

91 La Chablisienne 2024 Le Finage (Chablis). A mix of pastry and fresh-cut grass aromas lift from the glass along with white blossom and a hint of lilac stem. Supple in texture with a citrusy undercurrent, the palate weaves green apple and crushed shells into a tapestry of flavors that are bolstered by shattered-stone-dusted acidity. Demeine Estate. —A.C.C.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

91 Les Alliés 2023 (Chablis). Alluring aromas of honey-drizzled baked pear, apple tart, and dried orange peel seduce the nose accented by hints of bread dough and acacia blossom. The juicy palate lays white blossom on a blanket of orchard fruit that is guided by a chalky wave of acidity. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Maison Roche Amistat 2024 (Chablis). Attractive, savory aromas of late-summer meadow grass, acacia, and orange blossom lead into white peach and muddled golden apple on the nose of this wine. Slightly creamy in texture, the focused palate runs across a bed of limestone that breathes in dew-dusted earth and exhales fresh-baled hay. Exclusive Cellars LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Roc des Combes 2024 (Chablis). Joyful aromas of white peach, golden apple, and late-summer meadow grass converge in the glass, bolstered by a touch of dried white blossom. Bright yet slightly creamy in texture, the wine opens with tart orchard fruit that rides a wave of muddled lemon into a shore of shattered stone. Exclusive Cellars LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Kirkland Signature 2024 Premier Cru (Chablis). Lemon in color, this wine offers gentle aromas of crushed yellow apple, field grass, and dried lemon peel that are lifted by white blossom on the nose. Fresh, bright fruit chimes in on the palate unlocking chalk-dusted sliced apple that moves into tangy acidity on the finish. MISA Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Maison Champy 2024 (Chablis). Comforting aromas of toasted bread, petrichor, and green apple join forest floor and lilac stem on the nose of this wine. The mineral-driven palate frames orchard fruit bolstered by chalk-dusted acidity that extends the finish, which goes on and on. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.

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

90 Pierre Andre 2025 (Chablis). Bartlett pear, forest floor, and field grass aromas open on the nose of this wine, accented by baby's breath. The supple palate follows suit, weaving in shattered stone,

lime zest, and spritzed lemon that encircle the mineral core. ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC.ETE. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

PETIT CHABLIS

91 Famille Descombe 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Petit Chablis). Reserved aromas of golden apple, meadow grass, and dried white blossom join white tea and forest floor on the nose of this wine. The mineral-driven palate washes across wet stone and crushed shells, ending with zested lemon. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Roc des Combes 2024 (Petit Chablis). Gentle aromas of flaky pastry, dried white blossom, and golden apple converge in the glass, along with dried field grass and freshly baled hay. Pithy, salt-dusted lemon layers with subtle touches of chopped herbs rest atop a foundation of tart, minerally orchard fruit. Exclusive Cellars LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Maison Roche Amistat 2024 (Petit Chablis). Aromas of bread dough, apple galette, and forest floor consume the nose of this wine along with hay and a touch of dried field grass. On the palate, tart Comice pear leans into wet river stone bolstered by a layer of silky acidity that weaves in a touch of chalk. Exclusive Cellars LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

POUILLY-FUISSÉ

91 Domaine Ferret 2023 (Pouilly-Fuissé). Dramatic, savory aromas of field meadow grass, freshly struck flint, and red apple converge on the complex nose of this wine. The palate is more subdued in comparison, adding pastry dough, hay, and lemon-citrus-spritzed orchard fruit that completes with a stony finish, accented by a small bouquet of dried herbs. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

91 Domaine Louis Jadot 2023 Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé). Cheerful, inviting aromas of hay, dried field grass, and Empire apple charm the nose, guided by white blossom and a touch of pear tart. A mineral-driven midpalate is balanced by shattered-stone-dusted acidity that unwinds in a lake of lemon citrus peel and crushed shells. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

91 Jean-Christophe Perraud 2023 (Pouilly-Fuissé). Lemon-gold in color, this wine entices the nose with aromas of bruised golden apple, honey-drizzled Anjou pear and bread dough, along with muddled white peach blossom and orange peel. The fulsome palate has a core of honey-drizzled fruit that is framed by a soft wave of minerality that refreshes the finish. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Les Arbillons 2025 (Pouilly-Fuissé). Demure aromas of muddled yellow apple, pastry dough, and lemon peel converge on the nose, guided by a touch of tangerine zest and baby's breath. A stony palate is balanced by a pithy layer of acidity that completes with a refreshing, mouthwatering finish. Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

90 Les Perelles 2025 (Pouilly-Fuissé). Gold in color, this wine features ripe fruit aromas of golden apple, Bosc pear, and acacia blossom, buttressed by a light touch of pastry and dried orange zest on the nose. The fulsome palate has a reserved fruit core that is framed by a wet-stone-led acidity that softens on the finish. DHI Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Paul Aegerter 2024 Réserve Personelle (Pouilly-Fuissé). Well-integrated aromas of bread dough, green-apple tart, and white peach blossom frolic with honeysuckle on the nose of this wine. The firm palate raises citrus-zested orchard fruit buttressed by subtle notes of baking spice that unwind on the finish, supported by underlying minerality. MISA Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

SAINT-VÉРАН

90 Les Arbillons 2023 (Saint-Véran). Elegant aromas of muddled golden apple, lemon zest, and pear tart come together, complemented by a touch of orange peel. The palate is bright, with playful fruit that washes across wet river stone before reaching a finish replete with lilac and dried white blossom. Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

90 Les Perelles 2023 (Saint-Véran). Mature aromas of white peach, honeydew melon, and papaya skin entice and elevate the nose, along with a smile-inducing touch of lemon curd. Concentrated fruit on the palate is bolstered by a tangy streak of acidity that lifts and emboldens the finish of this wine. Drink now–2031. DHI Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 Olivier Ravoire 2024 Heaume (Saint-Véran). Cheerful aromas of baby's breath, golden apple, and Anjou pear waft from the glass, guided by a touch of white nectarine skin and orange peel. The palate follows suit with equal intensity, elevating orchard fruit that rides a wave of lemon-spritzed chalk to a pithy finish. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

MÂCON-VILLAGES

91 Albert Bichot 2024 (Mâcon-Villages). Elegant aromas of slivered almonds, pastry dough, and freshly sliced yellow apple are lifted by perfumed florals of lilac and white rose petal. The firm and creamy palate follows suit with a crushed-stone-laden wave of

acidity that carries whispers of meadow grass, yogurt, and toasted lemon peel on an elongated finish. Albert Bichot USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Les Alliés 2025 (Mâcon-Villages). Nuanced aromas of muddled yellow apple, pastry dough, and Bosc pear skin lead into white rose petal on the nose of this wine. Fresh and mineral-driven green fruit is wrapped in chalk-dusted acidity that unwinds in a taper of lemon peel. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Maison Deux-Flours 2025 (Mâcon-Villages). Fragrant aromas of golden apple tart, bread dough, and brioche open on the nose of this wine, guided by hints of muddled orange blossom. The fulsome palate rests on a foundation of minerality that brightens while providing pleasing depth, punctuated by moments of chalky acidity. Votto Vines Importing. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Nicolas Potel 2024 (Mâcon-Villages). Mineral-driven aromas of Comice pear, pastry, and bread dough open on the nose of this wine, steadied by dew-dusted forest floor and apple blossom. The palate opens with shattered stone balanced by orchard fruit and a playful, slightly tangy acidity on the finish. WinesU. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Prosper Maufoux 2024 (Mâcon-Villages). Delicate aromas of pastry, dried kumquat zest, and yellow apple are undergirded by dusty forest floor on the nose. A burst of chalk dust opens into pithy lemon bolstered by stony acidity that lingers on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Trenel 2025 (Mâcon-Villages). A whisper of field grass swirls with aromas of green apple, slivered almond, and bread dough. The palate of this wine echoes the nose with parallel intensity, unlocking hay and supple flavors of bruised pear blossom that carry into a stony finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Blason de Bourgogne 2023 Chardonnay (Mâcon-Villages). Fresh, spring-meadow blossom, red apple, and forest floor aromas converge in the glass, guided by a subtle streak of dried hay. A palate of reserved orchard fruit rests on a foundation of minerality that gives way to stony white blossom on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Pierre Andre 2025 (Mâcon-Villages). Reserved aromas of baby's breath, chalk-dusted green apple, and lemon blossom lift from the glass along with pithy citrus zest. A soothing texture of wet river stone leads into muddled orchard fruit on the midpalate that empties into a pool of crushed shells. Pair with seafood and evenings next to the

BUYINGGUIDE

water. ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. ETE. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Jean-Christophe Perraud 2023 (Viré-Clessé). Joyful aromas of spiced golden apple, almond skin, and white peach gather on the nose of this wine, bolstered by orange marmalade and candied lemon. The palate is more reserved in comparison, propelling subdued fruit toward a fresh, elongated finish. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

93 Xavier Monnot 2024 Les Duressses (Monthélie). The nose of this wine is a delicate perfume of citrus oil and pith, orange blossom, Anjou pear, and wildflowers. The palate is terroir-driven, marked by limestone and clay, with pink grapefruit pith, fresh almond, and a slight saline quality. Great mouthfeel and acidity make this wine excellent alongside goat cheese and fresh seafood. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

93 Xavier Monnot 2023 Les Duressses (Monthélie). The nose of this wine is layered with Meyer lemon, fresh lemongrass, and ginger, followed by acacia and wild white florals. Mouthwatering acidity gives the palate a weightless quality despite its medium body. Citrus pith leads the attack, continuing along with orange oil through the midpalate and a tart apple finish. Delicious, and a great pairing with herbaceous salmon and rice pilaf. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

92 Jean-Christophe Perraud 2023 Le Clos (Mâcon La Roche Vineuse). This is a beautiful bottling. Lemon-gold in color, it features mature aromas of honey-drizzled green apple, orange marmalade, baking spice, and brioche that entice the nose. Ripe, golden fruit is undergirded by a supple, supportive layer of acidity that lifts and guides the extended finish. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Cave de Lugny 2024 Les Charmes Chardonnay (Mâcon-Lugny). Savory field-grass aromas charm the nose along with fresh-sliced yellow apple, peach blossom, and meadow wildflower. The firm palate of this wine opens with a brief moment of tart green fruit before moving into wet river stone that carries the finish. Pair with shellfish, calamari, and fondue. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Pascal Berthier 2025 (Mâcon Chaintré). Fragrant aromas of toasted almond, pastry dough, and red apple are joined by jasmine and honeysuckle on the nose of this wine. On the fresh and bright palate, lifted florals join with pear blossom to energize the finish. New Wave Wine Co. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Les Arbillons 2025 (Mâcon-Milly Lamar-tine). Dried meadow grass, white nectarine skin, and crushed stone aromas are complemented by baby's breath on the nose of this wine. A burst of tart acidity leads into chalk-dusted green apple on the midpalate that resolves on a stony finish dusted with lemon zest. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

90 Les Perelles 2025 (Mâcon-Milly Lamartine). Earthy aromas of golden apple, hay, and late-summer meadow grass open on the nose of this wine, guided by dried lilac blossom. Pleasing flavors of crushed stone begin on the midpalate, balanced by rounded acidity that finishes in a bed of chalk. DHI Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

BURGUNDY RED WINES BOURGOGNE

90 Albert Bichot 2024 Origines Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). In this ruby-red wine, summer meadow grass, red raspberry, and violet blossom aromas converge on the nose, accented with the lightest touch of hay. Chalky acidity and grippy tannins balance each other on the midpalate that sees additional flavors of black tea and cranberry. Albert Bichot USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

90 Blason de Bourgogne 2023 (Bourgogne). Raspberry, orange peel, and smoky red cherry aromas open into hay and hibiscus on the nose of this wine. Youthful tannins frame red fruit that moves into black tea buttressed by a persistent layer of acidity that unwinds on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Château de Melin 2025 (Bourgogne). Purple blossom, pencil shavings, and black cherry aromas swirl in the glass of this wine, joined by dried cranberry and forest floor. Grippy tannins open on the attack followed by a mix of tart and ripe red fruits that run toward crushed shells on the finish. Decant now or enjoy from 2028 onward. Non-US Imported. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Edouard Delaunay 2022 Septembre Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Ruby red in color, this wine features well-integrated aromas that lift from the glass, including red cherry, black tea, and black raspberry. Red fruit lays a red carpet for supple tannins that unfurl on a bed of strawberry stems and chalky acidity. It is ready to drink now. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Maison Castel 2022 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Earthy aromas of muddled black cherry, assam tea, and strawberry meet with white blossom and rosehip on the nose of this wine. An energetic layer of acidity leads on the palate buttressed by vel-

vety tannins that will continue to soften with more time in bottle. This wine is positively ready to drink now, but if you forget it in your cellar for a couple of years, it will drink even better. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Maison Champy 2024 Cuvée Edme Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Black cherry, muddled blackberry, and cassis aromas open on the nose guided by dried field grass and red plum. Velvety tannins undergird an amalgam of red fruit that unwinds on a bed of forest floor leading into a long, chalk-dusted finish. Decant now and enjoy from 2028 onward. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

93 Sylvain Debord 2023 (Gevrey-Chambertin). A layered nose on this wine offers plum, black currant, rose petal, and wet stone. The palate is fleshy, with fine and grippy tannins that give way to baking spice, while graphite and black pepper take over the midpalate. Firm stone and tar carry the finish of this serious wine. Let it rest in the cellar for another year or two to harmonize fully. HB Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

92 Albert Bichot 2023 Domaine du Clos Fran-tin Les Murots (Gevrey-Chambertin). Black raspberry, kirsch, peony, and wet stone bring a lifted, perfumed quality to the nose of this wine. The palate is straightforward and classical, softened by clove before finishing on firm tar and graphite minerality. This wine is approachable now. Albert Bichot USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$157

92 Domaine Louis Jadot 2023 (Gevrey-Cham-bertin). A concentrated, ripe nose offers red bramble with an incredible floral bouquet and a rustic edge of terra-cotta. It is generous throughout. Cherry skin, rose petal, and white pepper come through, while firm, stony minerality takes over the finish. A classic expression worth seeking out for your next dinner party. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$105

92 Joseph Drouhin 2023 (Gevrey-Chambertin). Morello cherry, damson plum, violet, baking spice, and a touch of tar build into a dark, layered nose on this wine. The palate turns savory as well, its acidity keeping things bright and refreshing, drawing out black cherry, underbrush, white mushroom, and soft licorice on the finish. Approachable now. Dreyfus Ashby & Co. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$112

90 Maison Champy 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Gevrey-Chambertin). A high-toned, evolving nose leads with Bing cherry, followed by a meaty, savory core with a violet edge. The palate leans toward firm wet stone, dried rose, and graphite. Black pepper and damp earth carry through the finish. Serious in

profile, this is approachable now with proper aeration. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$110

MONTHÉLIE

91 Louis Jadot 2021 Champs Fulliot Premier Cru (Monthélie). An illuminated nose offers wild strawberry, rhubarb, white pepper, and violet petal. Medium bodied, the more delicate palate has flavors of cooked rhubarb, limestone minerality, and white tea that carry through the finish. A lovely choice for an elegant lunch outdoors. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$56

91 Moillard 2024 Roc Rouge (Monthélie). This wine opens with a concentrated nose of black raspberry, cherry candy, green peppercorn, violet, and saline. The palate is dark-fruited with a bitter black tea edge, while youthful tannins are balanced by bright acidity. Drink now alongside grilled chicken with cucumber feta salad. ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC.ETE. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$43

87 Pierre Andre 2023 (Monthélie). Red cherry, black licorice, green peppercorn, and an abundance of violet come through on the nose, bold and expressive. Tannins overwhelm the palate, supporting a firm, bitter edge with a touch of cranberry fruit and a mineral undercurrent. Serve alongside squid ink pasta or a well-seasoned rack of lamb. ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. ETE. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$43

OTHER RED WINES

91 Domaine Jean Féry & Fils 2023 Les Vergelesses Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses). A lifted nose of stewed wild cherry and rhubarb melds into a floral layer of iris, rose, and violet. This is a classic expression, with gentle, grippy tannins supporting a palate of cherry compote, black peppercorn, and fennel through a medium-long alluvial stone finish. Approachable now. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$80

88 Les Arbillons 2025 (Mâcon-Milly Lamar-tine). Perfumed aromas of black plum, pastry dough, and black raspberry open into dried cherry on the nose. Chalky in texture, the palate begins with tart red fruit and pencil shavings followed by a wave of stony acidity that uplifts youthful tannins. Wine Wine Situation LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES

SANCERRE

95 Joseph Mellot 2024 La Grande Châtelaine (Sancerre). This Sancerre is simply stunning. The experience begins with well-integrated aromas of white rose petal, late-summer meadow grass, and lemon blossom that melt into Bosc pear and muddled yellow apple. The palate is equally luxurious with gentle curves that hug orchard fruit while lounging on a bed of chalk and a pillow of crushed shells. You can enjoy this wine by itself or bring to a table to pair with a meal. Albert Bichot USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$147

95 Joseph Mellot 2022 Pierre Etienne (Sancerre). This superb bottling from an excellent vintage impresses. Lemon-gold in color, it offers perfumed aromas of white peach, dried lemon peel, and papaya that charm the nose, bolstered by golden apple and pear compote. The palate seduces with well-integrated flavors of ripe orchard fruit that ride ahead of a slightly chalky streak of acidity, propelling the wine forward toward the minute-long finish. Albert Bichot USA. —R.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$153

94 Antoine De La Farge 2025 La Rive de Loire (Sancerre). Fragrant aromas of white peach, grapefruit, and muddled Gala apple open on the nose of this wine, along with hints of dried field grass and lemon peel. The palate follows suit, bringing along additional flavors of hay that percolate through to the long finish. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$56

94 Cave de Sancerre 2023 Les Granges Brûlées (Sancerre). Playful bread dough, white nectarine skin, and apple tart aromas cascade on the nose of this wine, along with a touch of field grass and orange blossom. The palate is wonderfully supple in texture, revealing a maturity that has developed with age. Additional flavors of pastry and toasted lemon peel lead into a relaxing, minute-long finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$100

94 Pascal Jolivet 2025 Sauvage (Sancerre). This is an attractive wine. Enticing aromas of bread dough, muddled Comice pear, and white nectarine skin swirl in the glass, joined by apple blossom. Plump, yet reserved, orchard fruit fills the palate, guided by a gentle layer of acidity that is mineral kissed. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$100

93 Comte de la Chevalière 2025 (Sancerre). This is a beautiful wine. Delicate, layered aromas of bread dough, golden apple galette, and pastry entice the nose, joined by honeysuckle and dried lemon zest.

The creamy-textured palate follows in parallel intensity, with layered orchard fruit that is buttressed by a smattering of shattered stone. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

93 Domaine Laporte 2025 Cuvée R (Sancerre). Fragrant aromas of apple galette, bread dough, and wildflower charm the nose that rests in a field of summer meadow grass. Supple in texture, the fruit comes together deliciously on the palate, supported by pillowy acidity that lifts the finish, buttressed by a touch of chalk. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

93 Domaine Laporte 2025 Les Grandmontains (Sancerre). This wine has a reserved nose of Bosc pear, Empire apple, and quince skin accented by late-summer field grass. Supple in texture, a mix of orchard fruit and wet stone is woven together on the midpalate along with muddled white blossom that elevates the finish. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

93 Domaine Laporte 2024 La Comtesse (Sancerre). Charming aromas of white nectarine skin, field grass, and golden apple come together in the glass, buttressed by forest floor and a touch of pastry dough. Vibrant orchard fruit opens on the palate that is soothed by chalk-dusted acidity that unlocks a touch of dried hay on the finish. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$60

93 Domaine Laporte 2024 Le Grand Rochoy (Sancerre). Well-integrated aromas of orange blossom, forest floor, and lilac converge in the glass complemented by a touch of dried field grass. Stony in texture, the wine has a quiet confidence that rests on a bed of hay, wet river rock, and lemon zest that unfurls on the finish. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$70

93 Henri Bourgeois 2024 ES-56 (Sancerre). Lemon in color, this wine offers reserved aromas of golden apple, orange blossom, and white peach that open on the nose along with a touch of lilac. Joyful orchard fruit leads on the palate that washes across wet river stone and chalk-dusted lemon peel into a lingering finish. Monsieur Touton Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

93 Henri Bourgeois 2022 Les Ruchons (Sancerre). This bottling from an excellent vintage has aged beautifully and is now ready for its close-up. A fragrant mix of yellow apple and field-grass aromas wafts from the glass, joined by pastry dough, honeydew-melon zest, and a touch of hay. A well-integrated amalgam of fruit follows suit on the palate that hints at crushed limestone while flirting with forest floor and white blossom. VinConnect. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Nicolas Millet 2024 Le Vallon (Sancerre). Complex aromas of green plum, yellow apple, meadow grass, and white blossom beguile the nose along with a touch of baby's breath. The mineral-driven palate frames orchard fruit and green-apple tart, completing with a lemon-spritzed finish. French Libation / Eleny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$58

92 Domaine du Nozay 2024 Château du Nozay (Sancerre). This wine is a charmer. Cheerful aromas of bread dough, golden apple tart, and orange blossom drive the nose, underpinned by a touch of white peach. An attractive, well-integrated, mineral-tilted palate flirts with green pear framed by a vibrant, tangy, and lemon-kissed acidity. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$72

92 Domaine Laporte 2025 La Terre des Anges (Sancerre). Pleasing aromas of dried hay, golden apple, and forest floor are lifted by muddled nasturtium blossom on the nose of this wine. The palate is filled with soft, layered fruit that is bolstered by a delicate, floral layer of acidity. You can enjoy this wine by the glass on its own, or pair with a cheese course, appetizers and roasted chicken. Martine's Wines. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Domaine Laporte 2025 Le Rochoy (Sancerre). Dramatic, fragrant aromas of bread dough, meadow grass, and muddled red apple open on the nose, along with a touch of chopped herbs. The palate delivers relaxed orchard fruit flavors that lounge in a pool of white blossom and lemon zest. Martine's Wines. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Domaine Laporte 2025 Les Garennes (Sancerre). Dew-dusted vineyard floor, baby's breath, and Gala apple aromas unwind unhurriedly on the nose of this wine. Supple in texture, the palate adds pastry dough, lemon zest, and river stone flecked with a touch of chalk that lifts the finish. Martine's Wines. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

92 Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2025 (Sancerre). Fragrant, savory aromas of red apple, dried field grass, and forest floor are accented by tangerine zest and hay on the nose of this wine. Flavors of Anjou pear, wet river stone, and lemon pith are framed by energetic acidity that moves into crushed stone on the finish. Demeine Estate. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

92 Henri Bourgeois 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Sancerre). Pale lemon in color and inviting, this wine offers delicate aromas of lilac, fresh-picked red apple, and meadow grass on the nose, accented by a touch of hay. Stony and rounded in texture, well-integrated orchard fruit unwinds unhurriedly on the midpalate, which has depth and structure. Monsieur Touton Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Henri Bourgeois 2024 La Côte des Monts Damnés (Sancerre). Attractive, savory aromas of turned earth, muddled Gala apple, and meadow grass erupt from the glass complemented by white-button mushroom and lilac blossom. Compared to the nose, the palate is fruit forward with tart orchard fruit that rests on a subtle layer of forest floor and white nectarine skin. Pair with substantial dishes, leek tart, and roasted rosemary chicken. CHAMBERS AND CHAMBERS. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

92 Henri Bourgeois 2023 Les Côtes aux Valets (Sancerre). This is a wine you can open any day of the week and find a reason to enjoy. An attractive mélange of lemon blossom, pear tart, and Fuji apple aromas converge in the glass, followed by a breeze of ocean air. The well-integrated palate of supple orchard fruit is framed by a soothing, stony acidity that mellows on the lingering finish. VinConnect. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

92 Joseph Mellot 2025 La Chatellenie (Sancerre). Joyful aromas of Bosc pear, fresh-sliced golden apple, and lemon peel erupt from the glass, joined by a hint of lilac. Sunny, golden fruit unwinds on the midpalate into the welcoming arms of orange blossom that meets with crushed stone on the finish. Albert Bichot USA. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

92 Les Alliés 2025 (Sancerre). Aromas of honey-dripped Barlett pear, orange blossom, and muddled yellow apple lift from the glass, accented by a touch of lilac. Reserved, well-integrated orchard fruit washes across wet river stone bolstered by streaks of lemon-citrus-spritzed acidity that compels the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Thibaut et Maxime Padeloup 2025 (Sancerre). This is a charming Sancerre. The wine has a sunny, well-integrated nose of golden apple compote, pear blossom, and orange peel. The palate opens with crushed sea shells accented by chalk-dusted lemon citrus that lingers on the finish. Pair with a cheese course, French fries, and roasted leeks. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Cave de Sancerre 2023 E Pluribus Unum (Sancerre). Enticing aromas of slivered almond, bread dough, and golden apple stroll across dew-dusted forest floor on the nose of this wine. Creamy in texture, well-integrated golden-fruit flavors are joined by hay and pastry, completing with freshly sliced Bosc pear. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Domaine du Nozay 2024 (Sancerre). A gentle blend of Anjou pear, wild meadow grass, and apple blossom aromas are accented by a touch of crushed flint. Both tart and just-ripened orchard fruit aromas fill the palate, framed by a rounded acidity that lingers on the finish. This Sancerre would be just

at ease being served by itself by the glass as it would be paired with a meal. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Domaine la Clef du Recit 2025 (Sancerre). Fragrant aromas of golden apple, acacia blossom, and Comice pear lounge on a bed of dew-dusted forest floor on the nose of this wine. The fulsome palate adds hay and gentle field grass flavors that frame an orchard-fruit core undergirded by a supple, balanced mineral-driven acidity. French Libation / Eleny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

91 Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2024 L'Antique (Sancerre). Lemon in color, this wine offers gentle aromas of pastry dough, forest floor, and muddled Empire apple that open into hay and citrus blossom on the nose. The wet-stone-textured palate guides green orchard fruit into a bed of crushed sea shells and shaved lemon peel. Enjoy with oysters, moules frites, and leek tart. Demeine Estate. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

91 Henri Bourgeois 2024 Jadis (Sancerre). Reserved aromas of fresh red apple, bruised white blossom, and honeysuckle swirl in the glass, joined by a touch of pastry dough. Pithy lemon leads into a grove of orchard fruit framed by stony acidity that adds depth and lengthens the finish. Drink now, but this wine will continue to gather steam with age. Monsieur Touton Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

91 Henri Bourgeois 2022 Le Cotelin (Sancerre). Gentle aromas of Anjou pear, lilac, and white rose petal are joined by honeysuckle and a breeze of ocean air on the nose. The palate follows with equal intensity and weaves green fruit and florals into a tapestry of flavors that present as a unique whole. VinConnect. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 Joseph Verdier 2024 Réserve de la Verdrière (Sancerre). Soft, just-ripened Barlett pear aromas open into white-nectarine peel accented by a whisper of honeysuckle. Supple in texture, this wine shows stony, chalky-dusted acidity that empties into a bed of crushed sea shells. Pair this delicate wine with sashimi, savory tarts, and goat cheese. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$38

91 La Poussie 2024 (Sancerre). Lemon in color, this wine has aromas of freshly sliced golden apple, Bosc pear skin, and white blossom. The palate delivers additional flavors of meadow grass that are elevated by lemon pith and a zesty, slightly rounded acidity. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

91 Ladoucette 2024 Comte Lafond (Sancerre). Aromas of muddled golden apple, nectarine, and white rose petal open on the nose alongside a touch of hay. The chalky palate of this wine rests on

a bed of crushed shells, bolstered by rounded acidity that tempers the citrus-kissed finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

91 **Maison de Madeleine 2025 (Sancerre).** Inviting aromas of freshly sliced red apple, bread dough, and honeysuckle open on the nose, joined by a touch of white nectarine blossom. Bright flavors of orchard fruit mingle with crushed stone and lemon zest on the palate, which finishes with refreshing citrus uplift. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Maison de Madeleine 2025 Caillottes (Sancerre).** This wine has a delicate, pensive nose of white nectarine zest, red apple, and Asian pear. Chalky acidity opens on the midpalate that is fresh with cheerful acidity that carries straight through to a finish of crushed shells. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Maison de Madeleine 2025 Silex (Sancerre).** Attractive aromas of pastry dough, dried hay, and lemon-thyme lead into forest floor and white blossom on the nose of this wine. The palate is more reserved in comparison, adding muddled apple, ocean air, and crushed stone that are elevated by a touch of lemon peel. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 **Maison de Madeleine 2025 Terres Blanches (Sancerre).** This is a bright, fresh bottling. Nuanced aromas of white nectarine, apple blossom, and kumquat zest are lifted by a bouquet of summer wildflowers. A stony palate is balanced by rounded acidity and bolstered by a touch of chalk on the lingering finish. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 **Nicolas Millet 2025 Les Garennes (Sancerre).** Aromas of muddled Fuji apple, pastry dough, papaya skin, and white nectarine open on the nose of this wine, along with a touch of lilac. Firm in texture, orchard fruit partners with a balanced layer of acidity that flirts with shattered stone. French Libation / Elen-teny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$46

90 **Auguste Bonhomme 2024 La Forcine (Sancerre).** Delicate nectarine and green apple aromas lift from the glass, joined by bruised white blossom and a whiff of ocean air. The palate is fresh and mineral driven, with stony acidity framing tart orchard fruit accented by hints of white button mushroom and dried lemon peel. Pair with calamari, grilled fish, and cheese fondue. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

90 **Barc & Vallée 2025 Terre Minérale (Sancerre).** This is a solid Sancerre. A mix of muddled white peach and yellow apple aromas perfume the nose, along with a touch of honeysuckle and acacia blossom. Supple in texture, the palate leans into

reserved orchard fruit that washes across wet river stone. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$47

90 **Cave de Sancerre 2023 Le Clos du Roy (Sancerre).** Lilac, red apple, and petrichor aromas swirl in the glass, unlocking pastry dough and honeysuckle on the nose. The palate of this wine echoes in parallel intensity, bringing along dried wildflower blossom and a touch of forest floor. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

90 **Les Carrières De Mézy 2025 Cuvée de la Réserve (Sancerre).** Delicate aromas of pear blossom, Pink Lady apple, and lilac cascade across the nose of this wine, accented by a touch of meadow grass. Stony in texture with a persistent minerality, subdued orchard fruit is framed by pithy lemon that is lifted by chalk-dusted acidity. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 **Paul-Henri Lacroix 2024 (Sancerre).** Delightful, flinty aromas open into wildflower blossom and Bartlett pear on the earthy nose, which is wrapped in lilac. Soft in texture, wet river stone frames chalk-dusted green apple and zested lemon on the meadow-grass and mineral-forward finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Thibaut et Maxime Padeloup 2024 La Part des Anges (Sancerre).** This layered Sancerre doesn't disappoint. Enticing, gentle aromas of Asian pear, lilac, pastry dough, and orange blossom charm the nose. Steely, chalk-dusted orchard fruit opens into rounded acidity that relaxes on a blanket of forest floor. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$54

MENETOU-SALON

93 **Joseph Mellot 2025 Clos du Pressoir (Menetou-Salon).** Alluring aromas of muddled red apple, white button mushroom, and field grass cascade across the nose, joined by acacia blossom and forest floor. The flavorsome wine opens with dried florals and moves into concentrated orchard fruit on the midpalate, framed by lemon peel on the sultry finish. Albert Bichot USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Antoine De La Farge 2025 La Rive de Loire (Menetou-Salon).** This wine charms the senses with aromas of muddled Bosc pear and zested lemon guided by forest floor and lilac. The smile-inducing, fruit-driven palate pays homage to crushed stone, with a touch of flint that dotes on the finish. Pair with tarte flambée, leek-potato soup, and moules frites. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 **Domaine la Clef du Recit 2025 (Menetou-Salon).** Cheerful, perfumed aromas of orange blossom, Asian pear, and white peach are accented

by a touch of honeysuckle on the nose. The palate follows suit, adding freshly sliced yellow apple and dried orange zest to the mix. This wine can easily be enjoyed by the glass on its own or paired with a meal. French Libation / Elen-teny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

TOURAINE

92 **Maison Pierre Bourré 2025 V Collection Patrimoniale Sauvignon (Touraine).** Elegant aromas of muddled green apple, white nectarine skin, and Asian pear open on the nose, along with hints of dried meadow grass. The rounded palate weaves in wet stone and a balanced layer of acidity that completes with a whisper of grapefruit citrus. Pair with quiche Lorraine, razor clams, and cow's-milk cheeses. W. Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

91 **Château de Thésée 2025 La Closerie Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** Fragrant aromas of muddled pear, Pink Lady apple, and honeydew melon are joined by field grass and forest floor aromas on the nose of this wine. Ripe fruit flavors are framed by stony minerality that adds structure, supported by streaks of floral acidity that charm the finish. Avenue Terroir. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 **Maison de Madeleine 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** Lofty notes of green apple, lilac, and nectarine cascade across the nose dotted with shaved lemon peel. Crushed stone provides a foundation for sunny orchard fruit, with a streak of mouth-watering acidity that refreshes the finish. This versatile wine would pair well with many a meal. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 **Barc & Vallée 2025 L'Éclatante Sauvignon (Touraine).** Precise, angular aromas of Fuji apple and Bartlett pear rest under a thin layer of lemon zest and dried meadow grass. In contrast to the nose, the palate of this wine is juicy and filled with ripe, cheerful fruit that is supported by a balanced layer of acidity. Pair with a grilled cheese sandwich, goat cheese, and pan-fried shrimp. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

90 **Beaujardin 2025 Moulin des Aigremonts Sauvignon (Touraine).** A bouquet of spring meadow blossoms, petrichor, and Fuji apple guides the nose across dew-dusted forest floor sprinkled with baby's breath. The palate opens with shattered stone and hints of white peach skin that are subdued and reserved. Pair with crab legs, quiche, and French fries. W. Direct. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 **Denis Bardon 2025 (Touraine).** Delicate aromas of yellow apple, papaya skin, and white nectarine open on the nose, which lounges on a bed of dew-dusted vineyard floor, lilac, and hay. A juicy pal-

BUYINGGUIDE

ate is framed by a gentle wave of minerality that accentuates without overpowering, resting on a succulent pillow of acidity. —R.S.

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

90 **Domaine Bellevue 2025 (Touraine).** Energetic aromas of white peach, pink grapefruit, and orange zest erupt from the glass, along with a touch of meadow grass and wildflower. Succulent fruit explodes on the palate, with pear compote, red apple, and juicy acidity that elicits a smile. Pair with mushroom soup, roasted meats, and nuts. *Elite Wines. Best Buy.* —R.S.

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

90 **Domaine du Vieil Orme 2025 (Touraine).** Aromas of bread dough and glazed apple tart entice the nose, followed by notes of acacia and slivered almonds. A juicy palate of ripe golden apple and orange blossom is framed by wet river stone and a hint of chalk dust that adds flattering minerality. French Libation / Elenten Imports. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

90 **Domaine François Cartier 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** This wine is soft and gentle in style. Pale lemon in color, it delivers white rose petal, apple blossom, and muddled Bartlett pear aromas that swirl in the glass, with a touch of dried florals. Crushed stone opens on the palate bolstered by chalky acidity, accentuated by a spritz of lemon that unwinds on the close. Old Creek Imports. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Ladoucette 2024 Les Deux Tours Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** Enticing aromas of late-fall forest floor, yellow apple, and dried field grass infuse the savory nose that frolics in a garden of lilac. Round in texture, the palate presents a more tempered version of the nose, with punctuated moments of salinity emerging along the finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 **Thierry Delaunay 2025 Le Manoir Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** This is an energetic wine. An attractive, verdant mix of white peach and forest floor aromas open on the savory, citrusy nose. On the palate, a fog of lemon spritz hovers above a stream of flowery acidity and empties into a basin of dried field grass and apple blossom. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 **Joseph Verdier 2025 Domaine de la Col-line Sauvignon (Touraine).** Inviting aromas of apple galette, grapefruit pith, and bread dough are accented with a handful of fresh field herbs. The palate is firm, with muddled green pear and rounded acidity that wash across wet river stone, dusted with white blossom. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

TOURAINE CHENONCEAUX

92 **Domaine François Cartier 2024 (Touraine Chenonceaux).** For full review see page 10. Old Creek Imports. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

92 **Joseph Mellot 2024 Les Éclats de Silex (Touraine Chenonceaux).** Cheerful aromas of Comice pear, golden apple, and lilac charm the nose, with a smattering of muddled orange blossom and fall meadow grass. The mineral-driven palate opens with wet stone that is complemented by chalk-dusted, lemon-zested acidity that lingers on the finish. Pair with shellfish, risotto, and croque monsieur. Albert Bichot USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 **Cellier Beaujardin 2025 Domaine des 7 Lieux (Touraine Chenonceaux).** Fragrant aromas of Bosc pear, yellow apple, and white peach lean into lemon blossom on the nose of this wine. The palate follows suit with plump, smile-inducing summer orchard fruit that is framed by playful notes of hay and wildflower. Winery DIRECT LLC. —R.S.

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

91 **Denis Bardon 2025 (Touraine Chenonceaux).** Pear blossom, Gala apple, and white nectarine aromas are lifted by lilac and a touch of lemon zest. Chalk-dusted minerality frames freshly sliced Anjou pear and green melon on the palate that is wonderfully lemon kissed. Pair with Bibb lettuce salad, savory tarts, and croque monsieur. —R.S.

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

POILLY-FUMÉ

93 **Antoine De La Farge 2025 La Rive de Loire (Pouilly-Fumé).** Perfumed aromas of bread dough, toasted brioche, orange marmalade, and glazed golden-apple tart fill the nose and entice the senses. Fulsome orchard fruit seduces the supple palate that asserts its strength. Shattered stone and additional flavors of pastry lead into a long, pillowy finish that begs for another sip. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

92 **Bouchié-Chatelier 2025 Argile à S (Pouilly-Fumé).** This wine draws you in and keeps you there. Nuanced aromas of bread dough, brioche, and yellow-apple tart charm the nose, along with crushed shells and yogurt. The elegant, layered palate is supple and firmly textured in all the right spots, framed by dried field grass and lemon peel that elevates the mineral elements in the wine. MISA Imports. —R.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 **Clair de Brumes 2023 Les Roches (Pouilly-Fumé).** Fragrant aromas of biscuit, hay, and bread dough move into muddled golden apple and honeysuckle on the enticing nose of this wine. The palate echoes with subdued flavors that move across a

forest floor while retaining a savory character that is balanced by just-ripened orchard fruit. —R.S.

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

92 **Clair de Brumes 2023 Vaurigny (Pouilly-Fumé).** This wine is delightful. An attractive mix of Anjou pear and wild grass aromas combine on the nose, along with hay and dried white blossom. The palate opens with a tangy, stony acidity that leads into crushed shells refreshing the finish, which is touched by a hint of grapefruit zest. —R.S.

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

92 **Henri Bourgeois 2025 Blanc Fumé (Pouilly-Fumé).** Hypnotic aromas of golden apple, dried field grass, and bread dough erupt from the glass, joined by forest floor and honeysuckle. Well-integrated, just-ripened orchard fruit is framed by floral, chalky acidity that joins meadow blossom and citrus pith. CHAMBERS AND CHAMBERS. —R.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

92 **Joseph Mellot 2025 Le Troncsec (Pouilly-Fumé).** Attractive floral aromas of honeysuckle, acacia blossom, and Empire apple charm the nose, joined by a touch of meadow grass and hay. The palate begins with pithy lemon peel and moves into Bosc pear, undergirded by stony, chalk-dusted acidity that unwinds on the finish. Albert Bichot USA. —R.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

92 **Pascal Jolivet 2023 Blanc Fumé (Pouilly-Fumé).** Entrancing aromas of apple tart, bread dough, and white peach skin swirl in the glass on the fragrant nose that doesn't want to let go. The creamy palate lounges on a bed of pastry and orange marmalade that unwinds unhurriedly on the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

91 **Bouchié-Chatelier 2025 La Renardière (Pouilly-Fumé).** This is a joy-filled bottling. Sunny, smile-inducing aromas of golden apple, white nectarine, and bread dough swirl carefree in the glass. The palate is a perfectly balanced mix of just-ripened orchard fruit and yeasty acidity that drives the chamomile-and-honeysuckle finish. MISA Imports. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 **Clair de Brumes 2023 Les Déserts (Pouilly-Fumé).** This wine has attractive depth of flavor. Savory aromas of field grass, Bartlett pear, and freshly struck flint entice across the nose, accented by a touch of white peach skin. Tangy acidity opens on the attack, followed by chalk-dusted green apple on the balanced palate that enchants. —R.S.

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

91 **Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2024 (Pouilly-Fumé).** Charming aromas of red apple, dried field grass, and forest floor are bolstered by baby's breath and late-summer meadow blossom on the nose of this wine. Stony acidity opens on the palate followed by chalk-dusted orchard fruit that rests on a foundation of lemon peel. Demeine Estate. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Joseph Mellot 2025 Domaine des Mariniers (Pouilly-Fumé). Inviting aromas of dried lemon peel, spring white blossom, and Pink Lady apple open on the nose, guided by hints of white tea. Wet river stone on the palate is followed by reserved orchard fruit framed by chalk-dusted forest floor and citrus spritz. Pair with seafood, buttered lobster, and leek tart. Albert Bichot USA. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

91 Maison de Madeleine 2025 (Pouilly-Fumé). This wine has a reserved nose of golden apple, almond skin, and orange blossom accented by muddled lilac. Rounded fruit on the midpalate of this wine is undergirded by a persistent freshness, framed and complemented by stony acidity. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Clair de Brumes 2023 Présage (Pouilly-Fumé). Reserved aromas of Bosc pear, morning-dew-dusted meadow grass, and white blossom open on the nose and lead into a stony palate that basks in chalk-dusted acidity that mellows on the slightly tart finish. This wine craves lighter dishes bathed in olive oil, including garlic shrimp, fresh anchovies, and pesto chicken. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Les Alliés 2024 (Pouilly-Fumé). Pale lemon in color, this wine features delicate aromas of dew-dusted forest floor, freshly picked green apple, and white peach skin that draw in the nose. Tart, chalky acidity opens on the palate, followed by wet river stone, crushed shells, and lemon peel on the finish. Pair with dishes of light to medium complexity, including clams casino and fennel-sausage risotto. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

90 Saget la Perrière 2024 La Perrière (Pouilly-Fumé). Well-integrated aromas of citrus blossom, dew-dusted forest floor, and dried field grass charm the nose, along with a touch of lemon zest. Crushed stone opens on the palate and leads into orchard fruit buttressed by a complementary wave of saline-dusted acidity that enlivens the finish. Palm Bay International Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

COTEAUX DU GIENNOIS

91 Pascal Jolivet 2023 Edition No 3 Sauvignon Blanc (Coteaux du Giennois). Lofty notes of freshly sliced green apple, lemon pith, and white nectarine skin cascade across the nose of this wine, accented by a touch of jasmine. Pleasing flavors of apple blossom and meadow wildflower open into chalk-dusted citrus on the lingering finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Christophe Monget 2025 (Coteaux du Giennois). This wine opens with comforting aromas of bread dough, acacia blossom, and yellow apple tart accented by hints of gardenia. Somewhat creamy

in texture, the palate brings well-integrated orchard fruit to the fore, framed by supportive pithy acidity and a twist of lemon. This wine would pair well with buttered bread and charcuterie. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Domaine de Terres Blanches 2024 Alchimie Sauvignon Blanc (Coteaux du Giennois). Savory aromas of muddled red apple, field grass, and meadow wildflowers are joined by slivered almond and forest floor on the nose of this wine. Chalk-dusted stone opens on the mineral-driven palate, framed by a tangy acidity that invigorates the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Marc Thibault 2025 Montour (Coteaux du Giennois). Floral aromas of pear blossom, white rose petal, and yellow apple focus the nose of this wine, guided by dried lemon peel. The palate begins with chalky acidity that moves across wet river stone and empties into crushed shells. Pair with garlic-buttered shrimp, quiche, and grilled chicken. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

ANJOU

92 Clau de Nell 2023 Chenin Blanc (Anjou). Charming, well-integrated aromas of golden-apple compote, brioche, and field grass open on the nose, along with a touch of honey-drizzled green pear. The palate is relaxed, supple, and undergirded by a streak of chalk-dusted acidity that complements the mineral finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$87

90 Château du Breuil 2023 Clos du Frère Étienne (Anjou). Comforting aromas of bread dough, orange blossom, and apple tart envelop the nose, along with white peach. The fulsome palate is mature with well-integrated fruit that sits atop a wave of yogurt, pastry, and chalk-dusted lemon slice. Pair with seafood, leek soup, and croque monsieur. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Domaine de la Petite Roche 2025 Chenin Blanc (Anjou). Bright, floral aromas of lemon blossom, white rose petal, and pear tart converge in the glass, guided by yellow apple and a touch of gardenia. A tart, flowery acidity kicks off and runs across crushed stone on the midpalate, which completes with citrus pith and chalk. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Château du Breuil 2024 Les Rochettes (Anjou). Reserved aromas of forest floor, white nectarine skin, and baby's breath open on the nose, joined by a touch of walnut and white blossom. Tart acidity kicks off on the attack and opens into steely, dew-dusted green fruit. Pair with oysters,

shellfish, and dishes that would benefit from a palate cleanser. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

VOUVRAY

92 Barc & Vallée 2025 Nuance Minérale (Vouvray). This wine entrances the senses. A perfume of toasted brioche, pastry, and golden apple charms the nose. More reserved in comparison, the palate juxtaposes nuanced orchard fruit against a backdrop of pencil shavings and baby's breath. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Domaine de Sanzelle 2025 Chenin Blanc (Vouvray). Pale lemon in color, this wine opens with a mix of muddled Pink Lady apple, white rose petal, and pastry aromas. The dry palate begins with brioche and retreats into orchard fruit that rests on a bed of dried hay and orange blossom. This elegant Vouvray is a versatile chameleon that you can confidently pair with poultry, seafood, and charcuterie. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Maison Darragon 2025 Les Tuffes Chenin Blanc (Vouvray). Lilac and bread dough aromas lead on the charming nose of this wine, bolstered by Pink Lady apple and orange blossom. The midpalate is robust with concentrated fruit that sprints toward ripeness while being restrained by reserved florals that guide the finish. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Maison Darragon 2024 L'Inédit de David Charbonnier (Vouvray). Tender aromas of white peach skin, golden apple, and dried hay lead on the nose of this wine, followed by savory hints of freshly cut meadow grass. Rounded acidity kicks off the palate and revolves around wet river stone and supple flavors of Bosc pear. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

91 Maison Pierre Bourré 2025 V Collection Patrimoniale (Vouvray). Lemon in color, this wine presents delicate aromas of pear blossom, yellow apple, and baby's breath on the nose, which is accented by white blossom. The palate opens with a mix of ripe and tart fruit that mellows on a wave of saline-kissed minerality, finishing with a touch of dried orange peel. W. Direct. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

91 Marc Brédif 2024 (Vouvray). Fragrant aromas of dried field herbs, ripe yellow apple, and field grass open on the nose of this wine, along with hints of white tea. The rounded palate washes across chalky shattered stone before flowing into a basin of orchard fruit dusted with white blossom. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Domaine du Vieux Vauvert 2025 (Vouvray). Orange peel and spiced golden-apple-com-

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pote aromas sweep across the nose of this wine, joined by acacia blossom and honeysuckle. The off-dry palate leans into quince and ripe Empire apple supported by an energetic acidity that lingers on the chamomile-touched finish. Pair with spicy dishes, a cheese board, and a fruit-dessert course. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Clos du Gaimont 2024 (Vouvray). Delicate, field-grass-wrapped red apple and morning forest-floor aromas waft from the glass, along with honeysuckle stem and orange blossom. The palate is tart with chalk-dusted acidity that highlights this bottling's mineral character, accented by dried lemon peel. Cape Classics. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

SAUMUR

93 Domaine des Clos Maurice 2024 Licorne (Saumur). Gold in color, this wine opens with enchanting aromas of brioche, pastry dough, apple galette, orange marmalade, and a touch of acacia blossom on the nose. Golden fruit surfs across a tangy layer of acidity on the palate, which also brings along breadly notes that infuse and lengthen the finish. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

93 Domaine des Clos Maurice 2022 Les Bonnevaux (Saumur). Gold in color, this wine has voluptuous aromas of honey-drizzled Comice pear, candied apple, and honeysuckle kissed by white peach. The well-integrated palate oozes succulent golden fruit that is lifted by a balanced layer of acidity that brightens the finish. —R.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

90 Château de Montguéret 2025 (Saumur). Red Anjou pear, nectarine, and pastry dough aromas open on the nose of this wine, along with acacia and muddled white blossom. Bright acidity kicks off on the attack followed by chalk-dusted yellow apple slice, accented by a touch of lemon citrus. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE

90 Domaine du Moulin Camus 2023 Le Grand Fief (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). Lofty notes of orange blossom, honeydew melon, and apple brandy open on the nose along with white nectarine skin. The palate is supple in texture with well-integrated orchard fruit flavors that rest on a layer of wet-stone-guided acidity. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

90 Maison Pierre Bourré 2025 V Collection Patrimoniale (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). Pale lemon in color, this wine has a nose of muddled Asian pear, honeydew melon, and McIntosh apple. The mineral-driven palate is flanked by lemon peel and chalk-

dusted acidity that fills the finish. Pair with chicken soup, dumplings, and grilled salmon. W. Direct. —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

89 Auguste Bonhomme 2025 La Forcine (Muscadet). Attractive aromas of Bartlett pear, green apple, and lemon blossom are accented with dried hay on the nose of this wine. The rounded palate begins with a touch of salinity that quickly moves into crushed shells and finishes with dried lemon peel. Pair with oysters, langoustines, and Alpine cheeses. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Château du Cléray 2025 (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). Shattered stone and lemon zest aromas converge in the glass, along with yellow apple peel. The palate is mineral driven, with a demure layer of tart acidity that brushes up against chalk. Pair with a fried chicken sandwich, onion rings, and calamari. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Domaine du Moulin Camus 2023 Clos de la Hersonnière (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). Firm aromas of Bosc pear, bread dough, and chalk-dusted golden apple open on the nose that adds hints of white nectarine skin. The palate follows suit, delivering just-ripened orchard fruit accented by forest floor and shattered stone. Pair with a breaded-chicken sandwich, a poke bowl, and razor clams. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Lacheteau 2025 Les Brouardières (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). Pale lemon in color, this wine opens with reserved aromas of Bosc pear. Honeycrisp apple, and white blossom. Chalk-dusted orchard fruit washes across wet stone on the palate, which is dusted with dried lemon zest. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

VAL DE LOIRE

91 Domaine du Cléray 2025 Chardonnay (Val de Loire). This is a charming bottling. Fragrant aromas of muddled golden apple and bread dough seduce the nose, accented by bruised acacia blossom and lilac. The palate is svelte, with well-integrated flavors suggested on the nose lifted by a stony, persistent layer of acidity that leans into lemon zest on the finish. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

91 L'Escarpe 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Val de Loire). Green apple tart, meadow grass, and jasmine aromas are followed by orange blossom and a touch of dried hay on the nose. Steely in texture with a lemon-citrus-spritzed, chalky acidity, this wine invigorates and refreshes the palate. Pair with grilled sar-

dines, roasted salmon, and tarte flambé. Votto Vines Importing. —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

90 Domaine du Cléray 2025 Sauvignon (Val de Loire). Pale lemon in color, this wine opens with muddled Bosc pear, yellow apple, and lemon blossom that follow a trail of forest floor. The palate adds white button mushroom and orchard fruit that are balanced by straw-dusted acidity. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Henri Bourgeois 2025 Sauvignon Blanc Pure (Vin de Pays du Val de Loire). For full review see page 14. Monsieur Touton Selection. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Huteau Boulanger 2025 La Muse Sauvignon (Val de Loire). Savory aromas of forest floor, white button mushroom, and muddled apple open on the nose, along with wild herbs and dried white blossom. Bright flavors of just-ripened red apple fill the slightly stony, fruit-tilted midpalate. Herbal aromas suggested on the nose recede into the background on the palate. Pair with toasted everything bagels, quiche, and a cheese course. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

90 Lacheteau 2025 La Confluence Chardonnay (Val de Loire). This is the wine you can have in your refrigerator and always feel confident it will pair with most anything during the week. Fresh aromas of sliced green apple, melon, and lemon zest unwind on the nose, with a touch of lime pith. Firm in texture, the midpalate has an attractive steely minerality that follows to the finish. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Lacheteau 2025 La Confluence Sauvignon Blanc (Val de Loire). Lofty floral notes of jasmine and lilac cascade across the nose of this wine, undergirded by Bartlett pear and a touch of dried meadow grass. A streak of subdued tangy acidity propels chalk-dusted lemon slice toward a white-blossom-lifted finish. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

89 Domaine des Geslets 2024 Chenin (Val de Loire). Cheerful aromas of red apple, pastry dough, and dried lemon zest open on the nose, along with a dusting of meadow grass and white blossom. The palate is fresh with bright, orchard-fruit flavors that weave in florals that delight on the stony finish. WEYGANDT-METZLER IMPORTING LTD. —R.S.

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

89 Jacques Dumont 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Val de Loire). Forelle pear, lemon pith, and red apple aromas open on the nose, joined by white blossom. Crushed stone and freshly sliced citrus flavors are supported by a saline-dusted acidity that refreshes the finish. Kobrand. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

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

89 Topette 2024 Chardonnay (Val de Loire). This wine opens with fragrant, integrated aromas of Pink Lady apple and grapefruit peel along with hints of navel orange pith. The palate washes across wet stone supported by sunny, chalky acidity that elevates orchard fruit and citrus blossom. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Topette 2024 Chenin (Val de Loire). Inviting aromas of yellow apple, dried meadow grass, and forest floor converge on the nose, accented with a dusting of lilac blossom. The palate echoes with more subdued flavors that remain fresh and bright while leaning into lemon peel on the finish. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Topette 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Val de Loire). Savory aromas of field grass, white button mushroom, and muddled yellow apple highlight this wine's classic, cool-vintage aromas, as a pleasant reminder of what this region historically produced. Tangy acidity and green fruit wash across crushed stone on the palate that empties into a pool of crushed shells. Pair with shellfish, buttered lobster roll, and fresh, fire-roasted anchovies. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Domaine Charpentier 2025 Saint-Vincent (Reuilly). This comfort wine wants to sit next to you and cuddle under a blanket. Fragrant aromas of bread dough, muddled white blossom, and apple tart are buttressed by pastry and honey-drizzled yellow apple. Creamy in texture, the palate wows with well-integrated fruit that is lifted by attractive lees flavors that unfurl unhurriedly on the finish. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Domaine Adèle Rouzé 2025 (Quincy). Enticing aromas of citrus pith, meadow grass, and green apple open on the nose, guided by a touch of hay and shaved lemon peel. The palate of this wine is stony in texture, with dried florals that tilt toward shattered chalk on the refreshing finish. Avanelle Wine Company. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Domaine la Clef du Recit 2025 (Quincy). This enjoyable, fruit-led bottling invites you in on the nose and keeps you there with aromas of field grass, red apple, and tangerine zest. The palate opens with a puff of tart acidity that is balanced with just-ripened green fruit dusted with white blossom. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Lacheteau 2025 Ohh! Poitou Sauvignon Blanc (Haut-Poitou). Fresh aromas of lemon peel, white blossom, and grated green apple charm the nose, with hints of hay and pear skin. A vibrant palate

elevates stony, chalk-dusted acidity that runs in parallel with just-ripened orchard fruit, resolving in florals and citrus on the finish. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

90 Maison Laudacius 2025 Sec Chenin (Montlouis-sur-Loire). Reserved aromas of toasted lemon peel, red apple, and meadow grass open on the nose, along with a touch of nasturtium blossom. Saline-dusted orchard fruit kicks off the palate followed by shattered stone and a mineral-driven acidity that continues long on the finish. Winery DIRECT LLC. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Passerelles 2024 (Touraine-Oisly). This is a fun bottling. Perfumed aromas of white peach, papaya skin, lemon zest, and fresh herbs entice the nose, along with a touch of orange blossom. The palate echoes with ripe, bright fruit that rests atop a reserved layer of slightly tart acidity that lifts the finish. Jackson Family Wines. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Château du Breuil 2023 (Savennières). Rich aromas of white nectarine, schist, and orange marmalade entice the nose, along with jasmine stem and honeysuckle. Fresh and energetic, a mix of tart and ripe orchard fruit fills the steely palate of this wine, joined by lemon peel and white blossom. Pair with seafood, creamy dishes, and fire-roasted anchovies. De Maison Selections, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Lacheteau 2025 Les Cimes Sauvignon Blanc (Haut-Poitou). Lemon in color, this wine features balanced aromas of field grass, dried lemon peel, and Anjou pear that open on the nose, joined by crushed stone and honeysuckle. Tart green apple leads on the palate that weaves in crushed shells and a touch of citrus spritz on the elongated finish. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

SPARKLING WINES

90 Domaine de la Petite Roche NV (Saumur). This wine was made for lazy evenings. Effervescent aromas of golden apple, white flower, and orange blossom fill the nose along with green pear. On the palate fresh and lively aromas continue forward, accented with golden orchard fruit. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Paul Buisse NV Rosé (Crémant de Loire). Aromas of roasted red cherry and Pink Lady apple fill the nose of this wine, accented by dried papaya and honeydew melon. Playful acidity invigorates the light-bodied palate, with energetic flavors of white peach and chamomile. Cape Classics. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

ROSÉS

93 Domaine Paul Prieur NV Rosé Perpetuel (Sancerre). This is a versatile Sancerre rosé. Attractive aromas of strawberry tart, bread dough, and muddled red cherry entice the nose alongside honeysuckle and orange blossom. Tart red cherry opens on the palate followed by wet river stone that adds a subtle touch of salinity. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Nicolas Millet 2025 Le Crot à l'Âne (Sancerre). Aromas of bread dough, rosehip, and red cherry open on the nose and parade across dew-dusted forest floor. The palate is divine and combines flavors of pastry and cranberry flakes into a delicious whole. Pair with flatbreads, a charcuterie board, and leek tart. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

92 Comte de la Chevalière NV Rosé (Sancerre). Inviting aromas of cherry tart, bread dough, and muddled strawberry open on the nose of this wine, bolstered by a touch of orange marmalade. The medium-bodied palate brings a mix of tart and ripe red fruit across wet river stone that unwinds on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Domaine Girault 2025 Rosé (Sancerre). Give this bright and energetic wine time to open in your glass to experience at its best. Aromas of red cherry, cranberry, and orange blossom unwind into white flower on the nose. Chalky acidity opens on the palate, followed by tart red fruit that lifts the finish. HB Wine Merchants. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

91 Domaine Laporte 2025 Les Grandmontains (Sancerre). Red cherry and cranberry aromas open on the nose of this wine, guided by a touch of rosehip and red raspberry blossom. The palate follows suit with crushed pomegranate, hibiscus, and dried hay. Pair with appetizers, onion rings, and bruschetta. Martine's Wines. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Henri Bourgeois 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé (Sancerre). Salmon in color, this wine features strawberry and red raspberry aromas that lift from the glass along with plum and red cherry. A persistent streak of chalky acidity undergirds red fruit that completes with a mineral finish with a pop of wildflower. Monsieur Touton Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Domaine les Pins 2025 L'Instant Rosé (Bourgueil). Pink-leaning-toward-salmon in color, this wine has an attractive nose of pomegranate, hay, and red cherry followed by a whisper of hibiscus. The palate is bright and fresh, with a lively streak of acidity that enlivens the finish. This wine will flatter a wide

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range of dishes. French Libation / Elenteny Imports.
Best Buy. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

LOIRE VALLEY

RED WINES

CHINON

94 **Maison Pierre Bourré 2025 V Collection Patrimoniale (Chinon).** Wine was meant to be this good. Seductive aromas of black tea, red raspberry, and macerated black plum beguile the nose and entrance the senses such that you almost forget to taste. But taste you must, as well-integrated fruit lays a welcome mat for a complementary wave of supple tannins that leisurely unwind on the finish. W. Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 **Marc Brédif 2024 (Chinon).** Sweet-scented, perfumed aromas of raspberry, black tea, dried hay, and violet blossom waft from the glass, along with hibiscus and red cherry flakes. Velvety tannins lead into still-youthful briary fruit that washes across shattered stone, revealing an attractive mineral character. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

91 **Barc & Vallée 2024 Les Reliefs (Chinon).** Hearty black cherry and black plum aromas lift from the glass, bolstered by white button mushroom and violet blossom. The mineral-driven palate boasts velvety tannins that wrap around just-ripened briary fruit that resolves on the finish. Decant and drink now, or open from 2028 onward. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Lacheteau 2025 Soleil des Vignes Cabernet Franc (Chinon).** Perfumed aromas of muddled black plum, pencil shavings, and black raspberry unwind in a pool of blackberry and young cedar on the nose. The palate is taut with chalky acidity and relaxed tannins that linger on the finish. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

SAUMUR-CHAMPIGNY

93 **Domaine des Clos Maurice 2023 Volage (Saumur-Champigny).** Attractive, savory aromas of leather, dried mushroom, black raspberry, and forest floor entice the nose along with muddled blackberry. Fulsome and chalk-dusted in texture, the palate opens with black plum, dark chocolate, and rosehip tea. This wine is ready to be enjoyed now. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$7

93 **Domaine des Clos Maurice 2022 Voltige (Saumur-Champigny).** Perfumed aromas of chocolate-covered raspberry, black cherry, boysenberry,

and black plum waft from the glass, accented by rosehip. The rich, supple palate of this wine oozes character with silky, balanced forest-floor-dusted tannins that melt on the finish. Drink now and pair with filet mignon, Cornish hen, and foie gras. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

93 **La Folie LuCé 2022 Encore (Saumur-Champigny).** Ruby in color, this wine pulls you in with fragrant aromas of ripe, bruised black plum, pomegranate, fresh red cherry, and a touch of black olive. The palate is filled with layers of cocoa-powder-dusted blackberry that rest atop a streak of velvety tannins that saunter into a graphite-led finish accented with dried violet blossom. LINARA WINES. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 **La Folie LuCé 2019 Autrement (Saumur-Champigny).** This bottling shows what Saumur-Champigny can achieve with age in bottle. Complex aromas of pomegranate, rhubarb, black raspberry, and muddled red plum swirl in the glass, along with a hint of mint leaf and dried meadow grass. Well-integrated flavors on the palate are buttressed by relaxed tannins that lay a red carpet for black fruit. The wine is mature and ready to be enjoyed now. LINARA WINES. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 **Maison Pierre Bourré 2025 V Collection Patrimoniale (Saumur-Champigny).** This lovely, ageworthy wine is deserving of notice today. Alluring aromas of black plum and pencil shavings dive into a pool of cassis and black tea on the nose, along with dried violet blossom. Plump black fruit opens on the palate, accented by a touch of apricot skin and red rose petal. W. Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

92 **Domaine des Clos Maurice 2022 Fernande (Saumur-Champigny).** This is a seriously good wine. Plump, cocoa-powder-dusted blackberry, cola, and red raspberry aromas waft from the glass, buttressed by strawberry and rosehip florals. The palate opens with velvety tannins that lead into blackberry and forest floor. Decant and open now, or enjoy from 2027 onward. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

SANCERRE

93 **Henri Bourgeois 2020 ES-56 (Sancerre).** This is what Sancerre Rouge can achieve with patience. Ruby in color, the wine presents a cacophony of well-integrated aromas that drive the nose, with red cherry, dried cranberry, rosehip, and red currant at the fore. Velvety tannins release into a chalky layer of acidity that carries red fruit into a concentrated, elongated finish. Monsieur Touton Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

91 **Domaine Laporte 2023 Les Grandmontains (Sancerre).** Ruby in color, this wine offers aromas of black cherry, cranberry, and red plum that

come together in the glass, along with a whisper of forest floor. Fresh red fruit dominates on the midpalate, joined by pillowy tannins, shattered stone, and a complementary wave of acidity. Martine's Wines. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 **Domaine Paul Prieur 2023 Les Pichons (Sancerre).** Enticing aromas of black cherry, boysenberry, and black plum are joined by cola and red plum on the nose. Mouthwatering acidity is in balance with velvety tannins that inform the midpalate, which resolves in chalk-dusted cranberry flakes. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 **Domaine Roc de l'Abbaye 2023 (Sancerre).** Seductive aromas of muddled red cherry, black raspberry, and spiced red currant entice the nose, along with a touch of dried field grass. Integrated red and black fruits are framed by chalky minerality on the midpalate, supported by an energetic wave of acidity. This wine is ready to enjoy now. Demeine Estate. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

91 **Joseph Mellot 2024 Le Rabault Pinot Noir (Sancerre).** Ruby in color with garnet edges, this wine has a fragrant nose of strawberry, forest floor, candied red cherry, and dried hay. Finely grained tannins lead into a midpalate of well-integrated red fruit that mellows on the finish. This wine is ready to drink. Albert Bichot USA. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$74

91 **Thibaut et Maxime Pasdeloup 2023 (Sancerre).** Strawberry blossom and red cherry aromas waft from the glass, guided by meadow grass and bruised red plum. The palate is filled with savory forest floor, smashed cranberry, and grippy tannins that lead into a lullaby of red fruit on the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

VAL DE LOIRE

92 **Clau de Nell 2023 Grolleau (Val de Loire).** Classic Grolleau aromas entice the nose, with red raspberry, boysenberry, dried field grass, and alpine strawberry stem. An amalgam of red fruit unwinds on the palate, which rides a wave of supple tannins into a well-integrated, chalky finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$73

90 **Bernier 2023 Pinot Noir (Val de Loire).** Ruby in color, this wine delights with well-integrated aromas of red cherry, black tea, leather, and muddled raspberry on the nose. Gentle forest floor and black plum skin flavors relax on a foundation of supple tannins that carry a suggestion of tart red fruit into a concentrated, extended finish. This wine is ready to drink now. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 **Huteau Boulanger 2025 La Muse Pinot Noir (Val de Loire).** Inviting aromas of muddled

raspberry, red cherry, and cassis open on the nose of this wine, alongside cranberry and a touch of blackberry. Velvety tannins lead into a reservoir of plush red fruit that flatters the midpalate and elevates the finish. MISA Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Huteau Boulanger 2025 La Muse Gamay (Val de Loire). Black plum and red cherry aromas swirl in the glass, buttressed by rosehip tea and strawberry blossom. The palate is fresh and bright, with cheerful red fruit that sprints toward a finish with hints of black olive and cranberry flakes. MISA Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

OTHER RED WINES

94 Clau de Nell 2023 Violette (Anjou). Ruby in color, this wine offers enticing aromas of muddled red raspberry, pencil shavings, and black tea on the nose, joined by a hint of white button mushroom and dried violet blossom. Chalky red fruit opens on the attack, followed by velvety tannins and balanced acidity that lead into a long finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$66

93 Domaine des Geslets 2023 Les Geslets (Bourgueil). This confident wine soothes and impresses. Black cherry and bittersweet chocolate aromas open into leather and black raspberry on the nose, with hints of assam tea and forest floor. Svelte, balanced tannins relax on a bench of dried hay and suede on the palate. WEYGANDT-METZLER IMPORTING LTD. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Clau de Nell 2023 Cabernet Franc (Anjou). Muddled black cherry and cola aromas flirt with leather and white-button mushroom on the nose, accented by violet blossom and hints of rosehip. Black fruit leads on the palate supported by slightly velvety tannins that underscore rather than headline. Pair with skirt steak, duck and mushroom tarte. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Domaine des Geslets 2024 La Contrie (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). Ruby in color, this wine presents alluring aromas of muddled red cherry, raspberry, pencil shavings, and Darjeeling tea on the nose, with a touch of violet blossom. Still youthful, velvety tannins lead on the attack, bolstered by dry black fruit that surfs across a wave of chalk. WEYGANDT-METZLER IMPORTING LTD. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine les Pins 2024 Les Rochettes (Bourgueil). Reserved aromas of black raspberry, rhubarb, and black tea infuse the nose of this wine, alongside savory notes of dried field grass and forest floor. The palate is chalky in texture, with a mineral soul that tends toward stemmy, briary fruit wrapped in pencil shavings and a kiss of hibiscus. Decant and

drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Denis Bardon 2025 Gamay (Touraine). Perfumed aromas of violets, black raspberry, black plum, and crushed pomegranate open on the nose, joined by bread dough and boysenberry. Ripe, briary fruit is framed by supple, velvety tannins that lift the midpalate and lengthen the finish. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Denis Bardon 2025 (Valençay). Lively black cherry and smoky blackberry aromas lift from the glass, complemented by dried orange peel and hibiscus. Savory black fruit mellows into muddled black raspberry, supported by grippy, energetic tannins that unwind on the finish. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

BEAUJOLAIS WHITE WINES

BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES

94 Château de Poncié 2023 949 (Beaujolais-Villages Blanc). This is a substantial wine for evenings of equal ilk. Gold in color, it offers perfumed aromas of ripe golden apple compote, freshly baked pear tart, and bruised white peach that open on the nose. The palate is robust and juicy, with well-integrated fruit that flirts with baked lemon on the finish. A mature, beautiful bottling. Smith Wine & Spirits. *Editors' Choice*. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Château de Poncié 2024 Écllosion (Beaujolais-Villages Blanc). Perfumed aromas of ripe golden pear, bread dough, and apple tart charm the nose, accented by hints of dried white blossom. Firm and creamy in texture, this wine bathes in macerated orchard fruit and moves into zested lemon on the finish. Smith Wine & Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25/650ml

91 Domaine des Nuges 2024 Lancié (Beaujolais Villages). A cheerful mix of yellow apple and Anjou pear aromas waft from the glass, guided by nas-turtium and white blossom. The palate adds meadow grass and a touch of wild herbs that rest on a layer of stony acidity. Pair with chicken pot pie, Caesar salad, and turkey sandwiches. D.B. Wine Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

BEAUJOLAIS RED WINES

BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES

93 Cave du Château de Chénas 2023 Terres Burgondes (Beaujolais Villages). An impressive Beaujolais-Villages. Perfumed aromas of black

cherry, purple rose petal, and rhubarb charm the nose, guided by black tea and a smattering of pencil shavings. The juicy palate slides into muddled black raspberry and black plum, which are supported by velvety tannins that soften with more time in the glass. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 Joseph Jacôme 2024 (Beaujolais Villages). Fragrant aromas of black cherry, dried cranberry, cola, and red currant are buttressed by a smattering of rosehip on the nose of this wine. The palate is filled with soothing, chalky tannins that persist and rest on a foundation of black fruit. You can confidently pair this wine with steak, kebabs, and roasted eggplant. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

91 Annick Bachelet 2024 (Beaujolais Villages). This wine opens with inviting aromas of black raspberry, fresh black cherry, hibiscus, and Darjeeling tea. The palate follows suit with velvety tannins that hug muddled blackberry, chalk dust, and dried cherry flakes. Pair with chicken schnitzel, cheeseburgers, and filet mignon. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Domaine de Bel Air 2024 Les Granits Bleus (Beaujolais Villages). This wine opens with concentrated aromas of leather, dried mushroom, smoked meat, and black raspberry. The palate continues with melting tannins that ride underneath a wave of wet river stone that crashes into a shore of chalk. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 Domaine des Nuges 2024 Lancié (Beaujolais Villages). This is a solid Beaujolais-Villages. Plump black plum, forest floor, and dried black cherry aromas open on the nose, along with a touch of graphite. Chalk-dusted acidity kicks off on the attack followed by silky tannins that slide into home base on the finish. DB Wine Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 Domaines Laurent Perrachon & Fils 2025 Terre de Loyse (Beaujolais Villages). Alluring aromas of raspberry galette, brioche, and pencil shavings entice the nose, followed by cocoa-dusted candied plum. Moments of concentration on the palate are undergirded by supple tannins that raise black fruit on the peak of the finish. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Madone Bererd 2025 Jean Baptiste Bererd (Beaujolais Villages). Integrated aromas of black raspberry, hibiscus tea, and boysenberry lead into red cherry wrapped in a blanket of purple blossom. A chalky palate elevates red fruit, balanced by a complementary wave of stony acidity and grippy tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Madone Bererd 2025 La Vinif à Papa (Beaujolais Villages). Attractive aromas of cassis, red cherry, pomegranate, and black plum are

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joined by rosehip and violet blossom on the nose of this wine. Wet granite leads on the palate, followed by chalky acidity that rests on a layer of youthful, velvety tannins. Open and decant now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 **Madone Bererd 2025 Le Perréon (Beaujolais Villages).** Inviting, delicate aromas of red cherry, red raspberry, and pastry entice the nose, joined by red currant. Supple tannins melt into velvety red fruit, supported by a chalky layer of acidity that elevates the finish. This wine will reward patience. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

90 **Albert Bichot 2024 Château de Varennes (Beaujolais-Villages).** Aromas of fresh red cherry, smoky black plum, black olive, and dried cranberry begin on the nose, along with a whisper of white peach skin. Bright red fruit on the palate is complemented by silky tannins that lift red fruit on the mineral-kissed finish. Albert Bichot USA. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

FLEURIE

93 **Château de Poncié 2023 Le Clos Poncié (Fleurie).** This is an elegant wine with flirty finesse. Fragrant aromas of raspberry, violets, and cocoa-powder-dusted black plum charm the nose. The palate follows with additional flavors of muddled cranberry, forest floor, and dried hay. Pair with grilled meats, roasted eggplant, and a bread course. Smith Wine & Spirits. *Editors' Choice*. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

93 **Lucien Lardy 2025 Les Moriers (Fleurie).** This is an impressive Fleurie. Reserved aromas of black cherry, pomegranate, and dried cranberry flakes open on the nose, accented by forest floor and hibiscus. Relaxed tannins are complemented by a core of well-integrated red fruit that undergirds a persistent streak of florality that lifts the finish. New Wave Wine Co. *Editors' Choice*. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 **Château de Poncié 2024 949 (Fleurie).** This wine is clearly meant to be savored and enjoyed slowly. Rich aromas of blackberry, raspberry, and smoky green olive unfurl in the glass, which treads through knee-high dried meadow grass. The palate is luxurious and supple in texture, bringing along additional flavors of cranberry skin and rosehip. Smith Wine & Spirits. —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

92 **Domaine des Nuges 2024 (Fleurie).** A flurry of pink rose petal, black plum, and muddled raspberry aromas beguile the nose, which is buttressed by hints of pastry. The palate is soft in texture, with delicate black fruit and silky tannins that coalesce in the glass and soothe the senses. DB Wine Selection. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

92 **Lucien Lardy 2025 Les Roches (Fleurie).** Ruby in color, this wine offers concentrated aromas of black cherry, blackberry, and muddled violet blossom that lead into dried orange zest on the nose. Chalky red fruit is framed by stony acidity that resolves in dried cranberry and hints of red currant flakes on the elongated finish. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

91 **Château de Poncié 2022 Les Moriers (Fleurie).** Inviting aromas of black raspberry, pomegranate, and lilac entice the nose, along with a touch of red currant. The silky palate of this wine meanders across a trail of relaxed tannins that are bolstered by well-integrated red fruit that shines in the glass. Smith Wine & Spirits. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$49

BROUILLY

93 **Château de Poncié 2023 Le Pavé (Côte de Brouilly).** Concentrated aromas of black cherry, cassis, and blackberry liqueur open on the nose of this wine, accented by hibiscus tea and rosehip wrapped in pastry dough. Velvety, youthful tannins chime in on the palate, along with forest floor, cocoa powder, hay, and red cherry flakes. Enjoyable now, the wine will be at its height from 2028 onward. Smith Wine & Spirits. —R.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

92 **Emmanuel Fellot 2025 Les Cailloux (Côte de Brouilly).** Fragrant aromas of black cherry and cola open on the nose of this wine, guided by muddled black plum and a whisper of rosehip. Grippy, youthful tannins begin on the attack followed by vibrant, chalk-dusted blackberry that lingers for more than a minute on the finish. Decant for an hour and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 **Robert Perroud 2025 L'Enfer des Balloquets (Brouilly).** Earthy aromas of dew-dusted forest floor, bread dough, and black plum tart open on the nose of this wine, accented by biscuit and purple blossom. The concentrated palate elevates black fruit while acknowledging a support structure of red cherry, lifted by chalky acidity and velvety tannins that persist on the sultry finish. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 **Robert Perroud 2025 Pollen (Brouilly).** This wine is a delight from start to finish. Inviting aromas of black raspberry, field grass, and forest floor intertwine with black tea and red cherry flakes on the nose. The palate is supple in texture, punctuated by pencil shavings, forest floor, and dried hay. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 **Les Frères Perroud 2025 Parfum de Gamay (Brouilly).** This wine opens with aromas of black cherry, cola, and muddled raspberry dusted with fresh-picked strawberry blossom. The palate is supple

in texture, with relaxed tannins that lay a red carpet for chalk-dusted black fruit that is the foundation of this wine. Decant and drink now, or open from 2028 onward. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

JULIÉNAS

91 **Georges Duboeuf 2024 Château des Capitans (Juliéna).** Ruby in color, this wine features aromas of blackberry, raspberry, and violet blossom, accented by mint leaf and dusty forest floor. Chalky tannins open on the attack followed by an amalgam of black fruit that seeks resolution on the finish, which completes on a bed of crushed shells. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 **Château Bonnet 2024 Vieilles Vignes (Juliéna).** Enchanting aromas of black plum, pastry dough, and cranberry flakes open on the nose of this wine, along with alpine strawberry and hints of hibiscus. A concentrated palate is balanced with grippy tannins that are supported by a chalky layer of acidity that propels the finish. Rise Over Run Wine. *Best Buy*. —R.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 **Pascal Aufranc 2025 Les Crots (Juliéna).** Magnetic aromas of strawberry, red cherry, and pencil shavings merge on the nose of this wine, along with black tea and cranberry flakes. The palate is fresh with chalk-dusted acidity and grippy tannins that stroll across dew-dusted forest floor that gets lost in a patch of summer raspberries. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

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

MORGON

92 **Domaine de Bel Air 2024 Les Charmes (Morgon).** A mix of Darjeeling tea, violet blossom, and black cherry aromas charm the nose, which rests on a foundation of forest floor and blackberry skin. The black-fruit-tilted palate is lifted by shattered-stone-dusted tannins that give way to minerality carrying into an elongated finish. WD Direct. —R.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

92 **Laurent Gauthier 2025 (Morgon).** Ruby in color, this wine has aromas of black cherry, dried field grass, and black plum that open on the nose, along with black tea and boysenberry compote. The palate is fresh and athletic with charming black fruit and stony tannins that resolve in red raspberry on the finish. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Trenel 2024 (Morgon Côte du Py).** Black plum, red currant, and blackberry aromas converge in the glass, undergirded by dried field grass and hay. Forest floor opens on the palate, coupled with demure black fruit that follows a wave of velvety tannin, which provide structure and depth on the finish.

This wine is ready to drink now and will shine even more from 2028 onward. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$29

91 **Domaine des Nuges 2024 (Morgon).** An inviting mix of black plum, late-summer meadow grass, and black cherry aromas are accented by a whisper of strawberry leaf and cranberry blossom on the nose of this wine. The palate reveals granitic minerality at the wine's core, balanced by complementary, velvety tannins. Playful bits of shattered stone show on the finish. DB Wine Selection. —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$33

91 **Famille Gauthier 2025 Parcelle L'Évêque (Morgon).** Charming black cherry, rosehip, and blackberry aromas erupt from the glass, along with dried hay and turned earth. The palate opens with grippy tannins atop flavors of red currant flake and black plum skin. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$30

91 **Jean-Michel Dupré 2025 Chai d'Oeuvre (Morgon).** Comforting aromas of raspberry, bread dough, and black cherry enthrall the nose, followed by perfumes of violet blossom and red currant. Velvety tannins open on the attack and resolve in chalky blackberry on the stone-lifted finish, with a touch of red fruit. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

90 **Jean-Michel Dupré 2025 Grand Cras (Morgon).** Reserved aromas of black raspberry, red cherry, and muddled violet blossom open on the nose, complemented by hints of dried orange peel and forest floor. Chalky tannins begin on the attack and wash across wet river stone before emptying into a pool of tart cranberry. Decant for an hour and drink now, or open from 2028 onward. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

MOULIN-À-VENT

94 **Yohan Lardy 2025 Les Michelons (Moulin-à-Vent).** If elegance had an aroma, this wine would divulge it. Blue and black fruit play along the nose, guided by black raspberry, cocoa powder, and forest floor. Confident, relaxed tannins unwind on the palate, supporting well-integrated fruit. The wine is ready to enjoy now, even as it continues to gather steam in bottle for the next five-plus years. New Wave Wine Co. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$40

93 **Annick Bachelet 2024 (Moulin-à-Vent).** Seductive aromas of black raspberry, bread dough, and black plum open into a layered, complex nose that delights the senses. The palate follows suit, with relaxed tannins that pave the way for concentrated black fruit that gathers steam toward the finish.

Decant and enjoy now, or open from 2027 onward. W. Direct Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$43

93 **Yohan Lardy 2025 Vieilles Vignes de 1903 (Moulin-à-Vent).** There is a time for wine enjoyment, and a time for wine appreciation. This bottling is for the latter. Perfumed aromas of black tea, meadow grass, and black raspberry entice the nose, along with forest floor and dried cranberry flakes. An opulent amalgam of red and black fruit opens on the attack, supported by a silky layer of still-youthful tannins. New Wave Wine Co. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$50

92 **Château Bonnet 2024 Le Petit Brennay (Moulin-à-Vent).** Ruby in color, this wine opens with fragrant aromas of black cherry, brioche, and dried cranberry that flirt with leather and violet blossom. Echoing the nose, the palate is built around a core of red fruit framed by velvety, youthful tannins that will continue to mellow over time. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. Rise Over Run Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

92 **Château Bonnet 2024 Vin de Garde Les Rouchaux (Moulin-à-Vent).** Aromas of black raspberry, muddled blackberry, and cassis open on the nose of this wine, along with hints of hibiscus tea. The palate opens with grippy, youthful tannins that parallel a layer of black plum and dried cherry flakes. Rise Over Run Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

92 **Domaine de Bel Air 2024 Les Burdelines (Moulin-à-Vent).** Aromas of red raspberry, leather, cola, and cocoa nub converge in the glass, along with pastry dough and a touch of brioche. The well-integrated palate champions sultry fruit supported by relaxed tannins that sing backup to the main attraction—which is elegance bottled. WD Direct. —R.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$36

92 **Domaine des Nuges 2023 (Moulin-à-Vent).** This wine opens with inviting, savory aromas of red raspberry, field grass, and dried red cherry flakes. The soft and supple palate oozes charm and rests pillowy tannins that elongate on the finish. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2027 onward. D.B. Wine Selection. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$33

92 **Georges Duboeuf 2024 Domaine des Rosiers (Moulin-à-Vent).** Purple in color, this still-youthful wine has a nose of raspberry, muddled blackberry, black olive, and rosehip. Silky tannins lead into a palate with well-integrated fruit that lingers on the finish. Pair with steak, Cornish hen, and a charcuterie board. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$31

91 **Joseph Jacôme 2024 (Moulin-à-Vent).** This wine is an understated delight. Well-integrated aromas of red raspberry, black cherry and

cranberry open on the nose, followed by a touch of rhubarb. The palate has a gentle layer of acidity that rides above a subtle streak of salinity that adds depth and concentration. W. Direct Imports. —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$45

OTHER RED WINES

93 **Pascal Aufranc 2025 En Rémont (Chénas).** Sultry aromas of crushed black cherry, red raspberry, and plum tart entice the nose, along with pastry and cocoa-dusted huckleberry. Concentrated briary fruit lounges unhurriedly on the midpalate and eventually eases into velvety, youthful tannins that dominate on the finish. Decant now or enjoy from 2028 onward. New Wave Wine Co. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

93 **Yohan Lardy 2025 Au Buchonet (Chénas).** Ruby in color, this wine features supple aromas of red cherry, field grass, and muddled raspberry that run barefoot in a late-summer meadow. Relaxed, somewhat-grippy tannins unfurl on the concentrated midpalate, unlocking alpine strawberry and hibiscus tea on the finish. New Wave Wine Co. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$40

92 **Georges Duboeuf 2024 (Chiroubles).** Enchanting aromas of black plum, black tea, and pencil shavings frolic with violet blossom and rosehip on the nose of this wine. Chalky tannins lead into red raspberry and red cherry skin on the palate, which is lifted by vibrant acidity. Enjoy now, but this fresh wine will continue to develop in bottle until 2034 and beyond. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

91 **Château Bonnet 2024 Côte de Besset (Saint-Amour).** This is a classic Saint-Amour. Ruby in color, it offers black cherry, toasted bread, and red raspberry aromas that unlock strawberry blossom on the nose. A chalk-dusted palate leads into mid-summer briary fruit that empties into crushed stone. Rise Over Run Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

91 **Jean-Michel Dupré 2025 La Vigne de Lili (Régnié).** A mix of blueberry, red cherry, and hibiscus aromas cascade across the nose of this wine, along with strawberry and violet blossom. Stony red fruit opens on the palate, followed by a parallel streak of acidity that empties into a pool of crushed shells. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$30

90 **Jean-Michel Dupré 2025 Haute Ronze Vieilles Vignes (Régnié).** Red raspberry, black plum, and dried cranberry aromas guide the nose of this wine, along with a touch of rosehip. The palate follows suit with midsummer briary fruit that rests on a foundation of wet river stone, finishing in a bed

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of chalk. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

RHÔNE VALLEY WHITE WINES CÔTES DU RHÔNE

91 Halos de Jupiter 2024 (Côtes du Rhône). Cheerful aromas of macerated Comice pear, yellow apple, and dried field grass unfold into white peach skin and muddled tangerine zest on the nose of this wine. The layered palate boasts just-ripened fruit bolstered by a streak of chalky acidity that finishes with a touch of crushed shells. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Maison Sinnae 2025 Esprit du Rhône Réserve (Côtes du Rhône). Summer wildflower, Empire apple, and pastry dough aromas perfume the nose, guided by lilac and honeysuckle. The creamy, robust palate runs barefoot across a meadow of late-summer field grass into a quarry of lemon-citrus-spritzed chalk that elongates and unwinds on the finish. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Lavau 2025 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun). Lofty notes of muddled apple, lemon peel, and pastry dough cascade across the nose, buttressed by chamomile and a touch of acacia blossom. The palate is chalky in texture, with rounded fruit flavors that retreat into minerality and complete with a twist of citrus. MISA Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Val Des Rois 2024 Blanc (Côtes du Rhône). Aromas of orange blossom, white peach skin, and Golden Delicious apple are buttressed by hints of bread dough and baby's breath. The palate is firm in body, with rounded fruit that picks up forest floor and weaves in moments of dried hay on the finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 La Chasse des Princes 2024 (Côtes du Rhône). Aromas of freshly sliced Granny Smith apple, honeysuckle, and ripe Forelle pear lean into peach blossom and starfruit on the nose. A mineral-driven palate is supported by a streak of mouthwatering acidity that raises lemon citrus on the finish. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

ARDÈCHE

89 Vignerons Ardéchois 2025 Classiques Char-donnay (Ardèche). Inviting aromas of pastry dough and apple galette are joined by pear blossom and hint of lilac on the nose of this wine. The palate is firm in body, with muddled golden apple spritzed with

lemon complemented by a balanced layer of stony acidity. Votto Vines Importing. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Vignerons Ardéchois 2025 Classiques Sauvignon Blanc (Ardèche). Delightful, savory aromas of freshly cut field grass, orange blossom, and green apple are blanketed in wildflowers. This wine opens with wet river stone that mellows on the mid-palate, with subtle flavors of green fruit and crushed shells. Votto Vines Importing. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Vignerons Ardéchois 2025 Classiques Viognier (Ardèche). An energetic bouquet of florals bursts from the glass and charm the nose with gardenia, jasmine, ginger skin, and hints of lychee. White peach opens into honeysuckle and shattered stone on the palate, which is both fresh and firm. Votto Vines Importing. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

ROSÉ

90 Lavau 2025 Rosé (Côtes du Rhône). Strawberry and muddled red cherry aromas move into bread dough and dried cranberry on the nose. The palate weaves in hay and meadow grass while riding a white-blossom-lifted wave of acidity that flirts with pastry. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

RHÔNE VALLEY RED WINES CÔTES DU RHÔNE

92 Maison Sinnae 2025 Esprit du Rhône Réserve (Côtes du Rhône). Bright, fresh aromas of raspberry tart, blackberry, and huckleberry open on the nose of this wine, accented by red currant and dried cranberry flakes. The sultry palate weaves in bittersweet chocolate and macerated black cherry, with subtle hints of dried field grass. Pair with roasted portobello mushroom, lamb shank, and pâté. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Vignerons Ardéchois 2024 Mithra (Côtes du Rhône). Ruby in color, this wine opens with floral-guided aromas of violet blossom, peach skin, and black tea on the nose, buttressed by black plum and cassis. Grippy tannins lead on the attack and shift into muddled red cherry and dew-dusted forest floor. Pair with steak, kebabs, and potstickers. The Artisan Collection. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Delaude Wine Estates 2025 La Cité des Angès (Côtes du Rhône). Aromas of crushed pomegranate and rhubarb join violet blossom and blackberry tart on the nose of this wine. The palate kicks off with velvety tannins that lift black raspberry and purple florals, adding depth and dimension

bolstered by a thin, earthy layer of forest floor. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 Clovis 2025 (Côtes du Rhône). A basket of brambly fruit draws the nose into blueberry, black currant, and blackberry purée accented by fresh aromas of hibiscus that brighten. The palate is lively with joyful, youthful fruit that frolics on a bed of velvety tannins that bench-press red fruit. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

CROZES-HERMITAGE

95 Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2022 Domaine de Roure (Crozes-Hermitage). A dense crush of black plum, thyme stem, *sous bois*, and baking spice defines the nose of this wine. The palate is surprisingly fruit driven, with baked plum, white pepper, and terracotta through the finish. This wine is approachable now, especially alongside dishes with complex spice layers. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

95 Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2022 Domaine de Thala-bert (Crozes-Hermitage). A high-toned nose on this wine offers brambly gastrique, edged with violet petals and thyme leaves. The palate is serious and dense, with round tannins gripping a deep core of firm granitic minerality that carries impressive length. Cellar this wine through 2036 or more. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Delas Frères 2023 Domaine des Grands Che-mins (Crozes-Hermitage). A dense blackberry and plum nose is supported by spice, violets, and struck flint. There's nice intensity on the palate, especially white pepper on the attack. Polished tannins and mouthwatering acidity draw out a long black licorice and mineral finish. Aerate for at least an hour and enjoy with juicy, rare cuts of meat. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

94 J. Denuziere 2021 (Crozes-Hermitage). A really beautiful nose leads with fresh violet, plum, and black cherry skin, its perfume lifted further by sweet spice and fresh herbs. The palate is seamlessly integrated. Fruit, florality, and granitic minerality move as one continuous thread. This wine is absolutely delicious on its own. Cellar through 2033-plus. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Yann Chave 2023 Le Rouvre (Crozes-Hermitage). A dense, rustic nose offers black cherry, licorice, and fresh herbs edged with cedar. Rich and full bodied on the palate, this wine offers supple tannins and mouthwatering acidity that draw out a delicious midpalate of cured meat, with an edge of pure plum and plumeria. The wine is layered and should pair beautifully with spice-driven dishes. La Grenouille Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

93 Jean Luc Colombo 2023 Les Fées Brunes Syrah (Crozes-Hermitage). A dark nose on this wine leads with black cherry and cassis, melting into sweet spice and vanilla. Rustic tannins cling to clove and black pepper, framing a juicy core of plum. The finish carries a saline, granitic edge. Aerate for at least an hour and pair with lamb tajine. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

93 Les Alliés 2024 (Crozes-Hermitage). A flinty nose centers on black cherry skin, black peppercorn, and a violet bouquet. Good texture and mouthwatering acidity draw out spice, *sous bois*, and granitic minerality. This wine would be a delicious match with roasted lamb. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

93 Olivier Ravoire 2024 Espée (Crozes-Hermitage). A slick nose on this wine offers fresh boysenberry and cassis, with thyme stems and struck flint. The texture is silky, with a delicious attack of ripe plum and black cherry. Ample acidity carries a soft white-pepper midpalate into a peppery finish. This wine is delicious and approachable with a proper decant. Fruits of the Vines. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2023 Les Jalets (Crozes-Hermitage). High tones of rhubarb and red plum top a dense, juicy layer of black bramble, accented by green peppercorn, lavender, and violet. The palate is structured and intensely mineral, with floral high tones leading to a long, saline finish. Let the wine develop with time in the cellar, or aerate in the decanter for at least an hour. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 Delas Frères 2023 Les Launes (Crozes-Hermitage). A bright nose leads with ripe red bramble, boysenberry, violets, white pepper, and broken granite minerality, genuinely inviting from the start. The palate turns more savory, offering baked plum, iodine, saffron, and terra-cotta. Polished tannins and ample acidity make this an easy match at the table, especially alongside a spice-rubbed rack of lamb. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 J.Denuzière 2022 (Crozes-Hermitage). A layered, convincing nose offers ripe black cherry, blackberry, white pepper, saffron, iris, and firm granitic minerality. The palate is delicious, with iodine and white pepper gently framing perfectly ripe black plum. A floral lift carries into a fresh and herbal black-pepper finish. Fine tannins and ample acidity meld together, making this enjoyable now with plenty of life ahead. Cellar through 2036 and beyond. Ventura Selections LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$33

92 Ogier 2023 L'Orientale (Crozes-Hermitage). An earth-driven nose offers dense plum, dried shiitake mushroom, and fresh veal. The palate turns

quite layered, moving among baked fruit, spice, terra-cotta, scorched earth, and florals. Big and full bodied, this wine can benefit from time in the cellar, or a long decant before enjoying with a big tomahawk steak. Cannon Wines Limited. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

CAIRANNE

93 Alain Jaume 2022 Les Travées (Cairanne). A very rustic nose leads with stewed plum and fig paste, followed by *sous bois*, violet, and rose. The palate is like crushed velvet, tannins clinging to the tongue and drawing out black pepper, licorice, crushed stone, fennel, and cardamom on the finish. Rustic and approachable now with various cuts of meat. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Domaine Saint Andéol 2022 Prestige (Cairanne). A nice, high-toned nose is full of blackberry, plum, fennel, dried rose, and *sous bois*. The palate is silky with ample acidity and fine tannins, giving an attractive palate of gentle plum, garrigue, balsamic reduction, and cardamom. Approachable now. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

93 Patrick Galant 2022 (Cairanne). An intensely aromatic, rustic nose on this wine offers fig, garrigue, star anise, fennel, dried rose, and terra-cotta. The palate is intensely textured. Grippy tannins meet with enough acidity to enliven a spicy profile of black pepper, baking spice, and potpourri. A soft finish of crushed stone rounds things out. Approachable now with a proper decant. Gabriella Importers Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 Château de Serre-Blanc 2022 (Cairanne). A seductive nose on this wine offers freshly washed black plum, kirsch, fennel, and a generous dose of violet. The palate is refined and silky, woven with dried earth tones of terra-cotta, star anise, cinnamon, and licorice root. Ample acidity and sandy tannins provide a nice runway for a finish of licorice root, cardamom, and a touch of iron. This wine should pair beautifully with spice-layered dishes. Hachiko Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Domaine Martin 2022 (Cairanne). Black plum, olive tapenade, tobacco leaf, and black pepper make for a rustic nose. The palate is bold, with mulberry, kirsch, anise, and cardamom coming through. Ample acidity gives length to a finish of forest floor and licorice root that lingers long after the last sip. Lionstone International. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$24

91 RhonéA 2022 La Port D'Autanne (Cairanne). Sappy aromas of black cherry, mulberry, fig paste, olive, limestone, and fennel build a rich, layered nose. The palate is velvety in texture with a bit of tannic grip, giving support to stewed plums, bay leaf, and

garrigue. Lovely to enjoy now with spicy charcuterie. FRUIT OF THE VINES. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

95 Château Gigognan 2021 Clos du Roi (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). An amazing nose, pungent and intense, offers dense black bramble, rose hip, and a feral note, with an edge of sweet wild strawberry. The palate is effortless, balanced, and utterly delicious. This wine is hard to put down now, but cellaring should prove just as rewarding, so keep a few bottles on hand. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

95 Domaine de Beurenard 2023 Le Boisrenard (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Already open and expressive, aromas of cranberry, crab apple, and Gala apple meet red licorice, leather, and clove in a bold, warm bouquet. The palate of this wine turns dense yet silky with dark fruit, its bright acidity enhancing unctuous black cherry edged with woody thyme, rosemary stem, and leather. While drinking beautifully now, this should reward with further cellaring. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$126

95 La Célestière 2022 La Croze (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). There's a really great wildness to this wine. Fresh black currant meets gamy charcuterie, fennel, and garrigue on the nose, with depth and intensity throughout. The palate is sun drenched, offering dried black fruit, rose hip, savory herbs, and a saffron edge, ending on pronounced white pepper and a fresh truffle note. Sophisticated, and this should reward through 2035-plus. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

94 Château La Nerthe 2023 Les Granières (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A compelling, jammy nose of brambly fruit leather, rose petal, and wild thyme comes through in a very pure expression. Lively acidity keeps this wine effortless, its layers of dark, fruited bramble melding into a fine layer of pulverized hot stone. The tannins melt into the wine, making this expression easy to enjoy now. Graceful and approachable. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Domaine de Beurenard 2023 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This inviting, aromatic expression recalls a brambly baked pie loaded with blueberry, plum, blackberry, and cinnamon. Mouthwatering acidity balances youthful tannins on a spicy palate of white pepper, clove, and cardamom, giving way to dark cherry skin. The finish runs long with white tea, alluvial stone, and licorice. It's layered and compelling. Cellar through 2035 or more, or enjoy now with aeration. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$81

94 Domaine Gassier 2023 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A sappy, generous nose on this wine

BUYINGGUIDE

brims with blackberry gastrique, black cherry, violet, elderflower, and scorched earth. The palate is saline and stony at first, then opens into plush black cherry skin. Bright acidity highlights a finish of olive, rosemary stem, and black tea. Drink now, or cellar through 2035 or longer. W.Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Famille Lançon 2022 Barberini Domaine de la Solitude (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A boatload of Amarena cherry, bitter cocoa, sous bois, licorice, and a floral perfume of rose hip fills the nose on this wine. The palate is much more integrated. Intense brambly fruit hits right away, framed by florals, baking spice, and warm stone. Lovely, and surprisingly approachable now. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

94 La Célestière 2022 Tradition (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A double-edged sword, this wine offers dense black brambly fruit against a bloody, irony edge on the nose. It is wild and complex, with a hint of sous bois. The palate is melding beautifully, with enough acidity to balance its youthful structure. Dark cherry overtones are backed by dried oregano and bay leaf, followed by mixed baking spices and tobacco just starting to integrate. Really lovely now, but cellaring should prove rewarding. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 La Célestière 2019 La Confidentielle (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A rich nose on this wine evokes sticky toffee pudding piled with fresh raspberries. Velvety mouthfeel and bright acidity charge the palate with tart cherry, green peppercorn, and dark chocolate. This is aging well and should have lots more to give. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Vignoble Simian 2023 Le Traversier (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Perfectly ripe blackberry, raspberry, and Amarena cherry burst from the glass, framed by wild thyme and a whisper of fresh lavender. The palate of this wine is beautifully textured, its ample acidity sparking a spicy rush of clove and white pepper alongside supple red licorice and tart raspberry. Full bodied and mouthfilling, it's built for a rack of lamb with rosemary. J & J Winery. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$16

93 Famille Ravoire 2022 Maison Camille (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Black currant, cassis, meat jus, oregano, and baking spice come together on the nose of this wine, with a touch of fennel and sassafras at the edge. It is complex and refined throughout. The palate is dark and rustic, velvety in texture with tannins integrating well. Blackberry and plum fruit melt into bay leaf, Sichuan pepper, cardamom, and a light tobacco finish. This is one to cellar a bit longer and let its nuances harmonize. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

93 La Grivelière 2022 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A very pretty nose on this wine offers pure

and precise cassis, raspberry coulis, peony, cardamom, and peppery spices. The palate turns rustic, driven by dried herbs and bay leaf wrapped around plum and pinned with white pepper. Integrating tannins support a long finish of mixed spices and fennel. Approachable now, this should reward through 2035 or longer. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$52

93 Meridien 2023 Whispers of the Cellar (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Intensely layered and complex, the nose is reminiscent of an apothecary, with jars of pomegranate, wild strawberry, orange oil, licorice, cardamom, rose, and savory herbs. The palate turns rustic and earthy, its silky tannins keeping the wine effortless to drink. A soft note of clove lingers on the finish. Approachable now, this wine is ready to enjoy. MISA Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

93 Vidal-Fleury 2021 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Baked brambly fruit, cassis, cured meat, green peppercorn, violet, and black licorice build the nose. Full bodied with ample acidity, youthful rustic tannins carry the palate through cherry, licorice root, clove, cinnamon stick, and cocoa powder. This expression can be enjoyed now, especially with osso buco. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

92 DomainedelaMordorée 2021 LaReineDesBois (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Amarena cherry, rhubarb, mulberry, and anise lead the nose of this wine, with dried saffron and ample violets adding lift. Medium-plus in body with integrating tannins, the palate holds deep, dark notes of stewed black cherry skin and dried oregano, closing on a long black licorice finish. Delicious now, it should hold up to a juicy cut of steak. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Domaine Le Prieuré des Papes 2021 Le Couchant (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Stewed plum, menthol, soft leather, and wild thyme build the nose of this wine. The palate is rustic, with integrated tannins carrying black plum, black licorice, dried herbs, woody notes, tobacco leaf, and terra-cotta. A soft cocoa dust finish closes things out. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$89

91 Grangeon et Fils 2025 Réserve des Diacres (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A very attractive profile offers fresh black cherry, kirsch, fennel, violet, and a touch of rose hip on the nose. The palate is opulent, with round and polished tannins supporting licorice, star anise, and a hint of potpourri, with warm stones lingering long on the finish. Approachable now. Bridge Imports/Avenue Terroir. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Joseph Roumille 2025 Cuvée Prestige (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Fresh black cherry, pomegranate, and kirsch meet rosemary, sage, black olive, and a vanilla edge on the nose. The palate is plush and velvety, with fine tannins and ample acidity carrying warm spices into licorice and violet. Round with a

glycerol edge, this wine can stand up to hefty cuts of steak. Enjoy now. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Kirkland Signature 2024 Cuvée du Terroir des Papes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Made of 70% Grenache, this wine leads with candied black fruit on a juicy nose, with fresh garrigue, lavender, and licorice adding depth. Dusty mulberry lingers on the palate, supported by youthful, grippy tannins, while bay leaf, fennel, and warm stone bring a complex, rustic finish. Approachable now with proper aeration. MISA Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$21

91 La Grivelière 2020 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This wine features a concentrated nose of black cherry, violet, thyme, cured meat, and peppercorn. The palate turns darker and meatier, with more peppercorn and well-integrated tannins. This bottling should pair easily with a wide array of meaty dishes. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$52

91 Ogier 2025 Les Collines (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A bright nose offers brambly compote, thyme, clove, spice box, and a touch of sarsaparilla. The palate is plush and warm, with fine tannins that make this wine easy to drink now. Plum, fennel, anise, bay leaf, and rose hip round out a straightforward palate. Approachable now. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 Domaine Le Prieuré des Papes 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This wine highlights a fragrant nose of rhubarb, red cherry, wild thyme, cinnamon, and violet. The palate is medium bodied, with enough acidity to coax out freshly washed red cherry, clove, and light violet, closing on a soft finish of granite that adds depth. Drink now. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

90 Jean Paul Clément 2025 Grande Réserve (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A dense nose offers cassis, prune, rosemary, bay leaf, licorice, and warm stone. The palate is driven by dried oregano, followed by prune and bay leaf. Fine, bitter tannins draw out licorice, clove, and dusty minerality through the finish of the wine. Approachable now. WD Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$57

90 Les Alliés 2025 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Melded aromatics of black currant, blackberry, thyme, and fennel define a clean, fruit-driven nose. The palate follows suit, with fruit-driven and approachable black cherry giving way to clove, green pepper, and tobacco through a *sous bois* finish. This is easy to enjoy on charcuterie night with friends. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

ARDÈCHE

90 Vignerons Ardéchois 2024 Classiques Pinot Noir (Ardèche). Aromas of black cherry, black

plum, and violet blossom coalesce in the glass, guided by subtle hints of toasted baking spice and red cherry flakes. The palate is gentle with pillowy tannins that caress the inside of your cheeks with supple fruit that balances moments of concentration with Darjeeling tea and forest floor. Votto Vines Importing. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES BORDEAUX BLANC

91 **Château Valandraud 2023 Valandraud Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc).** This fresh, crisp wine with its lemon and spice character comes from a parcel in the vineyard of Château Valandraud. The wine, now mature, shows its density and has a perfumed aftertaste. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

90 **Clos du Beau Père 2023 Blanc du Beau Père (Bordeaux Blanc).** This is a perfumed wine, the Sauvignon Gris giving spice and a texture that softens the acidity. The wine is still fresh, holding some citrus against the yellow fruits. Drink now. Heidelberg Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 **Chateau Bouchereau 2024 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This is a ripe, perfumed wine with apricot and citrus fruit flavors. The wine's attractive perfumed character comes from Muscadelle in the blend. Drink this fresh wine now. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

89 **Château Roquefort 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This wine goes for a tropical style. White fruit and white peach flavors lead from a red apple aroma. While fresh, the wine is also full. It will be ready from 2027. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Suau 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** The herbal character of Sauvignon Blanc has been mitigated by richer Sémillon in this ripe wine. It is fresh, with white fruits shot through with grapefruit. Drink this wine with a fruity aroma from late 2026. Opici Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Lamothe-Vincent 2025 Réserve (Bordeaux Blanc).** This wine is firm and nervy with a taut texture. Its acidity and its citrus fruit flavor are still to show themselves, but the wine will be attractive as it develops. Drink now. Total Wine & More. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Château Rauzan Despagne 2025 (Bordeaux).** Still young and taut, this wine has plenty of citrus fruit to come through as it matures. The wine's grassy aroma and lemon flavors promise

freshness from late 2026. Park Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 **Château Tassin 2024 (Bordeaux Blanc).** Grassy and fresh, this wine with its herbal aroma and citrus fruits is bright and lively. The tangy of lemon zest is delicious now. WINEBERRY America. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

88 **French Blue 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This fresh wine has a blood orange flavor and a soft character that gives rounded spiciness. It tends to tropical fruit flavors. Drink now. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Kirkland Signature 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** With a pink grapefruit aroma, this wine is fresh and tangy. The soft texture contrasts with honey and lemon flavors that give it a bounce. Drink now. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8

88 **Les Cailloux 2025 (Bordeaux).** With a hint of yellow fruits coming through the herbal aroma, this is a bright wine. Crisp while also generously textured, the wine brings out a crisp and spicy aftertaste. Drink now. Vinovia Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

88 **Les Hauts de Lagarde 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This is a young, vivid wine, its acidity and crisp green character still very evident. With its fresh, grassy character and herbaceous aroma, the wine will be better as it softens. Organic. Natural Merchants, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 **Les Rives du Ciron 2025 (Bordeaux).** There is a tropical aspect to this fresh, fruity wine. The ripe orange aroma and poise between richness and crispness give it brightness. Drink now. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Cap Royal 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** Named after the lighthouse on the Gironde Estuary, the oldest in Europe, this fresh, crisp white wine has lightly herbal flavors combined with a more tropical edge. With its green fruit aroma and bright acidity, it is ready to drink. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 **Château Lesparre 2024 The White in Château Lesparre (Bordeaux Blanc).** From the pastoral Bordeaux Blanc, this wine is vibrant and tangy. With its kiwi and tropical fruit and herbaceous aromas, the wine is ready to drink. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Lafleur Chevalier 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This is a grassy wine, with a herbaceous aroma

and tangy lemon-zest character. Fresh, fruity, and likely to soften over the next few months, the wine will be ready from late 2026. AP Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Maison Dourthe 2025 N°1 de Dourthe (Bordeaux Blanc).** A summer-inspired wine, this has a cooling herbal freshness, with a creamy touch and light spice. It is tangy with orange zest flavors and a citrus aroma, plus an oyster-friendly saline touch. Drink now. C&C USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

86 **Château Lamothe-Vincent 2025 Héritage (Bordeaux Blanc).** A light and fruity wine, this has a spicy aroma and fresh acidity. A slight farmyard edge will go as the wine develops. Drink from late 2026. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

86 **Les Sept Chênes 2025 (Bordeaux).** With a mint aroma and a lightly herbal flavor, this wine is fruity and cool in character. Its perfumed aroma and tangy lemon-zest edge adds to the freshness of the wine. W Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

ENTRE-DEUX-MERS

90 **Château Brondeau du Tertre 2025 (Entre-Deux-Mers).** This warm, ripe wine already shows a rounded texture. A bright citrus edge acts as a balance. With its herbal aroma, the wine will be ready in late 2026. Wine Collection Holding. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Moulin De Ferrand 2025 (Entre-Deux-Mers).** White fruit aromas and a citrus edge introduce this fresh and ripe wine. There is a citrus tang to the wine, while the grapefruit aroma and bright aftertaste make it drinkable now. GRAPE EXPECTATIONS Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 **Château Nicot 2025 (Entre-Deux-Mers).** This fresh, grassy wine has a crisp texture. Its bitter orange aroma and kiwi fruit flavors give shining acidity and a tangy flavor. Drink from late 2026. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

GRAVES

93 **Château de Chantegrive 2025 Cuvée Caroline (Graves).** The top white wine from the Lévêque family estate, this is spicy from wood aging, with hints of yellow fruits. Its almond aroma and white fruit ripeness are already delicious and worth aging. Drink from 2028. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

BUYINGGUIDE

92 **Château Rahoul 2025 (Graves).** Hints of honey and citrus flavors give ripeness and richness to this vibrant wine. With a touch of wood aging in amphorae and barrels, it has spice as well as a toasty edge. Drink from 2027. C&C USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 **Château Haut Mayne 2025 (Graves).** Lightly wood aged, this wine has toast and spice aromas mingled with rich white fruits. It has ripeness as well as rounded pear and kiwi flavors. Drink from 2027. D.B. Wine Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 **Château Simon 2025 (Graves).** A pink grapefruit aroma opens this wine, which has a crisp texture. Tangy citrus and bitter orange flavors give it a taut character, tempered by a creamy background texture. Drink from 2027. CYNTHIA HURLEY FINE WINES. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château de Cérons 2025 (Graves).** The grand château of Cérons, close to the Garonne river, has produced a ripe, balanced wine with a light touch of bright acidity. Quince aromas and hazelnut and spice flavors are full of fruit and promise. Drink the wine from 2027. Twins Bordeaux. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château Jeantieu 2025 (Graves de Vayres).** From a small region across the Dordogne river from Libourne and Fronsac, this white wine, dominated by Sémillon, has a creamy texture and weight. Its spicy aroma and ripe white fruits give it a rich character. Drink from 2027. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

90 **Domaine du Salut 2025 (Graves).** This spicy wine arrives with a lightly toasty edge and ripe yellow and citrus fruits. With its nutty aroma and crisp aftertaste, the wine will be ready from late 2027. Organic. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 **Château des Places 2025 (Graves).** This wine's freshness is spiced with touches of hazelnut. Ripeness gives it a rounded edge, while the pineapple aroma brings a more tropical dimension. Drink from 2027. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Château Haut Selve 2025 Sémillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Graves).** With judicious touches of toast both in the aroma and on the palate, this wine has a good balance. Herbal flavors mingle with ripe white fruits while keeping freshness to the fore. Drink from 2027. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

89 **Château Lagrange 2025 (Graves).** A grassy wine with a fresh herbal character, this has a fine lemon aroma and spice. A touch of ginger on the palate gives complexity. Drink from 2027. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 **Château Camus 2025 (Graves).** This herbal wine offers a grassy aroma and touches of spice. With a touch of honey and layers of citrus, the wine is balanced and fruity. Drink from 2027. Dolce Vita Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 **Château Lugaud 2025 (Graves).** This wine's pear aroma is set against a crisp texture, bringing out grapefruit flavors. It is a bright, crisp wine with acidity and a refreshing character. Drink from 2027. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château Pouyanne 2025 (Graves).** A fresh Sauvignon Blanc with a citrus aroma, this is crisp and tangy. Its brightness is lifted further by acidity and kiwi fruits. Drink from 2027. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château de Respide 2025 (Graves).** This soft wine has a vegetal edge that needs to blow off. Behind, it offers grapefruit flavors and a crisp texture. Drink from 2027. The Wine Source. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

SPARKLING WINES

89 **Château Mondésir-Gazin 2024 L'Astrale (Bordeaux).** A bright blend of Malbec and Sémillon, this sparkling wine has a crisp and creamy lightness. With a fine tang of acidity, the wine is vivacious and ready to drink. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Producta Vignobles NV Mission St. Vincent (Crémant de Bordeaux).** Bright acidity and crisp citrus flavors give this attractive wine a lively, fruity freshness. A yeasty touch adds complexity. Drink now. Wine Manager LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉS

88 **Dourthe 2025 N°1 de Dourthe (Bordeaux Rosé).** Made with Cabernet Franc, this fresh rosé has a touch of spice as well as crispness. A lively wine with an orange peel aroma, it is ready to drink. C&C USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 **Château Suau 2025 (Bordeaux Rosé).** Made entirely from Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine has a light structure, fresh and lifted. Its red fruit aroma and raspberry flavors are attractive and fresh. The wine is ready to drink. Organic. Opici Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **French Blue 2025 (Bordeaux Rosé).** With a light, yeasty aroma, this wine is fresh while also dense enough for a meal. It features lemon peel

and spice flavors with wild strawberry. Drink now. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

87 **Villa des Dunes 2025 Zenith (Bordeaux Rosé).** Bright and fruity, this offers hints of crushed strawberries and a orange zest aroma. This dry rosé is fresh and ready to drink. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

BORDEAUX RED WINES

BORDEAUX

90 **Château La Rose du Pin 2024 (Bordeaux).** Half and half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine is textured, with solid tannins as well as layers of black currant fruit. It is ripe and generous, with a black coffee aroma and succulent aftertaste. Drink from 2028. FRUIT OF THE VINES. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 **Château les Tuileries 2022 Cuvée le Colombier (Bordeaux).** Black chocolate flavors mingle with the ripe berries and structure of this wine. From a top vintage, the wine has richness to go with the juicy fruits. With tobacco aromas, the wine is still developing. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Maison Dourthe 2023 N°1 de Dourthe (Bordeaux).** For full review see page 14. C&C USA. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

89 **Carillonade 2025 (Bordeaux).** Perfumed dark chocolate aromas and flavor hints give this wine ripeness and density. The black plum fruit bursts with vibrancy, showing that the wine is still youthful and will be better from 2027. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Bourdon La Tour 2023 (Côtes de Bordeaux).** From vineyards on the hills above Cadillac, this wine has ripe blackberry flavors, a core of solid tannins, and potential. The licorice aroma shows well and a touch of spice comes through at the end. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Lesparre 2025 The Red in Château Lesparre (Bordeaux).** Still young, this ripe and juicy wine is succulent and sure to develop well. With a spicy aroma and black plum fruits, the wine should be ready from 2028. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Château Roquefort 2024 (Bordeaux).** Packed with red berry flavors and with a black pepper aroma, this wine is balanced and ripe. Tan-

nins come through from the core, adding weight to the wine. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Beau-Séjour-Bécot 2023 Instant Bécot (Bordeaux).** This juicy and fruity wine with a light texture comes from a blend of young vines. This spicy wine has a red fruit aroma and a layer of acidity. Soft and full bodied, this wine will be ready in late 2026. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Chateau Bouchereau 2023 (Bordeaux).** A ripe, soft wine with a licorice aroma and gentle tannins, this is fresh and juicy. Red berry flavors and acidity add to its immediate attractiveness. Drink from 2027. T. Edward Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Château de Beauregard-Ducourt 2024 (Bordeaux).** A blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, this ripe wine is full of black fruits with mellow tannins. The wine's prune aroma and juicy character mean it will be attractive soon. Drink from 2027. Laville Importer. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 **Chateau de Brugnac 2024 (Bordeaux).** This spicy wine with its ripe black cherry aroma and generous tannins is full of juicy black currant fruits. Its vineyard, in the Entre-deux-Mers, has delivered a wine that is replete with balanced richness. Drink from 2027. IPO Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château de Parenchère 2025 L'Equilibriste (Bordeaux).** The name of this wine is echoed in the equilibrium of black fruits, acidity, and young tannins. It has black currant aromas and juicy acidity. Drink from 2027. Organic. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

88 **Château Finet 2025 (Bordeaux).** This will be a charming wine with blackberry flavor and integrated tannins. It shows a juicy character and black pepper aromas. The wine will be ready from 2027. W Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Lalande-Labatut 2024 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux).** A spicy wine with a light core of tannins, this fresh and fruity bottling delivers black currant flavors and a black pepper aroma. The tannins are maturing, ready to give a wine ready to drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Lesparre 2024 The Red in Château Lesparre (Bordeaux).** This wood-aged wine shows spice and ripe tannins as well as juicy blackberry flavors. It is gently textured, with a core of dryness to allow it to age further. Drink from 2027. Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

88 **Château Roquefort 2024 Les Tamaris (Bordeaux).** A pure Malbec, this wine has richness and plenty of spicy black fruits. Its licorice aroma and ripe tannins offer plenty of promise. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Suau 2022 Semper Viva (Bordeaux).** Semper Viva (always alive) is a fresh wine, matured in tanks, preserving bright red fruits. A touch of aromatic spice introduces a lovely wine, ready to drink now. Organic. Opici Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 **Lafleur Chevalier 2022 (Bordeaux).** This wine's spice aroma is translated into peppered blackberry flavors and a layer of acidity. The wine has a rounded feel, developing well and ready in late 2026. AP Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Les Cailloux 2025 (Bordeaux).** From the left bank of Bordeaux, this wine shows a mineral edge as well as plump blackberry flavors. It is full, rich, and generous, with a black pepper aroma and the promise of a rounded aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Vinovia Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 **Meridien 2023 Whispers of the Cellar (Bordeaux).** A juicy wine with tangy red berry flavors, this is light and crisp. The licorice aroma and light tannins suggest the wine will soon be ready to drink. Try now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 **Baron Sittou 2022 (Bordeaux).** This light wine has a red berry aroma and soft tannins. It shows a juicy character, ripe with light acidity. Drink now. Organic. Natural Merchants, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 **Château Briot 2024 (Bordeaux).** This wine is succulent, offering ripeness and a light layer of tannin. Its black currant aroma and red fruits bring out a wine that is bright. Drink from 2027. Europvin USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château des Combes 2024 (Bordeaux).** This young wine with its blackberry aroma, gentle tannins, and bright red fruits is developing well. The texture and the wine's precocity are well suited to drinking from 2027. Planet Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château Finet 2024 (Bordeaux).** This light-weight wine with its raspberry aroma and red berry flavors is fruity and softly textured. Still young, the wine will be ready to enjoy from late 2026. W Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 **Château Florie-Aude 2023 (Bordeaux).** Named for the Brulatout family's daughters,

Florie and Aude, this wine has a spicy character, with a pepper aroma and blackberry flavors. Softly textured, the wine is ready to drink. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château La Rose Saint-Germain 2024 (Bordeaux).** This is a juicy wine, with a black fruit aroma and light textures. With its light fruits and rounded tannins, the wine is likely to develop quickly. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château Moulinat 2022 (Bordeaux).** This wine has a black pepper aroma and bright red-fruit flavors. Softly textured and with gentle tannins, it has an open character. Drink now. Wine Manager LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 **Les Hauts de Lagarde 2024 (Bordeaux).** A light pepper aroma and soft tannins give this wine a buoyant character. With black currant fruits and an open flavor, the wine will be ready to drink in late 2026. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Natural Merchants, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 **Marquis de Lafon 2023 (Bordeaux).** This blend of mainly Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon is full of blackberry fruits, offering a spice aroma and a layer of acidity. Balanced and ripe, the wine is generously textured and ready to drink now. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Meridien 2024 Whispers of the Cellar (Bordeaux).** This wine's red fruit aroma and light texture are forward and bright. Ripe with crushed strawberry fruit, the wine is ready now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

91 **Château de Seguin 2023 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A licorice aroma leads the way in this ripe, full blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Malbec. With a firm structure layered with black cherry fruits, the wine is rich, dense, and has a fine future. Drink from 2027. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 **Château Roquefort 2022 Grande Cuvée (Bordeaux Supérieur).** From the top parcels of the Roquefort vineyard, this wine reveals a ripe, luscious character, the Merlot bringing richness. With its spice aroma, the wine still shows tannins and power. Drink from 2027. Duclot La Vinicole. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Cap Royal 2023 Cuvée Tradition (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A ripe licorice aroma gives this wine a generous character. It has weight and density as well as spice. The result is a full wine, rich in black

BUYINGGUIDE

currant flavors, that is ready to drink. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 **Cap Royal 2022 Cuvée Tradition (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wood-aged wine shows ripe tannins and dense structure, typical of the 2022 vintage. It is rich, with a smoky aroma and layers of black currant fruit flavors. Drink from 2027. Suitable for vegans. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 **Château de Roquemont 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A ripe, full wine with soft tannins, this has layers of blackberry fruits and juicy acidity. Its spicy aroma and finishing richness suggest aging potential. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

90 **Château la Verrière 2024 Cuvée V (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This rich blend is dense and solidly textured. Packed with black fruits and a core of tannins, the juicy wine is still maturing. With its cinnamon aroma, it should be ready from 2027. Organic. CITADEL TRADING CORP. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$19

90 **Château Moulin De Ferrand 2024 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. From an estate owned by the Boissonneau family since 1839, this latest release is structured, with a black cherry aroma and ripe black currant fruits. The wine's texture gives complexity and promise. Drink from 2028. Organic. GRAPE EXPECTATIONS Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$17

90 **Château Penin 2022 Grande Sélection (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A luscious wine, this is piled high with black fruits and spicy tannins. Reflecting the 2022 vintage, it is ripe, juicy with black currant fruits and with a vanilla aroma. Drink from 2027. Steep Hill Importing. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$19

90 **Kirkland Signature 2024 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a ripe balanced wine, full of fruit sustained by wood aging. The toast, blackberry aroma, and generous tannins give the wine texture and succulence. Drink from 2027. MISA Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$8

90 **La Joly 2023 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine's smoky aroma and spice from wood aging adds a smooth edge to the tannins and black currant fruit flavors. The firm core needs to soften further. Drink this wine with a fine future from 2027. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Natural Merchants, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$36

89 **Château de la Vieille Tour 2024 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine's vanilla aroma and lightly spicy texture show comfortable black fruits and ripe tannins. It is a generous wine, ready to drink

from 2028. Organic. Wine Traditions. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

89 **Château Larroque 2024 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A dark chocolate aroma and ripe tannins give this wine warmth and density. It has an enticing black currant flavor and good potential. Drink from 2027. BNP Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

89 **Château Sainte-Marie 2024 Cuvée Vieille Vignes (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine's black fruit aroma leads to black currant flavors, with concentration and a core of dry tannins. The estate, surrounding a building from the Middle Ages, has given a succulent wine with ripe texture and a good future. Drink from 2027. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

88 **Cap Royal 2023 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This soft, smoothly textured wine offers ripe tannins and buoyant blackberry flavors. The wine's black fruit aroma and its rounded character mean it will be ready to drink in late 2026. Suitable for vegans. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

88 **Château Belair-Coubet 2023 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine is fresh, full of red fruits with a lightly spicy character. The licorice aroma and bright fruits give the wine a crunchy aftertaste. Drink now. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$23

88 **Château Féret-Lambert 2023 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A soft and fruity blend dominated by Merlot, this has a spicy aroma, gentle tannins, and is lightly toasty. From the Entre-deux-Mers, it is an easy wine, ready to drink in late 2026. PALOMAR IMPORTS. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

88 **Château Grand Jean 2024 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. With a black fruit aroma and berry flavors, this is a wine dominated by fruit. The texture brings in gentle tannins while acidity emphasizes the wine's freshness. Drink from 2027. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

88 **Château Jalousie Beaulieu 2025 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This smooth wine shows touches of caramel against ripe blackberry fruits, while the black pepper aroma suggests a spicy character. Drink from 2028. Touton Selection. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

88 **Château l'Ombrière 2025 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This young wine has juicy red-fruit flavors and a licorice aroma. At this stage, it is bright and vibrant. Let it soften and drink from 2028. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 **Château l'Ombrière 2024 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine's licorice aroma leads to

poised red fruit flavors. Smoothly textured, it shows a touch of smokiness as well as balanced acidity and an open aftertaste. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

88 **Château les Reuilles 2025 Cuvée Todesco (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. An open wine with light tannins and a vanilla aroma, this is fruity and friendly. Full of red berry flavors with a juicy texture, the wine will be ready from 2027. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

88 **Château Saint Antoine 2023 Réserve du Château (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The fifth generation of the Aubert family runs this estate and has brought ripe tannins and balanced black fruits together in a spicy wine. Its black truffle aroma and juicy aftertaste are promising. Drink this wine from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 **Jean-François Reaud 2025 Coteaux d'Estuaire (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The name references the Blaye and Bourg vineyards above the Gironde estuary. This is a soft wine, with vanilla flavors and gentle tannins that are echoed in the black plum aroma and black currant flavors. Drink from 2027. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

88 **Les Rives du Ciron 2025 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine has density as well as structured tannins. With a licorice aroma and black currant fruits, the wine is ripe and promising. Drink from 2027. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

88 **Meridien 2023 Whispers of the Cellar (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This ripe wine based on Cabernet Franc is textured and full of black fruits. The spicy aroma and core of tannins promise aging. Drink from 2027. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

87 **Château de Bleyzac 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Red fruit aromas and ripe tannins give this wine a fruity character. Fruit and structure are balanced, and the wine is ready to drink now. Opici Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

87 **Terre Royale 2025 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. With hints of fresh toast and spicy blackberry flavors, this wine is ripe and potentially rich. Soft tannins will open further, giving potential for aging further. Drink from 2027. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

BORDEAUX CLARET

88 **Château Paloumey 2025 Claret de Paloumey (Bordeaux Claret)**. This smooth red wine, in a light style, is full of cherry fruits and red fruit aromas.

It is fresh, crisp, and brightly lit. Best served lightly chilled. Organic. W. Direct Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Château Roquefort 2025 Les Pins (Bordeaux Claret).** This new Bordeaux style, light and fruity with no sign of wood aging, is perfect for summer. Intense red fruits follow a slightly yeasty aroma with fresh cherry flavors. Drink this wine now, lightly chilled. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Les Vignerons de Tutiac 2025 Lion & the Lily (Bordeaux Claret).** In the trendy Claret style of light red, this wine is fresh and fruity. It features red berry aromas and flavors, with crisp texture and a tang at the end. Drink the wine lightly chilled. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 **Maison Bouey 2025 Cuvée Claret (Bordeaux Claret).** This fresh and fruity wine is a new style of Bordeaux. Best served chilled, it has a lovely ruby color and is balanced, with a strawberry aroma, red fruits, and bright acidity. It is not at all similar to Clairette, a dark Bordeaux rosé. Drink now. ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. ETE. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

92 **Château Cantinot 2022 Orbite de Cantinot (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The top wine from this Blaye estate delivers ripe black tannins and concentrated black currant fruits. Only made in top years, it brings in the skills of sommelier Andreas Larsson. The succulent wine with a licorice aroma is still developing. Give it until 2027. Red Stallion Wines, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 **Château Cantinot 2020 Les Tours de Cantinot (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A big, bold wine, this is made from parcels of old vines, giving it power and concentration, with rich black fruits and a dense texture. The tobacco aroma reflects the judicious wood aging. Drink the wine from 2027. Red Stallion Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Château Haut Sociondo 2025 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This wine's dark coffee aroma and ripe tannins suggest plenty of potential. It is rich, with generous black currant flavors and a core of dryness. The wine's solid character indicates aging further. Drink from 2028. Non-US Imported.. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 **Château le Grand Moulin 2025 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A generous black-fruited wine, this has ripe tannins and a spicy texture. The black cherry aroma and open red berry fruits deliver a friendly and

fresh aftertaste. Drink from 2028. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 **Château Cantinot 2020 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The estate wine from Cantinot was aged in big wood barrels, giving it an attractive touch of spice. The black cherry aroma brings out the lush Merlot of this full-bodied wine. Drink now. Red Stallion Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

90 **Château les Aubiers 2025 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This wine's black pepper aroma and textured tannins give structure and potential. Berry fruits and a dry core fill the wine out with ripeness and solidity. Drink from 2028. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château les Favières 2023 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This balanced wine is poised comfortably between black fruits and a core of tannins. Still young, with a white pepper aroma and a juicy ripeness, it is set to age further. Drink from 2027. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Mayne Guyon 2024 Grand Vin (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a spicy wine, with gentle tannins revealing a firm structure in the background. Its blackberry aroma and ripe black currant flavor promise good future development. Drink from 2028. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 **Château Mayne-Vallet 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This fruity wine brings out the ripe generosity of Merlot, leveled with structured Cabernet Sauvignon. With its cocoa aroma and black currant fruits, the wine should be ready from 2027. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

89 **Château Montfollet 2025 Le Malbec (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** While Malbec is widely planted in the Blaye vineyards, a 100% Malbec wine is unusual. Structured with firm tannins, this ripe wine is smooth and generous. It has a peppery aroma and a touch of spice to go with the black plum flavors. Drink from 2027. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 **Château Cantinot 2020 Rivière (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This open, fruity wine has black currant flavors introduced by a black pepper aroma and a light structure. The wine is ready to drink. Red Stallion Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 **Château la Rose Beaumont 2024 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Emphasizing black currant fruits and a pepper aroma, this wine is fresh, still young, and fruity. The wine should be ready to drink from 2027. Organic. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 **Château Mayne Mazerolles 2025 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This young wine has a spicy edge along with generous black fruits. Red fruit aromas lead to acidity that balances the texture and youthful exuberance. Drink from 2028. W.Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

88 **Vignobles Gabriel 2025 Baronne de Vignonet (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A ripe, full-bodied wine, this has a core of tannins surrounded by blackberry sweetness and juicy acidity. The licorice aroma and crisp aftertaste lift the wine at the end. Drink from 2027. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 **Vignobles Gabriel 2025 Cap Ferré (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Black fruit aromas sing from the glass with this fruity wine. Berry flavors ally with acidity and a soft texture to give a bright wine that will be ready to drink in 2027. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 **Vignobles Gabriel 2025 Les Hauts de Pique-relle (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** From vineyards on the heights above the Gironde estuary, this wine shows rich tannins and attractive black currant fruits. The black pepper aroma and open texture suggest a wine that will age quickly. Drink from 2028. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

CÔTES DE BOURG

91 **Château Plaisance 2025 (Côtes de Bourg).** This wine's black cherry aroma and spicy texture give it ripeness and balanced freshness. Black currant flavors and central tannins broaden out the wine, ready for drinking from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Château Plaisirs 2025 Cuvée Prestige (Côtes de Bourg).** This wine's red berry aroma and gentle tannins give the potential of ripeness and generosity. It is rounded, with a warm core and spice and succulence at the end. Drink from 2028. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 **Château Baron Bellevue 2024 (Côtes de Bourg).** Structured with a core of tannins, this wine shows rich black fruits and a firm promise. It offers a black cherry aroma and concentrated texture. Drink from 2028. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Galau 2022 (Côtes de Bourg).** This ripe wine is already softening. Its licorice aroma and touch of black chocolate flavor come together with black plums and some solid tannins. Drink this balanced wine from 2027. AP Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

BUYINGGUIDE

89 **Château Moulin des Blais 2025 (Côtes de Bourg).** Named after the mill for the wheat that grew in the Bourg region, this wine has a dense texture, with succulent acidity and spicy tannins. It is balanced, with black currant aromas and fresh acidity at the end. Drink this wine from 2027. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 **Vignobles Gabriel & Co. 2025 Seigneur de Bergemont (Côtes de Bourg).** The tannins show strongly in this solid wine. Blackberry flavors have a lightly spicy character that reinforces the pepper aroma and balances the ripe fruit. Drink this promising wine from 2028. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 **Vignobles Gabriel 2025 Baron de Terrefort (Côtes de Bourg).** A warm licorice aroma and soft black-currant flavors give this wine a warm, generous character. It is lightly structured, with a touch of jammy black fruits. Drink from 2027. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

87 **Château Le Clos du Notaire 2021 (Côtes de Bourg).** Beetroot aromas open this soft wine with gentle black fruits and spice. It is softly textured, maturing well. Drink fthis wine from late 2026. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

MÉDOC

92 **Château Troussas 2023 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** A ripe, full wine, this is rich and dense. The tobacco aroma and succulent ripe berry flavors give the wine weight and concentration while preserving a fresh flavor. It's ready for further aging, or drink the wine from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Château de Panigon 2023 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This polished wine with its black fruit aroma is still young, while showing a fine texture. With a balance between fruit and structured tannins, the wine is developing well. Drink from 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

91 **Château la Ribaud 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** Maturing well, this bright-colored wine is now almost ready to drink. It is balanced, with a vanilla aroma touched by spice, and with ripe blueberry flavors. Drink the wine from late 2026. Allied Beverage Group. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 **Château Prignac 2020 (Médoc).** This wine's black currant flavor and firm tannins still give a fresh, solid character. The licorice aroma and juicy texture show a wine with concentration. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château Amour 2023 (Médoc).** This wine has a licorice aroma and a warm, ripe texture. Full of rich and generous black currant fruits, the wine is vibrant and coming together. Drink this smooth wine from 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château Fleurs de Bo 2022 (Médoc).** With a blackberry aroma, ripe spice, and solid tannins, this is a full wine. Its juicy and textured character allow it to age further, promising a rich wine ready to drink in 2028. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château les Gabriaux 2022 (Médoc).** A dense wine with layers of black currant fruits and ripe tannins, this has weight and balance. Juicy fruit and a black pepper aroma give a bright aftertaste. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Les Vignerons d'Uni-Médoc 2025 Julie Merlot (Médoc).** A bright, ripe, and fruity wine, this has gentle tannins and a rounded texture. The black chocolate aroma and a spicy edge add interest. The wine will be ready from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Les Vignerons d'Uni-Médoc 2025 La Victoire (Médoc).** This is a structured wine, with a smoky aroma and black currant flavor. Full of fruit but with a solid core, the wine is ripe and ready to age further. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château la Fleur des Aubiers 2022 (Médoc).** A black currant aroma and a layer of blackberry fruits give this wine a juicy and balanced character. Its richness and density are echoed by the precise texture. Drink from 2027. W Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 **Cambos-Féret 2024 Les Buissons (Médoc).** A smooth, rounded wine, this is full of fresh black currant fruits. Its soft tannins, blackberry aroma, and gentle aftertaste are attractively balanced. The wine is ready to drink. MILTON'S DISTRIBUTING CO. INC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

HAUT MÉDOC

93 **Château Paloumey 2024 Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel (Haut-Médoc).** This large vineyard in the south of the Médoc has produced a generous wine. It is structured with tannins along with black currant flavors and a dark chocolate aroma. Drink this wine from 2028. Organic. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

92 **Château Paloumey 2024 Belle Amie de Paloumey (Haut-Médoc).** From the cru bourgeois estate of Paloumey, this wine has dense tannins and good concentration. It has black coffee aromas,

laced with acidity and a core of dryness. Drink the wine from 2028. W. Direct Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 **Château du Mont 2020 (Haut-Médoc).** Almost mature, this wine with black currant fruits and a licorice aroma shows ripe tannins and developed acidity. With a dominance of Cabernet Sauvignon, the structure remains firm and concentrated. Drink from 2027. ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. ETE. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 **Château Lestage Simon 2023 Cru Bourgeois Supérieur (Haut-Médoc).** This wine's chocolate flavor partners with dark black fruits, giving richness and a ripe character. The lightly toasty aroma suggests wood aging. Drink this balanced wine from 2027. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Château Paloumey 2024 Les Ailes de Paloumey (Haut-Médoc).** A spicy aroma comes from the red fruits and soft tannins of this wine. It has richness, with the acidity and black currant flavors bringing out texture and potential. Drink from 2028. W. Direct Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Belgrave 2023 Diane de Belgrave (Haut-Médoc).** This wine's licorice aroma and ripe black currant fruits are full of promise. The second wine of classed growth Château Belgrave, it has balance and freshness as well as a texture that will soften. Drink from 2027. C&C USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 **Château Laride 2023 (Haut-Médoc).** This wood-aged wine offers spicy aromas and layers of bright black fruits. Ripe and softening well, it has a core of tannins cushioned by the fruit and softer texture. Drink from 2028. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

92 **Château Le Boscq 2023 Héritage de Le Boscq (Saint-Estèphe).** A black currant aroma followed by succulent blackberry flavors set the scene for this second wine of Château Le Boscq. A fine core of tannins brings out a rounded texture and promise of aging. Drink from 2027. C&C USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

92 **Château Phélan Ségur 2021 La Croix Bonis (Saint-Estèphe).** From selected parcels of Saint-Estèphe estate Château Phélan Ségur, this wine shows structure, with a firm core and layers of dark berry fruits. It is balanced, juicy, and ready to drink. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Grandchemin Monplaisir 2023 (Saint-Estèphe).** A rounded wine that's already developing, this has filled out its tannins with

black fruits. The vanilla aroma and juicy ripeness are promising. This wine will be ready from 2028. Wine Manager LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

SAINT-JULIEN

93 **Château Branaire-Ducru 2022 Éclat de Branaire-Ducru (Saint-Julien).** This second wine from Saint-Julien 4th classed growth Château Branaire-Ducru shows the richness and the power from this fine vineyard. Its licorice aroma and sophisticated tannins promise further aging. Drink from 2028. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 **Château Moulin de la Bridane 2023 Héritage (Saint-Julien).** Black coffee aromas and balanced black currant flavors enhance this spicy, ripe, and juicy wine. From one of the few estates of Saint-Julien that is not a classified growth, this fine wine is softening and will be ready to drink from 2027. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 **Grands Periples 2023 (Saint-Julien).** A toasty aroma and ripe tannins mark this balanced wine. With its black currant flavors and vibrant acidity, the wine will be ready to drink from 2027. Vinovia Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

MARGAUX

93 **Château Mongravey 2024 Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel (Margaux).** Set in the heart of the Margaux vineyards, this family estate has produced a richly ripe wine. Its young tannins promise aging and density while also giving a fresh touch that comes from the vintage. Drink from 2029. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 **Château Tayac 2022 Cuvée Nicolas (Margaux).** This estate in northern Margaux, on Bordeaux's Left Bank, is rich and dense. Its licorice aroma and ripe black currant flavors give a wine with structure and a good future. Drink from 2028. AP Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 **Château Carreyre 2023 (Margaux).** From an 11-acre vineyard, this wine shows structure and the elegance of Margaux. It is ripe, gently textured with the depth of flavor to balance the tannins and 12 to 14 months in oak. It will develop further. Drink from 2028. W. Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

91 **Château Tayac 2023 Cuvée Nicolas (Margaux).** This generous wine has textures that are softening. With pepper and spice aromas and black cur-

rant fruits, the wine has a warm, ripe character. Drink from 2028. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

88 **Grands Periples 2023 (Margaux).** A young, toasty character and spicy aromas give this wine structure. With black currant flavors coming through the layer of tannins, it needs to age further. Drink from 2027. Vinovia Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

92 **Château Rochers de Joanin 2022 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a warm and ripe wine, with an elegant touch of tannins and good depth of black fruit flavors. Black cherry aromas and a touch of spice give a balanced wine that will be ready from 2027. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Château Roc du Pin 2025 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** With white pepper and spice aromas this is a generous wine. Its black currant fruit and edge of tannins give structure. With its potential and richness, the wine needs further aging. Drink from 2029. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

87 **Château Tour d'Horable 2025 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** This ripe wine with rich black fruit is full of succulent flavors. Its jelly softness, black plum aroma, and rounded texture mean it will be ready shortly. Drink from 2027. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

FRANCS CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

93 **Château Franc Cardinal 2022 Cuvée Amphore (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a serious wine with an impressive future. Maturing in amphoras has smoothed the tannins and deepened the density. With a ripe black fruit aroma, the wine is still young, ready to drink from 2028. Organic. JA Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 **Château Franc Cardinal 2022 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux).** From the far eastern reaches of the Bordeaux vineyards, this well-textured and layered wine is ripe and full of luscious fruit. Spice and black pepper aromas contrast with the wine's rich blackberry flavor and piquant edge. Drink from 2027. Organic. JA Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Château Thomas 2025 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux).** This young wine has juicy black currant fruits and ripe tannins. With a licorice aroma, it features a succulent ripeness, black currant fruits, and

a gentle texture. Drink from 2029. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

SAINT-ÉMILION

96 **Château Troplong Mondot 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine explodes in the mouth with rich tannins and powerful blackberry fruits. Minerality is present but silky tannins give the wine richness. The density contrasts with the fresh edge. Drink from 2029. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 0% **Price:** \$NA

96 **Château Valandraud 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** The silky tannins and texture of this wine are held together by black currant fruits and a core of dryness. Despite its weight and concentration, the wine has a fresh side to it. It is well structured and powerful. Drink from 2029. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

95 **Château Belair-Monange 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** This large, 65-acre vineyard has undergone a renaissance in recent years. With a spectacular new Winery, the premier grand cru estate has produced a richly structured while balanced wine. Elegant black fruits and texture come from the wood aging, while the spicy aroma shows good concentration and a limpid structure. Drink from 2029. Dreyfus Ashby & Co. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$180

94 **Château Laniote 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** This smoothly textured, ripe wine comes from a Grand Cru Classé estate in Saint-Émilion. The wine has a licorice aroma, generous black plum flavors, and concentration that gives it power. Drink now. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 **Château Troplong Mondot 2023 Mondot (Saint-Émilion).** A fresh aroma and black currant crispness give this wine an open character. Black fruits are vibrantly backed by soft tannins. The wine is gently textured with minerality. Drink from 2028. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 0% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Château Cormeil-Figeac 2022 Les Ombres de Cormeil (Saint-Émilion).** The touch of spice on this rich wine partners with big blackberry fruits and ripe tannins. The wine has a vanilla aroma, hints of pepper, and a concentration that promises well. Drink from 2028. The family's fourth generation planted trees in the vineyards to encourage climate biodiversity. Organic. Luneau USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

93 **Château Grand Barrail Lamarzelle Figeac 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** The estate, across the road from Château Figeac, has produced an open, fruity wine. A blend of Cabernet Franc with Merlot, it features a ripe, tobacco aroma and perfumed black

BUYINGGUIDE

currant fruits. It is a balanced wine that's still developing, ready to drink from 2028. C&C USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$41

93 **Château Laniote 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This ripe wine, almost mature, still boasts structure and density. A black pepper aroma permeates the rich texture and the black currant fruit flavors. Drink this wine from 2027. AP Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 **Château Laniote 2018 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine's spice and vanilla aroma leads to great richness and density. Tannins are still present, giving concentration to the structure. A big wine, it will be better from 2027. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 **Château Valandraud 2023 Virginie de Valandraud (Saint-Émilion).** This spicy wine with ripe black fruits is already softening and shows a generosity that is both rich and forward. From different parcels, the blend has attractive complexity. Drink from 2029. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 **Château Gros Caillou 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** This balanced, now mature, wine has ripe black fruits mingled with hints of truffle. With its spice aroma and gentle tannins, the wine is generous and ready to drink. AP Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Château Jacques Noir 2024 (Saint-Émilion).** This solid Merlot from a vineyard on the plain of Saint-Émilion is rich and dense without having great weight. Black chocolate aromas and ripe black fruits lead to juiciness and some good aging potential. Drink from 2028. BNP Distributing. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 **Château Magnan-Figeac 2022 Les Joulles de Corneil-Figeac (Saint-Émilion).** From a vineyard planted with trees among the vines to give biodiversity in a traditional system known as Joulles, this wine is dense and balanced. The wine's black truffle aroma and spicy character give texture and a ripe black fruit flavor. It has density as well as richness. Drink from 2028. Organic. Luneau USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Château Clos Cormey 2023 Grand Cru (Saint-Émilion).** Obviously wood aged, this wine shows toast and ripe black fruits. The style is smooth, the Merlot giving a touch of opulence. Drink this spicy wine from 2027. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 **Château Corneil-Figeac 2022 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine's ripe tannins pair well with the serious structure and layers of black fruits. With a tobacco aroma and density, the wine needs to develop further. Drink from 2027. The Moreaud family's fourth generation added trees to the vineyards to encourage climate biodiversity. Organic. Luneau USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Château la Révérence 2024 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine's black coffee aroma and spicy touch brings out its ripeness, full of black currant fruits. From a small seven-acre vineyard, the wine has a heart of tannins and fruit. Drink from 2027. Organic. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

91 **Château La Tour Figeac 2022 Esquisse de la Tour Figeac (Saint-Émilion).** This is the second wine of Château la Tour Figeac. Rich tannins, redolent of the vintage, give the wine power without showing too much grip. A blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, it offers a tobacco aroma and dense black fruit. The wine should be ready from 2027. AP Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Château Laniote 2014 (Saint-Émilion).** Definitely mature, this wine has a mushroom aroma and layers of spice. Black currant fruits mingle with a tangy character and soft texture. Drink now. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 **Château Rozier 2024 (Saint-Émilion).** Gamy aromas and ripe tannins introduce a wine with potential. It is balanced, with blackberry flavors set against a fresh setting. Drink this buoyant wine from 2028. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Château Saby 2024 (Saint-Émilion).** This family estate has produced a structured wine with a cocoa aroma, light tannins, and layers of black fruits. Acidity gives a fresh edge to the wine, which should be ready from 2028. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Clos Badon Thunevin 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** A Merlot-Cabernet Franc blend, this wine has a toasty aroma, with the spicy character of new wood. Richness and concentration balance the wine's ripeness and acidity. Drink from 2028. Heidelberg Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 **Grands Periples 2022 (Saint-Émilion).** Dominated by the Merlot with two Cabernets providing complexity and structure, this is a big, firm wine. It opens with a dark coffee aroma and then reveals richness, juicy black fruits, and a core of tannins. Drink from 2027. Vinovia Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château des Réves 2022 (Saint-Émilion).** This is a powerful wine, showing ripe tannins and a spicy aroma. Aged in wood and amphorae, it has weight and texture that promise further aging, with its juicy black fruits balanced with acidity. Drink from 2027. Old Creek Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

89 **Château Billeron Bouquey 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine with black cherry aromas has a fruity aspect. Spice and blackberry flavors give it an open character, with a core of tannins. Drink from 2028. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

89 **Château de La Nauve 2024 (Saint-Émilion).** This solid black-fruit wine has an elegant texture and spice and black currant flavors. The licorice aroma and tannins promise aging and a ripe future. Drink from 2028. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château des Réves 2022 L'Eveil des Réves (Saint-Émilion).** This wine is full of soft, ripe blackberry fruits and generous tannins. It was aged in cement cubes, giving it a forward, fruity character. Drink now. Old Creek Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

LUSSAC SAINT-ÉMILION

92 **Château la Perrière 2022 (Lussac Saint-Émilion).** This ripe and juicy wine is full of red fruits, spice, and soft tannins. It has a spicy character from the Cabernet Franc and a tobacco aroma. The oaked wine is smooth and elegant. Drink now or let it age. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Château la Perrière 2023 (Lussac Saint-Émilion).** This wood-aged wine has weight and ripeness, showing a toasty edge along with black pepper aromas. This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc is generous but needs to age further. Drink from 2028. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château la Garenne 2023 (Lussac Saint-Émilion).** Dominated by Merlot, this wine has a generous character. The tannins, now integrated, show ripeness as well as sitting well with the black currant fruits. With its licorice aroma, the wine will be ready from 2028. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

POMEROL

96 **Château Trotanoy 2023 (Pomerol).** This wine has density and great concentration to support its powerful black fruits. The vineyard's clay and gravel soils bring out minerality and layers of spice. With its ripe black currant aroma and dense tannins, the wine will age well. Drink from 2029. Dreyfus Ashby & Co. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$260

95 **Château Hosanna 2023 (Pomerol).** Ripe tannins characterize this structured wine. Its density and layered black currant flavors have encouraged a spicy, textured wine to develop. The 11-acre estate is close to Château Pétrus and enjoys the same aspect. With its black chocolate aroma and richness,

the wine will be ready from 2029. Maison Marques et Domaines. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$170

95 **Château la Fleur-Pétrus 2023 (Pomerol).** This is a dense wine, its texture and its tight spicy character giving power and potential. From a vineyard at the heart of Pomerol, the wine has a blackberry aroma, concentration, and layers of acidity to bring freshness. Drink from 2029. Vintus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$230

93 **Château la Grave 2023 Trigant de Boisset (Pomerol).** This textured wine with a hint of minerality is spicy and full of black currant fruits. Coming from gravel soil, the wine shows a firm structure as well as a strong black coffee aroma and great potential. Drink from 2028. Palm Bay International Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 **Château Latour à Pomerol 2023 (Pomerol).** A ripe wine, this is textured and dense. Its power comes from the concentrated Merlot highlighting berry fruits and rich tannins. Drink from 2028. Dreyfus Ashby & Co. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

93 **Domaine de Compostelle 2022 (Pomerol).** A powerful wine, this shows rich tannins, black fruits, and is worth aging. With a luscious Merlot character, the wine has weight, spiced with Cabernet Franc. Keep this wine and drink from 2028. AP Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Domaine de Compostelle 2021 (Pomerol).** With its blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, this small estate has produced a gently rounded wine, which is now almost mature. It shows a coffee aroma and black cherry fruits. The wine is ripe and ready to drink from late 2026. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Clos du Beau Père 2023 (Pomerol).** A spicy aroma and ripe black tannins give this wine structure and a firm texture. The wine has a generous structure, with density and final acidity. Drink from 2027. Heidelberg Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

GRAVES

93 **Château de Chantegrive 2024 (Graves).** For full review see page 7. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 **Château de Respide 2024 (Graves).** This wine has a fine line of black fruits that floats over the structured tannins. The licorice aroma leads to tannins and a dry texture at the core of the wine

that will allow it to age. Drink from 2029. The Wine Source. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Château Rahoul 2024 (Graves).** This powerful, concentrated wine balances between black fruits and a dry core of tannins. The black pepper aroma reveals a fine bite of spice from 12 months wood aging. Drink the wine from 2029. C&C USA. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 **Château de Cérons 2024 (Graves).** On the edge of the village of Cérons, this estate has produced a ripe and vibrant wine. Tobacco aromas and black currant flavors are balanced and integrated. Drink this attractive wine from 2028. Twins Bordeaux. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 **Château Lagrange 2024 (Graves).** This wine's black chocolate aroma and ripe blackberry fruits come together in a solid structure. It is rich and full of fruit, finishing with fine acidity. Drink from 2028. DHI Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 **Château des Places 2024 (Graves).** This textured wine with firm tannins gives a spicy character along with black cherry aromas. It is ripe, packed with black plum fruits, and has a dry core for aging. Drink from 2028. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château Saint-Hilaire 2024 (Graves).** Made with 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, this blend profits from the profiles of each variety. Plush blackberry fruits are structured with a firmer core of tannins and a black fig aroma. Drink from 2028. Organic. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château Saint-Robert 2024 Poncet-Deville (Graves).** This Merlot-dominated wine shows soft tannins and juicy black currant fruits. Its licorice aroma and gentle structure are well placed to allow this fruity wine with a juicy aftertaste to age further. Drink from 2027. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Tourteau Chollet 2024 (Graves).** This blend of Bordeaux's classics of Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petit Verdot offers black chocolate aromas, ripe tannins, and black currant fruits. It is juicy, fresh, and brightly lit with a succulent aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

89 **Château Calvimont 2024 (Graves).** This is an open wine, its blackberry flavors and light tannins give a buoyant character. The black currant aroma and the succulent texture make this a wine that will develop early. Drink from 2028. Twins Bordeaux. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

89 **Château Camus 2024 (Graves).** A textured wine with a light touch of acidity, this has a fresh edge and juicy black fruits. The licorice aroma brings out the spice of this developing wine. Drink from 2027. Dolcevitawines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Château Lesparre 2025 La Nature (Graves de Vayres).** Full of ripe tannins and a comfortable, cushioned character, this wine was bottled without added sulfur. The result is a fine blackberry aroma and soft tannins. A vibrant wine, it's ready to drink from 2028. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 **Château Lugaud 2024 (Graves).** A black pepper aroma leads to a wine with balanced tannins and blackberry fruits. With spice and juicy berry flavors, the wine has the promise of further aging. Drink from 2028. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Château Pouyanne 2024 (Graves).** This wine offers richness, spice, and some firm tannins. With its black coffee aroma and dense texture, the wine is ready for further aging. Drink from 2028. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Domaine du Salut 2024 (Graves).** A ripe, fruity wine, this layers black currant fruits with ripe tannins. With a black cherry aroma, the wine is poised and has a structured aftertaste. Drink from late 2027. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

OTHER RED WINES

93 **Château Léognan 2023 (Pessac-Léognan).** Black cherry aromas show this wine's freshness, built on by structure and balance. Black currant fruits shine along with a firm background tannic base. Drink the wine from 2028. Chateau & Estates Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 **Château la Garde 2023 La Terrasse de La Garde (Pessac-Léognan).** A blackberry aroma introduces spice and black currant flavors in this fine second wine for Château la Garde. Its soft texture and generous fruit contrast with tannins and acidity. The wine is developing and should be ready from 2027. C&C USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 **Château Lucaniacus 2024 (Lalande de Pomerol).** This rich wine dominated by Merlot has a core of tannins. The black chocolate aromas and layers of solid fruits are still developing. Drink from 2028. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 **Château Saint-André Corbin 2024 (Saint-Georges-Saint-Émilion).** From one of the villages surrounding Saint-Émilion, this wine is young,

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but already showing good promise. With a spicy aroma, ripe tannins, and balanced black fruits with acidity, the wine is developing well. Drink from 2028. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 **Domaine de Saint Amand 2022 L'Exception (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** A warm wine with a generous mouthfeel, this 100% Merlot is rich and ripely structured. The licorice aroma and layers of black currant fruit add to the wine's open density. Drink from 2027. Non-US Imported. —R.V.

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

91 **Château Guillou 2024 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** From one of the villages around Saint-Émilion, this wine is perfumed with a black cherry aroma and a core of firm tannins. Still young, the wine has potential and should be ready from 2028. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Château Puisseguin la Rigodrie 2025 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** With a dark chocolate aroma and a layer of tannins, this is a solid wine, worth aging. Its black currant flavors, touch of wood, and spice give it ripeness. Drink from 2028. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 **Château Tournefeuille 2024 (Lalande de Pomerol).** This perfumed wine shows smooth tannins and a spicy ripeness. Its black chocolate aroma and layers of black plum and acidity give a rich wine that has good balance. Drink from 2027. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 **Grands Periples 2023 (Pauillac).** Licorice aromas and structured fruit reflect Cabernet's dominance in this blend. With a core of tannin and black currant fruit, the wine needs a little time. Drink from 2028. Vinovia Wine Group. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château la Grange des Mauberts 2025 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux).** In the far eastern reaches of the Bordeaux vineyards, this estate has produced a ripe, berry-dominated wine. Integrated tannins and dark fruits go with the toast aroma. Drink from 2028. Non-US Imported.. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 **Château Plaisance 2024 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** This blend of Merlot seasoned with Cabernet Sauvignon is plush, ripe with generous tannins and blackberry fruits. Red fruit aromas brings out the final brightness of the wine. Drink from 2027. BNP Distributing. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 **Château Champ de Nayat 2023 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** From a vineyard situated on a high point of Puisseguin, this wine is generous in its black fruits and ripeness. Merlot plays a significant role in the blend, giving it roundness and richness.

The wine, with its black fruit aroma, will be ready from 2028. W.Direct. —R.V.

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

PROVENCE WHITE WINES

CÔTES DE PROVENCE

94 **Domaines Ott 2023 Clos Mireille (Côtes de Provence).** Vibrant floral and Meyer lemon aromas are bursting out of the glass, with rich minerality and a hint of petrol underneath. The palate is silky with tons of minerality, salinity, and citrus flavor. The acid in this wine is enough to stand up to the richest seafood pairings. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —C.W.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$67

93 **Château Malherbe 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** This wine is ultrafloral, suggesting sunshine with a hint of vanilla. There is good structure to this white, with lemon curd flavors and racy acidity before the mineral, peppery finish. —C.W.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

93 **Château Malherbe 2021 (Côtes de Provence).** This wine has a unique mineral and petrol aroma on the nose, with pops of white flowers giving it a lift. The palate is waxy and has great nuttiness to go with a strong citrus pith flavor. Pair with a summer salad. —C.W.

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

90 **Château du Carrubier 2025 (Côtes de Provence).** White flowers, lemon peel, and a touch of dried straw aromas swirl on the nose of this wine. The creamy palate shows a nice hit of that same lemon, with good structure for a white wine. Pair with ceviche. D.B. Wine Selection. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 **Château du Carrubier 2025 Cuvée de Zélie (Côtes de Provence).** White floral aromas arise on the nose of this wine, with a touch of pear and an earthy mineral note. The palate is juicy, continuing with pear flavor and adding stone fruit and bright citrus notes. D.B. Wine Selection. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 **Gassier 2025 Vermentino (Côtes de Provence).** White flower, melon, and wet stone aromas swirl on the refreshing nose of this wine. The palate is full of citrus flavor, vibrant with mouthwatering acidity. Massano Imports. —C.W.

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

88 **Ultimate Provence 2024 (Côtes de Provence).** Brûléed stone fruit aromas mix with soothing floral notes on the expressive nose of this wine. Peach and citrus pith on the palate lead to a hint of umami soy flavor on the finish. —C.W.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

COTEAUX VAROIS EN PROVENCE

91 **Château Trians 2025 (Coteaux Varois en Provence).** Bright lemon aromas are given depth with the addition of white flower, wet stone, and a hint of flint. This wine lights up the whole palate with acidity and citrus pith before giving way to a lengthy white-pepper finish. French Libation / Elen-teny Imports. —C.W.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 **Domaine la Grand' Vigne 2025 (Coteaux Varois en Provence).** Floral aromas on the nose of this wine carry a hint of flint and stone in the background. Bright lemon-peel flavor fills the palate, followed by a touch of salt before the long, spicy finish. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

PROVENCE ROSÉ WINES

CÔTES DE PROVENCE

95 **Domaines Ott 2025 Château de Selle (Côtes de Provence).** This pale-as-can-be rosé has elegant white flower and stone fruit aromas, with gravelly notes in the background. Great structure and acidity show on the palate. The stone fruit and citrus flavor combination is masterful, while the white pepper heat hits right away and stays throughout the lengthy finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —C.W.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$67

94 **Domaines Ott 2025 Clos Mireille (Côtes de Provence).** On the nose, this wine is fruit forward, with aromas of ripe summer peach and a touch of citrus. The palate is full of brûléed peach and grapefruit peel flavor and the mouthwatering acidity and structure are on point. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —C.W.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$67

91 **Château du Carrubier 2025 Cuvée de Clara (Côtes de Provence).** Elegant floral aromas hang above a core of ripe peach and wet stone. The palate of this wine has a great salt and white pepper combination, with a good amount of stone fruit flavor and a long finish. D.B. Wine Selection. —C.W.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 **Château du Carrubier 2025 Cuvée Ingénue (Côtes de Provence).** Vibrant aromas of stone fruit combine with an almost-tropical citrus note. Fruity and juicy, the palate has flavors of peach, pineapple, and tangerine, before the mineral-driven finish. D.B. Wine Selection. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 **Ultimate Provence 2025 (Côtes de Provence).** Super-peachy aromas on the nose of this wine

come with accents of white flowers and wet stones. This rosé has loads of minerality, with lovely stone fruit and citrus flavors. —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$28

90 **Château de Berne 2025 Inspiration (Côtes de Provence).** This rosé has a lovely floral quality, with fresh-cut strawberry and bubblegum aromas as well. The palate is surprisingly savory, offering flavors of tangerine mixed with stone fruit before a long, white-pepper finish. —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$22

90 **Les Vins Bréban 2025 Domaine La Tuilière (Côtes de Provence).** Unique aromas of nectarine, candle wax, and white flowers come with a hint of cantaloupe on the nose. The palate has nice acidity and flavors of fresh strawberry and citrus pith. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 12% Price: \$20

89 **Château du Carrubier 2025 Cuvée d'Aurore (Côtes de Provence).** Earthy mineral aromas are given lightness from bright white flower and citrus notes. Mouthwatering with lots of acidity, the palate has flavors of brûléed peach and citrus pith, with an umami finish. D.B. Wine Selection. —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$21

89 **Mathilde Chapoutier 2025 Orsuro (Côtes de Provence).** The fruit-forward nose of this wine reveals aromas of orange peel, white flowers, and stone fruit. Off-the-charts mouthwatering acidity joins straightforward stone fruit flavor before a long, white-pepper finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —C.W.

abv: 12% Price: \$27

88 **Château des Anglades 2025 (Côtes de Provence).** The earthy nose delivers lots of wet stone aromas plus attractive stone fruit and bubblegum notes. On the nimble palate, nice acidity partners with refreshing peachy-grapefruit flavors plus a hint of white pepper. Planet Wine. —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

88 **Les Vignerons de Grimaud 2025 1,2,3 Soleil (Côtes de Provence).** Swirling aromas of ripe pear, white flower, and wet stone arise on the nose of this wine. The palate is bright and refreshing. Flavors of pear and peach mix with a touch of salinity. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$17

88 **Les Vignerons de Grimaud 2025 Fleur de Provence (Côtes de Provence).** An expressive, fruit-forward nose on this wine offers aromas of apricot, tangerine, white flower, and wet stone. The palate is also full of fruit, with more stone fruit flavors as well as pear, citrus pith, and lots of white pepper. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$14

COTEAUX D'AIX-EN-PROVENCE

91 **Château Paradis 2025 Terre Des Anges (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Earthy and wet stone aromas are mixed with vibrant white flowers and a hint of stone fruit. This wine is savory and packed with flavor. Bright citrus-pith notes get turned up with lots of acidity and salt before the long, spicy finish. Bridge Imports/Avenue Terroir. —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$24

91 **Les Quatre Tours 2025 Flow (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** This wine features a classic combination of aromas, with wet stone, stone fruit, and bubblegum on the nose. The palate is juicy and full of peach flavor balanced by the citric bitterness, with a nice amount of white pepper heat on the finish. DHI Selections. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

91 **Les Vins Bréban 2025 Domaine de La Chapelle Saint Victor (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Bright stone-fruit aromas meet wet stones and white flowers on the nose of this wine. Dried apricot and ripe pear flavors balance against tart lemon and finish with a nice salt and white pepper note. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

91 **Maison Mirabeau 2025 X (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Once you get through the intense mineral aroma on the nose, this wine delivers some uplifting stone fruit and white flower notes. Well balanced on the palate, it has peach and citrus flavors, nice acidity, and lots of minerality on the white pepper finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

90 **Château Paradis 2025 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Aromas of wet stone, bright lemon, and a touch of flint swirl on the expressive nose of this wine. The mouthwatering palate has lots of citrus flavor, a touch of stone fruit, and some white pepper to finish it off. Bridge Imports/Avenue Terroir. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$19

90 **Commanderie de la Bargemone 2025 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Lively aromas of white flower, stone fruit, and bubblegum come with a tangerine accent. The palate shifts gears with red apple and pear flavors plus a strong citrus-pith bitterness. Hand Picked Selections. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

90 **Domaine Fredavelle 2025 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Rich mineral aromas mingle with bubblegum and a hint of banana candy on the nose of this wine. The palate is savory with bright acidity, lots of citrus flavor, and a pinch of salt. HB Wine Merchants. —C.W.

abv: 12% Price: \$21

90 **Domaine La Cadenière 2025 Léonie (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Robust ripe peach

aromas and lovely earthiness fill the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is fruit forward and well balanced. There's lots of stone fruit flavor and minerality on this easy sipper. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

90 **Hecht & Bannier 2025 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Slightly shy on the nose, this wine delivers aromas of white flowers and fresh strawberries. The fruit-forward palate features a touch of salinity along with flavors of strawberries, peaches, and grapefruit. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

90 **Les Quatre Tours 2025 Classique (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** A big mineral core is joined by ripe peach and white flower aromas on the nose of this well-balanced, mouthwatering rosé. It features great acidity, nice stone fruit and citrus flavors, and good structure. DHI Selections. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

90 **Les Quatre Tours 2025 Esprit Sud (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Ripe pear and white flower aromas come with a hint of savory umami. Pear carries over to the juicy palate, matched with a nice tangerine citrus note. DHI Selections. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

90 **Les Quatre Tours 2025 Vilandria (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Robust peachy aromas with hints of white flower and wet stone waft on the nose of this wine. The palate is on the savory side, with peach and lemon flavors before the structured, white pepper finish. VOS Selections. —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

87 **Azure Wine France 2025 #Rosé Time! (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** The nose of this wine is subtle, with mostly floral and mineral aromas and a hint of bubblegum. The palate is juicy, with a nice pepperness and good structure. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —C.W.

abv: 13% Price: \$22

87 **Famille Ravoire 2025 Costeval (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Mostly floral aromas on the nose join hints of bubblegum and wet stone. Light and fresh, this wine features a nice red apple and grapefruit flavor combination, with good structure. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.W.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

BANDOL

94 **Domaines Ott 2025 Château Romassan (Bandol).** Extremely expressive on the nose, this wine offers aromas of superripe peach and pear all over a strong mineral quality. The palate is more restrained. The peach flavor remains and so does the minerality, great acidity, and a superlong finish on this elegant Bandol rosé. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —C.W.

abv: 14% Price: \$67

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92 Coste Brune 2025 Cuvée Prestige (Bandol). This wine offer vibrant aromas of dried apricot, wet stone, and white flowers. The palate is ultrafriendly with similar apricot flavors, plus the addition of ripe pear and white pepper. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Le Pont 2025 (Bandol). White flower aromas mix with earthy wet-stone mineral notes, showing a touch of strawberry underneath. There's lots of white pepper on the palate from start to finish, with bright acidity and tart stone-fruit flavor. Saranty Imports. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Famille Ravoire 2025 Terrasse de la Fontaine (Bandol). This wine is floral, with aromas of wet stone, orange peel, and stone fruit on the nose. The palate is mouthwatering, with crisp apple flavor, a nice citrus-pith accent, and a long, spicy finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Famille Ravoire 2025 Terre de Fonloubé (Bandol). This rosé is floral, with lots of mineral aromas and a touch of citrus peel. The palate has nice acid, some salinity, and apricot and grapefruit flavors. This would make a great beach sipper. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Les Hauts de Seignol 2025 (Bandol). Subtle aromas of stone fruit, grapefruit, and a strong mineral note arise on the nose of this wine. There's great balance on this fruit-forward rosé with peach and citrus flavor, nice acidity, and a long, mineral finish. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

PROVENCE RED WINES BANDOL

93 Domaine de la Bégude 2022 (Bandol). Aromas of ripe red cherry, raspberry, rose petal, and crushed gravel swirl on the expressive nose of this wine. The palate has flavors of salty cured meat, dark chocolate, red cherry, and a lingering black pepper heat. Drink after 2029. LEA Trading LLC. —C.W.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Domaine de la Bégude 2021 (Bandol). Earthy and spicy, the nose of this wine has aromas of red cherry, cinnamon, and rose petal. The wine melts in your mouth. Bright red cherry and baking spice flavor combine with mouthwatering acidity, making for a great sip. This is drinkable now but will certainly get better with time in the cellar. Cognac One, LLC. —C.W.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

93 Domaine Ray-Jane 2020 Le Falun Vieille Vigne (Bandol). Wet gravel aromas are joined by cured meat and a ton of flintiness on the nose. The palate combines cured meats, black olives, and lic-

orice, making for a savory, mouth-coating sip. Will improve with age; drink after 2028. —C.W.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Domaines Ott 2022 Château Romassan (Bandol). Expressive and fruit forward on the nose, this wine offers aromas of red cherry, red apple, and a touch of vanilla. The palate is savory with salty cured-meat flavor that combines with dark chocolate and a rich earthy, mineral quality. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —C.W.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$89

93 Domaines Ott 2021 Château Romassan (Bandol). Aromas of turned earth, bruised apple, and dark chocolate define the robust nose of this wine. A fun combination of bright red-cherry tartness mixes with anise and chocolaty richness on the palate. This would do well with some time in the bottle. Drink after 2028. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —C.W.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$89

92 Domaine de la Bastide Blanche 2021 (Bandol). Ripe red-cherry aroma swirls with vanilla and cola on the nose of this wine. The palate is luxurious with black currant mixing with cherry and vanilla. Tannins are still tightly wound, so drink this after 2028. Weygandt Wines. —C.W.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Domaine Ray-Jane 2022 Le Falun Vieilles Vignes (Bandol). Floral and spicy, this wine has aromas of rose petal, clove, and vanilla, with accents of dark cherry. The palate is supersavory with flavors of cured meat, black olive, and black pepper. Drink after 2028. Transparent Wine Company. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Domaine Ray-Jane 2021 (Bandol). Rich, earthy aromas waft out of the glass, highlighting black fruits and black olives on the nose. The earthiness continues on the chocolaty, anise-flavored palate, with smooth tannins and black pepper on the finish. —C.W.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

92 Domaines Bunan 2022 (Bandol). Aromas of turned earth, wet stone, ripe red apple, and rose petal swirl on the nose of this dark red wine. The palate is juicy with red apple, cured meat, black licorice, and black pepper flavor. Drink after 2029. MISA Imports. —C.W.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Domaine de la Bastide Blanche 2022 (Bandol). Bright red apple and ripe cherry aromas mix with herbal, earthy notes on the nose of this wine. The palate is similarly earthy and rich, with chocolate and anise flavors mingling with cured meat. Drink after 2028. Weygandt-Metzler. —C.W.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Domaine Ray-Jane 2022 (Bandol). On the nose, this wine opens with aromas of orange peel, red cherry, and vanilla all atop an earthy, grav-

elly base. The savory palate has flavors of black olive, cured meat, anise, red cherry, and vanilla. Drink after 2028. Transparent Wine Company. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Domaine Ray-Jane 2020 (Bandol). Crushed gravel and bramble aromas hang over herbal and chocolaty notes on the nose of this wine. The palate has fruity dark-chocolate flavors, with a touch of licorice and rubber. The tannins are firm and need time to relax. Drink after 2028. —C.W.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

OTHER RED WINES

94 Château Margüi 2021 Bastide 1784 (Coteaux Varois en Provence). Bright red cherry, vanilla, and cola aromas meet rich earthy notes on the nose of this wine. The palate is juicy with that same cherry-cola flavor and is certainly approachable now. *Editors' Choice.* —C.W.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

93 Château Angueiroun 2022 Enkhelis (Côtes de Provence La Londe). Red apple, licorice, and vanilla aromas pick up a lot of earthy minerality on the nose of this wine. The palate is bright with big red-cherry flavor before giving way to a peppery, earthy finish. You could drink this now but the tannins could use time to chill out. —C.W.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$84

92 Château Angueiroun 2022 Prestige (Côtes de Provence La Londe). Dark cherry, root beer, and cola aromas swirl with rose petals in the glass. Tart red-cherry flavor gets a lift from bright acidity before the rich, chocolaty finish. Drink now. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

91 Château Angueiroun 2023 Réserve (Côtes de Provence). Juicy red apple and cherry aromas are surrounded by lots of gravelly notes. Savory on the palate, this wine offers salty cured meat and hints of cherry flavor before the black-olive finish. Drink now. —C.W.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Les Quatre Tours 2022 VILANDRIA (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). On the rich, spiced nose, this wine offers aromas of anise, red apple, and a strong mineral note. The palate is equally robust, with nice chocolaty black-licorice flavor and a firm structure. Drink after 2027. —C.W.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON WHITE WINES PAYS D'OC

92 Famille Fabre 2025 La Roche Trouée Grenache Gris (Pays d'Oc). Bottlings like this make it easy to see why Grenache Gris is often preferred to other white varieties in this part of France.

This wine begins with aromas of lychee and gardenia on the nose. The palate pairs peach and hints of guava, but with fascinating streaks of stony flavor and texture, like the name ("the pierced rock") indicates. **FRUIT OF THE VINES. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

91 Famille Fabre 2025 Grande Courtade L'Instant Sauvignon Blanc (Pays d'Oc). Wet rock and apple slice aromas are quite subtle at first on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more interesting, showing lemon and lime flavors that meet with hints of turned earth and stone. **FRUIT OF THE VINES. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Arrogant Frog 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Pays d'Oc). Crisp apple, wet stone, and lime peel aromas make for a tight focus on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands softly, offering nectarine and guava flavors. **Volio Imports. Best Buy.** —M.K.

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

90 Domaine d'Aussières 2025 Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). This is a highly aromatic bottling, presenting apple blossom, melon, and pineapple aromas on the nose. The palate is slightly metallic in minerality, which gives a steely touch to the honeydew and plumeria flavors. **Vintus Imports. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 Famille Fabre 2025 Cerf et Vigneron Sauvignon Blanc-Viognier (Pays d'Oc). Lightly honeyed aromas of orange blossom meet with lime pith on the nose of this unique blend. There's a light texture to the palate, where apple and lemon flavors arise. **FRUIT OF THE VINES. Best Buy.** —M.K.

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

90 La Forge Estate 2025 Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). Toasty aromas of warm apple pie are cut by a splash of lemon on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite bold, showing baked apple, pineapple, and guava flavors atop a viscous texture. **Crème brûlée entices on the finish. Independence Wine & spirits. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Le Grand Noir 2025 Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). Honey, beeswax, and pineapple-custard aromas show on the nose of this wine, which includes 15% Viognier. There's ample tension to the palate, where pear and peach flavors meet a pinch of sea salt. **Pres-tige Beverage Group. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Famille Fabre 2025 Grande Courtade Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). Uplifting aromas of honeysuckle, jasmine, and orange flesh show on the nose of this bottling. Pear flesh flavors meet with lime zest on the palate, which is rather soft in texture. **FRUIT OF THE VINES. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Domaine Lafage 2024 Cabirau (Côtes du Roussillon). This is a very precise wine, showing expert control of white grapes in this often quite-hot region. Tightly wound aromas of citrus peel and peach are refined on the nose, while the palate is chalky in texture and full of focused lychee and honeydew flavors. **European Cellars. Editors' Choice.** —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 Domaine Pont Major 2025 Chardonnay (Limoux). This is one of those Limoux wines that shows how this ancient grape-growing region can rival Burgundy at times. Tightly focused aromas of lime spray and honeysuckle glide from the nose into a grippy palate full of orchard fruit, more citrus verve, and a pinch of savory salt. **Advantage International. Best Buy.** —M.K.

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

93 Les Maitres Vignerons de Cascastel 2025 Secrets des Garrigues (Vallée du Paradis). This blend of Grenache Blanc and Roussanne invites the nose with aromas of lemon, pineapple rind, and hints of wet earth and graphite. A lively acidity dances across the palate, where baked lemon and crushed stone flavors work in harmony. **W. Direct. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Château Belles Eaux 2025 Les Coteaux (Languedoc). Riper aromas of cantaloupe and apricot show on the nose of this Grenache Blanc-based bottling. The palate is more tightly wound, with similar melon flavors. **Advantage International.** —M.K.

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

91 Jean-Luc Colombo 2025 Les Girelles (Picpoul de Pinet). Clean and crisp aromas of lime peel, apple, and honeysuckle draw the nose into this bottling. There's a grassy edge to the palate, where lime zest and stone fruit flavors align. **Gonzalez Byass USA. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Jérémie 2025 Grenache Blanc (Corbières). This unique blend of Grenache Blanc and Bourboulenc is quite a treat, starting with aromas of honeydew rind and greengage plum on the nose. The palate is brisk and tense, showing sharp apple flavors atop persistent acidity. **Plume Ridge. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Les Maitres Vignerons de Cascastel 2025 Héritage de Bonnafous (Corbières). Guava candy aromas meet with sharper, bold citrus tones on the nose of this wine. The palate is broad in the middle with pineapple flavors, as flashes of acid and tension keep it lively. **W. Direct. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$64

ROSÉS

93 Gérard Bertrand 2024 Clos du Temple Rosé (Languedoc-Cabrières). This is a very delicate rosé, almost as pale as a white wine, and that elegance shows on the nose, where mellow hints of sliced melon and wet rock converge. The palate sizzles with acidity, pairing lemon zest and pith flavors with flashes of guava and kumquat. **USA Wine West.** —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$195

91 Famille Fabre 2025 Grande Courtade L'Instant (Pays d'Oc). A pale pinkish-yellow in the glass, this bottling offers lightly floral aromas of honeysuckle and baby powder on the nose. The palate is firmly textured, with mostly citrusy flavors proving quite cleansing. **FRUIT OF THE VINES. Best Buy.** —M.K.

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

90 jonquères d'Oriola Vignobles 2025 Gri*-Gri* (Côtes du Roussillon). Frozen cantaloupe aromas are clean and crisp on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more broad, with lemon peel, wet gravel, and wool-like flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Les Maitres Vignerons de Cascastel 2025 Secret des Garrigues Rosé (Vallée du Paradis). A salmon shade of pink in the glass, this Grenache-Cinsault rosé pairs earthy aromas with citrus peel and watermelon rind on the nose. The palate also shows lots of soil and rock flavors alongside a cherry core. **W. Direct.** —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$44

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

RED WINES

LANGUEDOC

95 Famille Fabre 2025 l'Orangerie de Luc (Languedoc). This Syrah and Grenache blend packs quite a punch for the price. Dense aromas of roasted berry and plum meet with charred game, iodine, and nori on the nose. The palate shows a lightly bitter edge of cocoa and espresso that balances the ripe fruit and hoisin-like core. **FRUIT OF THE VINES. Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

91 Château Belles Eaux 2025 Les Coteaux (Languedoc). Blackberry, woodsmoked porcini, and hot charcoal aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate also carries those charred elements, with roasted fennel and berry sauces riding tannins that start smooth and end up chalky on the finish. **Advantage International.** —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Château Belles Eaux 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Languedoc-Pézénas). Sun-baked black plum, peppery herbs, and scorched soil aromas converge on

BUYINGGUIDE

the nose of this bottling. The palate adds licorice spice to that plummy core. Advantage International. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Col du Vent 2025 (Languedoc). For full review see page 12. Wine Wine Situation LLC.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

PAYS D'OC

95 Paul Mas 2025 Syrah (Pays d'Oc). A creamy dark color in the glass, this bottling is intoxicating on the nose with black raspberry sauce, violet, and pepper aromas. The palate is rich and lush in texture but has a persistent acidity, pairing baked black plum with white pepper spices. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

93 Famille Fabre 2025 Lux Fortis (Pays d'Oc). Baked black-cherry aromas are laced in hints of caramel on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a creamy depth that carries fresh blackberry and anise flavors, as tannins rise with more strength on the finish. FRUIT OF THE VINES. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

92 Domaine d'Aussières 2025 (Pays d'Oc). Rich and lavish aromas of black plum, black cherry, and gingerbread draw the nose into this red blend. The bottling is dense yet fresh, proving satisfying with its ripe fruit and hearty spice. Vintus Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

92 Famille Fabre 2025 Domaine de Luc Syrah-Viognier (Pays d'Oc). Dark red plum, lavender, and meaty game aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is full of sagebrush flavors that give an earthy depth to the dark red cranberry and orange zest flavors. FRUIT OF THE VINES. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

92 Paul Mas 2025 Gardemiel Vineyard Reserve Malbec (Pays d'Oc). Black cherry and vanilla aromas make for an appealing and polished nose on this bottling. The palate's core of black cherry jam is spiced up with cola, root beer, and vanilla flavors, all very satisfying. Independence Wine & spirits. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

91 TRESOR CACHE 2025 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc). Black cherry, wet clay, and loamy soil make a solid combo of earth and fruit on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up licorice, mace, and vanilla, while a blackberry and milk-chocolate core leads through the soft finish. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 Domaine Saint-André 2024 Folie d'Ines (Pays d'Oc). Aromas of smashed black plum and lapsang souchong tea show on the nose of

this blend of Cab Franc, Merlot, and Syrah. The palate pairs juicy black cherry and charred, smoky meat flavors with a soft texture. DHI Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 Le Grand Noir 2025 Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). Plush black cherry and baking spice are easy to appreciate on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a similar familiarity, with cherry and star anise flavors riding a soft texture. Prestige Beverage Group. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

88 ARAIRE 2025 Red Blend (Pays d'Oc). Intense blackberry and purple flower aromas light up the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up a peppery spice but is rather rich and confectionery with black-cherry-pie flavors. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Le Grand Noir 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc). Light aromas of red fruit meet with mineral hints of clay on the nose of this bottling. The palate is simple as well, with hints of herb and blackberry most prevalent. Prestige Beverage Group. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Mont Gravet 2025 Grenache Syrah Mouvedre (Pays d'Oc). Muddy clay aromas meet with purple flowers and blueberry on the ripe nose of this blend of 40% Grenache, 30% Syrah, and 30% Mourvèdre. The palate is somewhat sweet with plum and licorice flavors. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 PIERRE & CLOCHER 2025 Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). Rose potpourri, dark plum, and tea leaf aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is plush with black plum, baked cherry, and mace-like spices. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

CORBIÈRES

93 Famille Fabre 2025 Château Coulon (Corbières). This organic bottling begins with a very inviting nose of dark cherry, cola, and woodspice aromas. The palate is laced in suave tannins that carry roasted cherry, baking spice, and more cola flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

92 Château Mellie 2022 (Corbières). Smashed berry, muddy earth, and bitter cocoa notes entice the nose on this bottling. The palate is rich with almond and hazelnut flavors that give a warm depth to the baked berry and herbal tea elements. Plume Ridge. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

92 Famille Fabre 2024 Les Jumelles (Corbières). Potent aromas of black plum and dark berry draw the nose into this bottling. The palate is thicker in mouthfeel and laced with steady tannins that carry

roasted red fruit, loam, and herb flavors. FRUIT OF THE VINES. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

92 Famille Fabre 2024 Lux de Luc Rouge (Corbières). This blend of Carignan and Mourvèdre is unrelentingly dark in expression, starting with aromas of black plum candy and licorice on the meaty nose. The palate is hearty yet tightly wound, sporting leathery tannins that would pair well with rich roasted meats. FRUIT OF THE VINES. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Famille Fabre 2023 Gasparets Cru (Corbières-Boutenac). Damp earth, plucked chaparral, dark elderberry, and cocoa aromas make for a serious nose on this bottling. The palate picks up black plum and warm vanilla flavors to make for a balanced sip. FRUIT OF THE VINES. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Château La Boutignane 2025 (Corbières). Dark plum and jammy elderberry make a solid core of fruit that meets with purple flower on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a pleasant array of lavender and crumpled thyme flavors against that plummy backdrop. Advantage International. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Les Maîtres Vignerons de Cascastel 2024 (Corbières). Sanguine aromas of bloody meats pair with boysenberry, lavender, and garrigue notes on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with dry tannins and sprinkled anise flavors that spice up the black plum and fig core. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

89 Les Maîtres Vignerons de Cascastel 2024 Héritage de Bonnafous (Corbières). Black cherry, cola, and charred vanilla-bean aromas are rich on the nose of this heavily spiced wine. The palate shows a lot of barrel spice, with vanilla and coffee flavors decorating the roasted red fruits. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

MINERVOIS

95 Chateau de Tholomies 2023 La Chapelle (Minervois La Livinière). This organically produced wine from a small, focused appellation is very well made. It looks silky in the glass, showing baked cherry and caramelized pastry flake aromas on the nose. The palate is suavely polished. Dense, creamy tannins carry blackberry and dark chocolate flavors into a bitter, charcoal-kissed finish. Advantage International. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$49

92 Famille Fabre 2024 Château de Rieux La Bergerie (Minervois). Dense in the glass, this blend of Cinsault and Syrah is more concentrated than expected, offering aromas of roasted fig and vanilla on the nose. The palate is also heavily spiced and quite rich. FRUIT OF THE VINES. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

91 **Chateau de Tholomies 2024 Tour Trecavel (Minervois La Livinière).** Concentrated blackberry aromas meet with nutmeg and caramel on the nose of this bottling. The palate is intense with a similar range of stewed fruit and barrel spice flavors. Advantage International. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

91 **Château Mellie 2023 (Minervois).** Smoked berry, caramel, vanilla, and licorice aromas make for a rich, barrel-forward nose on this bottling. The palate is lavish and thick, with creamy tannins framing plum pudding and strong spice notes. Plume Ridge. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

OTHER RED WINES

93 **Domaine Lafage 2022 Miraille (Maury Sec).** There's a clean balance of baked cherry, stewed berry, mace, and herb on the nose of this bottling from a mountainous region near the Pyrenees. The palate picks up unique flavors of rose petal potpourri, singed tobacco, and wild berries, proving quite intriguing. European Cellars. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$220

92 **Domaine du Joncas 2024 Le Canyon (Terrasses du Larzac).** Brambly berry aromas join earthy hints of graphite, flint, and smashed lava rock on the nose of this wine. There's a leathery texture to the palate, where the core of fruit is dusted in garrique and game-like flavors. Advantage International. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

92 **Les Maîtres Vignerons de Cascastel 2024 Château de Cascastel (Fitou).** Deep and dark aromas of cherry, boysenberry, pastry flake, and lightly bitter anise converge on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm tannic tension to the palate, where lush baked fruit and fennel pollen flavors align. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

91 **Anne de Joyeuse 2025 Very Pinot Noir (Vin de Pays de la Haute Vallée de l'Aude).** Dark cherry, crumpled flowers, and oak spice aromas make for a dense nose on this bottling. The palate offers dark cranberry, mace, and cardamom flavors, with a lightly bitter black-tea finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Les Maîtres Vignerons de Cascastel 2025 Secret des Garrigues (Vallée du Paradis).** Roasted berries and smoky hickory notes consume the nose on this bottling. The palate shows dried red fruit, peppery spice, and savory, tar-like flavors. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

CORSICA

WHITE WINES

89 **Petrazza 2025 Vermentino (Corse).** A ripe, tropical-fruit-flavored wine with a crisp shot of lime juice, this is delicious. Its jasmine aroma and light minerality are full of Mediterranean character. Drink from late 2026. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Riva Bella 2025 Vermentino (Ile de Beauté).** Aromatic and fresh, this wine is also light and open. With a squeezed lemon aroma and tangy citrus flavors, the wine is ready to drink. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉS

88 **Petrazza 2025 Rosé (Corse).** This wine is ripe and fruity, with a crushed strawberry aroma and tangy red fruits. Lively and flavorful, it gives a twist of lime at the end. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Riva Bella 2025 Rosé (Ile de Beauté).** Bright and light, this is the epitome of a refreshing summer rosé. Its red fruit aroma and fresh orange zest flavor are ready to enjoy now. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

SOUTHWEST FRANCE

WHITE WINES

GAILLAC

90 **Domaine de Borie Vieille 2025 Confidences (Gaillac).** This wine reveals its place between the Atlantic saltiness and the richer Mediterranean ripeness. From the local Mauzac variety, the wine has a generous red apple aroma, ripe white fruits, and a fresh aftertaste. Drink this hidden gem from 2027. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

SOUTHWEST FRANCE

RED WINES

CAHORS

96 **Château Lagrezette 2022 Le Pigeonnier (Cahors).** Named after the emblematic stone dovecote on the Lagrezette estate, this wine is massive and dense. Its dark coffee aroma, firm tannins from wood aging, and polished texture are still developing. Drink from 2029. David Milligan Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$225

95 **Château de Mercuès 2020 Icône (Cahors).** This powerful wine comes from a vineyard surrounding the clifftop Mercuès château resort. It is rich, with ripe tannins and great concentration. The tobacco aroma and spice and blackberry flavors are impressive. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 **Château Combel la Serre 2021 Les Peyres Levades (Cahors).** The stone of this vineyard had its origins in prehistoric graves that litter the landscape. The stone has also created a wine with intense textured minerality and black-rock fruit aromas. Firm and structured, the wine is ready to age further. Drink from 2027. Louis/Dressner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

94 **Château de Haute-Serre 2023 Grand Malbec (Cahors).** This estate, on the high plateau, has produced an impressive wine, with salinity and texture that promise long aging and a rich future. It has a black chocolate aroma and toast and spice flavors. Age this wine at least until 2030. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$145

94 **Château Lagrezette 2022 (Cahors).** Still structured, this wine has density from powerful black currant fruits and rich tannins. With its cinnamon aroma and layers of maturing acidity, the wine should be ready from 2028. David Milligan Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 **Pech Chagut 2023 (Cahors).** Produced in limited quantities, this wine with its effortless marriage of wood aging and blackberry fruits is ripe, bursting with fruit. The vanilla aroma and underlying freshness show a wine that is developing well. Let it age or drink from 2028. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Château Chambert 2019 Grand Vin (Cahors).** This mature wine shows a light mushroom aroma and an attractive spice and black fruit richness. It is balanced, with a core of dryness that gives shape to the fresh aftertaste. It is a good example of giving Cahors wines time to age. Drink now. M.S. Walker Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

93 **Château de Mercuès 2020 Les Evêques (Cahors).** Black coffee aromas and ripe black tannins lead to a rich wine with power and density. It is balanced, with some firm tannins and concentration. Drink this full wine from 2027. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 **Château Eugénie 2022 Haute Collection (Cahors).** From a single vineyard on the Eugénie estate, this wine has a smooth character, giving spice to the blackberry fruits. Its vanilla aroma and core of tannins promise further aging. Drink from 2027. BBR Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Château Haut-Monplaisir 2024 Tradition (Cahors). Packed with rich black fruits and ripe tannins, this wine has concentration and structure. It is a balanced wine, with a black pepper aroma and a good potential. Drink from 2028. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

93 Château la Reyne 2023 L'Excellence (Cahors). With a spice aroma and ripe black currant fruits, this is a rich, balanced wine. Its density and firm tannins give plenty of potential for aging. After 24 months in oak, it's just beginning its bottle life. Drink from 2028. Organic. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Château la Reyne 2023 Le Prestige (Cahors). From the middle and upper terraces above the River Lot, this wine has weight and fine potential. After 22 months in barrel, it is richly textured with tannins, spice, blackberry fruits, and black coffee aromas. Drink from 2028. Organic. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Château Lagrezette 2023 (Cahors). From the estate around the medieval Lagrezette castle, this wine is rich and classic, with blackberry fruits and firm tannins. The wine has weight, density, and a dark chocolate aroma. Drink from 2028. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Château Pinaie 2023 L'Authentique (Cahors). Bold tannins still show strongly in this rich, dark wine. With a tobacco aroma and spice as well as juicy blackberry flavors, the wine still has structure. It needs to age further. Drink from 2028. Organic. P-S Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Château Vincens 2024 Origine (Cahors). This is an impressive wine. Its balanced tannins and ripe black fruits give both structure and generosity. The black pepper aroma and richness are dense and full of concentration. Drink from 2028. W Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

93 Clos Triguédina 2022 Petites Cailles (Cahors). The minerality of this wine comes from the small stones that make up the vineyard. They marry well with the tight tannins and rich black fruits. Drink the wine, with its licorice aroma, from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Domaine d'Homs 2020 Chevalier (Cahors). The top bottling from this estate has ripeness and structured concentration. Maturing well but still needing time, the wine has a black chocolate aroma and powerful black cherry fruits. Drink this ageworthy wine from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Métairie Grande du Théron 2022 La Métairie A632 (Cahors). A blackberry aroma and spicy richness set the scene for this powerful, dense wine. It

is rich, with layers of textured black fruits combined with tannins. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Combel la Serre 2023 Un Cerisier, des Pierres et des Cochons (Cahors). The 2023 weather caused a rethink on how the iconic Cerisier wine was made. Historically, this bottling relied on a tiny plot around a cherry tree at 1,100 feet. This wine adds other plots. The result is generous and ripe, with a spicy aroma and juicy black-fruit flavor. The tank-aged freshness is balanced with final acidity. Drink from 2028. Louis/Dressner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Château de Cayx 2022 (Cahors). This wine's licorice aroma and generous tannins offer a panoply of Malbec flavors. Owned by the royal family of Denmark, the estate has produced a fine wine, with black currant fruits and structure holding well together. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château de Haute-Serre 2020 Georges (Cahors). Named after Georges Vigouroux, this wine offers a dark chocolate aroma, soft tannins, and intense black fruits. It is succulent with richness while preserving its balance. Drink from late 2026. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Château Haute-Borie 2024 Prestige (Cahors). Lightly toasty from 18 months in wood, this wine has a spicy aroma that balances well with the black plum fruits. From a 78-acre estate with some old vines, the wine shows density and juicy richness. Drink from 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

92 Château la Reyne 2024 Versant Lascroux (Cahors). Ripe fruit and structured minerality give this wine both richness and potential. From a single parcel, the wine has a black pepper aroma and a core of solid tannins. Drink from 2028. Organic. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Lamartine 2023 Cuvée Particulière (Cahors). Black currant fruits and bright tannins give this blend of Malbec and Tannat an impressively soft character. It is full of fruit, with black fruit aromas and finishing acidity. Drink this wine from 2027. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Ponzac 2022 Les Peyrières (Cahors). Approaching maturity, this wine shows ripe tannins and a broad structure. Black chocolate aromas and generous black fruits bring out density in this wine, which was hand harvested. Drink from 2027. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Vincens 2024 Prestige (Cahors). The dark chocolate aroma of this dense wine heralds black fruits and rich tannins. It is structured and intense, layering power and concentration. The

Malbec-dominated wine has a way to go. Drink from 2028. W Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

92 Clos Troteligotte 2023 K-2 (Cahors). Aged in amphorae, the wine is solid while also smoothly textured. Its ripe black fruits and balanced texture are introduced by a licorice aroma. Drink this rounded wine from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Authentique Vin Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

92 Clos Troteligotte 2022 K-Lys (Cahors). A juicy, balanced wine, this features blackberry aromas, ripe tannins, and vibrant black fruits. It is lightly wood aged, giving the wine a touch of spice and smoothing the texture. Organic and biodynamic. Authentique Vin Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

92 Domaine de Mériquet 2024 DM (Cahors). A ripe, bold wine, this has a black chocolate aroma, dense tannins, and a solid texture. The fruit is still young and the richness promises good aging. Drink from 2029. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2025 Cœur de Malbec (Cahors). A blend from several Malbec vineyards across Cahors, this wine shows richness and rounded generosity. It is well textured, with tannins integrated into the structure. Drink this ripe wine, with its black pepper aroma, from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Métairie Grande du Théron 2024 Prestige (Cahors). Ripe black fruits give this wine concentration as well as structure. With its licorice aroma and dominant juiciness, the wine is likely to be ready from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Stéphane Revel 2023 Amphora (Cahors). Aged, as its name indicates, in earthenware amphorae, this wine has a smooth texture and ripe tannins. It feels complete, with a black coffee aroma, structured black currant fruits, and a juicy character. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Valérie Courrèges 2022 L'Art et la Matière (Cahors). With its rich tannins, this wine is as much of a drama as the bottle label. It's solid, with a dense texture, blackberry fruits, and a deeply perfumed aroma. After 24 months in oak, the unfiltered wine is still developing. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Paris Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$47

92 Valérie Courrèges 2020 Clos Terre Kermès (Cahors). This juicy wine comes from old vines in a walled vineyard. With a black pepper aroma, rich blackberry fruits, and no use of oak, the wine is succulent, comfortably dense, and almost fully developed. Drink now. Paris Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$62

91 Château Combel la Serre 2022 Cuvée Château (Cahors). Full of fresh black currant fruits and with a spice aroma, this textured wine has a core of tannins that allow it to age further. Drink from 2027. Organic. Louis/Dressner Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Château du Caillau 2024 (Cahors). With its black pepper aroma and firm structural core, this is a dense wine. It comes from an estate under the same ownership for seven generations. The spice and mineral edge from the stony vineyard soil gives this wine plenty of potential. Drink from 2029. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Château Eugénie 2022 Réserve de l'Aïeul (Cahors). From old vines planted by the current owner's grandfather, this wine has rich tannins and concentration. The black fruit aroma and vibrant black plum flavors show the fruity side of this wood-aged wine. Drink from 2027. BBR Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Château Famaey 2024 Prestige (Cahors). With its broad blackberry fruit aroma, spice, and succulent texture, this wood-aged wine is full and ripe. Tangy fruits and tannins give the wine density and a fresh aftertaste. Drink from 2028. Siema LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Château Labastide Haute 2024 (Cahors). This juicy wine reveals succulent black currant fruits to match the tannins. Balancing fruit and a firm texture, the wine, with its spicy aroma, is likely to be ready from 2028. Wine Manager LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Château Lamartine 2023 Expression (Cahors). A tobacco aroma gives this wine ripeness and a spicy character. Its black fruits run parallel, offering texture and a fresh edge. The wine is developing well. Drink from 2028. Organic. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Château les Croisille 2023 Divin (Cahors). Aged in large wood barrels, this wine has a spicy aroma and touches of toast. It is lightly textured, ripe, and full of black currant fruits. Drink from 2028. Organic and biodynamic. Garber and Co. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Château Pineraie 2023 (Cahors). With vibrant black fruits and layers of spice, this wine already has perfumed tannins and a core of dryness. It is ripe, with a cinnamon aroma and juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Organic. P-S Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Château Pineraie 2023 Poème (Cahors). From a vineyard owned by a family for six generations, this wine brings structure and a smooth texture to black currant flavors. White pepper aromas and

generous tannins give a wine ready from 2027. Aged in amphorae. Organic. P-S Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Clos d'Audhuy 2023 La-Ô (Cahors). This polished wine with black fruit aromas offers ripe berries and a textured core. Rich and full of succulent spicy blackberry flavors, the wine has potential. Drink from 2027. Organic. RIPE Wine Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Clos la Coutale 2024 (Cahors). Licorice aromas and a fresh, juicy character have created an eminently ripe wine. Balanced and vibrant with black currant fruits, this wine will be ready from 2028. Organic. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Clos Troteligotte 2022 K-Or (Cahors). This is a ripe, cement-tank-aged wine, with a smooth texture and a black fruit aroma. Freshness brings out the black currant flavors and gentle tannins. Drink from late 2006. Organic and biodynamic. Authentique Vin Selections. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

91 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2023 A de Doma (Cahors). Part of a series of Osmin Malbecs that bring Cahors and Argentina into partnership. This wine from Cahors is finely structured, with juicy fruitiness and layers of black fruits. Drink from 2027. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2023 M de Doma (Cahors). The pair of A de Doma, Cahors wines that have been released alongside Malbecs from Argentina. Along with a lightly toasty aroma and juicy acidity, it offers black fruits and a ripe structure. Drink from 2027. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Valérie Courrèges 2022 Bois Carmin (Cahors). Black fruits and rich tannins show strongly in this balanced wine, a typically young wine for Cahors. With a ripe texture, black coffee aroma, layers of succulent acidity, and black currant flavor, the wine should be ready from 2028. Organic and biodynamic. Paris Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Château du Port 2022 Cuvée Prestige (Cahors). Licorice aromas and dense blackberry fruits signal a wine with weight, density, and concentration. Tannins, now softened while still remaining, give power. It is ready to drink. Non-US Imported. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Famaey 2025 Le Gres dans le Grès (Cahors). Aged in amphorae, this wine shows a soft, smooth texture along with vibrant black currant flavors. The black cherry aroma and ripe texture

mean the wine is likely to develop quickly. Drink from 2028. Siema LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

90 Château les Croisille 2023 Calcaire (Cahors). The chalk soil of the vineyard gives a textured, mineral character to this wine. Ripe and fruity, with a succulent texture and pepper aroma, the wine is balanced and likely to be ready from 2028. Organic and biodynamic. Garber and Co. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Château Ponzac 2024 (Cahors). This bright, fruity wine with ripe tannins and juicy berry flavors cuts a mineral edge and a firm structure. With its black pepper aroma and spicy touch, the wine is still developing. Drink from 2028. Organic. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Saint-Sernin 2023 Mana (Cahors). The name of the wine draws inspiration from the New Zealand Maori origins of the owner's partner. It is attractive, richly fruity with blackberry flavors. The wine has weight, a black cherry aroma, and ripe tannins. Drink from late 2027. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Souleillou 2024 (Cahors). Finely textured, with a fresh character balanced by a core of tannins, this wine shows ripeness. Red fruit aromas and oak spice give a perfumed wine that will be ready from 2027. Non-US Imported. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Clos du Fleur de Lysé 2024 Pic Bois (Cahors). A black fruit aroma and a peppered blackcurrant flavor give a wine that is tight and structured. It has potential, its acidity ready to soften and integrate with the tannins. Drink this wine, named after the woodpecker, from 2028. Non-US Imported. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Clos Triguedina 2024 Culture Underground (Cahors). Black cherry fruits dominate this ripe, fruity wine. It has freshness, density, and a light structure, with a red fruit aroma that emphasizes the wine's immediate attraction. Drink from 2027. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Domaine Serre de Bovila 2022 Alexandre (Cahors). Named after the latest addition to the Romain family, this wine shows richness and concentration. The dense Malbec gives power, echoed in the black pepper aroma. Drink the wine from 2027. Hachiko Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Mas del Périé 2023 Les Acacias (Cahors). This spicy wine with light black fruits and black currant aromas is still young, buoyed by gentle tannins and a juicy texture. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Zev Rovine Selections. —R.V. **abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$42

89 Château Eugénie 2022 Tsar Pierre le Grand (Cahors). Named after the 18th-century Rus-

BUYINGGUIDE

sian emperor who is believed to have liked Cahors wines, this bottling is full of blackberry fruit and has a mature structure. It is ready to drink. BBR Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

89 **Château Famaey 2025 Cuvée F (Cahors).** This wine partners with the estate's Cuvée X. With a fresh character, the wine brings black currant fruits to the fore, giving a full, generous character. The licorice aroma follows the same fresh direction. Drink from 2028. Siema LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 **Château la Caminade 2023 Haute Voltige (Cahors).** Earthy aromas lead to gentle tannins and layers of blackberry fruits in this wine. It is rounded, with acidity and a balanced texture. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Lamagdelaine Noire 2024 (Cahors).** A ripe, succulent wine, this has a spicy aroma and layers of black currant fruits. Rich and full bodied, the wine is also dense and structured. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château les Croisille 2023 Silice (Cahors).** This is light style of wine, the result of the sandy soil of the vineyard. Freshness brings out blackberry fruits and acidity. The lightly toasty aroma is balanced and forward. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Garber and Co. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 **Clos la Coutale 2024 La Griotte (Cahors).** This wine's cherry aroma confirms its name. Dominating the wine, black cherry fruits and ripe tannins convey succulence. The wine has a warm character, and will be ready from 2027. Non-US Imported. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Domaine d'Homs 2022 Petit Page (Cahors).** A ripe and juicy wine from young vines, this has soft tannins along with dense black-cherry flavors. With a spice and licorice aroma, the wine has promise, and is succulent at the end. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Mas del Perié 2025 Les Escures (Cahors).** This young wine bursts with vibrant black fruits. Light tannins support the blackberry flavors while the cinnamon aroma adds a bit of spice. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Zev Rovine Selections. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

89 **Vinovalie 2022 Le Paradis (Cahors).** Aged in wood for two years, this wine shows a definite wood character. Spice, black fruits, and a black pepper aroma give the wine a good future. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château du Cèdre 2024 Héritage (Cahors).** This is a fruity wine, bringing out spice and black plum flavors. It is ripe and accessible, with a red fruit aroma and tangy aftertaste. Drink from late 2026. Elite Wine Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 **Château Haut-Monplaisir 2024 L'Envie (Cahors).** Emphasizing attractive black fruits, this wine shows layers of succulent ripeness. A red fruit aroma balances the core of dryness. The wine should be ready from 2027. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château la Caminade 2024 Oléti (Cahors).** Soft tannins and juicy black fruits give a light wine dominated by fruit. The light core of tannins and blackberry aromas are fresh and vivid. Drink this wine from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Ponzac 2025 Maintenant ou Jamais (Cahors).** This open, fruity wine with licorice aromas and bright red fruits is made for early drinking. It is balanced, with acidity and a gentle tannic texture. The name means "now or never," but you can drink from 2027. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Saint-Sernin 2023 Cuvée La Tour (Cahors).** This is a jammy wine, lightly textured with a red fruit aroma. It has light spice alongside black plum fruits. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Mas del Perié 2025 Jour Fruit (Cahors).** Light and fruity, this wine has vivid black fruits and soft tannins. It is juicy and full of berry flavors. Blackberry aromas reinforce the wine's character. Drink from late 2026. Organic Zev Rovine Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

BERGERAC

89 **Château Monplaisir 2023 (Bergerac).** Matured in wood, this wine has a toasty aroma followed by notes of spice and black currant. It is a rich wine, generous in its core of tannins and blackberry fruits. Drink from late 2026. Wine Manager LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

VIN DE FRANCE

CHARDONNAY

89 **SCA Les Claux des Tourettes 2025 Chardonnay (Cévennes).** Dried apple, turned earth, and lightly toasted aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up a steely minerality with apple peel and lychee flavors. Boutique Beverage Company. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

SPARKLING WINE

90 **Famille Fabre 2025 Instant Bulle Brut Nature Pet Nat (Vin de France).** Aromas of apple skin and white flowers float atop the nose of this sparkling Sauv Blanc from a prominent Languedoc producer. A medium-strength mousse enlivens the palate, where lime and kiwi flavors work together well. FRUIT OF THE VINES. —M.K.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$24

ROSÉ

90 **SCA Les Claux des Tourettes 2025 Rosé of Grenache (Cévennes).** A pale pink in the glass, this bottling shows cotton candy and tangerine aromas on the nose. There is a grapefruit-peel kick to the palate, where a chalky texture balances the tartness. Boutique Beverage Company. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

VENETO WHITE WINES

CUSTOZA

94 **Azienda Agricola Gorgo 2025 San Michelin (Custoza).** Fifty-year-old vines and a quiet 10% of Riesling and San Michelin are already playing a different game. Dried and fresh white flowers, ripe pear, Mandarin peel, and tropical notes build slowly on a deep, persistent nose. The palate is layered and high toned, a saline mineral core threading through orchard and stone fruit, fresh and dried all at once that keeps you coming back. Drink now–2050. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

93 **Az. Agr. Giovanna Tantini 2025 Garganega, Trebbianello, Chardonnay (Bianco di Custoza).** White flowers, green apple, and ripe tropical banana pull you in from the first pour, the texture full and generous, the structure doing its quiet work before bright citrus acidity arrives to close everything cleanly and send you back for another glass. A great companion to fried calamari or marinated zucchini with mint and ricotta. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

93 **Azienda Agricola Gorgo 2025 (Custoza).** The nose moves like a warm summer breeze, honeysuckle and white flowers first, then sliced Pink Lady apple, pear, and pineapple. A note of Mediterranean herbs gives it a wild and savory side. The palate pops with bright citrus notes that lead to a crushed stone and touch of bitter almond on the salty finish. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

93 **Azienda Agricola Gorgo 2022 Sub 27 Riserva (Custoza).** Sub 27 arrives like it has been somewhere and done something. Deep golden in the

glass, ripe peach, dried pineapple, and mandarin peel open wide, white pepper and warm sandalwood aromas. The palate is creamy and generous but zippy acidity keeps everything honest, and there's a long savory finish that simply refuses to call it a night. Drink now–2040. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Azienda Agricola Monte Del Frá 2022 Bonomo Sexaginta (Custoza). Bonomo Sexaginta arrives with conviction. Dried apricot, acacia honey, palo santo, and toasted hazelnut lay down serious credentials on the nose, but grapefruit zest and white flowers refuse to be outshined. Bold and warm on the palate, yet the salty vertical acidity and a long minty finish mean it never stops moving. Drink now–2040. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

93 Cavalchina 2023 Rabitta Riserva (Custoza). There is a version of this wine that could have been buried in oak and lost. This is not that wine. Ten months in French barrel give Rabitta genuine depth and richness, white pineapple, peach, and hazelnut lifted by fennel flower, a salty mineral core slicing cleanly through. Rich without being heavy. Have this with pork loin with peaches. Drink now–2045. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Cavalchina 2025 (Custoza). Custoza does not always get the credit it deserves and this is exactly why it should. Citrus, apricot, and green apple come tumbling out of the glass with an energy that feels genuinely generous, a flinty mineral thread running underneath that keeps it grounded and real. Light on its feet but giving on every level, this is the wine you reach for without overthinking it. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

92 Corte Mamaor 2025 Enosi Bianco (Custoza). Enosi Bianco smells like the best version of early summer. White jasmine, ripe Bartlett pear, fresh garden hedge, and a heady citrus mix of grapefruit, lemon, and orange on a nose that feels genuinely alive. Bone dry and electric on the palate, bright acidity and a clean mouthwatering mineral finish that does not overstay its welcome. Non-US Imported. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Azienda Agricola Monte Del Frá 2025 (Custoza). This wine has somewhere to be and it moves. Leaping from the glass, aromas of white flowers, green apple, and golden pear arrive in quick succession with a touch of tropical fruits slipping in at the edges. Bone dry and focused with a citrus core that pops with fresh acidity and a savory streak giving it an energy that keeps pulling you back. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Corte Mamaor 2024 Aethra (Custoza). There is something quietly ambitious about Aethra. It opens with fruit and florals layered over fresh herbs

and river-stone minerality. The palate is creamy to start but the acidity snaps everything into focus fast, a long and mineral finish that keeps you thinking about it after the glass is empty. Non-US Imported. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

89 Vitevis 2025 Ca' Vegar (Custoza). Fresh, vibrant, and exactly what you want on a warm afternoon. Jasmine and white peach lead a spring-like nose with field herbs and lime adding energy, wet stone grounding it. The palate is clean and bright, with a crisp citrus core carrying through to a saline finish that is elegant and genuinely satisfying. Barone Trading Company LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Il Pignetto 2025 (Custoza). Il Pignetto is not trying to complicate your evening. Green apple, pear, fresh pineapple, and grapefruit on the nose, are clean and immediate in the best possible way. Bone dry on the palate, citrus acidity, and a bright saline streak do exactly what you need them to do on a warm night. Non-U.S. Imported. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Vigneti Villabella 2025 (Custoza). This is the wine that shows up to the party and immediately makes everyone happy it did. Green apple, pear, field blossoms, and citrus zest on a fresh and lively nose, wet stone giving it just enough edge to keep things interesting. Bone dry and light on its feet, clean citrus acidity and a neat saline finish. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Villa Meneghello 2025 Sirenella (Custoza). This is a lakeside, poolside, fire escape or wherever you find comfort type of wine. Chamomile, acacia blossoms, field herbs, and fresh citrus zest open a nose that feels like a warm afternoon. Easy and fresh on the palate with a clean, bright, and savory finish. Open it with friends and no overthinking things. Alberello Imports, LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Vitevis 2025 Cantina del Garda (Custoza). Easy and generous in the best possible way. Field blossoms, white peach, and green apple open a fresh spring-like nose with a fine stony mineral edge running underneath. Light and clean on the palate, a bright wave of citrus acidity carrying through to a savory saline finish. Great value and exactly the right wine for the table. Barone Trading Company LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

CUSTOZA SUPERIORE

95 Cavalchina 2024 Amedeo (Custoza Superiore). Amedeo is what happens when Custoza is taken seriously. Yellow and white flowers open a deeply expressive nose before yellow pear, white peach, and wild herbs build behind it, the flinty mineral thread running through everything with quiet authority. The texture is the revelation, broad and dense in a way that is unexpected and completely

compelling, framing a crisp savory acidity that carries the wine through to a long, elegant bitter-almond close. This has years ahead of it. Drink now–2045. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Azienda Agricola Gorgo 2024 Summa (Custoza Superiore). Summa is built on controlled overripeness and the patience to trust it. Orange blossom, jasmine, mango, and sweet spices build a slow and seductive nose. Bold and voluptuous on the palate, yet there is that vein of crisp acidity with a smoky, flinty saline finish, refusing to let it sit still. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

92 Azienda Agricola Monte Del Frá 2024 Cà del Magro (Custoza Superiore). There is a moment in this wine where everything lands at once and you just stop talking. Wild flowers, chamomile, golden apple, and ginger build something genuinely heady on the nose. The palate is generous but focused, fruit and savory mineral depth pulling in opposite directions in the best possible way. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Tenuta La Presa 2025 (Custoza Superiore). La Presa opens with a nose that smells like the first morning of a vacation you did not want to end. Elderflower, wild mint, fresh grass, then yellow peach, apricot, and mango showing up like they were invited all along. The palate is fresh and generous but sharp acidity keeps everything honest, a long salty finish that makes you reach for the glass before you have even finished thinking about it. Esperia Wine & Spirits LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

SOAVE

97 Prà 2024 Monte Grande (Soave Classico). There is a lot going on here and every single bit of it is beautiful. Petrol, creamy yellow pear, apricot, and jasmine layered with magnolia bloom from this single-vineyard blend of Garganega and Trebbiano, a touch of appassimento adding concentration without ever sacrificing the freshness that makes it sing. The layers build and build, held in perfect tension by a fine, precise acidity. Drink now–2055. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

94 Prà 2025 Ca' de Napa (Soave Classico). Sixty years of pergola-trained vines in the heart of Monteforte d'Alpone have something to say and Ca' de Napa says it with conviction. Golden apple, not quite ripe yellow peach and tart yellow plum arrive with a focused intensity that only old vines can deliver, the texture generous and layered with a brilliant vein of acidity running through the core that keeps everything razor sharp. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Prà 2025 Otto (Soave). Every variety of apple imaginable mingles with yellow flowers and ripe jasmine in a nose that is lifted, pretty, and completely irresistible, with yellow peach adding a ripe, rounded richness that deepens everything. The palate opens with a generous, almost luscious fleshiness before vibrant acidity and a mouthwatering saltiness rein it all in with beautiful precision. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

93 Prà 2024 Staforte (Soave Classico). There is a sunlit generosity to this Soave Classico, ripe golden apple, fresh peach, and chamomile layering together with an ease that feels almost natural. Juicy stone fruits carry the palate forward with a whisper of spice, the texture smooth, rich, and creamy right through to the end. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

92 Prà 2025 Wild - Ponsara (Soave Classico). This is Soave with the volume turned all the way up, with honeysuckle, elderflower, wild herbs, and Granny Smith apple bursting from the glass with a bright electric energy. White peach gathers beneath with a softer generosity. The palate is savory and completely alive, mouthwatering freshness building before bitter almond and salinity bring it home. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

96 Pasqua MV Hey French You Could Have Made This But You Didn't Ed V (Veneto). Six vintages, one wine, and the confidence to believe that time is an ingredient worth collecting. Garganega and Pinot Bianco and Sauvignon carry the memories of 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2024, arriving as ripe Bosc pears, roasted hazelnuts, singed lemon peel, chamomile, pressed flowers, and stone. The nose commands without forcing a thing. The palate is where the real story lives, creamy, tense, baked, and electric all at once, carrying a gravitas of presence rather than weight through a crushed stone and sea salt finish that belongs to all six years equally. Pasqua USA LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

96 Vignaioli Contrà Soarda 2019 Vignasilan (Breganze). The argument for Italy as the greatest garden of native grapes does not need words when a wine like this exists. Take a single vineyard, grape, and seven years of quiet transformation and what emerges is something that feels less discovered than destined. Ripe golden plum, apricot, and candied lemon carry a richness that is generous without ever being heavy, warm floral notes drift through like something steeped rather than poured. Dried peach, preserved lemon, and a long salty finish keep the palate endlessly engaged, the acidity a bright thread running through everything. Drink now–2050 Jan d'Amore Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Vignaioli Contrà Soarda 2025 Soarda (Breganze). This is what it feels like when a wine operates on a frequency you did not know existed. From the volcanic soils of Breganze, this Vespaiolo arrives like a cool breeze carrying sweet lemon peel, sliced nectarine, and a ghostly magnolia note, with wet flagstone anchoring it all to something primal. Zippy, textured, and electrifyingly alive, the salty preserved citrus finish rewires the palate and sends you straight back for more. Jan d'Amore Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Cantine di Ora 2025 Il Casato Pinot Grigio (Valdadige). Pear and apple lift from the glass with a freshness that feels almost buoyant, lees contact adding a quiet texture that gives the wine an extra dimension without weighing it down. Bright and engaging from start to finish, the kind of white that turns a chicken Caesar or shrimp salad into a proper occasion. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

SPARKLING WINES

95 Nino Franco 2020 Grave di Stecca (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Pause at the vintage. A 2020 in the glass today means six years of quiet development, and the wine has used every one of them wisely. Peach jam and orange marmalade open with salted lemon peel, flint, and pressed yellow flowers, the palate full and textural yet never losing its focus, flint threading through the fruit like a compass needle. This is what Glera looks like when given time and a grower who knows exactly what they are doing. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$62

94 Nino Franco 2025 Vigneto della Riva di San Floriano (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This wine does not ease you in: Apple and lemon peel burst from the glass with white flowers close behind and wet stone running beneath. The bubbles are tart and fine, crushed chalk and stone driving the palate with a mineral precision that demands equally direct food. Think roasted pork ribs—nothing but salt, pepper, and smoke—the kind of pairing where both the wine and the food find their best selves. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$46

93 Nino Franco NV Rustico (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This is Valdobbiadene the way it was always meant to taste. Yellow and white flowers carry freshly cut apple and a squeeze of lemon, green apple, and preserved citrus keep everything bright and alive as the fine bubbles lift it cleanly forward. Not complicated and not trying to be. Just honest, precise and a reminder of exactly why Prosecco captured the world's heart. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

93 Nino Franco 2025 Primo Franco (Prosecco di Valdobbiadene Superiore). A botanical garden has nothing on this. Peach blossom and jasmine give way to sliced peach and sweet hay, wet stone and candied lemon arriving quietly from somewhere

deeper. A wine you keep returning to because it keeps giving something new. Ripe and creamy on the palate with the weight of a perfect pear before a gentle, lingering brightness closes everything beautifully. —J.P.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$43

92 Nino Franco 2024 Nodi (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Something shifts into a different gear the moment this wine arrives. Brown pear and subtle chestnut honey carry not-quite-ripe apricot and generous flowers on the nose, something in the stone and the air beneath it all that is hard to name but impossible to miss. The palate is rounded and creamy, intense peach and soft bubbles at the core, fresh bread threading through to a finish of vibrant acidity. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$57

91 Nino Franco NV Brut (Prosecco di Valdobbiadene Superiore). Imagine standing at the base of Valdobbiadene's steep slopes, breathing in everything the hillside has to offer. That is this wine. Apple orchard freshness mingles with yellow flowers, chamomile, and a hint of broom, the soft bubbles carrying you through with bright green pear and a clean snap of acidity at the finish that makes every sip feel like the first. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$37

91 Nino Franco 2025 Faive Rosé Brut (Veneto). Merlot and Cabernet Franc are behind this sparkling rosé that has no interest in being predictable. Just-picked strawberries lead with their green tops still fragrant, pink peppercorn, and watermelon candy following close behind alongside rose. The palate keeps the fun going, candied red fruit at the core with a light herbal note easing the finish. Unexpected, easy, and completely itself. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

89 Canti 2025 (Prosecco). Orange blossom, yellow peach, and cream express from the nose. The palate has big fluffy bubbles that pop with sharp texture and a citrusy pleasant off-dry finish. World Brands U.S. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Vigneti Villabella NV (Bardolino Chiaretto). Wild strawberry and red currant fizz up out of the glass, red-apple skin and freshly cut flowers following along for the ride. Soft bubbles carry everything with a creamy, effortless lift. The acidity keeps it bright and refreshing while the fruit stays clean and bright. Uncomplicated joy in a glass. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉS

94 Azienda Agricola Gorgo 2025 (Chiaretto di Bardolino Classico). Equal parts charming and unpredictable, the kind of wine that has you leaning into the glass trying to catch what it just said. Rhubarb and red currant lead, then flowers, then herbs, each sniff revealing something the last one hid. The palate ties it all together with effortless balance and a salty, mouthwatering finish that lands like a per-

fect punchline you did not see coming. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$16

94 Cantina Gentili 2024 Barbagliante (Bardolino Chiaretto). Spending half a year on its skins and another half settling into terra-cotta, this rosé had time to develop something genuinely worth saying. Dried cherry, pressed roses, and mixed herbs settle over earthy depth, with a palate that has real grip and texture that most rosés would not dare attempt. Fire up the grill and do not hold back; try to stump this wine. Omniwines. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

94 Le Fraghe 2025 Rodon (Bardolino Chiaretto). Your mouth starts watering before you even know why. Wild rose and wild strawberry come tumbling out in a fragrant rush, fresh red currant adds that sharp little edge that makes the whole thing feel impossibly alive. The palate is snappy, full, and energetic, salty savory depth perfectly balanced against a bright natural acidity that just will not quit. The definitive wine of the region. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$19

93 Azienda Agricola Le Tende di Fortuna e Lucilini S.S. 2025 (Chiaretto di Bardolino Classico). This wine skips the small talk. Sour cherry, red currant, and watermelon upfront with a whisper of floral and savory herbs letting you know there is more going on beneath the surface. Bright and salty on the finish, just complex enough to keep you thinking and just delicious enough that you never really stop to care. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

93 Cantina Gentili 2025 (Bardolino Chiaretto). This wine did not come to the party—it showed up and became the party. Tart cherry and raspberry hit with that zippy, mouthwatering energy that makes you reach for a second glass before the first one is gone, a whisper of bay leaf keeping things just interesting enough while that salty, lifting finish makes sure you never quite feel done. Omniwines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$16

93 Pasqua 2025 11 minutes (Veneto). Every vintage of this wine arrives with a certain elegance and freshness, but the 2025 has decided to raise the bar for everyone else. Strawberry and wild raspberry and red currant with violet and dog rose and a whisper of white pepper, then a palate that is dry and juicy and bright and persistent in all the right ways. Eleven minutes of maceration and not a single one wasted. Pasqua USA LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

92 Cavallina 2025 (Chiaretto di Bardolino Classico). This Chiaretto leads with a floral punch that is impossible to ignore, roses in full bloom wrapped around the ripest strawberries, tart raspberry and bright pomegranate, a green whisper from the strawberry tops keeping every note sharp and

alive. The fruit carries straight through, amplifying itself before landing on a clean, crunchy, saline finish that begs another sip. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

92 Il Pignetto 2025 (Bardolino Chiaretto). Wild cherry and almost-ripe strawberry, green tops still clinging, open the glass with the kind of freshness you want to bottle and keep. A thread of citrus and crushed wild herb weaves through, grounding all that brightness. Then everything lifts higher before dropping into a salty, lip-smacking finish that inevitably turns one glass into two. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Marchesini Family 2025 (Chiaretto di Bardolino Classico). The best bottles are the ones that bring people together without asking anything of them, and this Chiaretto understands that assignment perfectly. Joyful, juicy, and unapologetically easy to love, it drinks like the best kind of a warm afternoon with nowhere to be, the fruit generous and bright, the finish clean with a subtle savory flicker that gives it just enough personality to stand out from the crowd. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

91 Poggio delle Grazie 2025 (Bardolino Chiaretto). This rosé has the energy of someone who just jumped off a boat and somehow is already holding a glass. Strawberry and tangerine peel cut through with wild herbal freshness, and the palate runs a bright, salty, mouthwatering line that the glacial soils of Garda have been building for centuries. Vibrant, electric, and completely unapologetic about it. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

91 Tenuta La Presa 2025 (Bardolino Chiaretto). Cranberry and ripe strawberry open the door, watermelon close behind, the whole thing lifted by a whisper of citrus zest and the faintest breath of rose petal. It stays tangy and alive, the lake's ancient morainic soils adding a salty, mineral undercurrent that gives the bright fruit a backbone worth savoring. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

90 Azienda Agricola Monte Del Frá 2025 (Bardolino Chiaretto). This wine showed up ready for the beach and did not overpack. Watermelon and wild strawberry practically leap from the glass, red currant and a quiet sea-salt thread underneath keeping it from being all fun and no substance. Electric acidity on the palate with a tart cherry edge makes the whole thing feel like the best possible version of a warm afternoon. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

90 Casetto 2025 M'ama (Bardolino Chiaretto). Wild rose and raspberry with a playful rhubarb note keep things interesting. The palate is lively and tart with cherry and red currant at the core, the crisp lake air washing through and leaving everything

clean and refreshing. The kind of wine that disappears quickly and without apology. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

90 Le Morette 2025 (Bardolino Chiaretto). A bouquet that blooms the moment it hits the glass, wild strawberry, raspberry and little forest fruits arriving in a soft floral rush. Refreshing and lively on the palate, salty minerality giving it just enough edge, finishing crisp, dry and clean with a fruit note that hangs around long enough to matter. Uva Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$22

89 Corte Mamaor 2025 Enosi Rosato (Bardolino Chiaretto). Light footed and effortlessly pretty, this Chiaretto floats out of the glass with wild flowers, fresh herbs, and a generous armful of mixed berries. Cherry and strawberry shine brightest on the palate, a fresh bay leaf note weaving through before the finish arrives cool, clean, and touched with just enough sea salt to make you lean in for another sip. Non-U.S. Imported. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$15

88 Menegotti 2025 (Bardolino Chiaretto). Some wines solve problems, and on a warm afternoon this Chiaretto is the answer to every question. Fresh and fragrant from the first sniff, wild strawberry and citrus zest lead the way, soft tannins giving the bright fruit just enough company before a clean, salty mineral finish turns something simple into something genuinely satisfying. Lewis Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

88 Santi 2025 Infinito Rosé (Bardolino Chiaretto). Fresh raspberry and tart cherry come rushing out of the glass, trailing a flutter of strawberry and candied flower petals like confetti. Citrus zest threads through the palate, keeping the fruit honest and the whole thing wonderfully alive. Fun enough for a sun lounger, composed enough for the dinner table. This is Chiaretto doing exactly what it was born to do. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$14

88 Vigneti Villabella 2025 (Chiaretto di Bardolino Classico). Opens with aromas that balance ripe peach, citrus, and wild strawberry. From there, soft spring flowers carry things forward, a sage note weaving through like something foraged rather than planted. The finish is clean, brisk, and lemony, with a juicy acidity that keeps every sip refreshing and precise. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

88 Zeni 2025 Vigne Alte (Chiaretto di Bardolino Classico). Strawberries and tart cherries come right out of the gate with a floral lift and a slight herbal edge that keeps things from getting too simple. A citrus kiss on the finish ties it all together and sends you straight back for another pour. Fresh, vibrant, and ready to go the moment it hits the glass. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

BUYINGGUIDE

87 Vitevis 2025 Ca'Vegar (Bardolino Chiaretto). This wine has a spring in its step that never quite settles down, and that is exactly the point. Wild strawberry and a clean citrus spark on the nose, the palate easy and fruity at its core but with a snappy acidity that keeps pulling you back for the next sip. Barone Trading Company LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

VENETO RED WINES BARDOLINO

94 Le Fraghe 2025 (Bardolino). Some wines are built for the spotlight and some wines earn it quietly, vintage after vintage, until the glass makes the case all by itself. This one opens with a purity that stops you. Cherry and freshly cut herbs drift into cracked pepper and drying leaves, the palate moves with a fluid, almost weightless grace that makes you wonder why this wine is not already in everyone's cellar. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 22% **Price:** \$19

93 Az. Agr. Giovanna Tantini 2023 La Rocca Sot-tozona (Bardolino Classico). Black cherry and crushed raspberry open things but it is the details that hold you: laurel warmed to its most fragrant, wild rose pressed into something deeper, peppercorns just beginning to bloom. Rich and plush on the palate but a spine of acidity keeps the whole thing from settling too comfortably, savory earth arriving at the finish right on cue. Vintage Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

93 Azienda Agricola Gorgo 2025 (Bardolino). This wine has exactly one setting and that is "go." Fresh strawberry and cherry are at their absolute peak, bay leaf and thyme keep things grounded, a whisper of wisteria drifts through just because it can. The palate glides more than it walks—fresh and fine with enough substance to mean something, the kind of red that drinks like a good mood feels. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

93 Cantina Gentili 2023 Monte Baldo San Ver-olo (Bardolino). Think of that last stretch of summer when everything feels riper than it should, and that is the 2023 vintage showing up here. Black cherry and purple florals drift into dried herb territory, the palate is equal parts lush and grounded, wrapping with a savory earthy finish that lingers like a song you cannot quite get out of your head. Omniwines. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Azienda Agricola Monte Del Frá 2025 (Bardolino). This wine does not ease you in, it just opens the door and lets everything rush out at once. Wild cherry, strawberry, flowers, and herbs all arrive together, cracked pepper following as it settles and finds its voice. Full of fruit on the palate but the acidity keeps things honest, clean, and completely ready for

whatever comes next. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

92 Cantina Gentili 2025 (Bardolino). Red raspberry and currant come tumbling out of the glass practically tripping over each other to get your attention—floral and bright with rosemary and laurel threading underneath like a line of herbs drying in a Garda kitchen window. The palate is crunchy and mouthwatering, tart red fruit running the show right up until a savory finish sneaks in and owns the room. Omniwines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

92 Il Pignetto 2022 Sommacampagna (Bardolino). Sommacampagna's inland cool speaks through dried cherry, tart wild berry, fresh laurel leaf and the gentle ghost of dried rose, all punctuated by a bright crack of pink and black pepper. Fine tannins are present but politely so, content to support a wine whose real gift is a savory, lingering finish that stays with you. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Tenuta La Presa 2025 (Bardolino). Picture a perfectly balanced scale, with ripe cherry and bright raspberry on one side, a whisper of fresh thyme and wild herbs on the other. This Bardolino keeps that tension all the way through, never tipping too far in either direction. Silky tannins and a prickling acidity give every sip a clean, confident snap. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

91 Az. Agr. Giovanna Tantini 2024 (Bardolino Classico). There is an elegance here that does not announce itself, it just settles in and lets you come to it. Dark cherry with a lifted pine and wildflower quality that feels genuinely thoughtful. The palate is generous but focused, mixed berries drifting toward savory spice and cracked pepper, fine tannins, and a vein of electric acidity holding the whole thing taut. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Azienda Agricola Le Tende di Fortuna e Lucilini S.S. 2025 (Bardolino Classico). This wine is not here to impress anyone, it is here to have a good time and bring everyone along. Effusive from the first pour, bright cherry and crushed raspberry with wild rose and fresh bay leaf, black pepper adding just enough swagger. Mouthwatering acidity and superfine tannins carry that fruit energy forward to a savory close. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Azienda Agricola Le Tende di Fortuna e Lucilini S.S. 2024 (Bardolino Classico Superiore). There is a complexity here that reveals itself slowly, ripe raspberry and blueberry giving way to rose and herbs that sit somewhere between garden and apothecary in the best possible way. Elegant on the palate, ripe cherry and cracked pepper balanced precisely where savory and fruit meet on par, without either one winning. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Cavallchina 2024 (Bardolino). A bowlful of fresh cherries, wild strawberries, and dark cherries with rose petals scattered over the top, this wine wastes no time making its intentions clear. Everything is crisp, juicy and light on its feet, the smooth tannins never getting in the way, while a spicy kick of black pepper at the finish gives it just enough edge to keep you guessing. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Le Morette 2025 (Bardolino Classico). There is a brightness to this wine that hits immediately, sour cherry and tart red currant leading with freshly cut herbs and a whisper of baked clay keeping it honest. Elegant and pretty on the palate, high toned red fruits carrying through to a crisp, zippy finish that does not overstay its welcome. Uva Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Marchesini Family 2025 (Bardolino Classico). This is Bardolino at its most generous, like a friend who arrives with good food and better energy. Plump plum and cherry share the glass with fresh green herbs and pressed roses, black pepper arriving like the final word in a great conversation. The tannins are present but never pushy, the acidity keeping every sip alive. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Villa Meneghello 2025 Pal del Vo (Bardolino Classico). Cherries at every stage of ripeness, some plump and sweet, some still carrying a tart edge, with roses, violets and sweet herbs woven through and crushed stone underneath. Light and lifted on the palate but with plenty of fruit and a mouthwatering acidity that makes the whole thing completely effortless. Alberello Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Corte Mamaor 2025 Enosi Rosso (Bardolino). Everything you want from a great Bardolino shows up here like old friends arriving at the same time: wild cherry, sour plum, and freshly cut green herbs tumble out of the glass, with wild flowers and a hint of tobacco drifting close behind. Elegant and fine boned, it drinks with soft tannins, bright acidity and a juicy, fruit-driven energy that never lets up. Non-U.S. Imported. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$12

90 Poggio delle Grazie 2024 Bardolino (Bardolino). Imagine biting into a wild strawberry that has not quite made up its mind about being ripe yet, that little green edge and then a burst of sour cherry arriving with it like uninvited but very welcome guests. Floral and herby with a crunch that keeps the whole thing feeling alive and lifted right through the finish. Chill it. Pour it. Repeat. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Vigneti Villabella 2023 Vigna Morlongo (Bardolino). The Montebaldo hillsides have a way of making Bardolino feel more serious without losing its joy, and this wine makes that case beautifully. Ripe black currant and juicy cherry mingle with

purple flowers and sweet tobacco, the palate is full and generous with soft, pillowy tannins before a savory, lingering finish gives the whole thing a second, more thoughtful act. —J.P.

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

89 Casetto 2024 (Bardolino Classico Superiore). This wine does not wait for you to come to it. Crunchy tart red berries lead the charge straight into a garden of flowers and herbs, lifted and restless. The palate keeps that same momentum, sour-cherry bright, and mouthwatering, with a drinkability so effortless the bottle will be gone before the evening is. —J.P.

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

88 Il Pignetto 2024 (Bardolino). You notice the fruit first but the details are what earn your attention, with citrus peel, dried root herbs and fresh alpine herbs pushing through with a sophistication that feels genuinely its own. Rounded and juicy where it counts, savory, and lightly spiced where it matters, everything in exactly the right place. —J.P.

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

88 Menegotti 2025 (Bardolino). Picture a sun-warmed bowl of cherries left to their own devices, juices pooling, perfume deepening, sweet spice, and a flicker of pink pepper drifting up from somewhere in the middle. That is the opening act. The rest is easy and bright, juicy red fruit rolling through to a finish with a zippy, energizing lift that sends you straight back for more. Lewis Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Vitevis 2025 Cantina del Garda (Bardolino). There is an ease to this wine that feels entirely deliberate. Sweet forest fruits and violet on the nose with a gentle ground spice note sitting just beneath the surface. Fresh and crunchy on the palate, raspberry and cherry carrying through smoothly with nothing to get in their way. Barone Trading Company LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA

96 Dal Forno Romano 2019 (Amarone della Valpolicella). There are wines that define a style and wines that define a generation. This Amarone is both. Deep and penetrating from the very first breath, star anise, clove, cinnamon, and Chinese five-spice arrive before plum and blackberry compote, fallen leaves, and dried herbs layer in with a quiet intensity. The palate is powerful, rich, and lush. Dark fruits and loads of spice build through fine yet firm tannins to a finish that lingers long after the glass is empty. Drink from 2029. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.

abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$509

95 La Formica 2019 (Amarone della Valpolicella). Dark and brooding, there is a lot of information in this wine, and it doles it out only to

those who are patient. On the nose, find dried black plums, dried red cherries rolled in cinnamon, clove, and allspice. Hints of licorice root and dried tobacco yet to be cut. The palate leans more to that preserved red fruit, even mixed-berry compote, warmed and spiced. The tannins are elegant and fine, all wrapped up with the acidity, holding the wine together not just for now, but for the future. Drink now–2055. Non-U.S. imported. —J.P.

abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$50

92 La Giuva 2021 (Amarone della Valpolicella). This wine greets you warmly, dark chocolate, blueberries, and sweet cloves making it feel immediately inviting. But just as you settle in, something shifts, a cool mountain edge and a structural seriousness reminding you there is more going on beneath the surface. Rich without being heavy, the finish lingers and lingers, generous right to the end but never losing that edge. Ethica Wines. —J.P.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$80

91 San Michele 2020 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Chocolate-covered cherries and baking spices are up front with pipe tobacco and forest floor slowly pulling the nose into darker, more interesting territory. The palate is lush and plump, and that is where the extra age earns its keep, every edge smoothed out and the savory herbal and dried fruit characters coaxed forward into something that feels fully settled and completely at ease with itself. MISA Imports. —J.P.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Ca'Botta 2017 Pian di Mezzo Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella). Dark bittersweet chocolate wraps around candied cherries and blueberries while vanilla, cinnamon, clove, and sweet pipe tobacco layer in with turned earth beneath it all. The palate is where the velvet arrives, soft and plush, mixed berries bathing in spiced spirits before a creamy texture closes it with a richness that lingers long after the glass is empty. 8 Vini, Inc. —J.P.

abv: 17% **Price:** \$110

89 Corte Adami 2020 (Amarone della Valpolicella). Wild cherries and dark plum roll in with dried red flowers, warm cinnamon and star anise, chocolate and liquorice woven through the whole thing. Big and lush with a slightly viscous richness that somehow stays light on its feet, the acidity cutting through with a surprising raciness. Dry, clean and long, Amarone that knows how to work a room. Spirited Bluffs. —J.P.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$50

89 Corte Allodola 2023 Flavs (Amarone della Valpolicella). There is a warmth and generosity to this Amarone that settles in immediately. Cherry-pie filling and wild red-plum jam arrive alongside cocoa powder, tobacco leaf, and sweet baking spices, the palate carrying all of that forward before dried leaves, turned earth, and savory herbs deepen the picture. Vanilla bean and clove close it with a

sweetness that lingers just long enough. WD Direct. —J.P.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$32

88 Antiche Terre Venete 2022 Baorna (Amarone della Valpolicella). There is a layered richness here that unfolds slowly, blackberry pie and plum compote giving way to a spice mélange built around clove, with dried leaf and bitter chocolate shavings drifting in behind. The palate delivers the full Amarone experience, lush and generous from start to a finish that stays plush long after the glass is empty. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

88 Ca'Botta 2019 Cajo' (Amarone della Valpolicella). There is a certain indulgence to this one that arrives without apology. Spiced plum jam and dried Bing cherries wrapped in dark chocolate with sweet pipe tobacco curling through the edges. The palate is round, blackberry forward, and juicy with a quiet potting-soil note underneath that gives the whole thing somewhere to land. 8 Vini, Inc. —J.P.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$80

88 Covalli 2023 (Amarone della Valpolicella). This wine leads with everything Amarone is supposed to be: plum and prune, cocoa, tobacco, and a whisper of dried mint making the nose feel familiar and inviting. Soft and rounded, it wraps around the palate without any sharp edges. It stays in its lane from start to finish, a crowd-pleasing, no surprises ride that does exactly what it says on the label. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.

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

OTHER RED WINES

95 Dal Forno Romano 2020 (Valpolicella Superiore). Not every wine in this category dares to think this big. A thoughtful appassimento transforms the fruit quietly from the inside out, dried clove and anise leading into macerated plums and warm marsasca cherry jam, cinnamon threading through everything like a slow burn. Bold and heady but never heavy, the palate delivers dark preserved fruits and sweet savory spices to a long finish of graphite and sweet tobacco, the tannins fine and elegant. Drink now–2055. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$179

93 La Formica 2022 (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore). Baking plums, cherries being cooked down to preserves, tobacco, and a big pile of dried earth and just-turned-over forest floor. The palate is rounded, keeping that core of preserved and compote-like berries and plums, a touch of bitter sweet chocolate as the acidity adds tension and a defined earthy finish takes hold. This wine is all about those mushrooms, morels in spring, porcini in fall. Non-U.S. imported. —J.P.

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

93 Pasqua 2018 Mai Dire Mai (Valpolicella Superiore). This wine, translated as “never

BUYINGGUIDE

say never.” does not give itself away easily and that is precisely the point. Marasca cherry, forest underbrush, tobacco, and graphite build a layered, sophisticated nose before the palate opens into dark plum and espresso and cloves, the tannins fine and rounded through a long, peppery mineral finish. Pasqua USA LLC. *Hidden Gem*. —J.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$50

93 Vignaioli Contrà Soarda 2024 Gaggion (Veneto). You do not need to know a single thing about the Marzemino grape to fall for this wine, just that it arrives with tart plum, cracked pepper, wild flowers, and a velvet juicy energy that feels like an open invitation. Chill it slightly, put something on the grill and let the fun begin. From eggplant to tuna to ribs, this bottle has the whole table covered. Jan d'Amore Wines. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

89 Tenuta Polvaro 2021 (Venezia). There is something immediately generous about this blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Malbec, in which ripe plums and wild blackberries are cushioned by cocoa and a whisper of black pepper, the whole thing wrapping around the palate like a warm welcome. Supple, smooth and 100% crowd pleasing, it is the kind of bottle that empties itself while the conversation flows. Arel Group Wine & Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

DESSERT WINE

95 Vignaioli Contrà Soarda 2020 Sarson Torcolato Riserva (Breganze). Amber in color and unhurried by nature, this is a wine that demanded patience before it ever reached you; six months of drying, five years of quiet aging, and not a single moment wasted. Dried apricot, roasted hazelnut, and chestnut honey open into stone fruits deep in the oven; marmalade, candied orange peel, and raw vanilla thread through with a warmth that feels ancient and earned. Then the acidity arrives, and suddenly the whole glorious weight of it lifts. Drink now—2060. Jan d'Amore Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

TUSCANY WHITE WINES

MAREMMA TOSCANA

91 Rocca di Montemassi 2025 Calasole (Maremma Toscana). The nose adds a dash of pepper and herbs to a plate of sweet and tart citrus and tree fruit. Yellow apples, sugared grapefruit, and pineapple headline a tangy palate, but then warm, savory undertones emerge and run through the finish. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$18

90 Volpaia 2025 Vermentino (Maremma Toscana). The nose pops with aromas of Meyer lemon, white peach, and green-apple slices. The palate

is salty and tangy, with tart grapefruit and raw almonds leading the way, but sweet, ripe stone and tree fruit undertones add nuance to create a fresh, vibrant overall feel. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$26

89 Poggio Maestrino e Spiaggiole 2025 Torressaline Vermentino (Maremma Toscana). The nose swirls with aromas of lemon, lime, crushed rocks, and white flowers. On the palate, the citrus warms to orange and grapefruit flavors, as more savory notes of crushed rocks, shells, and salted nuts provide balance through the finish. Good Earth Wines Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$22

BOLGHERI

96 Grattamacco 2024 (Bolgheri). On the nose, white flowers bloom above a basket of white peaches, green apples, and honeydew melons. The peaches and melons open the palate, then lots of citrus and herbs, plus hints of pepper make themselves known. The overall feel is salty, tangy, and tart, but substantial. Winebow Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$55

94 Bell'Aja 2025 Bell'Aja Bianco (Bolgheri). The nose greets you with limes, green apples, and tulips, then stone fruit and herb aromas introduce themselves. The palate is lively with more tart citrus and snappy green apple slices, plus vibrant acid that carries through a nutty, salty finish. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

94 Caccia al Piano 1868 2024 Lungocosta Bianco (Bolgheri). The layered nose is fresh and saline, then herbaceous, then sweet with ripe stone fruit and Mandarin blossoms. Tart citrus and a savory coolness greet you on the mouthfilling, dynamic palate, then that rich sweetness returns, through a finish of toasted almonds and coconut. Alain Junguenet Selection. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$55

94 Terre del Marchesato 2024 Papeo (Bolgheri). The smoky, savory nose is headlined by aromas of flint, tennis ball, and grapefruit. Lemons, limes, green apples, and some stone fruit join the grapefruit element on the palate, but the overall feel is still savory, smoky, salty, and nutty through a finish blazing with white pepper heat. Global Spirits and Wine. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$27

93 Le Vigne di Silvia 2025 Giochessa Vermentino (Bolgheri). The nose has a crisp, clean feel, with aromas of new leather, Meyer lemon, white flowers, and toasted almonds. Those notes all reappear on the palate, but the overall feel is warmer and sunnier, and a sprinkle of salt on the finish adds nuance. Liber USA. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

93 Tenuta Meraviglia 2025 Botro dei Fichi (Bolgheri). The nose glimmers with aromas of

lemon, lime, grapefruit, and yellow apple. On the palate, raw almonds play with more grapefruit and apple notes, making this a refreshing, bright wine. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$36

92 Poggio al Tesoro 2025 Solosole Vermentino (Bolgheri). For full review see page 11.

abv: 13% Price: \$30

91 Antinori 2025 Guado al Tasso Vermentino (Bolgheri). The nose enchants with a floral headiness and a nutty richness, and the palate lives up to the billing with ripe white peaches, toasted almonds, Meyer lemons, and crushed rocks, plus a chalky, substantial mouthfeel. Vinattieri 1385. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

91 Podere Conca 2025 Elleboro (Bolgheri). The nose sprinkles grapefruit zest, wild oregano, and wild thyme over hot rocks, then transforms into a denser palate of lemon, grapefruit, and plenty more herbs. A deeply savory, nutty wine all the way through the finish. Wine Collection Holding. —D.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

97 Le Macchiole 2024 Paleo Bianco (Toscana). New leather, daffodils, crushed rocks, grapefruit, and lime on the nose open up into more intense limeade and green-apple candy on the palate, with a salty fresh kick from crushed rocks and herbs. Acid so electric this wine feels like it could bring someone back to life from the dead. Vintus Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$157

91 Vallepiciola 2023 (Toscana). On the nose the wine has a frankincense vibe—subtle and smoky along with white flowers and lemon. The palate has a lot of lift with bruised yellow apple and almonds. The finish stays balanced the whole time with some lengthy stretch that keeps the flavors gentle and persistent. MS Walker. —M.R.L.

abv: 14% Price: \$85

90 Marchesi Frescobaldi 2023 Benefizio Riserva Chardonnay (Pomino). The wine has dill flower, Tahitian vanilla, and just a little yellow banana pepper that escapes the glass. On the palate there are zesty lemon qualities that entwine with green melon and lychee. The finish feels dry and the acid is mellow but bright. Vintus Imports. —M.R.L.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

ROSÉ

92 Antinori 2025 Scalabrone Guado al Tasso Rosato (Bolgheri). Wild strawberry and watermelon aromas kick things off on the nose, then lots of mixed wild herbs and crushed stones join in. Cherries, berries, red plums, and blood oranges all strut on a radiant palate, making this a rosé with undeniable gravitas. Vinattieri 1385. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

TUSCANY

RED WINES

TOSCANA

98 Le Macchiole 2023 Scio (Toscana). This is like a garden after a light rain, with damp soil, herbs, tiny flowers popping up, and ripe fruit falling from the tree—impossibly alive on the palate, dancing like a live wire, electric and buoyant. It's a mosaic on the mouthfeel, a million tiny pieces all put together perfectly. This wine has always been great, but 2023 made my heart skip a beat. Vintus Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$359

97 Le Macchiole 2023 Messorio (Toscana). The nose unfolds with seemingly infinite layers, first vanilla bean and black cherries, then ripe raspberries and wild strawberries, then graphite and pepper. Sweet ripe berries and chocolate pop and mingle on the palate, with high tones of warm, bitter citrus, and dark, sweet, and umami notes of black licorice and espresso bean. Warm and expressive all the way through a very long finish. Vintus Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$473

97 Le Macchiole 2023 Paleo Rosso (Toscana). The nose always sets the tone for this wine: refined and elegant, but still relaxed and playful. Sweet ripe berries and cherries, pepper, and herbs, soil and crushed rocks, all roll together onto the palate, lifted by citrus and salt. Boundless energy restrained by a confident hand. Vintus Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$219

94 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2023 FSM (Toscana). The gravel-packed nose plays along with smoked cherry, hoisin, and a touch of tobacco. Charred meat and crushed black minerals cover the palate with black plum that gets just enough spotlight. The finish has plush tannin that keeps driving those dark qualities that come off the palate, while good acid that slips through the finish. This wine could probably sleep for a couple years on your shelf, or you can bring it out to impress some guests who say they don't like Merlot. F.X. Magner Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

94 La Sala del Torriano 2021 Campo All'Albero (Toscana). Ashy notes escape out of the glass with damp earth, and then roasted black fruit shows up late to the party. The wine has a dark appeal to it on the nose but all works in sync really nicely. The palate shows a lot of restraint and gets into balance rather quickly. Blackberry, charred green vegetable, and black minerals come through and finessed powdered tannins fall into the right places on the finish. Lock this one up for a little while and save a couple bottles for some carnivore-themed dinners. Vignaioli Selection. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

93 Arillo in Terrabianca 2021 Collezione di Campaccio (Toscana). The nose gusts with aromas of Mission figs, plums, tobacco leaf, and coffee grounds. The black fruit rides a wave of bitter citrus onto the palate, while earthy, smoky notes slowly emerge to guide you through a sanguine, savory finish. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Podernuovo a Palazzone 2022 G33 (Toscana). Red plum gets mixed with jelly and leather as you swirl the wine around the glass. The palate is noticeably big and plush at the very start and then you get vintage-leather-wrapped tannins that swell with plump cherry and black minerals. The finish provides some sleek acid that helps keep the wine tamed. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$270

92 Castello di Monsanto 2020 Fabrizio Bianchi Sangiovese Grosso (Toscana). Roasted blackberry and cherry swirl from the glass along with fresh cut pine. The palate is finessed with ripe red cherry fruit and jolts of bright acidity. Fine tannins come together at the end giving the finish nice structure. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Mannucci Droandi 2020 Campolucci (Tuscany). One of the many reasons I have a powerful love of the Valdarno subregion of Tuscany is that the disparate but delightful group of producers here move with an incredible dexterity among international, traditional, autochthonous, and indigenous expressions—no one more than Roberto Giulio Droandi, who leaps from his experimental vineyards to a sophisticated expression of Cabernet Sauvignon here in the Campolucci seemingly effortlessly. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Tenuta Le Forconate 2022 (Toscana). The nose has tart blackberry and oversteeped oolong tea that stretches itself across subtle foresty tones. The palate has great finesse that gets its help from fresh upfront acidity and gives you blackberry, ripened cherry, and finishes with dusty, herby woodland-flavored tannins. There's a decent amount of life left in this wine if you want to sleep on it for five to eight years. Enopoly Estate Wines. —M.R.L.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

91 Arillo in Terrabianca 2022 Campaccio (Toscana). The nose has a savory, smoky sensation, with aromas of hot tar, petrol, pepper, bergamot, and black plum. The palate presents more dark fruit, plus a warm, citrus, spicy element, all framed by tannins that are polished but powerful. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Castello del Terriccio 2022 Tassinai (Toscana). Currants and overripe raspberry work themselves out of the glass with violet and hibiscus humming in the background. The palate has some serious lift from bright red fruit and vivid fresh acid that gets right in your face, then fine-structured tan-

nins form and settle everything down, helping the finish feel pretty. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

91 Castello di Cacchiano 2021 FonteMerlano (Toscana). Tangy ripe red cherry and peppercorn cheese come out of the glass with a touch of crushed black rock and espresso. In comparison, the palate is much more gentle in its demeanor. Red cherry and juicy plum stay atop of the silky tannins and bright acid lifts the wine in a place that is easy-ish to drink when it comes to powerful Merlot. Skurnik Wines. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Mannucci Droandi 2020 Foglia Tonda (Tuscany). As a great lover of underdogs, I am always delighted to see a grape once considered only useful for blending get its 15 minutes of fame, and Foglia Tonda is more than deserving of this long overdue spotlight. Better yet, this Foglia Tonda has been groomed for the stage by the caring hands at Manucci Droandi, which appreciates its history and is excited for its future. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Podernuovo a Palazzone 2022 Sotirio Sangiovese (Toscana). Barbecue and pine cover fresh pomegranate on the nose. Tart underripe fruit come through on the palate with chalky tannins that are filled with salt and herbs. Gentle acid entwines through the chalky fine textured finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

91 Ruffino 2021 Alauda (Toscana). Sweet mint, roasted red pepper, Parmigiana rind, and ripe red fruit pulse from the wine's aromatics. This has a macho attitude with bold black fruit, plum skin, and big-time tannin that holds on with some grip. The acid helps mellow the wine out but the best way to experience this blend is to get some good fat under it and cook a ribeye with an open flame. Constellation Brands. —M.R.L.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$150

91 Tenuta Carobbio 2018 Magaldo Merlot (Toscana). Charcoal-grilled meat and black minerals are straight forward on the nose with a little bit of black fig poking through after a couple spins around the glass. Baked fig and pastry come together on the palate with some dirty earthy tones coming out of the plush firm tannin. Quintessential Wines. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69

91 Tenuta Le Forconate 2022 Le Forconate (Toscana). Black plum, maitake (Hen of the Woods) mushroom, and a little dusty forest floor show on the nose. The palate has some density that's filled with black minerals and charred black fruit. The acid races through the wine and brings all the dark qualities back to light. Enopoly Estate Wines. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$119

91 Urlari 2021 L'Urlo Merlot (Toscana). Earth, ash, and black fruit take on the nose with each

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swirl. A crystalline black minerality gets right upfront on the palate with chalky tannins that push dark bitter fruit across your tongue. The acid is spikes through the finish and does a nice job working with the dark qualities of this wine. Vine Connections. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Vallepiciola 2022 La Chiazza (Toscana). Black plum and slate spill from the nose of the wine while a woodshop essence plays out in the background. Cracked black pepper, juicy plum, and new leather work together on the palate. The wine finishes with powdery tannins that have acidity that hits a level that works really well. MS Walker. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Mannucci Droandi 2020 Barsaglina (Tuscany). Fresh and crunchy, then warm and sanguine, this expression of the very little known and rarely seen Barsaglina grape is simply delightful—a great swap for the more familiar Sangiovese and offering a bit of undiscovered history. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 Podernuovo a Palazzone 2024 Therra (Toscana). Red florals and red fruit work together on the nose with a bit of a chalky freshness. Ripe red cherry and raspberry come through on the palate with powdered sticky tannin that gives off a bit of rhubarb and minerals. The acid is fresh and the wine is clean and balanced. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

90 Podernuovo a Palazzone 2023 Argirio Cabernet Franc (Toscana). Juicy red fruit comes out then a rush of Tuscan herbs take off on the nose. The palate is lean and has some brambly black fruit showing up with good acid and fine tannins that feel a little earthy. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Poggio Anima 2022 Belial (Toscana). Roasted cherries with winter orange express out of the nose with the subtleties of tomato vine entwined in the fruit. The palate comes off very clean and delicate as you experience savory cherry juice. The tannins are very tame with acid that is moderately high. This is a classic style of Sangiovese that could be fun in an al fresco setting. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Rocca di Montemassi 2024 Le Focai (Toscana). The nose has a gentle, playful feel, with aromas of rose petals, drip coffee, strawberries, and milk chocolate. On the palate, raspberries and bitter citrus are balanced by dark chocolate and espresso, then a chili pepper heat sneaks up on you on the finish. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Tenuta Carobbio 2016 Leone Sangiovese (Toscana). Stewed tomatoes rush from the glass with roasted herbs and dark chocolate, like someone was trying to perfect a Sunday sauce. The palate has some freshness but the roasted fruit and

herbs take over any fresh appeal it's trying to convince you of. The finish has mature integrated tannins with clear signs of oak and spice, however, with its 10 years of age on it the wine feels like it doesn't have much time left, so open it up now. Quintessential Wines. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Villa Pillo 2023 Cingalino (Toscana). Tiny red berries that have a bit of citrus zest leaning over its shoulder are gentle leaving the glass. On the palate, the wine is lean with delicate red florals and comes with a handful of fresh red fruit. The tannins are easy going and have mild acidity that buries itself into the wine. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Podernuovo a Palazzone 2025 Spiridio Sangiovese (Toscana). The nose gives you red cherry and sweet plums with subtle spice coming out in the background. Soft lean tannins drive bitter fruit skin and level acid on the palate while Tuscan spices poke through on the finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

MAREMMA TOSCANA

92 Fattoria di Magliano 2021 Perenzo Syrah (Maremma Toscana). A sanguine, umami nose unfurls with aromas of black olive, pepper, earth, blackberries, and black plum. The palate is savory and peppery, with undertones of bitter chocolate and more dark fruit. On the finish, herbs and earth take you home. Opici Wines & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$63

92 Rocca di Montemassi 2022 Sassabruna (Maremma Toscana). The nose unfurls with aromas of blackberries, bergamot, pepper, and dark chocolate. The palate is both tart and sweet, with flavors of blackberries, black cherries, and black plums, and the finish is warm with bitter citrus and more chocolate. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 Fattoria di Magliano 2023 Sinarra Sangiovese (Maremma Toscana). A juicy, fresh nose sprinkles orange zest over wild strawberries and raspberries. The fruit stays bright on the palate, but iron-rich soil and a milk-chocolate finish provide balance. A lively, fresh wine throughout. Opici Wines & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Maciarine 2021 Insieme ROSSO (Maremma Toscana). The nose opens with the floral salinity of new leather, peonies, and rose petals, then adds the density of chocolate and forest berries for balance. The palate opens with those sweet, ripe berries, then leans into tangy, iron-rich earth and citrus notes that are fortified by chalky tannins. Vero USA. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

91 Rocca di Montemassi 2022 Rocca di Montemassi (Maremma Toscana). Black cherries

add pop to an otherwise savory, herbaceous nose of pepper, coffee grounds, and fennel. Sweet, ripe black cherries and Mission figs star on the palate, while polished but grippy tannins look on. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Tenuta Moraia 2024 Il Pacchia (Maremma Toscana). The nose opens with strawberry jam, milk chocolate, and orange zest, then adds earth and spices. Cherries and raspberries join more strawberries on the palate, and that peppery earthiness also persists, fortified by an emergent herbaceousness and chalky tannins. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Tenuta Sassoregale 2021 Poderalta (Maremma Toscana). The nose opens with sweet blackberries and black plums, then turns savory with black olives, wild herbs, and pepper. On the palate, tart blackberries and bitter citrus flex above a foundation of peppery earth, and tannins are still firm against acid that remains fierce. Herita USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

CHIANTI

90 Cantina Giuliano 2023 (Chianti). Pomegranate and plum come out of the glass with forest floor framing the fruit. The palate has juicy red fruit that comes packed with spice and minerality. On the finish you get a pretty well-built Chianti that has leveled acid and balanced structure. Royal Wine Corporation. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Poggio Scudieri 2022 Benedicto Riserva (Chianti). The nose comes spicy while giving you pine bark and cherry pie. The palate mimics the nose almost "to a T" with soft gentle tannin giving decent structure and moderate acidity. Ventura Selections LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Da Vinci 2024 (Chianti). Ripe cherries and molasses come together on the nose with a slight tang framing the aromas coming from the glass. Black cherry takes on the palate with slight bitter notes as if from the cherry skin itself. The finish is dry and moderately structured with level acidity keeping things together. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Specially Selected 2023 Riserva (Chianti). Tree bark and herbs wrap themselves around charred blackberry, making for a very foresty nose. The palate shows kind of thin as you get leaned-out underripe red fruit and acidity that is stepping over the structure. That's a pretty tough vintage to make a riserva wine. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

CHIANTI CLASSICO

96 Istine 2022 Vigna Istine Gran Selezione Radda (Chianti Classico). The nose opens sanguine and savory with a peppery earthiness, then adds tart, tangy fruit aromas of blood orange and cranberry. Sweeter fruit notes of strawberry, raspberry, and Cara Cara orange emerge on the palate, beneath a sprinkle of salt. A sunny, warm, welcoming wine. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

96 San Felice 2022 La Pieve Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Forest berries pop on an otherwise savory, umami nose of hot tar, petrol, black olive, pepper, and fennel. The palate is cohesive, with blackberries and blueberries playing above a foundation that stays savory, before citrus, salt, and acid light up a chocolate finish. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

95 Brancaia 2022 Brancaia Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 4. Gallo.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

95 Caparsa 2022 Doccia a Matteo (Chianti Classico). The nose opens cool, earthy, and fresh, with wet slate, blackberries, and flint, then adds a bit of mocha. The palate is warmer, with bright, crunchy berries and tons of citrus and salt, all lifted by buoyant acid. A very streamlined, honest expression. Artisan Wine, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

95 Cigliano di Sopra 2023 Gran Selezione Cigliano di Sopra (Chianti Classico). The nose presents shimmering aromas of new leather, peonies, rose petals, and hot tar. Wild cherries and strawberries lead the way on a tart, bright, lively palate, where soaring acid is just kept in check by structured tannins. Jan d'Amore Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$200

95 Fontodi 2023 Vigna del Sorbo Panzano (Chianti Classico). The nose gleams with aromas of black cherry, blackberries, crushed rocks, and wet slate. The palate brings more cherries and berries, over a foundation of dark chocolate and orange peel, which is reinforced by pliant but powerful tannins. Vinifera Imports Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

95 Isola delle Falcole 2022 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose opens sanguine, umami, peppery, and tart, then turns sweet with toasted coconut shavings dipped in milk chocolate. Cherries join more chocolate on the palate, then the finish brings a chili pepper kick. Textured tannins balance spirited acid. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$180

95 Monteraponi 2021 Gran Selezione Bragantino (Chianti Classico). An umami, savory nose presents aromas of black olive, coffee grounds,

balsamic, and pepper. The palate is tart and saline with flavors of blackberries, black cherries, wet slate, and damp earth, setting up the bracing, minty freshness that blows across the finish. Grand Cru Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$360

95 Ricasoli 2023 Castello di Brolio Gran Selezione Gaiole (Chianti Classico). The nose intrigues with suave aromas of hot tar, roses, polished leather, and forest berries. Sweet, ripe blackberries and blueberries burst on the palate, over a chocolate ganache base, before a cooling, fresh blast of spearmint blows across the finish. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

95 Ruffino 2023 Romitorio di Santedame Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose scatters blackberries, black cherries, and fennel over dirt, brambles, and crushed rocks. The palate brings flavors of licorice, bergamot, and more tart black fruit, while textured, chalky tannins create a layered, dense sensation through the finish. Constellation Brands. —D.C.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$70

95 Vecchie Terre di Montefili 2021 Vineia Vecchia Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose has a sophisticated sensation, with aromas of black cherries, dark chocolate, raspberries, orange slices, and cloves. On the palate, spices, dried stone fruit, and berries settle into a bed of dark chocolate, while outside a river of acid rushes over sleek, polished tannins. Volio Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

94 Agricola Querciabella 2023 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, ripe Bing cherries and raspberries are both complemented and balanced by pencil shavings and terra cotta. Strawberries lift the fruit notes on the palate, while chocolate and licorice preserve balance through a finish that radiates warm, tart citrus. Maison Marques et Domaines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

94 Agricola Querciabella 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has a playful yet sophisticated feel, with aromas of berries, sweet orange, vanilla, clove, and old leather. The palate brings more berries, citrus, and spices, but also earthy, savory undertones that gradually become more pronounced, fortified by structured, dense tannins. Maison Marques et Domaines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

94 Banfi 2022 Fonte alla Selva Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). On the nose, blackberries and black plums pop above an anchor of chocolate, leather, and hot pavement. A cohesive palate brings plenty more dark fruit, chocolate, and savory earthiness, all structured by assertive, but not aggressive, tannins and acid. Banfi Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Caparsa 2022 Caparsino (Chianti Classico). The nose gusts with cool, earthy, saline aro-

mas of crushed rocks, mixed herbs, and new leather. Blackberries and black cherries gleam on the palate, above more of those flinty, salty elements, but there's also a lively, fiery heat that's carried by intense acid through the finish. Artisan Wine, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

94 Carobbio 2018 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the umami, savory, sanguine feel of black olives, wild thyme, black plum, old leather, and tobacco leaf. On the palate, the dark fruit elements are accentuated by pomegranate, wet slate, cooling herbs, and silken tannins. Quintessential Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

94 Castello di Ama 2022 Vigneto Bellavista Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is defined by the luxe sweetness of pomegranate, Mission fig, vanilla, and milk chocolate. Black plums join the figs to headline a palate that shifts from the nose's sweetness to a tangy, tart, citrus feel, but fierce tannins enforce order. The Sorting Table. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$290

94 Castello di Cacchiano 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose unfurls with sanguine, umami aromas of old leather, underbrush, balsamic, and pepper. The palate balances things out with sweet, ripe blackberries and black plums, before a cooling finish of mint and medicinal herbs. Energetic and crunchy. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

94 Castello di Gabbiano 2021 Vigneto Bellezza Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 6. Treasury Wine Estates.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

94 Castello di Monsanto 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose brings energizing aromas of wild cherry, raspberry, wild fennel, and white pepper. On the palate, fruit bursts into a sweet, tart, lively starburst, then hints of dark chocolate and licorice emerge, before finally salt, pepper, and bitter citrus wash over the finish. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

94 Castello La Leccia 2022 Bruciagna Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose has the sweet, floral feel of vanilla bean, Bing cherries, and Mandarin blossoms. Cherries and raspberries open the palate, then give way to darker fruit notes and chocolate. Chalky tannins balance persistent acid. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

94 Castello Monterinaldi 2020 Vigneto Boscone (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 6. Vinifera Imports Ltd.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$79

94 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2023 La Prima Gran Selezione Greve (Chianti Classico). The nose scatters blackberries and black currants over a bed of flinty topsoil. On the palate, those dark fruit and

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metallic soil elements persist, with herbs and bitter citrus joining for nuance. Sleek, polished tannins slide down the tongue, straight into a bitter cocoa finish. F.X. Magner Selections, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$45

94 I Fabbri di Susanna Grassi 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is savory and umami, with aromas of underbrush, damp leaves, pencil shavings, black olives, and wild herbs. Balance comes on a palate that presents Bing cherries, wild strawberries, and orange zest, then finishes with Maldon salt and crackling, illuminating acid. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

94 Il Molino di Grace 2023 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose entices with aromas of cedar, sandalwood, milk chocolate, and Bing cherry. The fruit darkens on a palate where black cherries, blackberries, and black plums lead the way, until warm citrus and a chili pepper heat ride ferocious tannins and acid into an explosive finish. Vigneti del Sole Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$49

94 Il Poggolino 2023 Le Balze Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose coats black cherries in dark chocolate, above saltwater lapping at crushed rocks. Berries and more cherries pop on the palate, lifted by warm citrus and more salt, and then a long, simmering, hot finish takes you home. Enoclasica Selection. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

94 Innesto - Sofia Ricasoli 2021 Innesto Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose opens earthy and umami, then turns perfumed and spicy. A fresh, incisive palate brings bright, crunchy fruit floating in a current of citrus that is both tart and warm, with sleek, satiny tannins providing the banks. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

94 Maurizio Alongi 2023 Vigna Barbischio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is cool, fresh, and tangy, with aromas of cranberries, dried cherries, white pepper, fennel, and mint. The palate stays crisp with blackberries, blueberries, licorice, and mint-chocolate-chip ice cream, while taut tannins balance lively acid. Panebianco. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

94 Montemaggio 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is intensely sanguine and saline, like a bistecca alla fiorentina garnished with flaky Maldon salt, and unexpectedly accompanied by blood orange iced tea with a sprig of thyme. Tart, tangy fruit leads a deceptively young, fresh, and mineral palate: the only hint of age comes from tannins beginning to unwind. Dionysos Imports Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$47

94 Podere Capaccia 2021 (Chianti Classico). The nose is at once herbaceous, earthy, juicy, and tart. On the palate, sweet, ripe berries pop above a backbone of bright citrus, then the earth and herbs

return, carried on the backs of chalky, dense tannins. Willette Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$43

94 Poggio al Sole 2022 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose presents figs, plums, earth, leather, and chocolate, then segues smoothly into a palate that brings plenty more dark fruit and that same earthiness, which is emphasized on the finish by chalky tannins and a peppery heat. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

94 Pomona 2022 Vigna Pomona l'Omino Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose starts by dipping black currants and figs in milk chocolate, then adds dirt and brambles for balance. Tart, tangy fruit notes of blackberries and black plums pop on the palate, while hawkish tannins and unapologetic acid add intensity. Lots of fight left in this one. Skurnik Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$54

94 Querceto di Castellina 2023 Sei Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose first brings aromas of black cherry, pomegranate, sweet citrus, and chocolate, then notes of pavement and leather balance things out. The fruit is ripe and precise on the palate, and then grippy, chewy, dense tannins draw you into a deep finish. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$60

94 Quercia al Poggio 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is very savory and umami, but also tart and tangy, with aromas of tamarind, chili pepper, black olive, and wild oregano. Wild cherries and strawberries headline the palate, but undertones of warm citrus and spices add heat that lingers through the finish. Vineyard Road Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

94 Ricasoli 2023 Brolio Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose entices with aromas of vanilla, clove, tobacco leaf, Mission fig, and black currant. On the palate, the sweet, dark, ripe fruit notes are balanced by flinty earth and salty crushed rocks, and firm tannins hold their own against robust acid. Ethica Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

94 Riecine 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose swirls with herbaceous, fresh aromas of fennel, mint, sage, and crushed rocks. Blackberries and blueberries lead the way on the palate, but eventually dark chocolate emerges alongside a resurgent mintiness, and then the finish swells with peppery heat and vigorous acid. Grand Cru Selections. —D.C.

abv: 1% Price: \$57

94 Riecine 2022 Gran Selezione Vigna Gittori (Chianti Classico). The nose unfurls with floral, saline aromas of new leather, peonies, rose petals, crushed rocks, and white pepper. On the palate, flavors of black cherry, blackberry, and bergamot play on a foundation of flinty soil, until a peppery, spicy undertow pulls you to the finish. Grand Cru Selections. —D.C.

abv: 25% Price: \$120

94 Rocca di Montegrossi 2019 Vigneto San Marcellino Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Dried Mission figs, rum raisins, and pomegranate syrup open the nose, then fresh wild herbs and a crack of black pepper jump in. On the palate, tart, tangy blackberries and black plums come first, followed by bitter citrus and more pepper. Tannins and acid are firm and insistent. Vintus New York. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

94 San Felice 2023 Il Grigio Riserva (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 7. USA Wine West.

abv: 13% Price: \$35

94 Setriolo 2023 Gran Selezione Le Terrazze (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 7. Kysela Pere et Fils, LTD.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$69

94 Setriolo 2023 Gran Selezione Rondinelle (Chianti Classico). The nose starts by coating Mission figs and pomegranate in dark chocolate, then adds hints of pepper and graphite. Just-ripened blackberries and black cherries star on the palate, before mouthwatering acid spotlights bright citrus and bittersweet chocolate on the finish. Jan d'Amore Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$69

94 Stomennano 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose brings energizing aromas of graphite, pencil shavings, new notebook, tilled soil, mixed herbs, and tart berries. On the palate, the fruit stays tart, bright, and snappy through a salty, citrusy finish, making this a refreshing, lively wine overall. USA Wine West, LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

94 Tenuta di Campomaggio 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose draws you in with cold brew, vanilla bean, and pomegranate aromas, then adds damp soil and wild herbs as an anchor. On the palate, a quiet stream of acid flows past dense, chewy tannins, carrying black cherries and blackberries into a mocha finish. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$37

94 Tenuta La Novella 2022 Piano del Sarti Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose opens savory and earthy, then adds the spicy warmth of tree fruit dusted with baking spices. A delightfully autumnal palate runs with that nuanced fruit element, as flavors of red apples, cinnamon sticks, plums, and brown sugar coat the tongue like fallen leaves. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$42

94 Tolaini 2023 Vallenuova Riserva (Chianti Classico). A savory, restrained nose brings hints of leather, tobacco, flowers, and herbs. The palate sprinkles bitter cocoa over blackberries and blueberries, while more savory notes of earth and herbs provide balance, and fierce tannins enforce order on spirited acid. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$42

94 Vallepiciola 2022 Gran Selezione Vigneto Lapina (Chianti Classico). The nose has the density of a car tire and warm pavement, but also the delicacy of peonies and violets, and a saline, mineral anchor of crushed rocks. On the palate, juicy, ripe blackberries and black cherries burst over a citrus backbone, and that salinity carries through a long finish. MS Walker. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Vecchie Terre di Montefili 2021 Vinea nel Bosco Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The savory, umami nose pops with aromas of black olive, wild herbs, pepper, and new leather. Blackberries and black plums sit on the palate above a foundation of more earth, herbs, and pepper, before a finish of bitter citrus and salt. Volio Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Villa a Sesta 2023 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The sweet, floral nose shines with aromas of rose petals, violets, peonies, cherries, and strawberries. Red plums, raspberries, and blood oranges join in on the palate, before clay-like tannins draw out a salted milk chocolate element on the finish. Angelini Wine. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

94 Villa di Rignana 2021 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). A luxe nose presents aromas of Luxardo cherries, sugar plums, dark chocolate, and licorice. The palate is tangy and tart, with lots of citrus, iron-rich soil, and just ripened dark fruit, and has a sense of purpose thanks to firm tannins and fierce acid. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

93 Borgo La Stella 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A savory warmth defines the nose, which brings aromas of hot tar, car tire, black olive, wild herbs, and spices. Wild cherries and raspberries lead the way on the palate, beneath a sprinkle of orange zest, herbs, and salt, while chewy tannins look on. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Borgo Scopeto 2019 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose brings savory, umami aromas of hot tar, black olive, balsamic, and pepper. On the palate, blackberries and black cherries are framed by milk chocolate and licorice, then the finish squeezes citrus over chewy, dense tannins. Vineyard Brands. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Borratella 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A sophisticated nose entices with toasted coconut, vanilla bean, old leather, sweet tobacco, and Luxardo cherries. Strawberries join the cherries to headline the palate, above a foundation of bitter citrus and crushed rocks, before a peppery finish. A restrained, balanced wine. Vinum Italia, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

93 Capaccioli - Poggio Niccolini 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose entices with

aromas of macerated blackberries, dried figs, black cherries, vanilla, and cloves. On the palate, abundant orange zest and salt spotlight lively and ripe fruit. Acid zips past sturdy tannins, leading to an intensely hot finish. —D.C.

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

93 Capannelle 2020 Gaiole Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is an umami-sweet tension, with underbrush, old leather, vanilla, and wild cherry. A cohesive palate layers warm red fruit and citrus over more savory, umami notes, before a finish of dark chocolate and dried dark fruit that is framed by chalky, chewy tannins. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Carus Vini 2019 Gaudio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is rich with dark macerated fruit, dried figs, rum raisins, tobacco leaf, walnuts, and bergamot. Ripe, juicy blackberries and plums pop on the palate beneath a squeeze of fresh citrus and a crack of black pepper, and vigorous acid carries through a long finish. Bravo Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Casa Sola 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Black plums pop on an otherwise peppery, savory nose of pencil shavings, graphite, and tobacco leaf. Tangy, tart blackberries join the plums on the palate, then give way to dried figs and dark chocolate, and then finally a citrusy, salty lift rises on the finish. The House of Burgundy. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

93 Castello di Albola 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A savory, saline, floral nose gleams with aromas of new leather, hot tar, peonies, crushed rocks, and wild herbs. Black cherries and blackberries strut on the palate, while undertones of dark chocolate and licorice provide balance. The finish brings a spicy warmth. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

93 Castello di Ama 2022 San Lorenzo Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). On the nose, vanilla bean overtones draw out the sweetness of wild cherries, wild strawberries, and Cara Cara oranges. The wild berries are both sweet and tart on the palate, and more citrus washes over earthy undertones. Firm, grippy tannins provide an anchor throughout. The Sorting Table. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 Castello di Bossi 2021 Berardo Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is a lively blend of mocha, cherries, damp earth, leaves, pepper, and herbs. On the palate, strawberries and orange zest accentuate the cherry element, then the earth and herbs return for balance. Clay-like tannins keep a peppery heat in check on the finish. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Castello di Gabbiano 2022 Vigneto Cerbaiola Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose

opens earthy, then adds fruit aromas of blackberries and black plums, but stays tangy throughout. On the palate, the fruit is sweeter and riper, and the earth tones roll over to milk chocolate and licorice. Substantial acid washes over polished tannins. Treasury Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Castello di Meleto 2021 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose has a savory, sanguine sensation, with aromas of hot tar, potting soil, pepper, black olive, and black plum. The palate layers blackberries and blueberries over salted dark chocolate, then the salt swells on the finish alongside a fresh, cooling herbaceousness. Panebianco Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 Castello di Radda 2019 Gran Selezione Radda Vigna Il Corno (Chianti Classico). The nose opens smoky, peppery, umami, and sanguine, then an herbaceous, fresh breeze blows the smoke away. Bing cherries, wild strawberries, and orange slices shine on the palate, before an anchoring finish of salty dark chocolate reinforced by wide, polished tannins. MS Walker. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Castello Monterinaldi 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the umami, sanguine feel of black olives, oregano, topsoil, pepper, and dried Mission figs. On the palate, bright, fresh, crunchy fruit notes combine with citrus warmth and saline bounce to create a decidedly youthful and energetic wine. Vinifera Imports Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2023 Le Bolle Gran Selezione Greve (Chianti Classico). A nuanced nose layers Bing and black cherries with topsoil, then sprinkles orange zest and fennel over the top. The fruit matures and ripens on the palate, as flavors of fig, pomegranate, and bergamot coast in a dark chocolate current, then anise and espresso emerge on the finish. F.X. Magner Selections, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

93 Certosa Pontignano 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the simultaneously tart and sweet sensation of just-picked blackberries and black currants. Those dark fruit notes are bright, crunchy, and ripe on the palate, then give way to a fresh, cool finish of herbs and black licorice. Caput Mundi Wine Import. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Colle Bereto 2021 Colle Bereto Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 7. Classic Wines, Inc.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$140

93 Colombaio di Cencio 2022 Montelodoli Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose refreshes and intrigues with aromas of new leather, flowers, and just-ripened dark fruit. Blackberries star on the palate, spotlighted by tea leaves and orange

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slices, then acid and salt dance on the finish. Ethica Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Fattoria Carpineta Fontalpino 2021 Vigna Dofana Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

The nose has the gleam of blackberries and black cherries, but also the texture of bitter chocolate and coffee grounds for balance. Chocolate coats the cherries on the palate, but cola and the savory tangy of chicory coffee add buoyancy through a herbaceous, peppery finish. Wines, LLC. —D.C.

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

93 Fattoria Castel Ruggero 2020 Vigna Sant'Eustachio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

The nose is cool and earthy, but also peppery, with aromas of black plums, damp soil, and fresh herbs. Flavors of blackberry, black cherry, bergamot, and flinty soil define a tangy palate, while grippy tannins keep vibrant acid in check. —D.C.

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

93 Felsina 2022 Rancia Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

The nose gleams with aromas of blackberries, blueberries, violets, and wet slate. The palate kicks off with flavors of bitter citrus, crushed rocks, and earth, then returns to the tart and sweet dark fruit notes. Rigid tannins keep fiery acid in check. Polaner Selections. —D.C.

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

93 Fonterutoli 2023 (Chianti Classico).

An earthy, umami nose presents aromas of damp soil, herbs, balsamic, and tart berries. On the palate, flavors of blackberry, black cherry, and fig are anchored in a dark-chocolate foundation, while hints of warm citrus and salt add nuance. Tannins are firm, but flexible. Demeine Estate. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

93 Fontodi 2023 (Chianti Classico).

On the nose, aromas of bergamot and blackberries pop above a foundation of topsoil and pencil shavings. On the palate, the blackberries are joined by black cherries, crushed stones, and white pepper, before a cool, fresh finish. Vinifera Imports LTD. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 I Fabbri di Susanna Grassi 2023 Terra di Lamole (Chianti Classico).

The nose presents fresh, cool, floral aromas of peonies, roses, and crushed rocks. On the palate, flavors of pomegranate and rhubarb are balanced by more of that stony salinity, which endures through the finish, while acid zips past grippy tannins. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —D.C.

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

93 Istine 2022 Levigne Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The nose intrigues with aromas of milk chocolate, orange peel, Bing cherry, and espresso bean. Cherries and strawberries join more chocolate and citrus on the palate, which is zesty and fresh, but pepper and spices blend with the chocolate to provide a savory anchor. Soilair Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Le Cinciole 2021 Aluigi Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

The nose sprinkles salt and pepper over flower petals, tilled soil, and forest berries. On the palate, blackberries and black cherries are framed by dark chocolate and licorice, and carefully polished tannins enhance that settled, organized feel. Lucidity Wine Merchants, LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Le Fonti - Panzano 2021 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

The nose is floral, fruity, and saline, with aromas of passion fruit, peonies, and cherry blossoms. Wild cherries, strawberries, and orange slices kick off a well-textured palate, then give way to a spiced earthiness and a peppery heat that carries through a finish that's nonetheless bright. Villa Italia Gourmet Food and Wine. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

93 Luiano 2023 Ottantuno Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

Just barely ripe blackberries and black plums kick off the palate, followed by earth and herbs for balance. The palate leans into that savory herbaceousness, with bitter citrus, fennel, and mint, but the tart and sweet dark fruit elements also persist, even in the face of authoritative tannins. Opici Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

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

93 Mannucci Droandi 2020 Ceppeto Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The Manucci Droandi Chianti Classico caught me off guard with its depth and energy this year, and the Riserva was an equally delightful surprise. All the richness and dynamism remains on the Riserva, but with the promise of a long life and yet more sophistication as that time passes. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Mazzei 2023 Ser Lapo Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The nose has a sanguine, bright feel, with aromas of iron-rich soil, blood orange, and cranberry. Dark, richer fruit notes of blackberries and black plums headline the palate, while pepper and more soil provide an anchor. Chalky tannins balance spirited acid. Demeine Estate. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Nittardi 2023 Casanuova di Nittardi Vigna Doghessa (Chianti Classico).

The nose brings the tang of damp soil, flint, tea leaf, bergamot, sour cherry, and wild strawberry. Raspberries join the strawberries on the palate, while mocha and more bitter citrus peek out from the back. Chewy tannins intensify a chili pepper heat through the finish. Midwest Wine Exchange. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Panzanello 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico).

On a tart, fresh nose, aromas of topsoil, blackberries, flint, bergamot, and pepper pop from the glass. Juicy, ripe fruit notes of blackberries, currants, and cherries lead the way on the palate, above a foundation of bitter citrus and cocoa. Textured tannins keep substantial acid in bounds. Dolce Vita Wine Merchant. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Piemaggio 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The nose offers aromas of Mission fig, pomegranate, black plum, pepper, fennel, and topsoil. The palate coats black cherries in dark chocolate and adds a splash of Sambuca to espresso, then ignites in a blaze of bitter citrus and pepper. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —D.C.

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

93 Podere La Villa 2022 Expecta Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The nose is a blast of mint: cool, fresh, and herbaceous. On the palate, ripe yet tart blackberries and black cherries prance down a catwalk of tangy earth, to carry that saline, fresh herbaceousness through the finish. Vera Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

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

93 San Donatino 2019 Poggio ai Mori Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The nose presents sanguine, spicy, umami aromas of pepper, wild oregano, black olive, and balsamic. Those notes all reappear on the palate, where black plums and black cherries emerge to provide balance. Tannins are dense, but polished to a gleam. Marc de Grazia Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Savignola Paolina 2022 360° Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

Black plums pop on an otherwise earthy, umami nose of damp soil, underbrush, old leather, and pepper. The palate brings more dark fruit, pepper, and soil, before a hint of vanilla bean and a warm squeeze of citrus come out on the finish. Tavolo Vigneto. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

93 Stefano Farina Le Bocce 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The nose pops with tangy aromas of tea leaf, black plum, terra cotta, and pepper. Sweeter, riper dark fruit notes headline the palate, but a peppery earthiness provides an anchor, and developing elements of dark chocolate and licorice add nuance. A well-integrated wine. Affinity Brands Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

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

93 Tenuta Casenuove 2022 Tenuta Casenuove Riserva (Chianti Classico).

The nose has the earthy, savory feel of underbrush, damp earth, hot tar, black olive, and black plum. On the palate, blackberry, milk chocolate, and orange-peel notes accentuate the black plum element, as bright acid shines past taut tannins. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

93 Tenuta di Arceno 2022 Strada al Sasso Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).

The nose entices with aromas of pepper, herbs, blue flowers, dark fruit, mocha, and mint. Black cherries coated in dark chocolate star on the palate, before a salty and sweet finish of bitter citrus and more dark chocolate. Dusty, grippy tannins balance a lifting current of citrus. Sovereign Wine Imports. —D.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

93 Tenuta di Carleone 2023 (Chianti Classico).

The nose is both spicy and sweet, with aro-

mas of chili pepper, tamarind, tart cherries, and blood orange. On the palate, raspberries and wild strawberries are lifted by currents of warm, fresh citrus and white pepper, while textured tannins provide structure. Classica Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

93 Terreno 2022 Sillano Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of tamarind, blood orange, chili pepper, wild oregano, black olive, and black plum on the nose transition into ripe blackberries and black cherries on the palate, set into a sanguine, smoky foundation. Chewy, dense tannins balance lively acid. Vintage 59. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

93 Villa Calcinai 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose sprinkles pepper and wild herbs over Bing cherries and cranberries, and the palate underscores that tangy, tart feel, with tea leaves and blood orange notes joining more cherries. Precise acid balances powerful tannins. The Marchetti Co. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$60

93 Villa Mangiacane 2021 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose has the herbaceous, savory feel of low tide, crushed rocks, cola, and wild herbs. Purple- and black-fruit flavors preen on the palate, above plenty more of the salty, savory, herbaceous notes from the nose, while acid soars overhead. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

93 Villa Vignamaggio 2020 Gran Selezione Monna Lisa (Chianti Classico). The nose has the warm, indulgent feel of macerated dark berries, milk chocolate, vanilla bean, and cloves. The palate layers black cherries with dark chocolate, then finishes with an espresso corrected with Sambuca and a sudden shock from a current of acid. Babylonstoren US. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$69

92 Arillo in Terrabianca 2023 Sacello (Chianti Classico). The nose dusts malted chocolate over a plate of Bing cherries and toasted coconut, then adds an orange-peel garnish. Those elements all reappear on the palate, with sturdy, dense tannins fortifying the cocoa element in particular. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

92 Arillo in Terrabianca 2021 Poggio Croce (Chianti Classico). The nose has the earthy, peppery feel of topsoil, leaves, wild herbs, and tobacco. Cherries lead the way on the palate, beneath a generous dusting of spices, salt flakes, and cracked black pepper, before a wave of acid and citrus crashes over the finish. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$45

92 Badia a Coltibuono 2024 (Chianti Classico). A bright, fresh, tangy nose pops with aromas of tea leaf, pencil shaving, and cranberry. The palate brings an earthier, more herbaceous freshness, but tart, sweet berries and salted chocolate also make

themselves known. Acid is vigorous. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

92 Badia a Coltibuono 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A sanguine, umami, spicy nose is headlined by aromas of chili pepper, balsamic, and flinty soil. Snappy-skinned red plums and Bing cherries pop on the palate, then the finish balances things out with more earth and a cool, fresh herbaceousness. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$46

92 Belvedere 2024 Tenuta de' Carfini (Chianti Classico). A saline, floral nose presents aromas of crushed rocks, new leather, violets, and peonies. Wild cherries and raspberries lead the way on the palate, before undertones of citrus and herbs ignite into a peppery heat on the lingering finish. Strade Bianche Wines. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$55

92 Bertinga 2023 La Porta di Vertine (Chianti Classico). The nose billows with fresh, cool, floral aromas of crushed stones, herbs, peonies, and cherry blossoms. Flavors of raspberry jam, mixed herbs, white pepper, and more crushed stones define the palate, while polished yet grippy tannins provide structure. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

92 Borgo Casa al Vento 2020 Foho Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has a savory, umami sensation, thanks to aromas of hot tar, petrol, crushed rocks, and wild herbs. On the palate, blackberries, black cherries, and black plums strut down the tongue, beneath a dusting of salt and herbs, while bright acid shines past textured tannins. The Organic Cellar LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$45

92 Borgo Salceto 2023 (Chianti Classico). Aromas of milk chocolate, coffee, and Bing cherry kick off the palate, then notes of graphite and pepper make themselves known. Berries and an orange peel element join the cherries on the palate, above a foundation of iron-rich soil and herbs, then the coffee and chocolate return. Serendipity Wines TX. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

92 Borgo Salceto 2021 Lucarello Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, black cherries and figs are balanced by notes of espresso bean and dark chocolate. The palate invigorates with flavors of blackberry, tea leaf, and bergamot, above a current of cool, earthy stoniness that flows through the finish. Serendipity Wines TX. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

92 Borratella 2022 Sasso del Borro Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is an oatmeal-raisin cookie with a vanilla drizzle, and the palate has a similar feel, with flavors of indulgent baking spices, dried fruit, vanilla, and chocolate. Tannins are dense and chewy. Vinum Italia, LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

92 Bottega 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose intrigues with aromas of dried tangy fruit, tea leaves, and bergamot. The palate brings more dried fruit and textured citrus, plus dark chocolate and licorice to keep you guessing. A warm, comforting wine. Palm Bay International Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

92 Brancaia 2024 (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 9. Gallo.

abv: 13%

Price: \$24

92 Candiale 2024 La Misse di Candiale (Chianti Classico). The nose has a floral, saline feel, with leading aromas of tart fruit and fresh earth. The palate stays floral, but also sees more berries and cherries join, along with warm citrus. Acid fizzes around flexible tannins. Bowler Wine. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$27

92 Carobbio 2019 (Chianti Classico). The nose is simultaneously tangy, tart, sanguine, saline, and savory, like cold root beer in the can. On the palate, a sweetness balances more tart, tangy notes of citrus, salt, and popping berries, that glide alongside slick tannins. Quintessential Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$33

92 Casa di Monte 2023 Annata (Chianti Classico). The nose offers aromas of tea leaf, black plum, pomegranate seeds, and topsoil. The palate is similarly nuanced, oscillating between floral, juicy, and tangy, but the overall feel is fresh and crunchy throughout, until a whisper of mocha appears on the finish. Vinoveritas LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

92 Casa Vinicola Triacca-La Madonnina 2022 Riserva la Madonnina (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of raspberry, wild strawberry, hibiscus, and blood orange pop from the glass. The palate stays fresh, with flavors of cranberry, Cara Cara orange, and Maldon salt, while dark chocolate provides an anchor and acid backflips over toothy tannins. Wine Emporium. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

92 Casa Vinicola Triacca-La Madonnina 2021 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose pops with cranberries, dried cherries, a cinnamon stick, and cedar. The palate is a cherry tart garnished with fresh herbs, while a cool, damp earthiness provides balance. Razor-sharp acid and thick, dense tannins work together to both ground and lift the finish. Wine Emporium. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

92 CasaGrande della Quercia 2024 Quercus (Chianti Classico). The nose is fresh and cool, with aromas of crushed rocks, running water, white pepper, and graphite, but sweet wild berries provide balance. Black cherries join more berries on the palate, before an indulgent mocha finish. Structured tannins keep insistent acid in check. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

BUYINGGUIDE

92 CasaGrande della Quercia 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the woody, earthy feel of underbrush, old leather, spices, and cracked black pepper. Blackberries, black plums, and bergamot come on strong on the palate, but the overall feel is flinty and metallic, and tannins line up at the front to announce incoming acid. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Casaloste 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is earthy and sanguine, but nuanced, with aromas of topsoil, underbrush, figs, pomegranate, hot tar, and coffee grounds. Luxardo cherries and dried figs headline the palate, above a foundation of dark chocolate and espresso bean, while glossy tannins add a luxe feel. MS Walker. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Casaloste 2019 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose has the floral, saline feel of peonies, violets, new leather, and blackberries. Black cherries and herbs define a cool, medicinal palate, where satiny, refined tannins shift across the tongue. MS Walker. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Casina di Cornia 2020 Riserva Vigna la Casina (Chianti Classico). Wild fennel and blackberries add pop on a nose that is anchored in topsoil, pepper, and coffee. The palate layers Mission figs and Luxardo cherries with dark chocolate ganache, all beneath a drizzle of pomegranate syrup. Sleek, wide tannins enhance a slick mouthfeel. Giannoni Selections. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Castagnoli 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose brings playful aromas of sweet vanilla, ripe bing cherry, and orange peel. Wild strawberries and milk chocolate join the cherry and orange peel elements on the palate, enhancing the warm, sunny feel all the way through a slick finish. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Castagnoli 2021 Le Terrazze Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is savory and umami, with aromas of balsamic, black sesame, wild herbs, and pepper. Blackberries and black cherries define a palate which is at once sweet, tart, and fresh, at least until earth joins more herbs to take over the finish. Salt and acid add buoyancy. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$46

92 Castelli del Grevepesa 2022 Clemente VII Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of sweet orange slices, vanilla bean, ripe wild cherries, and wild strawberries play on the nose, then the palate balances things out with cool earth, tea leaves, and more austere fruit elements. Chewy, dense tannins fortify a foundation of cocoa, while bright acid shines overhead. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Castello della Paneretta 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose energizes with aro-

mas of pomegranate seeds, raspberries, topsoil, and pepper. The palate is cohesive, with plenty more sweet yet tangy fruit elements popping beneath a dusting of salt and pepper, all lifted by spirited acid and anchored in structured tannins. Bommarito Wines & Spirits, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Castello di Albola 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose is energetic with aromas of pencil shavings, potting soil, tart cherries, and red plums. Red berries join the cherries and soil on the palate, then spices and a squeeze of citrus light up the finish. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

92 Castello di Cacchiano 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose opens bright, with cherries, berries, and citrus, then adds aromas of dried and macerated dark fruit, leather, and herbs. Those sweet and tart cherries and citrus return on a warm, tangy palate, while flexible tannins and springy acid enhance the lively feel. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Castello di Lucignano 2018 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose kicks off with pepper, flinty soil, and wild fennel, then adds toasted coconut, vanilla, old leather, and dried cherries. The fruit is delightfully fresh and bright on the palate, like just-picked cherries and berries, then a finish of mint dark chocolate balances things out. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Castello di Meleto 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose gleams with aromas of dark fruit, leather, and pepper. Those dark fruit elements stick around on a palate that is anchored in a pepper earthiness, but lots of vibrant salinity and fiery acid make this a mouthwatering, intense wine. Panebianco Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Castello di Querceto 2021 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is sanguine, smoky, and tangy, with aromas of iron-rich soil, pepper, graphite, and blackberry. Black plums play with more blackberries on the palate, which is anchored in metallic earth and chocolatey richness. Dense, chewy tannins stand up to a peppery heat. Prestige Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Castello di Verrazzano 2020 Gran Selezione Sassello (Chianti Classico). An earthy, peppery nose invigorates with aromas of flint, pencil shavings, topsoil, wild fennel, and blackberry. Black cherries accentuate the blackberry element on the palate, above a foundation of spicy, tangy, peppery earth that is fortified by chalky tannins. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Castello La Leccia 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose has a woody, earthy feel, with aromas of cedar, potting soil, terra cotta, and tart berries.

Wild cherries, wild strawberries, and orange peel lead the way on the palate, then give way to more of that iron-rich earthiness. Tannins are sleek, but powerful. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

92 Castello Monterinaldi 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose is defined by a slightly spicy earthiness and tart, tangy red fruit aromas. Sweet wild strawberries and cherries emerge on the palate to balance more tart citrus and iron-rich earth, before an extremely saline finish. Vinifera Imports LTD. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

92 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2024 Guado Alto (Chianti Classico). Ripe raspberry and blood-orange aromas lead the way on the nose, while hints of florals and medicinal herbs add nuance. Strawberries, raspberries, and delicate citrus blossoms create a bright, light palate, but sleek, serious tannins and a fiercely hot finish add intensity. F.X. Magner Selections, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Castelvechi 2024 Capotondo (Chianti Classico). The nose shines with aromas of raspberries, blood orange, topsoil, and sun-warmed bricks. On the palate, sweet berries and cherries are balanced by the bitter pith of citrus, before a hot, tannic finish. Serendipity Wines TX. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Castelvechi 2021 Lodolaio Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of violets, peonies, crushed rocks, and new leather come first, followed by ripe dark berries. The sweetness of the dark fruit defines the palate, while pomegranate seeds add nuance, before a fresh, cooling, herbaceous finish. Tannins are dense and clay like. Serendipity Wines TX. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Cigliano di Sopra 2024 Cuvée Cigliano di Sopra (Chianti Classico). The nose pops with aromas of black cherry, cola, orange peel, and wild herbs. On the palate, tart wild berries tumble down a hill of dirt, brambles, and herbs, and sturdy tannins keep mouthwatering acid in check. Jan d'Amore Wines. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Cigliano di Sopra 2023 Riserva Vigneto Branca (Chianti Classico). The nose is exuberant with aromas of ripe berries, blooming flowers, and tropical fruit. Balance comes on the palate, which is awash in herbaceous, stony elements that bring a fresh coolness. Rigid tannins and mouthwatering acid carry the finish. Jan d'Amore Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$180

92 Collelungo 2022 Cattelan (Chianti Classico). The nose opens with savory, sanguine grilled meat, then pivots to the sweet tartness of sugar plums. On the palate, those plums are joined by pomegranate, sweet citrus, flowers, and herbs, all kept on track by tannins that are robust, but restrained. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Conte Guicciardini 2023 Belvedere Campòli Riserva (Chianti Classico). An earthy, savory nose unfurls with aromas of damp earth, underbrush, pepper, black olive, and balsamic. On the palate, tart blackberries and black plums are balanced by crushed rocks and cool earth, then heat, salt, and citrus surge on the finish. Vivino Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Dievole 2023 Petignano (Chianti Classico). Aromas of graphite, soil, herbs, and pepper swirl together on the savory nose, then give way to a refreshing palate of mint, blackberry tea, and mocha. Sturdy tannins keep vibrant acid in check. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Fattoria Castel Ruggero 2023 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of black cherry, bergamot, and pepper pop from the glass. The palate is both bright and rich, with flavors of black cherries, blackberries, and abundant pepper and citrus, before a wave of heat and salt crashes over the finish. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Fattoria della Aiola 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, the sweetness of Bing cherries coated in milk chocolate is balanced by leather and licorice. The palate leads with darker chocolate layered over blackberries and black cherries, then cooling herbs make themselves known. Tannins are still taut and springy. Classic Wine Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Fattoria di Cinciano 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose has the powerfully umami, savory feel of old leather, underbrush, low tide, and balsamic. Juicy, ripe blackberries and snappy-skinned black plums headline the palate, encouraged by tannins that are satiny, but strong. Good Earth Wines LTD. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

92 Fattoria Ispoli 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, violets, peonies, and black cherries pop above a foundation of crushed rocks. Blackberries join the black cherries to headline the palate, while undertones of milk chocolate and licorice add nuance. Sturdy tannins keep a persistent peppery heat in check. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Fattoria La Ripa 2023 Annata (Chianti Classico). Rich, ripe fruit notes define the nose, which brings aromas of red plum, passion fruit, and even a hint of ripe peach. On the palate, flavors of stone fruit and warm citrus are balanced by developing notes of soil and brambles, while acid slowly intensifies through the finish. Tradizione Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

92 Fattoria Montecchio 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose is savory, umami, and sanguine, with aromas of hot tar, pepper, cumin, wild cherry,

and cranberry. On the palate, the strawberries take center stage, supported by raspberries, red plums, and orange slices, while trim tannins and lithe acid look on. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Fattoria Montecchio 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Black plums pop on an otherwise umami, earthy nose of damp soil, underbrush, and wild herbs. That dark fruit element swells on the palate, lifted by a strong current of citrus, before a milk chocolate finish. Chalky tannins provide structure throughout. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Fattoria Rignana 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose energizes with aromas of tea leaf, terra cotta, cedar, and wild strawberry. A smear of raspberry jam accentuates the strawberries on the palate, while undertones of earth and herbs provide balance. A salt and pepper finish wraps up a bright, bouncy wine. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Felciano 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose layers Mission figs and pomegranate with dark chocolate and licorice. The palate brings more of the sweet, ripe, dense dark fruit and chocolate, but also lots of spice, salt, and pepper for balance, and stern tannins that keep everything pinned down. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Felsina 2024 Berardenga (Chianti Classico). The nose is fresh, cool, and tangy, with aromas of crushed rocks, white pepper, cranberry, and tea leaf. On the palate, tart blackberries and wild mint play above a peppery earthiness, while tiled tannins complement lively acid. Polaner Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Gagliole 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose draws you in with candy-shop aromas of dried figs, sugar plums, milk chocolate, and licorice, then the palate adds the sophistication of figs, pomegranate, dark chocolate, and espresso bean. On the finish, citrus zest and acid lift up big, dense tannins. Vias Import Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 I Sodi 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A floral, sweet nose presents aromas of peonies, cherry candy, Mandarin blossoms, and milk chocolate. The chocolate and cherry elements star on the palate, but the finish balances things out with black pepper, orange zest, and a chili-pepper heat. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Il Molino di Grace 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose wakes you up with aromas of cranberries, cherries, topsoil, and pencil shavings. Raspberries and cherries lead the way on the palate, above a foundation of earth, crushed rocks, and herbs. Tooth tannins and bright acid accentuate a fresh feel. Vigneti del Sole Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

92 Il Poggolino 2023 La Riserva (Chianti Classico). Graphitic and earthy on the nose, with aromas of pencil shavings, coffee grounds, and tart blackberries. On the palate, riper, sweeter blackberries are accentuated by black cherries, while crushed stones and damp earth provide balance. Enoclassica Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Isole e Olena 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose drizzles balsamic over damp earth, crushed rocks, and black cherries. That ripe, dark fruit takes over on the palate, as black cherries, blackberries, and black plums strut down the tongue, before a peppery heat and lively acid ignite the finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Jurij Fiore & Figlie 2023 Tuttosommato (Chianti Classico). The nose unveils sophisticated aromas of candied walnuts, spices, balsamic vinegar, and dried Mission figs. Sweet, ripe dark fruit and bitter chocolate join more nuts to headline the palate, while undertones of pepper and more spices add nuance, and tannins grip at the tongue. Jan d'Amore Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

92 L'Acerò 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose is both herbal and floral, with aromas of coriander seed, lavender, and rose water. The palate has a similar feel, but sweeter and richer, like flower petals and dried berries pressed into chocolate. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 L'Acerò 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose presents aromas of old leather, sweet tobacco, and black cherries. On the palate, the cherries are joined by tart blackberries, black plums, and bergamot, all beneath a sprinkle of salt. Everything bursts on a finish that is almost bouncy with acid and heat. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 La Croce Zari 2022 Riserva Passate Corte (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of vanilla bean, tea leaf, cranberry, and Mandarin blossom drift from the glass. The tea leaves sweeten on the palate, alongside more red fruit and citrus, then the tannin tang returns to contrast the sweetness. Electric acid further emboldens ferocious tannins. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 La Vigna di San Martino ad Argiano 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of leather, tobacco, spices, and dense, dried dark fruit define the nose. The palate brightens with pomegranate and plum, but cocoa and more tobacco provide balance. The finish has the pop and punch of acid and salt, plus lingering warm citrus and pepper notes. Historia Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

92 Lamole di Lamole 2024 Maggiolo (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 10. Herita USA.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

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92 Lanciola 2023 Annata (Chianti Classico). The nose is saline, tart, and lively, and the palate is similarly fun, with flavors of cherry, strawberry, and orange peel kicking things off, followed by peonies and rose petals, before the intense salinity returns on the finish, electrified by fiery acid. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Lanciola 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of vanilla, cedar, toasted coconut, and black cherry pop from the glass. The palate refreshes with flavors of spearmint, wild fennel, crushed rocks, and salt joining more black cherries. Tiled tannins keep insistent acid in check. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Le Cinciole 2023 Le Cinciole (Chianti Classico). The nose is at once earthy, spicy, and sweet, with vanilla, clove, potting soil, and blackberries. Black cherries join the blackberries on the palate, then give way to more spices and vanilla. A backbone of chocolate persists throughout, fortified by dense tannins. Lucidity Wine Merchants, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Le Fonti - Panzano 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). An earthy, savory nose brings aromas of pepper, topsoil, pencil shavings, and blackberries. Those notes all reappear on the palate and are complemented by black cherries, licorice, and coffee, while bright acid shines past grippy tannins. Villa Italia Gourmet Food and Wine. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Mannucci Droandi 2022 Ceppeto (Chianti Classico). The nose gleams with aromas of dark fruit, new leather, peonies, medicinal herbs, and citrus. A rich palate brings more dark fruit, layered with chocolate, coffee, candied walnuts, and bitter orange notes, before earth and more herbs arrive on the finish. Tannins are sleek, but substantial. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Marchesi Frescobaldi 2022 Tenuta Perano Rialzi Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is defined by the subtle sweetness of dried figs, pomegranate syrup, and minty dark chocolate. On the palate, citrus and salt accentuate the tart, tangy nature of blackberries and black plums, while tiled tannins and precise acid add a feeling of intentionality. Vintus Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 Mazza 2022 Ser Gino (Chianti Classico). The nose pops with aromas of black cherry, blackberry, mint, fennel, and graphite. More sweet, ripe, juicy black fruit shines on the palate, above a foundation of tangy, iron-rich soil, spicy pepper, and herbs, which is fortified by gleaming tannins. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Mazza 2019 Gaia (Chianti Classico). The nose pops with aromas of tea leaf, bergamot, cran-

berry, dried cherry, and blood-orange zest. Notes of richer, dense fruit and bitter citrus headline the palate, while dark chocolate and licorice undertones provide balance. Just beginning to reveal its age, with elegance and sophistication. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Mons Driadalis 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose opens cool and earthy with underbrush, damp earth, and leaves, then warm spices and bitter citrus emerge. The palate is defined by the tangy, tart, saline feel of stone-fruit skin and barely ripe berries, until clay-like tannins ignite on a hot, peppery finish. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Montefioralle 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose brings savory, spicy aromas of balsamic, damp earth, pepper, and old leather. On the palate, a continued earthiness is balanced by flavors of Mission fig, pomegranate, mint, and fennel, before a finish where dark chocolate and espresso dominate. Benci-enni Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Monteraponi 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose makes a strong impression with spicy, earthy, umami aromas of pepper, grilled meat, dirt, and black plums. Blackberries accentuate the black plum note on the palate, even as the peppery earthiness persists. On the finish, a fierce chili pepper heat adds liveliness. Grand Cru Selections. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Nardi Viticoltori 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is a spiced blend of clove, nutmeg, white pepper, Bing cherry, and orange zest. On a cohesive palate, strawberries join the cherries to ride more waves of warm citrus and white pepper, then the spices return on an acidic finish. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Nittardi 2023 Belcanto (Chianti Classico). The nose energizes with aromas of strawberry, raspberry, blood orange, white pepper, and wild fennel. On the palate, flavors of Bing cherry, oven-dried tomato, and chili pepper coat the tongue, but a blast of cooling herbs on the finish contends with the heat and formidable tannins. Midwest Wine Exchange. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Ormanni 2021 Borro del Diavolo Riserva (Chianti Classico). Aromas of hot tar, wild herbs, pepper, tart blackberries, and black cherries swirl together to create a nose that is savory and umami, but with energy. The palate layers sweet dark fruit with dark chocolate, but citrus, salt, and vibrant acid bring a bright, balancing warmth. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

92 Piemaggio 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose invigorates with tart, tangy, sanguine aromas of barely ripe blackberries, black plums, graphite, and tea leaves. The dark fruit leads the way on a palate that is still tart and fresh, but also has some sweetness.

Tannins are sleek and supple. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Podere Ferrale 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose is primarily sanguine and umami, but persistent notes of blackberries, currants, and figs refuse to be ignored. Those fruit elements lead the way on the palate, although tannins and acid that remain fierce and fiery accentuate more pepper on the finish. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Podere La Cappella 2019 Corbezzolo Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose invigorates with aromas of flint, gunmetal, cinnamon, brown sugar, and figs. The palate tosses wild berries with orange peel and brown sugar, then layers in chocolate and more spices. Tannins are taut, but the acid is what fires up the finish. Artisan Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Podere Terreno 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose refreshes with aromas of cedar, sandalwood, terra cotta, bergamot, and cherry. Raspberries and strawberries ride a wave of sweet citrus on the palate, before hints of wild mint and chocolate make themselves known on the finish. A well-integrated wine. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Poggio San Polo 2018 (Chianti Classico). The nose enlivens with aromas of peonies, violets, pencil shavings, pepper, and tart blackberries. Black cherries, tea leaves, and topsoil further accentuate the tang of the berries, before a finish of salted chocolate. A coherent wine that remains lively. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Principe Corsini - Villa Le Corti 2022 Cortevecchia Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose opens saline and floral, with new leather, peonies, violets, and crushed rocks, then peppery, spicy aromas emerge. Raspberries and blackberries pop on the palate above a spiced, earthy foundation, before a smoldering finish of bergamot, orange pith, and chili pepper. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Principe Corsini - Villa Le Corti 2021 Zac Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is sweet with aromas of wild cherry, wild strawberry, vanilla bean, and Mandarin blossom. The palate stays playful, with more fruit as well as milk chocolate, orange zest, and a mint undertone that leads into a salty, fresh finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

92 Rocca di Montegrossi 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose opens with salt and pepper, then pivots to tart, tangy elements that set up a palate that layers blackberries and black cherries with iron-rich soil. Tannins are firm, but flexible. Vintus New York. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Rolando 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A peppery, spiced earthiness leads the way on the nose, but is followed by sweet macerated blackberries and dried figs. The palate is cohesive, with black cherries joining the blackberries above more of those spicy, earthy elements, which persist through a hot, acidic finish. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Savignola Paolina 2023 Ora (Chianti Classico). The nose is tart, tangy, and bright, with aromas of cranberries, cherries, terra cotta, and blood orange. Bing cherries and red plums lead the way on the palate, while undertones of tea leaves, spices, and vanilla add nuance. A warm earthiness concludes things. Tavolo Vigneto. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

92 Tenuta Casenuove 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose is defined by savory, earthy, umami aromas of old leather, underbrush, and dried figs. Mission figs and currants star on the palate, beneath a generous sprinkling of spices, and above an earthy foundation of soil and herbs, and then the spices ignite on a hot finish. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Tenuta di Arceno 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is cool, earthy, and herba-
ceous, with saltwater running over crushed rocks as wild fennel and mint look on from the earthy banks. The palate layers blackberries and black cherries over more soil and herbs, then chewy tannins ignite on a hot, peppery finish. Sovereign Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

92 Tenuta di Lilliano 2021 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). A savory, umami nose presents aromas of pepper, balsamic, black plum, old leather, and spices. On the palate, blackberries play with more black plums above a dark chocolate and coffee backbone, then the finish sprinkles black pepper and balsamic on your tongue. Vintage Imports Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Tenuta La Novella 2022 Casa di Colombo (Chianti Classico). Medicinal herbs, pepper, and tart citrus kick off the nose, followed by darker berries and earth. On the palate, raspberry jam and bergamot are balanced by dark chocolate and pepper, all tied together by silky yet sturdy tannins. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Tenuta la Poggiona 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose invigorates with aromas of tart blackberries, potting soil, and black pepper. On the palate, currants join sweet, juicy blackberries, then dark chocolate and espresso-bean elements emerge on the finish. A peppery, punchy wine. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Tenuta la Poggiona 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose opens with macerated dark fruit and spices, then aromas of damp earth and medicinal herbs emerge. Mission figs and clove-stud-

ded oranges star on the palate, but developing notes of bitter cocoa and coffee grounds provide balance, before a hot, acidic, lifted finish. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Terra di Seta 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Cranberries, dried cherries, and wild strawberries kick off the nose, then savory, iron-rich soil and damp underbrush elements emerge for balance. The palate is tart and tangy, but also warm and saline, with an energy that's enhanced by buoyant acid and lithe tannins. Royal Wine Corporation. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

92 Terra di Seta 2021 Assai Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose is savory and smoky, with aromas of hot tar, pepper, black olive, and tobacco leaf. The palate balances things out with ripe, juicy, explosive dark-fruit flavors, which ride a wave of heat and acid all the way through the finish. Royal Wine Corporation. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Terreno 2022 A Sofia Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose billows with sanguine, umami aromas of pepper, cumin, cinnamon, soil, and hot tar. Tart and sweet blackberries and black plums tumble over the palate, until they arrive at a finish of warm citrus and spices. Textured tannins balance vigorous acid. Vintage 59. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Tolaini 2022 Vigna Montebello Sette Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose intrigues with dark fruit, topsoil, pepper, tanned leather, and sweet tobacco. The palate leans into the dark fruit and adds a sprinkle of orange zest, before textured tannins and vibrant acid carry you into an earthy, peppery finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$54

92 Torre Prumiano 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). On the nose, leading aromas of blackberry, fig, and pomegranate are balanced by damp soil and mixed herbs. The palate brings more tart and sweet dark fruit, plus dark chocolate and coffee, and then the earthiness of the nose returns on the backs of chalky, chewy tannins. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Tregole 2022 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose has a cool, earthy feel, with aromas of pepper, topsoil, peonies, and blackberries. On the palate, black plums play with figs on a foundation of bitter citrus, pepper, and earth, then acid activates a hot, long finish. BenvenUSA. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

92 Valiano 2024 Poggio Teo (Chianti Classico). The nose invigorates with aromas of black cherries, blackberries, wild fennel, and sage. Those notes all reappear on the palate above a foundation of

earth, then chocolate and spices emerge on the finish. Skurnik Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Valvirginio 2021 La Verità Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose bursts with invigorating aromas of pepper, earth, hot tar, crushed rocks, blackberries, and black plums. The palate is similarly cool, earthy, tangy, and flinty, layering barely ripe dark fruit with topsoil, while tannins grip at the tongue through the finish. Vine & Vine Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Villa a Sesta 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A saline, fresh nose gleams with aromas of new leather, peonies, and mixed herbs. Bright, crunchy red fruit leads the way on the palate, while undertones of orange zest and licorice add nuance. The finish undulates with waves of salt, acid, and heat. Angelini Wine. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

92 Villa Rosa 2022 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose has the subtly luxe feel of dried figs, rum raisins, spices, and herbs. Black cherries and Mission figs headline the palate beneath a dusting of orange zest, while wild cherries pop on the back of the tongue. The finish brings lively acid and sprinkles of salt. Volio Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

92 Villa Vignamaggio 2022 Terre di Prenzano (Chianti Classico). The nose is simultaneously floral, earthy, and spicy, with leading notes of underbrush and balsamic. On the palate, fresh, juicy blackberries and blueberries pop, but flinty, peppery undertones lead into a finish framed by polished tannins and lifted by acid. Babylonstoren US. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Viticcio 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 11. Serendipity Wine Imports.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Belvedere1 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose layers Bing cherries and wild strawberries over fresh, damp earth, underbrush, and wild herbs. On the palate, warm red currants and blood-orange flavors play with more dirt and herbs, and chalky tannins balance bright acid. Strade Bianche Wines. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

91 Borgo Casa al Vento 2022 Aria (Chianti Classico). The nose has the sanguine, umami feel of pepper, herbs, underbrush, and old leather. Blackberries and black cherries define the palate, beneath a sprinkle of salt and pepper. Firm tannins and insistent acid craft an integrated, cohesive wine. The Organic Cellar LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Borgo La Stella 2023 (Chianti Classico). Aromas of cool, damp earth, graphite, and dark berries drift from the glass, to set up a palate where sweet blackberries and black cherries play on a foun-

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dition of peppery dark chocolate. Tiled tannins keep insistent acid in check. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

91 Borgo Scopeto 2022 Riserva Vigna Misciano (Chianti Classico). The nose opens peppery, then turns herbaceous and earthy, and finally tangy, dark-fruit aromas make themselves known. On the palate, the pepper returns to blaze above a foundation of black olives and more dark fruit, before a decadent finish of dark chocolate, espresso, and bergamot. Vineyard Brands. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

91 Carpineto 2022 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose opens saline and floral, then turns spicy and smoky. That hint of florals leads on the palate, which starts delicate and fresh, then flavors of dark fruit, pepper, and earth make themselves known. The finish brings a chili-pepper heat and a wave of bitter citrus. Opici Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$65

91 Carus Vini 2021 (Chianti Classico). Pencil shavings, pepper, and topsoil lead the way on the nose, then perfumed aromas of florals and ripe, dark fruit emerge. On the palate, that dark fruit stays ripe, but also tart and tangy, layered with dark chocolate. Warm citrus and salt wash over the finish. Bravo Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

91 Casa di Monte 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A peppery, herbaceous earthiness leads the way on the palate, then sweet, ripe berries and citrus aromas make themselves known. On the palate, warm yet bitter citrus notes pop above a foundation of more berries, before a chocolatey finish. Vinoveritas LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

91 Castelli del Grevepesa 2022 Castelgreve Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the crisp, textured feel of coffee grounds, topsoil, wild herbs, new leather, and tart blackberries. Black plums and black licorice accentuate that blackberry note on the palate, then everything elides into a finish which is cool, earthy, minty, and saline. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

91 Castello della Paneretta 2022 Annata (Chianti Classico). The tangy, tart, sanguine nose presents aromas of tamarind, blood orange, hibiscus, and terra cotta. On the palate, tart wild cherries, raspberries, and hints of orange peel are balanced by cocoa powder and licorice. A juicy wine, still anchored in earth. Bommarito Wines & Spirits, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25

91 Castello di Bossi 2024 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, leading aromas of wild strawberry and raspberry jam are balanced by pencil shavings and topsoil. Warm citrus and high-toned red fruit flavors lead the way on the palate, creating a wine that is lively, fresh, tart, and tangy. Winebow Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

91 Colombaio di Cencio 2024 Monticello (Chianti Classico). The nose unfurls with aromas of topsoil, pencil shavings, cloves, and black cherries. Tart, tangy red and black fruit notes lead the way on the palate, but undertones of earth, bitter herbs, and citrus provide balance. Lively acid adds energy. Ethica Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$28

91 Conte Guicciardini 2024 Belvedere Campoli (Chianti Classico). The nose pops with floral, saline aromas of tulips, peonies, new leather, black cherries, and pencil shavings. Blackberries join more black cherries on the palate, while undertones of cool, damp earth and bitter cocoa are reinforced by sleek, strong tannins for balance. Vivino Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

91 Fattoria della Aiola 2022 (Chianti Classico). Spicy, peppery elements lead the way on the nose, but undertones of dark fruit and bitter citrus also make themselves known. Those elements all reappear on the palate, where the tannins are beginning to relax but the acid remains lively. Classic Wine Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

91 Fattoria Ispoli 2020 (Chianti Classico). An umami, savory nose presents aromas of black olive, wild herbs, balsamic vinegar, pepper, and black plum. That dark, tart but sweet fruit note swells on the palate, and works with a peppery earthiness for a concentrated, but still lively wine. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

91 Gagliole 2024 Rubiolo (Chianti Classico). The nose energizes with aromas of sweet and tart wild cherries, blood orange peel, topsoil, and pencil shavings. The palate brings more fruit and soil, but also the cool, fresh salinity of crushed rocks and running water on the finish. Vias Import Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

91 Guidi 1929 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose shimmers with floral, sweet aromas of roses, lavender, citrus blossoms, cherries, and strawberries. On the palate, a citrus warmth and cool earth balance more flowers and fruit, before an espresso-bean finish. Forza Wine Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$49

91 I Sodi 2024 Regular (Chianti Classico). The nose opens floral and sweet, then turns earthy and peppery. On the palate, sweet, dark berries and cherries are complemented by denser notes of chocolate and coffee, before the peppery heat returns on the finish. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

91 Jurij Fiore & Figlie 2024 Sonocosi a Lamole (Chianti Classico). The nose has a spicy, festive feel, with aromas of cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, blackberries, and figs. On the palate, sweet, ripe blackberries and Mission figs play above a foundation of spiced

earthiness, which is fortified by clay-like tannins. Jan d'Amore Wines. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

91 Lamole di Lamole 2024 Duelame (Chianti Classico). The nose energizes with aromas of peony, new leather, wild cherry, and orange peel. On the palate, Bing cherries and Mission figs float in a river of warm citrus and salt, which is kept on course by polished but grippy tannins. Herita USA. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

91 Montefioralle 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the floral, saline feel of new leather, peonies, crushed rocks, and black plums. On the palate, black cherries bring out the sweetness of the plums, above intensely peppery and earthy undertones. Bencienni Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

91 Montemaggio 2021 (Chianti Classico). The nose invigorates with aromas of leather, crushed rocks, citrus, fennel, mint, and tart berries. Blackberries and blueberries star on the palate, while plenty more herbs and crushed rocks, all leading into a cool, fresh finish. Dionysos Imports Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$27

91 Nardi Viticoltori 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose has a sanguine, umami feel, with aromas of cranberry, black olive, topsoil, and pepper. Dried cherries and cranberries lead the way on a palate which is still sanguine, but also tart, bright, and fresh. Salt and pepper finish things off. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

91 Panzanello 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose offers aromas of Bing cherry, strawberry, orange peel, graphite, and wild fennel. Berries lead the way on the palate, accompanied by a hint of citrus, but then the herbs take over on a fresh, cooling finish where fennel and mint ride a wave of salinity. Dolce Vita Wine Merchant. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

91 Podere Ferrale 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose has a fresh, playful feel, thanks to aromas of sarsaparilla, wild fennel, pepper, and black plums. Black cherries join more plums, herbs, and pepper on the palate, above an earthy foundation reinforced by taut tannins and linear acid. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

91 Podere La Cappella 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose opens flinty and peppery, then red berries and citrus add a tart, tangy sensation. The fruit picks up on a palate of wild cherries, dried cranberries, and orange slices, all accentuated by zippy acid that picks up speed from salt and even more citrus on the finish. Artisan Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$20

91 Podere La Villa 2023 (Chianti Classico). Aromas of ripe blackberries, black cherries, figs, and pomegranate pop on the nose. Those notes remain strong at the beginning of the palate, then give way to earth, pepper, herbs, dark chocolate, and coffee

grounds. A wine that is both rich and refreshing. Vera Wines & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Podere Poggio Scalette 2023 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of Bing cherry, raspberry, and orange peel pop above a foundation of topsoil. Those elements all continue onto the palate, beneath a generous amount of pepper, creating a wine which is bouncy and lively all the way through. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Poggio al Sole 2024 Annata (Chianti Classico). A floral, perfumed, delicate, and fresh nose ushers in a palate where fresh, ripe blackberries and black plums play above cool, damp earth, before a powerfully salty and peppery finish ties everything up. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

91 Poggio San Polo 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose snaps with aromas of wild strawberries, raspberries, hibiscus tea, and topsoil. On the palate, sweet, ripe mixed berries drift in a current of warm citrus, before a finish which is salty and tart, with a hint of mocha. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Pomona 2023 Annata (Chianti Classico). The nose has the fresh, floral, saline feel of new leather, peonies, crushed rocks, and wild cherries. On the palate, berries and more cherries ride a wave of citrus and salinity, enhancing the bright, lively overall sensation. Skurnik Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Prunai 2020 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 12. Serendipity Wine Imports.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Querceto di Castellina 2024 L'aura (Chianti Classico). Damp earth, spices, and old leather kick off the nose, then black cherries and blackberries join. The palate adds figs and chocolate to more cherries, blackberries, and spices, before a finish of salt and orange peel. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 San Donatino 2022 Poggio ai Mori (Chianti Classico). The nose has a heady yet refreshing feel, with aromas of black cherry, Mission fig, pomegranate, dark chocolate, and black licorice. Very ripe, sweet dark fruit headlines the palate, but an undercurrent of espresso with anise liqueur adds nuance. Tannins are chewy and dense. Marc de Grazia Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 San Fabiano Calcinaia 2022 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of raspberry, passion fruit, hibiscus and white pepper pop from the glass. The palate stays tangy and bright with blood orange and tart

red berries, plus crushed rocks that add a strong current of fresh salinity. Omniwines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

91 San Fabiano Calcinaia 2021 Gran Selezione Cellole (Chianti Classico). On the nose, blackberries and blueberries pop above a foundation of bitter cocoa and topsoil. Warm citrus notes and tea leaves greet you on the palate, then make way for more sweet, dark forest berries, before a sanguine salinity washes over the finish. Omniwines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Stefano Farina Le Bocce 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose invigorates with snappy aromas of tea leaf, clove, cinnamon, fig, pepper, and blackberry. On the palate, pomegranates and Mission figs are balanced by dark chocolate and espresso bean, creating a sensation that is round and full, but still tart and tangy. Affinity Brands Wines & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Tenuta Di Bibbiano 2024 Bibbiano (Chianti Classico). A savory, peppery nose invigorates with aromas of hot tar, old leather, and cracked black pepper. The palate is very lively, with flavors of citrus, salt, red plum, and more peppery earthiness, plus acid that adds an almost fizzy quality. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Tenuta Di Bibbiano 2022 Riserva Marzi (Chianti Classico). A sanguine, spicy nose brings notes of chili pepper, cracked black pepper, wild oregano, black olive, and sun-dried tomato. On the palate, cherries and strawberries draw out the sweetness of fresh tomatoes, above a foundation of more herbs, before the heat returns on the finish. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Tenuta di Campomaggio 2022 (Chianti Classico). A sanguine, warm nose unfolds with aromas of blood orange, topsoil, pepper, and tart cherries. Berries join the cherries and citrus on the palate, before a finish where slick, lithe tannins frame more chocolate and licorice on the finish. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Tenuta di Lilliano 2024 (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 13. Vintage Imports Inc. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Tenuta San Vincenti 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the indulgent feel of malted chocolate, Luxardo cherry, candied orange peel, and walnuts. On the palate, wild cherries and violets prance alongside more notes of chocolate, nuts, dried fruit, and citrus, while overtones of tangy salinity provide contrast. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Torre Prumiano 2023 Annata (Chianti Classico). On the nose, tart, tangy berries tumble down a hill of peppery earth. The fruit sweetens on

the palate, but bitter citrus fortifies the earthiness, which evolves on the finish into a bitter cocoa element. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 UnMonte 2022 (Chianti Classico). Sanguine, spicy, and peppery on the nose, with tangy, tart fruit notes of tamarind and red plum. Raspberries and sweet chili pepper accentuate the plum on the palate, even as the peppery earthiness is reinforced by firm tannins and abundant acid. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Vallepiciola 2022 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose shimmers with floral, fresh, and cool aromas of peonies, violets, and wild fennel and mint. On the palate, vanilla draws out the sweetness of cherries and berries, before the cooling mint returns on the finish. Tannins are polished, but grippy. MS Walker. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Villa Calcinaia 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose gleams with aromas of new leather, salt, and peonies. Very sweet wild cherries and berries star on the palate, while undertones of orange candy and milk chocolate enhance the playful feel, but then a fiery, acidic finish ignites for a welcome contrast. The Marchetti Co. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Villa Mangiacane 2024 Annata (Chianti Classico). The nose is primarily savory and smoky, but also has whiffs of rose petals for a balancing delicacy. On the palate, leading flavors of wild cherry candy and blood orange are balanced by hints of black licorice and cocoa. Acid is vibrant through the finish. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Villa Trasqua 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A peppery, spiced earthiness greets you on the nose, then tangy, tart red and black fruit notes make themselves known. Those elements all reappear on a cohesive palate, structured by firm tannins and linear acid. MISA Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Avenne 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose brings the subtle tang of topsoil, graphite, pepper, and black cherry. Blackberries and black plums with tangy, tart skin lead the way on the palate, above a foundation of more peppery earth, but undertones of mint and fennel make this a cool, fresh wine. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Banfi 2023 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose opens with herbaceous aromas of sarsaparilla, thyme, mint, and fennel, then ripe forest berries emerge. The palate is a medley of figs, plums, dark chocolate, and licorice, before wide tannins pave the road to a finish dusted with salt and orange zest. Banfi Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

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90 Bottega 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose has a herbaceous, fresh feel, with aromas of spearmint, wild fennel, and salt. The palate is blackberries and cherries on ice, garnished with mint and more fennel, creating a fresh, herbaceous wine. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Cantine Bonacchi 2024 Casalino (Chianti Classico). The nose starts floral and fresh, then pivots to an earthy spiciness. On the cool, dark palate, flavors of damp earth, brambles, and berries are structured by tannins which are polished, but also dense and firm. The finish is lifted by acid and citrus. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Cantine Bonacchi 2024 Tesoro Della Regina (Chianti Classico). The nose gusts with floral, saline aromas of new leather, tulips, crushed rocks, and Maraschino cherries. On the palate, high-toned red-fruit flavors are balanced by medicinal herbs, before a spicy, warm finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Capaccioli - Poggio Niccolini 2024 Annata (Chianti Classico). The nose is intensely spicy and rich, with aromas of old leather, coffee, cloves, nutmeg, vanilla bean, and Luxardo cherry. The palate is cohesive, with more cherries and spices, but nutty undertones are accentuated by toothy tannins and lively acid to keep you guessing. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Casa Sola 2022 (Chianti Classico). Ripe but tart and tangy blackberries on the nose lead to mission figs and pomegranates on the palate, anchored by a foundation of chocolate, coffee, herbs, and earth, while tannins like little tapioca pearls roll around the mouth. The House of Burgundy. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Castello di Lucignano 2021 (Chianti Classico). The nose has a saline, floral feel, with aromas of new leather, peonies, salt, and citrus. Flavors of ripe wild berries, tart stone fruit, and warm citrus pop on the palate, before an earthy, peppery finish balances things out. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Castello di Radda 2024 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, peonies, roses, and ripe black cherries dance along a backbone of old leather and crushed rocks. Black cherry and dark chocolate flavors headline the palate, above a powerful chili pepper heat that carries through the finish. M.S. Walker Brands. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

90 Castello di Tornano 2024 Tornus (Chianti Classico). An intense nose of damp earth, underbrush, tart blackberries, and mixed herbs segues into a coherent palate of ripe and tart berries, bitter citrus, brambles, and underbrush. Salt and acid pop on the finish. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Castello di Tornano 2023 Tornus (Chianti Classico). A perfumed, heady nose billows with aromas of lavender, sandal wood, burnt sage, and Tahitian vanilla. The feel stays luxe on a palate which presents more vanilla, chocolate, Luxardo cherries, and toasted coconut, then a nutty, rich finish. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Castello di Verrazzano 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose entices with aromas of dark chocolate, espresso bean, and black cherry. Raspberries and milk chocolate join the cherries on the palate, but formidable tannins rein in the sweetness. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Cecchi 2024 Storia di Famiglia (Chianti Classico). The nose opens floral and delicate, then turns spicy and peppery. Blackberries and black cherries flex on the palate, before a hot finish of cracked black pepper and bitter citrus. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

90 Collazzi 2024 Bastioni (Chianti Classico). The nose opens floral and saline, then turns umami and smoky. Blackberries, blueberries, and chocolate lead the way on the palate, while undertones of wild mint and fennel provide balance. Tannins are dense and chewy. The Sorting Table. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Colle Bereto 2024 (Chianti Classico). An umami, savory nose unfurls with aromas of old leather, underbrush, pepper, and blackberries. Those notes all reappear on the palate, with crushed herbs adding nuance, while a spicy chili pepper heat blazes in the background through the finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

90 Dievole 2023 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of pencil shavings, bergamot, and tart blackberries pop from the glass. Blueberries bring out the sweetness of the blackberries on the palate, which is juicy, full, and bright with citrus and salinity through the finish. A delicious wine. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Fattoria Carpineta Fontalpino 2024 Fontalpino (Chianti Classico). The nose is fresh, earthy, and floral, with aromas of damp soil, violets, and roses. Flavors of sweet citrus and wild berries define the palate, and lively acid and rigid tannins intensify a cool, fresh finish. Wines, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Fattoria di Cinciano 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose shines with cool, saline aromas of peonies, new leather, and crushed rocks. The palate pivots to the sanguine spiciness of pepper, iron-rich soil, and tangy red and black fruit, then segues into a finish of hot citrus. Good Earth Wines Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Felciano 2023 Annata (Chianti Classico). On the nose, aromas of wild strawberry, red plum, terra cotta, and pepper pop from the glass. The palate is primarily sweet and floral, with touches of milk chocolate and orange peel providing nuance, and firm, dense tannins balancing bright acid. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Guidi 1929 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose is cool, fresh, earthy, and tangy, with aromas of hibiscus, cranberry, and tea leaf. The earth and tang continue on the palate, with red fruit and citrus adding balancing warmth, and sleek but strong tannins providing structure. Forza Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 La Croce Zari 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose shines with aromas of passion fruit, pomegranate syrup, and dried figs. On the palate, flavors of blackberry tea and sweet Cara Cara orange play along a backbone of bitter chocolate. An expansive wine, but with an edge. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Luiano 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose is fresh and pleasing, with leading aromas of pencil shavings, new notebook, damp earth, and leaves. An undertone of tart berries swells and sweetens on the palate, but the earthiness endures through a finish that is both peppery and juicy, full and rich. Opici Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Marchesi Frescobaldi 2023 Tenuta Perano (Chianti Classico). On the nose, a woody, floral feel comes first, followed by a sweet juiciness. The palate pivots to flavors of raspberry, strawberry, and orange peel, then the flower petals and forest floor of the nose emerge again, blooming across a slick mouthfeel. Vintus Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Ormanni 2024 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, leading aromas of sweet berries and cherries are gradually joined by mocha, herbs, spices, and earth. On the palate, raspberries and strawberries float on a river of warm citrus and more herbs, straight into a hot finish. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Quercia al Poggio 2023 (Chianti Classico). The nose is a nuanced, enticing mix of brown butter, balsamic, macerated blackberries, mint, and fennel. On the palate, black licorice plays with more blackberries above deep, anchoring notes of chocolate and spices, creating a slick, polished mouthfeel. Vineyard Road Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Tenuta San Vincenti 2023 (Chianti Classico). This is a warm, spicy, rich wine. A nose of milk chocolate, toasted coconut, dried cherries, and cloves comes first, followed by a palate where ripe cherries and berries lead the way, but those chocolate

and spiced elements persist, then evolve into a coffee finish. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Tolaini 2024 (Chianti Classico). Aromas of damp earth, Bing cherry, and mandarin blossom define the nose, but there's also a hint of milk chocolate that swells on the palate to coat sweet, ripe cherries and berries. Tannins are firm, but balanced by bouncy acid and a finish of flaky salt. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Tregole 2024 Annata (Chianti Classico). The nose is a medley of wild herbs, spices, sweet forest berries, new leather, and flowers. Those ripe, sweet berries star on the palate, while hints of dark chocolate and espresso provide balance, before salt and bitter citrus take over on the finish. Benvenusa. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8

90 Valiano 2024 Valiano (Chianti Classico). The nose is umami and savory, with aromas of cedar, white pepper, old leather, hot stones, and spices. Ripe cherries and figs flex on the palate, while a note of dark chocolate with orange peel and salt adds texture. Tannins and acid are structured and linear. Skurnik Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Valvirginio 2024 Nero dei Venti (Chianti Classico). The nose is primarily floral and sweet, but aromas of earth and graphite provide balance. On the palate, ripe black cherries and blackberries gleam above a backbone of dark chocolate and more iron-rich earth, as looming tannins look on through a long finish. Vine & Vine Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Villa Trasqua 2022 (Chianti Classico). The mineral, tangy nose is like saltwater running over crushed rocks, wet coins, or white pepper sprinkled over tart blackberries. Blueberries, cocoa, and bitter citrus emerge on the palate, then the salt, pepper, and minerals return. Tannins are beginning to soften and uncoil. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

97 Argiano 2021 Vigna del Suolo (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 3. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300

97 Pieve Santa Restituta 2020 Rennina (Brunello di Montalcino). Sanguine and earthy on the nose, with crushed rocks and hot tar, snappy-skinned black plums and tart blackberries. The palate offers ripe and tart black cherries, blackberries, and plums, with savory undertones of bitter chocolate, more pepper, and herbs. Ultrarefined but

powerful tannins anchor the lengthy finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$260

97 Sesti 2019 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). As products of a textbook-perfect vintage, 2019 Brunellos risk being a bit boring, if always excellent. Not so with Sesti, whose Sangiovese always simmers with a primordial energy and creative spirit. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

97 Sesti 2018 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Most wine snobs will tell you that 2019 was a much better vintage than 2018, and that may well be true, but for me a harder vintage makes for a wine that's all the more exciting in the hands of a capable producer, and Sesti is certainly a very fine example of just that. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$170

96 Pieve Santa Restituta 2020 Sugarille (Brunello di Montalcino). Tart and crunchy blackberries mingle with damp earth, trampled violets, and crushed rocks and herbs on the nose. Mature dark fruit broods and then is lifted up by warm citrus and savory, fresh herbs. Structured, firm tannins and energetic acid hold on for a lingering finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$285

95 Il Poggione 2019 Riserva Vigna Paganelli (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose opens savory with leather and tar, then sweet with Bing and black cherries, currants, and figs that ripen and mature on the palate, anchored in more savory, sanguine notes of herbs and earth that carry a lingering finish. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$145

95 Tenuta Luce 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). A layered, intriguing nose opens earthy and graphitic, then turns juicy and fresh, and finally spicy and rich. The palate is similarly complex, with bright fruit layered over leather, coffee, and chocolate, and a subtly hot, smoky finish. Tannins are ultrarefined, but as powerful as ever. Vintus Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

94 Antinori 2021 Pian delle Vigne (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 6. Vinattieri 1385.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

94 Lazzara 2020 Libero (Brunello di Montalcino). On the nose, leading aromas of cherry, raspberry, and blood orange are balanced by pencil shavings and topsoil. The fruit stays prominent on the palate, but a finish of peppery herbaceousness is fortified by toothy tannins and bouncy acid to maintain balance. Volio Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

92 Il Patrizio 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose pops with aromas of black cherries, orange zest, milk chocolate, and pepper. Those ele-

ments all reappear on the palate, gliding alongside silken tannins that are lifted by a lively, acidic finish. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Cantina di Montalcino 2021 Arbuto (Brunello di Montalcino). A classic Sangiovese nose of Bing cherry, blood orange, burnt sage, and topsoil opens for a rich palate with dark fruit and dark chocolate. A hint of fresh wild herbs and then more damp, sanguine earth on the finish. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Cantina di Montalcino 2021 Ser Uguccione (Brunello di Montalcino). Earthy, sanguine aromas of iron-rich soil and pencil shavings point up the tart skin of black plum on the nose. The plums ripen and sweeten on the palate, mingling with black cherry and blackberries, over dark chocolate, tied together with refined, slick tannins. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Cantina di Montalcino 2020 Lorenzo Melani (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose opens with Bing and black cherries, wild strawberries, and red plum, and then earth tones emerge, rolling onto a palate where the iron tang of topsoil meets sanguine citrus and fresh, snappy-skinned red fruit, set in place by firm but flexible tannins. Votto Vines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Kirkland Signature 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). A sweet and savory nose brings aromas of cherries and dark chocolate, but also herbs, crushed rocks, and graphite. Chalky but refined tannins frame a palate of black cherries, blackberries, orange peel, dark chocolate, and espresso bean—yet another smoking-hot Costco deal. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Lazzara 2015 Libero (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose intrigues with aromas of dark fruit, dark chocolate, old leather, and pepper. The palate opens with herbs and crushed rocks joining the leather and pepper elements, then the dark fruit returns to lead you into a finish of bitter citrus and more dark chocolate. Volio Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

BOLGHERI

96 Le Macchiole 2024 ROSSO (Bolgheri). The nose is defined by the warm tang of topsoil, blackberries, tea leaves, cloves, and cinnamon. Blackberries and black cherries lead on a sweet, floral palate, above undertones of more spices and iron-rich soil. Chewy tannins balance lively acid. Vintus Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

95 Grattamacco 2024 (Bolgheri). The nose has a flinty, fresh feel, with aromas of blood orange, raspberry, topsoil, and terra cotta. The fruit darkens,

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sweetens, and ripens on the palate, while the earth elements loom large underneath. On the finish, salt and pepper mingle with citrus and herbs. Winebow Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

95 Podere Sapaio 2024 Volpola (Bolgheri). For full review see page 5. Lyra, LLC.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

94 Bell'Aja 2024 (Bolgheri). The nose is primarily fresh, herbaceous, and stony, but also has the pop of tart berries. A warm, lively palate leans into that subtle fruit element with raspberries and orange zest, and creates harmony between the tannins and acid, even when a wave of heat crescendos on the finish. USA Wine West. —D.C.

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

94 Caccia al Piano 1868 2024 Ruít Hora Rosso (Bolgheri). The savory, sanguine nose swirls with aromas of pepper, iron-rich soil, and tart, tangy black fruit. Sweet, ripe blackberries and black cherries gleam on the palate, then roll into a salty, citrus finish. Alain Jauguenet Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Campo al Mare 2023 Baia al Vento (Bolgheri). The nose opens rich and juicy with figs and pomegranates, then turns fresh and cool with wild herbs and earth. Perfectly ripe, tiny wild blueberries pop on the palate, above a salty, herbaceous backbone. Substantial, structured tannins ignite on a spicy finish. Kobrand. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$79

94 Campo alle Comete 2024 Stupore Rosso (Bolgheri). The nose opens with savory, sanguine aromas, then pivots to the warm indulgence of dark chocolate and dried fruit. The palate is a medley of black cherries, figs, dark chocolate, and walnuts, all framed by sleek, sturdy tannins that eventually guide you to a hot, acidic finish. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

94 Marchesi Antinori 2024 Tenuta Guado al Tasso Cont'Ugo (Bolgheri). A spiced earthiness kicks off the nose, then notes of cedar, tobacco leaf, and potting soil emerge to add nuance. The palate is simultaneously peppery, sanguine, juicy with dark fruit, and rich with more spices, and has a searingly hot finish framed by formidable tannins. Vinatieri 1385. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$77

94 Orma 2024 Passi di Orma (Bolgheri). The nose invigorates with aromas of tea leaf, potting soil, blackberry, and bergamot. On the palate, black cherries and black plums accentuate the blackberry element, and that dark fruit is all lifted by a warm, citrus, saline finish. Sturdy, dense tannins keep vibrant acid in check. Empire Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Campo alla Sughera 2024 Adèò (Bolgheri). The nose opens with the floral salinity of new leather, peonies, and graphite, then adds a pep-

pery earthiness. On the palate, black cherry and blood orange float in a river of dark chocolate, which ends in a licorice finish. Polished tannins complement lively acid. Pazzione Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Azienda Lasorgiva - Phoenix 2024 Phoenix Rosso (Bolgheri). The nose has the sanguine, savory sensation of pepper, earth, and pencil shavings. Balance comes on a palate of sweet, ripe dark fruit, chocolate, and candied citrus, which stays juicy and warm through the finish. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

92 Cantine Bonacchi 2023 Bonacchi (Bolgheri). The nose swirls with spicy, peppery, savory aromas of hot tar, crushed rocks, mixed wild herbs, and black olives. On the palate, tart and sweet blackberries are accentuated by tangy black plum skin, while earth and more pepper provide balance. Acid cascades over slick tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.

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

92 Castello di Bolgheri 2024 Varvára (Bolgheri). The nose presents aromas of pepper, potting soil, black olive, and black plum. Blackberries and black cherries take over for the plums on the palate, then a wave of warm citrus and salt crashes over the finish. Tightly coiled tannins hold their own against razor-sharp acid. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Chiappini 2024 Felciaino (Bolgheri). On the nose, aromas of new leather, peonies, and tart wild berries pop from the glass. On the palate, blackberries and black cherries are balanced by denser notes of dark chocolate and espresso bean, all above a foundation of tannins which are round and polished, but with grip. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 Fattoria Casa di Terra 2024 Moreccio (Bolgheri). On the nose, leading aromas of fennel, other mixed herbs, pepper, and soil are balanced by berry undertones. The palate layers blackberries, dark chocolate, and black licorice, all framed by tannins that are polished, but with a firm grip. A&B Food Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

92 La Cipriana 2023 Cipriana (Bolgheri). On the nose, aromas of black cherry, wild raspberry, and crushed stones pop from the glass. On the palate, tart and sweet berries are lifted by citrus, herbs, and more salt, then hints of dark chocolate and anise emerge on the finish. —D.C.

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

92 Le Vigne di Silvia 2024 Artemio Rosso (Bolgheri). The nose both refreshes and entices, with aromas of blackberry, black plum, pencil shavings, and graphite. There's more sweet, ripe black fruit on the palate, but a peppery earthiness dominates, and fierce tannins and fiery acid lift that peppery heat through the finish. Liber USA. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Podere Il Castellaccio 2024 Orio (Bolgheri). The nose has a fresh yet warm feel, with aromas of cedar, potting soil, pepper, and pencil sharp- enings. On the palate, blackberries and black cherries are balanced by undertones of crushed stones and wild herbs, which glide into a cool, fresh, stony finish. Bravo Wine Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Poggio al Tesoro 2024 Il Seggio (Bolgheri). For full review see page 10. Maze Row Wine Merchant.

abv: 25% **Price:** \$58

92 Tenuta Meraviglia 2021 Vigna Pianali (Bolgheri). On the nose, dark chocolate frames Mission figs, pomegranate seeds, and black cherries. The fruit is juicy and sweet on the palate, but still has the tension of slightly tart skin, and the fresh tang of iron rich soil and herbs surrounding it. Tannins are firm, but forgiving. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$160

91 Banfi 2023 Aska (Bolgheri). The savory, sanguine nose swirls with aromas of pepper, earth, and tart black fruit. On the palate, the fruit ripens, but remains tart, and undercurrents of herbs and citrus flow all the way through a nutty, salty finish. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Della Gherardesca 2024 Gaddo (Bolgheri). Floral, saline aromas kick off the nose, then make way for a savory smokiness. The palate is both rich with spices and tangy with pepper and dark fruit, and the finish enhances that layered feel with a floral freshness, salt, and pepper. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Fabio Motta 2024 Le Pieve (Bolgheri). On the nose, tart blackberries, plums, and bergamot pop above a foundation of damp, peppery earth. The palate inverts, with the pepper and earth coming first, then ripe dark berries and warm citrus emerging as you get deeper. Firm tannins hold up against insistent acid. MS Walker. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Giorgio Meletti Cavallari 2023 Impronte (Bolgheri). The nose is defined by the tangy warmth of blackberries, tea leaves, white pepper, and warm citrus. A mix of tart and sweet dark berries greets you on the palate, then makes way for herbs and earth. A linear, bright wine. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 La Cipriana 2023 Vigna Scopaio 339 (Bolgheri). The nose is primarily peppery, earthy, and herbaceous, but also has the pop of tart, dark fruit. On the palate, that fruit persists even in a riot of peppers, with black, chili, and bell all making appearances. The finish is fresh and salty, with a live wire of acid. —D.C.

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

91 Podere Conca 2022 Agapanto (Bolgheri). The umami, earthy nose swirls with black pepper, topsoil, pencil shavings, cigar smoke, and dried fig.

On the palate, the figs are joined by pomegranates, orange zest, and dark chocolate, and the tannins are just beginning to extend on a finish that's still plenty hot and acidic. Wine Collection Holding. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Tenuta Meraviglia 2023 Rosso (Bolgheri). The nose is tart, tangy, earthy, and sanguine, with aromas of drip coffee, blood orange, blackberry, and topsoil. The fruit elements swell on the palate, accompanied by milk chocolate and more coffee, before firm yet flexible tannins glide into a resurgently earthy finish. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 Cantine Bonacchi 2023 Gerbido (Bolgheri). The nose scatters chili powder and tobacco leaves over raspberries and blood oranges, and the palate is similarly layered, with flavors of wild strawberry, terra-cotta, white pepper, and crushed rocks all making themselves known. A sanguine, tangy wine all the way through the finish. Vivino Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Donne Fittipaldi 2024 Classico (Bolgheri). The nose presents aromas of Mission figs, bitter citrus, graphite, and topsoil. Ripe raspberries and pomegranate seeds pop on the palate, beneath a dusting of orange zest and Maldon salt, before the stony coolness of the nose returns on an herbaceous, fresh, acidic finish. Sete LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Guado al Melo 2023 Rute (Bolgheri). The nose invigorates with aromas of blackberries, orange zest, fennel, and tobacco leaf. The palate unveils more warm, bitter citrus and dark berries, before textured tannins bring back more of the smoky, earthy herbaceousness of the nose on the finish. Panebianco Wines. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

90 Podere Sette 2024 L'Invidio (Bolgheri). The nose presents aromas of pepper, earth, herbs, graphite, and crushed stones, then the palate balances things out with black plums and blackberries. Velvety tannins allow indulgent notes of dark chocolate and rum-soaked raisins to unfold on the finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Terre dei Ghelfi 2023 Terre dei Ghelfi (Bolgheri). Blackberries, black cherries, and figs lead off the nose, the sanguine, earthy, herbaceous aromas balance things out. The blackberries star on the palate, framed by dark chocolate, before black licorice joins resurgent herbs on the finish. Tannins are chewy and acid is lively. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Terre del Marchesato 2024 Emilio Primo Rosso (Bolgheri). The nose has the savory, saline sensation of low tide, black sesame, black olive, sun-dried tomato, and mixed herbs. The palate is a dark-chocolate bar studded with dried dark fruit and

walnuts, and a salty, savory finish enhances that rich, layered feel. Global Spirits and Wine. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

89 Sensi 1890 2024 Sabbiato (Bolgheri). A textured, nuanced nose brings aromas of tobacco leaf, tart black-plum skin, and pencil shavings. On the fresh palate, ripe blackberries and black cherries play with mint and wild fennel, while polished but grippy tannins frame the scene. 8 Vini Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

BOLGHERI SUPERIORE

97 Grattamacco 2023 Grattamacco (Bolgheri Superiore). Acrobatic and dynamic on a nose that's at first floral and delicate with rose petals and violets, then fresh and herbaceous with mint and fennel, before dark chocolate seeps through. The palate is rich with dark fruit, warm citrus, herbs, and earth. A big wine in a lot of ways, and yet somehow you always want another sip of this one. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

97 Tenuta Fratini 2023 Hortense (Bolgheri Superiore). Aromas of pepper and new leather, then damp earth, crushed flower petals, and herbs all come together on a nose that opens for a juicy and sanguine palate. An exciting undercurrent of heat and pepper bring out tart and fresh blackberries and bitter citrus, but solid, structured tannins promise this wine will be even more compelling in a few years. Tannins are pliable but powerful. Enovation Brands. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$350

96 Orma 2023 Aola Di Orma (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose sprinkles black pepper and herbs over crushed rocks and blackberries. On the palate, black cherries join the blackberries to ride a wave of bitter citrus and salted dark chocolate. Tannins are firm and acid is insistent, carrying a long, rich finish. Empire Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$210

96 Tenuta Fratini 2023 Harte (Bolgheri Superiore). Layered and alluring on the nose, with pepper, earth, hot tar, cumin, black olive, and wild oregano. The palate stays very savory and sanguine, with just a hint of sweetness from black licorice and tart blackberries, then more herbs and pepper. A reminder of how much there is still to explore in Bolgheri. Fresh and salty on the finish. Enovation Brands. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$155

95 Antinori 2023 Guado al Tasso (Bolgheri Superiore). Aromas of pepper, graphite, hot tar, and new leather swirl together on a spicy, earthy nose. The palate balances things out with ripe blackberries, pomegranate, and Mission fig riding waves of warm citrus, while more earth provides an anchor. Patient tannins are still tightly coiled. Vinattieri 1385. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$180

95 Castello di Bolgheri 2021 Barinca (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose intrigues with aromas of damp earth, black olive, wild oregano, and black plum, and the palate has a similar sensation, with flavors of black cherry, blackberry, more herbs, and chili peppers. Tea leaves and bergamot on the finish conclude a tangy, spicy wine. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$400

95 I Greppi 2023 Greppicaia (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose intrigues with aromas of topsoil, fennel, burnt sage, blackberries, and black cherries. On the palate, bitter citrus and pepper greet you, but then the sweet, ripe berries, earth, and herbs return. An elegant, precise wine. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

95 Poggio al Tesoro 2022 Dedicato A Walter (Bolgheri Superiore). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$295

95 Poggio al Tesoro 2022 Sondaia (Bolgheri Superiore). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$125

94 Bell'Aja 2023 (Bolgheri Superiore). The perfumed, indulgent nose undulates with aromas of vanilla bean, rose petal, orange blossom, and cacao. On the palate, ripe berries float in a current of warm citrus that flows alongside silky tannins. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Caccia al Piano 1868 2023 Caccia al Piano (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose has the heady feel of macerated blackberries, dried figs, dark chocolate, and damp earth. That earthiness is strong on the palate, and joined by a savory herbaceousness that gradually shifts into cool mintiness. A wine that's as fresh as an early spring day. Alain Junguenet Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$120

94 Campo alla Sughera 2022 Arnione (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose presents aromas of blackberry, bergamot, tea leaf, and pepper. A fresh, floral palate sees violets and salt join more tart blackberries and pepper, then warm citrus and mouth-watering acid carry a long finish. Pazzione Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Chiappini 2023 Guado de' Gemoli (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose opens spicy and rich, turns flinty and peppery, and concludes with cool earth. The palate coats blueberries and blackberries in dark chocolate and carefully stitched tannins, then finishes with the nose's acrobatic oscillation between warm and cool, along with a mint breeze. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

94 Podere Il Castellaccio 2023 Il Castellaccio (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose is tart, tangy, fresh, and crunchy, with aromas of blood orange,

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hibiscus, pepper, and topsoil. Blackberries join more citrus and peppery earth on the palate, which has great depth and texture while also being lithe and buoyant. The Jack Edwards Collection. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$114

94 Tenuta Meraviglia 2021 Maestro di Cava (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose scatters macerated blackberries and herbs over a foundation of crushed rocks and dirt. The palate brings all those same notes, plus the tang of white tea and bergamot, and finally candied ginger and salted dark chocolate flavors that just sneak out on the finish. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$95

93 Dario di Vaira Vignaiolo a Bolgheri 2023 (Bolgheri Superiore). Earthy and peppery on the nose, with pencil shavings, graphite, black olive, and black-plum skin. The palate stays savory and sanguine, with new leather and cracked black pepper, then tangy and tart black fruit. A lot of texture creates a substantial mouthfeel. GD Import Giacomo di Lisi. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$55

93 Dario di Vaira Vignaiolo a Bolgheri 2023 C.F.11 (Bolgheri Superiore). A warm, spicy, earthy nose gusts with aromas of fresh coffee, number 2 pencil, and leaves. On the palate, blackberries and black cherries tumble into a bucket of brambles, pepper, and more earth, then bursts of citrus, herbs, and heat light up the finish. GD Import Giacomo di Lisi. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$95

93 Della Gherardesca 2023 Castello di Castagneto (Bolgheri Superiore). An intensely peppery earthiness arrives first on the nose, then wild herbs, flowers, and dark fruit emerge. On the palate, dark chocolate and leather elements soften the pepper and earth, while mint mingles with more berries and cherries in the background. Tannins are dense, but refined. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$70

93 La Cipriana 2023 San Martino (Bolgheri Superiore). On the nose, aromas of orange peel, wild cherry, topsoil, cedar, and peppery spice pop from the glass like sparks. Sweet, ripe berries burst on the palate above more hot, peppery earthiness, then flakes of salt float on refined, silken tannins into the finish. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

93 Ruffino 2023 Garzaia (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose opens with milk chocolate and black cherries, then shifts to bergamot and iron-rich soil. On a very fresh, herbaceous palate, mint, fennel, and white pepper come first, then give way to indulgent, macerated fruit and more chocolate. Constellation Brands. —D.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$110

92 Castello di Bolgheri 2023 (Bolgheri Superiore). Sweet, ripe blackberries and black cherries greet you on the nose, then are joined by tea leaves, bergamot, and pencil shavings. On the palate,

oregano and pepper are balanced by sweet, oven-dried tomatoes and warm citrus, with fierce tannins and acid. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$160

92 Fabio Motta 2023 Le Gonnare (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose presents plums and berries, but also an intense pepperiness, hot asphalt, and crushed rocks. The fruit stays high toned but dark on the palate, while undertones of bitter citrus, tangy tea leaf, terra cotta and more pepper add nuance. Earthy and rich, but vibrant. MS Walker. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

92 Guado al Melo 2022 Atis (Bolgheri Superiore). Violets, peonies, and dark fruit come first on the palate, then pepper and pencil shavings emerge for balance. The dark fruit ripens on the palate, while damp earth and bitter citrus keep things balanced all the way through a resurgently peppery finish. Panebianco Wines. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$67

92 Terre del Marchesato 2023 Marchesale (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose sprinkles salt and pepper over black fruit, which is fresh, tart, and crunchy. On the palate, the fruit stays fresh, but also turns riper and juicier, while damp earth and fresh herbs strike a balance. Global Spirits and Wine. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$64

91 Donne Fittipaldi 2023 Superior (Bolgheri Superiore). On the nose, ripe red fruit and delicate flower aromas float over a simmering, fiery heat. On the palate, black cherries and blackberries tumble over a foundation of flinty, peppery soil, before a soaring finish of acid, warm citrus, and salt. Sete LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$48

91 Pietranova 2022 Liborio (Bolgheri Superiore). On the nose, aromas of potting soil, black olives, graphite, and black pepper pop from the glass. Ripe black figs and pomegranates lead on the palate, while plenty more peppery earthiness provides balance. Acid flows past sleek tannins into a finish of chili pepper and dark chocolate. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$85

91 Terre dei Ghelfi 2023 1961 (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose is floral, perfumed, delicate, and sweet, but developing aromas of spices keep you guessing. Tart, tangy black fruit leads the way on the palate, then currents of citrus and salinity drift to the surface. Firm tannins and energetic acid provide structure through the finish. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

90 Banfi 2022 Dèinos (Bolgheri Superiore). The floral, saline nose shimmers with aromas of new leather, peonies, and violets. Minerals, rocks, and tart, tangy forest berries pop on the palate all the way through the finish, even in the face of a concluding blast of fresh mint and herbs. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$76

OTHER RED WINES

90 Tenuta Le Forconate 2024 Ràsole (Colli Etruria Centrale). Earth and little nuances of smoke frame black fruit on the nose. The palate feels restrained although all the extreme flavors you get off the nose come into play but in a less revved-up way. Firm plush tannins build across the finish with juicy acidity rushing in at the very end. Enopoly Estate Wines. —M.R.L.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$49

89 Cesani 2024 (Chianti Colli Senesi). The nose is pretty savory with piney edges that hide some of the red fruit coming from the glass. Leaned out red fruit eventually comes out of the palate with small sharpened tannin clinging on at the end. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

89 I Veroni 2024 I Domi (Chianti Rufina). This wine goes into a big, ripe red-fruit world as you get spicy plump plum and juice seeping into black cherry. The palate is just as juicy as the nose suggest but has a black minerality sprinkled in the juice. The tannins have a sticky feel that are backed up with moderate acid. Jandell Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$18

89 I Veroni 2022 Quona Riserva (Chianti Rufina). Roasted red cherry, chopped firewood, and wool swish and express from the glass. On the palate, the fruit goes into a brambly zone that has sensations of crispy blackberry and fresh black cherry that all get wrapped up into the wine's sticky dry tannins. Jandell Selections. —M.R.L.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

88 Cantina di Montalcino 2024 Sbalzo (Rosso di Montalcino). Tart and tangy wild strawberries and raspberries on the nose lead to darker fruit, milk chocolate, and wild herbs on the palate. Fresh and lively, but grounded in earth tones on the finish. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

DESSERT WINES

90 Fattoria di Basciano 2018 (Vin Santo del Chianti). The nose is nutty, sweet, and citrusy, and the palate reinforces those notes with candied walnuts, orange zest, and milk-chocolate studded with raisins and dried figs. HB Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$36/375ml

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

ABRUZZO

90 Agricosimo 2025 Pecorino (Abruzzo). The nose has the floral, saline sensation of new

leather, clean laundry, lavender, and tulips. The palate stays floral and delicate, with peaches and melons greeting you before making way for a finish of warm citrus and salt. Classico Fine Wines & Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Fantini 2025 Pinot Grigio (Terre d'Abruzzo). Citrus and florals envelope you on a nose of lemon, lime, honeysuckle, and hints of stone fruit. Oranges, grapefruits, and white peaches tumble across the palate, creating a slick mouthfeel that's balanced by punchy acid. Empson USA. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

LAZIO

94 Casale del Giglio 2020 Radix Bellone (Lazio). The nose is radically distinct and flexes a bit of white Burgundy moves. Wild flowers with pear and green apple mesh together through its aromatics. The palate is salty and stony with a mildly textured finish that jolts clean acidity through the wine. Soilair Selection. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 Casale del Giglio 2024 Anthium Bellone (Lazio). In the glass, aromas show lychee, honeysuckle, and kumquat skin. The palate has some juicy citrus fruit packed into it along with some raddling acid that shakes right through its core. Soilair Selection. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

COLLINE PESCARESI

89 Podere Castorani 2024 Cadetto Orange (Colline Pescara). A pale-orange wine with a nose of tangerine peel, wet rocks, and wild herbs. The palate opens with flavors of melon and more citrus, then adds lots of florals and more herbs. A chalky mouthfeel is lifted by a salty finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

ROSÉS

90 Cantina di Rosina 2024 Rosé (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo). This wine is deep magenta in the glass, a hue that sets up a nose of cherries, red plums, and sun-warmed bricks. The palate stays both tart and juicy with flavors of pomegranate, rhubarb, blood orange, and more red plum. DiLisi Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Vigneti Radica 2024 Rosato (Terre d'Abruzzo). A rose-pink hue anticipates a delicate nose of strawberry, white pepper, and pink grapefruit. Peaches and cherries join the grapefruit on the palate, which presents a chalky mouthfeel and a salty, popping, citrus finish. F. Magnotta. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO

90 Ciavolich 2024 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). Fresh and earthy, then sweet and indulgent on the nose, with wild herbs, tilled soil, milk chocolate, and red and black plums. Black cherries and black plums roll over more earth and herbs, rounded up by flexible but firm tannins and enlivened with acid. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 Tenute Barone di Valforte 2023 Colle Sale (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose sprinkles pepper and wild herbs over black cherries and black plums. The dark fruit is both tart and sweet on the palate, and a minty dark-chocolate element and grainy tannins add nuance. Wine4all. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

88 Cantina di Rosina 2024 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose coats black cherries and figs in milk chocolate, then sprinkles cinnamon over the top. The palate is similarly luxe, like a milk-chocolate bar studded with spices, nuts, and dried cherries, before a citrus zest finish adds freshness. DiLisi Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

88 Tenute Barone di Valforte 2024 Villa Ambrosia (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose gusts with aromas of blackberries, pepper, damp soil, and wild herbs. Black cherries and bitter citrus join more blackberries on the palate, while more herbs and earth provide balance, and chalky tannins enforce structure. Wine4all. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Ca' del Sarto 2024 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). On the nose, damp soil and underbrush are balanced by the sweetness of malted chocolate and black cherries. Red plums, wild cherries, and citrus lead the palate, but more topsoil notes preserve balance. Tannins stand firm against fierce acid. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 La Fiera 2023 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose offers aromas of violets, pepper, milk chocolate, and blackberries. The blackberries and pepper grow into themselves on the palate, while wild herbs add a tartness that persists through the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

86 Giuliano Rosati 2024 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose coats Bing cherries and candied orange peel in milk chocolate, then on the palate the tartness of the citrus is drawn out by tangy, black-plum skin couched in chalky tannins. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER RED WINES

90 Fantini 2025 Don Camillo Sangiovese Cabernet Sauvignon (Terre d'Abruzzo). The nose brings plenty of tangy fruit elements, but also pepper and pencil shavings for balance. Blackberries and pepper are the leading notes on a tangy, spicy palate, while undertones of chocolate and orange zest add nuance, and then a waft of florals blows across the finish. Empson USA. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Idi di Marzo 2023 1910 (Terre di Chieti). The nose sprinkles pepper and orange zest over Bing cherries coated in milk chocolate. The palate brings blackberries, black cherries, and more chocolate, plus fennel and mint undertones for balance. Grippy tannins keep a peppery finish in check. DLY Enterprise LLC. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Ca' del Sarto 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Terre di Chieti). The nose invigorates with aromas of damp earth, pepper, mint, and blackberries. The dark fruit and fresh herbs dominate the palate, until the pepper returns on a hot finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

SOUTHERN ITALY WHITE WINES

91 Paternoster 2024 Falanghina (Basilicata). White peaches, Pecorino cheese, and orange blossom take shape on the nose. The palate is lean and keeps those peachy tones humming. There's nothing too fruity about this and the gentle feel and balanced acidity keep the wine pretty appealing. Vintus Imports. —M.R.L.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

91 Tormaresca 2024 Pietrabilanca Chardonnay (Castel del Monte). Pecorino rind, white pineapple, and daffodils work in sync on the nose. The palate has more white pineapple and some bitter freshness that you would find on the white rind of a watermelon. The acidity gives the wine lift and the keeps those big cheesy notes in check. Vinattieri 1385. —M.R.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 San Marzano 2023 Edda Chardonnay (Salento). Pear and apple slip into the scene with just a little margarine and hay that play secondary into the nose. The palate is easygoing as you get yellow flowers and a bit of lychee with very tame acid. Ethica Wines. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

90 Villa Matilde 2024 Collocastrese Falanghina (Falerno del Massico). Citrus peels of all sorts saturate the nose with just faint hints of jasmine in the background. The palate reveals even more cit-

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rus action in a prominent way. The acidity is moderate and plays around nicely with the wines super-dry finish. Kobrand. —M.R.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Villa Matilde 2024 Roccaleoni Falanghina (Campania). Chamomile, key lime, and fresh cream appear in a gentle manner off the nose. The palate is lean and zesty with lots of lemon lime flavors and a bit of underripe pineapple. The brightness and citrusy notes work well together making this wine a zippy drinker for buttery seafood dishes. Kobrand. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES

PUGLIA

92 Leone de Castris 2022 Medaglione Primitivo (Puglia). The fruit on this wine has an interesting showcase as the funky and fresh appeal work well together on the nose. Roasted cherries that lean a bit dank come together with yellow sun-soaked plum that feel perfectly ripe. The palate goes into full power while showing really nice restraint through the finish with fleshy red-fruit flavors. Acidity comes in clean and rounds out all the edges of this rollercoaster Primitivo. Vias Imports Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 San Marzano 2023 Primitivo (Puglia). Plum and roasted red fruit quickly escape from the glass with fresh-ground rinds of coffee playing around in the background. The wine has a juiciness that steals the show but behind the surge of dark red fruits comes gentle tannin and a rush of moderate acid that ties all the loose ends of this wine. Ethica Wines. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Vigneti del Salento 2024 Vanità Primitivo (Puglia). Overripe raspberry and a resemblance of overgrown green fields come through the nose of the wine. The palate has sweet red raspberry and a slight sanguine note that keeps things a bit more interesting. The finish comes off with touches of sweetness and gestures of fresh acid. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

OTHER RED WINES

90 Cantina del Vesuvio 2021 Riserva (Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio). The nose gives off aromas of potpourri, dried strawberry, and citrus zest. On the palate the wine gets a bit more serious in terms of power as you feel the strength from the tannin right away as the wine jets around as you swish the juice around. The flavors have an overripe sense to them that resembles black and red fruits that get ever so lifted from the wine's acidity. —M.R.L.

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

90 Masseria Altemura 2022 Altemura Primitivo (Primitivo di Manduria). On the nose, the wine has cherry punch, wild mushrooms, and bacon fat. The palate is ripe with red and purple fruits that are dripping with juice. Faint hoison sauce is laced into the wine. The finish has soft tannins that are tame and come along with mellow acidity. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

SICILY WHITE WINES

SICILIA

94 Franchetti 2023 Passopisciaro Contrada PC Bianco (Terre Siciliane). Like the Passopisciaro reds, the whites are all about nuance. Contrada PC seems to be defined by fierce acid and churned sea-foam at first, but then it softens and expands, offering a nutty richness, ripe stone fruit, and warm, bitter citrus. Linear, but layered. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$102

92 Baglio Diar 2025 Fantasia Zibibbo (Terre Siciliane). Ripe peaches, apricots, and lemons lead off the nose, while undertones of saffron and almonds add nuance. The palate opens juicy and fresh, then turns nutty and rich through the finish. An expression of Zibibbo that's accessible, without shying away from aromatics and intensity. Sete. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

92 Baglio Diar 2025 Selene Grillo (Sicilia). The nose shines with aromas of white peach, honey dew, lime, and crushed shells. The palate sprinkles salt over grapefruit, which joins more stone fruit and melon notes, creating a textured, lively wine. Sete. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Franchetti 2024 Passopisciaro Passobianco (Terre Siciliane). Orange blossom and toasted almonds on the nose open up for a palate that explodes with salt and citrus, before the savory-sweet tension of the nose returns on the finish. Lightning bolts of acid continue to strike on the palate long after your sip is finished. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$46

91 Caruso & Minini 2025 Grillo (Sicilia). Salted, tart lemon wedges lead the way on the nose, complemented by crushed oyster shells and white flowers. The palate is cohesive, with sunny citrus and mixed wild herbs balancing on a backbone of chalky salinity, all lifted by fiery acid. Substantial and dense, but still dynamic. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Feudo di Santa Tresa 2025 Insieme Orange (Sicilia). On the nose, aromas of tangerine, cantaloupe, and wild strawberry radiate from the glass. The palate is a medley of mixed melons and citrus notes of orange, tangerine, and grapefruit, but

the overall mouthfeel is chalky. A bright salinity ties everything off on the finish. —D.C.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

90 Feudo di Santa Tresa 2025 Rina Ianca Grillo-Viognier (Sicilia). A playful nose swirls with aromas of lime zest, wild thyme, and honey dew. Flavors of honey, raw almonds, lemon, and lime define the palate, creating a mouthfeel that is both slick and tart through the finish. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Stemmari 2025 Grillo (Sicilia). Lemon, lime, white flowers, and new leather on the nose open for a palate warm with citrus and chalky with crushed oyster shells. Refreshing, easy drinking. Prestige Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

89 Graffetta 2025 Grillo (Sicilia). The nose shimmers with aromas of lime, new leather, white flowers, and wild herbs. The palate is a citrus medley of lemon, lime, orange, and grapefruit, while more herbs and salt provide balance. Acid and heat enliven the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Purato 2025 Catarratto-Pinot Grigio (Terre Siciliane). The nose offers honeydew melon and yellow apple with a hint of wild herbs and saline. The palate is juicy with tree fruit and citrus, with more savory notes of herbs and crushed rocks on the finish. —D.C.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

86 La Fiera NV Moscato (Terre Siciliane). Straw gold and with a soft effervescence in the glass, this Moscato opens with orange peel and new leather on the nose and then offers ripe peach and sweet candied citrus on the palate. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$11

ETNA BIANCO

94 Alta Mora 2024 (Etna Bianco). For full review see page 5. Terlato Wines International.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

94 Monteleone 2024 Anthemis (Etna Bianco). Aromas of dried pineapple, lemon zest, toasted almonds and vanilla headline the nose, and those elements all reappear on the palate, before a sweet, indulgent note of marzipan takes the final bow. Lyra Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Barone di Villagrande 2024 (Etna Bianco). On the nose, aromas of lemon, yellow and green apple and white flowers drift from the glass. The palate opens with those same notes, then an undertone of crushed rocks leads into a raw almond finish. Salty as the dead sea, and absolutely electric with acid. Omniwines. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Duca di Salaparuta 2024 Lavico (Etna Bianco). The fresh, clean nose shines with aromas of garden hose, tennis court, daffodils, lemon and lime. Citrus kicks off the palate, followed by a bit of stone fruit and melon, before a finish which is nutty and savory, but also fiercely acidic. Volio Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

92 Monteleone 2025 (Etna Bianco). The nose enchants with aromas of yellow apple, starfruit, pineapple, and lemon. On the palate, more tree and tropical-fruit elements draw out the richness of the lemon note, but things lean into the tart and salty at the end. Lyra Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

90 Barone Beneventano 2024 Radici (Etna Bianco). The nose is rich with aromas of pineapple, starfruit, and yellow apple, and the palate stays lush as more tropical fruit and tree fruit elements mingle with Brazil and macadamia nuts. The finish squeezes fresh lemon and sprinkles salt over the tongue. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

90 Barone Beneventano 2023 Radici (Etna Bianco). The nose presents herbaceous, saline aromas of wild thyme, coins, and wet rocks. The palate leads with flavors of lemon, lime, and herbs, but then stone fruit and nuts make themselves known, creating a slick mouthfeel. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

90 Massimo Lentsch 2024 (Etna Bianco). Aromas of preserved lemon, wild thyme, and pineapple define the nose, and the palate sees limes and white peaches join more lemons and tropical fruit, before a finish of minerals and salt. Weygandt-Metzler Importing Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

ROSÉ

94 Monteleone 2024 Astragalus (Etna Rosato). This coppery salmon-pink wine presents a nose that sprinkles toasted coconut and slivered almonds over strawberries and whipped cream. The nutty, toasty, rich palate has flavors of ripe cherries and red plums, and a warm, embracing feel in addition to the expected refreshment. This might be my new favorite Monteleone wine. Lyra Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$50

SICILY RED WINES

SICILIA

92 Cusumano 2020 Noà (Sicilia). A smoky, fiery, intense nose is headlined by aromas of hot tar, pepper, and wild herbs. Those savory, sanguine notes continue on the palate, while undertones of dark fruit

and bitter cocoa provide balance, before a swirl of espresso and anise liqueur arrive on the finish. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$55

91 Stemmari 2023 Cantodoro Riserva (Sicilia). The nose offers aromas of blackberries, black cherries, cloves, and new leather. The palate coats ripe dark fruit in milk chocolate, then adds candied walnuts and orange zest for nuance, before chalky crushed rocks finish things off. Prestige Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

91 Stemmari 2022 Hedonis Riserva (Sicilia). The nose is smoky and savory with peppery heat and damp, volcanic soil while the palate is juicy, with ripe dark fruit. The savory notes return on the finish, in the form of bitter citrus and wild herbs. Prestige Wine Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

90 Feudo di Santa Tresa 2025 Rina Russa Frappato (Terre Siciliane). On the nose, wild strawberries, sour cherries, and wild herbs grow from a backbone of tilled soil. Pomegranate seeds and tart blackberries pop on the palate, above currents of citrus and more herbs that eventually flow into a finish of cool, saline earth. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

90 Feudo di Santa Tresa 2024 Insieme Nero D'Avola (Sicilia). A nose that opens floral and sweet turns peppery and earthy before progressing onto a palate juicy with tart berries and lively with citrus. Sunny and fresh. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$26

89 Purato 2025 Siccarì Appassimento (Terre Siciliane). Dirt and brambles, milk chocolate and walnuts, blackberries and figs all mingle together on the nose before rolling onto the palate, lifted up on the finish by orange zest. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

88 Cantina Cellaro 2025 Lumà Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose pops with tart aromas of blackberry and black plum, then turns savory with iron-rich soil, tea leaf, and bergamot. The palate brings more black fruit and earth before a salt and pepper finish. Retaggio Imports LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

88 Cusumano 2023 Merlot (Terre Siciliane). The nose energizes with aromas of wild blueberry, tart blackberry, and green and red bell pepper. On the palate, flavors of blueberry jam, sweet chilis, earth, and brambles hop across the tongue, while gentle tannins look on. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$17

88 Purato 2025 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose opens with aromas of strawberries, raspberries, sun-warmed bricks, and oregano. The fruit is coated in milk chocolate on the palate—a great red to chill down and enjoy in the summer. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

ETNA ROSSO

95 Monteleone 2023 Rumex (Etna Rosso). On the nose, aromas of cherry blossom, orange zest, new leather and roses pop from the glass. Cherries, strawberries, and raspberries star on the palate, alongside refreshing orange slices and mint. Sturdy tannins provide structure on a finish which brings a bite of citrus pith and heat. Lyra Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

95 Terra Costantino 2020 Contrada Blandano Riserva (Etna Rosso). The nose is earthy, sanguine, even nutty, with aromas of topsoil, pepper, cedar, pencil shavings and walnuts, plus overtones of black plums and blackberries for pop. Those tart, snappy-skinned fruit elements headline the palate, but are anchored by more pepper and earth. Tannins are polished and flexible. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$50

94 Massimo Lentsch 2022 Feudo di Mezzo (Etna Rosso). The warm, sanguine, savory nose unfurls with aromas of topsoil, pepper, black olive and wild oregano, plus black plum for some pop. On the palate, tart black-cherry flavors accentuate that black-plum element, while more earth, herbs and pepper provide balance. Tannins are polished, but powerful. Weygandt-Metzler Importing Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$59

94 Monteleone 2022 Qubba (Etna Rosso). The nose opens with a sweet yet spiced feel, as aromas of malted chocolate, Bing cherry, Mission fig, candied orange peel and clove emerge from the glass first, then pepper and potting soil join. The palate layers cherries and berries with damp earth, while undertones of dark chocolate and wild mint add depth and subtlety. Tannins are firm, but flexible. Lyra Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

93 Duca di Salaparuta 2023 Lavico (Etna Rosso). The nose exhilarates with aromas of strawberry jam, orange peel, wild fennel, wild mint and salinity. Orange slices and dried cranberries star on the palate, creating a warm, tangy, salty sensation. A bolt of searing acid strikes the finish, igniting that flaky salt element with a chili pepper heat. Volio Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

93 Monteleone 2023 (Etna Rosso). Aromas of white pepper, topsoil, and pencil shavings emerge from the glass first, followed by milk chocolate, black cherries, and orange peel. Blackberries join the black cherries to headline the palate, while overtones of warm citrus, salt and pepper add nuance. Fine-grained tannins and streamlined acid lend a feeling of intentionality. Lyra Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

93 Tenuta di Fessina 2022 Erse (Etna Rosso). The nose opens floral, earthy, and herbaceous,

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then snappy black-plum skin and tart black cherries add a bolt of energy. The fruit leads the way on the palate, beneath a drizzle of milk chocolate and a dusting of orange zest, until the earth and herbs return on the finish. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$27

92 Barone Beneventano 2021 Radici (Etna Rosso). The nose is enlivening but balanced, with aromas of Bing and black cherries, raspberries, flint, and topsoil. The palate is a cherry tart accompanied by a piece of dark chocolate, plus a strong current of warm citrus. Silky tannins complement simmering acid. Non-U.S. imported. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

92 Tenuta Etna Nord 2024 (Etna Rosso). Aromas of crushed rocks, flint and wild herbs come first on the nose, followed by wild strawberries and raspberries for balance. The palate leans into the fruit, with juicy, fresh, tart plum and pomegranate, plus abundant citrus, while toothy tannins and vibrant acid provide structure. Classica Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

91 Gambino 2021 Tifeo (Etna Rosso). The nose gusts with fresh, floral, saline aromas of peonies, new leather, cherry blossoms and crushed rocks. The palate drizzles pomegranate syrup over black cherries and dried figs, while dark chocolate provides an anchor. Very firm tannins hold their own against insistent acid. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

91 Tenute Nicosia 2024 Lenza di Munti (Etna Rosso). Aromas of warm citrus, cranberry, strawberry and cherry come first, followed by topsoil and pencil shavings for balance. More cherries, berries and citrus shine on the palate, before wild herbs pop through on the finish. Tannins stand tall against decisive acid. Winebow Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

90 Frontesciara 1981 2024 (Etna Rosso). On a fresh, balanced nose, aromas of fennel, mint, crushed rocks, blackberries, and black cherries pop from the glass. Black plums, blackberries, and black licorice gleam on the palate, before the pepper and herbs return on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$27

DESSERT WINES

95 Pellegrino 2005 N° 018 Single Barrel Riserva (Marsala). The nose has the luxe feel of salted caramel, candied orange peel, dried apricot, saffron, and white pepper. Currents of citrus and salt flow through the palate, while dried stone fruit and tropical-fruit elements look on, before a finish of caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts recalls the most elegant Cracker Jack you've ever tasted. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —D.C.

abv: 19%

Price: \$150

95 Tua Rita 2019 Sese (Passito di Pantelleria). When I see a bottle of Tua Rita Sese I react almost the same way as I do when a birthday cake is headed in my direction: first, sheer, unabashed joy, and then, slight embarrassment for not being able to contain my emotions. But in the case of the Sese, I get to settle into smug satisfaction, because while it brings the same level of joy, instead of cake, it's a sophisticated, elegant expression of an ancient grape. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75/500ml

89 Cantine Colosi 2020 Passito (Terre Siciliane). The warm orange color announces a nose of whipped cream, orange peel, and toasted almonds, with a smoky, nutty undertone. The palate is creamy and rich, with white chocolate and more citrus zest joined by apricots. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$38/500ml

ITALIAN WINES

ROSÉ

87 Fantini 2025 Calenta Merlot Rosé (Italy). A dusty rose pink in the glass, this rosato is savory and sweet on the nose, with ripe wild strawberries and tangy, tart blood orange on the palate. Empson USA. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

RED WINES

90 Fantini NV Edizione Cinque Autoctoni 24 Red Blend (Italy). The nose has the energy of black cherries, figs, and pepper, but also the texture of malted chocolate and earth. The palate is rich with mature dark fruit, chocolate, and more spices. On the finish, polished tannins draw out a latent licorice element. Empson USA. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$48

89 Fantini 2021 Three Dreamers Montepulciano (Italy). The nose dusts malted chocolate over dried cherries, dried figs, and candied orange peel. The fruit and chocolate continue on the palate, while a lively, peppery heat blazes in the background. On the finish, more chocolate pours over slick tannins. Empson USA. —D.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$60

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES VINHO VERDE

92 Casa Santa Eulália 2023 Terroir Velho Mundo Field Blend (Vinho Verde). Peach galette and tangerine are surrounded by sweet-savory scents of vanilla, fennel frond, chamomile, and hazelnut in this complex and expressive bottling. It's layered and long, with a minerally undercurrent and a nice core of vibrant acidity. An excellent companion for rich fish

preparations or wood-grilled pork. TheGreenWine. *Hidden Gem.* —J.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

90 Quinta do Regueiro 2025 Foral de Melgaço Old Vines (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço). Green apple, peach, and honeydew melon center this lovely bottling for simply grilled fish. It's topped by scents of white flowers, Marcona almond, and brioche, with a fresh line of citric acidity slicing through to a mineral-anchored finish. Best over the next few years. M.S. Walker Brands. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

89 Casa Santa Eulália 2025 (Vinho Verde). This offers expressive and fresh fruit, with a vein of wet stone underneath. Aromas of Asian pear, green apple, and honeydew rind are accompanied by poppy seed and brioche. Finishing with a touch of dried peach, it's an honest, delicious, and versatile pour to enjoy over the next couple years. TheGreenWine. —J.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$24

89 Casa Santa Eulália 2025 (Vinho Verde). A zip of lemon/lime cuts through the center of this deliciously refreshing Avesso, with accents of mashed red apple, melon rind, wet stone, and toothpick providing a fun tapestry of aromas. It finishes with a sprinkling of sea salt and will be great with simply grilled fish. TheGreenWine. —J.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$24

88 Aveleda 2025 Casal Garcia (Vinho Verde). With pretty peach, pear, and honeydew melon fruit tones topped by scents of tangerine zest and raw almond, this is a fun pour and excellent value. The finish is neatly focused. Well balanced overall, it'll be a good choice for the next year or two with cured meats and cheeses. Aveleda Inc. —J.S.

abv: 12%

Price: \$NA

88 Casa Santa Eulália 2025 (Vinho Verde). A nice line of zippy acidity carries ripe pear, golden apple, and honeydew melon flavors, with aromatic accents of green banana and white flowers. It'll be a lot of fun with something like schnitzel or roasted pork over the next few years. TheGreenWine. —J.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

88 Casa Santa Eulália 2025 Plainas (Vinho Verde). With zesty kiwi, red apple, and peach tones, this'll go great with Thai noodle dishes. It's rounded in texture, with a lingering peach note and citrus-driven line of acidity down the center. Aromatic accents of banana peel, tangerine zest, and brioche top things off. TheGreenWine. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 11%

Price: \$12

88 Destalo 2025 (Vinho Verde). Vibrant fruit is carried by juicy acidity in this excellent value, with white peach, cantaloupe rind, and Fuji apple holding center. It's given extra interest by scents of tea leaf, white rose, and raw almond. Packs a lot of refreshment and lifted flavor, and will cut neatly through cured meats. 4Front Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$13

88 Fio a Fio 2025 (Vinho Verde). Flavor packed while still zesty, this surprisingly long refresher gives banana, nectarine, and green apple candy scents topped by hints of grain and white flowers. Enjoy this bouncy bottling with a good chill over the next couple years. Evaton, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Vinhas do Cardido (Vinho Verde). A nice option for a long lunch al fresco, this brings together mixed citrus and green apple with anchoring scents of fennel frond and wet stone. There's good concentration, and it finishes clean, minerally, and polished. Best over the next couple years. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Lua Cheia-Saven 2025 Maria Bonita (Vinho Verde). Crisp, saline, and super refreshing, this offers scents of Asian pear and lemon/lime. Accents of fennel frond, sage, wet stone, and orange zest add compelling complexity. It's a perfect sunny-day wine for washing down hard cheeses and chilled shellfish. Drink over the near term. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

87 Churchill's NV Contexto (Vinho Verde). With a slight spritz, good concentration, and zippy citrus acidity, this is a clean and fun value to crush over the near term. Green-apple chutney, canned peach, and orange zest aromas offer some depth, with celery seed and wet stone notes chiming in. Elite Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$14

87 J. Portugal Ramos 2025 (Vinho Verde). This serves upfront crisp flavors, with green apple, tart kiwi, and a touch of mixed citrus topped by an attractive accent of bread dough. It finishes clean and direct, and will be a good pour for casual relaxing and laid-back socializing. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Lua Cheia-Saven 2025 Maria Bonita (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço). This opens with a volley of green apple, white peach, and mint leaf on the nose, with white pepper, brioche, and river stone backing it up. It's a zippy burst of flavor and citrus acidity on the palate, closing with a drying mineral note. An obvious choice for raw-bar fare. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

86 Destalo 2025 (Vinho Verde). Dried peach and mashed green-apple notes are framed by aromatic accents of fennel frond, white tea, and a touch of flowers in this likeable value. A squeeze of tangerine zest helps it pop a bit, and integrated acidity gives focus to the gentle texture. 4Front Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Lyma 2025 (Vinho Verde). Clean, direct, and crisp. This offers a nice value to chill and

crush in warm weather or with raw-bar fare over the near term. White melon and golden-apple scents are infused with mint leaf and a squeeze of orange, finishing with a hint of wildflower honey. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$11

85 Destalo 2025 (Vinho Verde). With a prickle of fizz and citrus refreshment, this is a solid, straightforward bottling to enjoy over the near term. Bruised green apple and Meyer lemon scents meet tea leaf and a suggestion of soapy flowers. Be sure to serve it nice and cold. 4Front Imports. —J.S.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$9

DOURO

93 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2024 Mirabilis (Douro). This is rounded and opulent, with a classy layer of vanilla, toasted hazelnut, and pie-crust oak tones. The fruit core of peach, lemon, curd, and baked green apple is topped by a squeeze of orange zest. This will drink beautifully over the next five to seven years, particularly with dishes like bacon-wrapped scallops. DB Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Santos & Seixo Wines 2023 Duas Famílias (Douro). Full flavors of poached pear, golden apple, and peach are driven by a line of integrated citrus freshness in this complex and finessed bottling. It's topped by accents of brioche, almond, and fennel frond, with a petrichor note grounding it all. A really compelling Douro white to relish through 2032 and potentially beyond. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Menin Douro Estates 2024 (Douro). This shows nice depth and fine, elegant focus, with roasted green apple and nectarine topped by aromas of pie crust, jasmine, tangerine zest, and toasted almond. A lingering floral tone closes the finish. It'll be a downright delicious choice over the next several years. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Lavradores de Feitoria 2019 Três Bagos (Douro). Compelling and expressive, while anchored by an undercurrent of wet-stone minerality, this is a lovely bottling to sip through 2029. Lemon-cream pie and baked green-apple scents are complemented by toasted hazelnut, baking spices, and orange peel, all in fine balance. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Lua Cheia-Saven 2025 Andreza Blanc de Noirs (Douro). Open and elegant fruit flavors of white peach and fresh apricot are framed by complexities of unbuttered popcorn, white flowers, and rising dough in this deliciously drinkable bottling. A squeeze of citrus zest and river-stone minerality keep it all on track.

An excellent choice for baked white fish. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

91 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2025 Blanc de Noir Reserva (Douro). Generous nectarine and mixed citrus flavors are lifted by aromatic complexities of pie crust, hazelnut, subtle baking spices, and white rose in this pretty and sophisticated dinner white. Everything is very well balanced, and it'll drink great over the next several years. DB Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Duorum 2025 Colheita (Douro). Lemon curd, baked green apple, and white-peach aromas serve as a delicious and polished core on which to hang accents of white flowers, cinnamon, and hazelnut. It's rounded and open in flavor, with subtle floral and spice complexities underneath. Great for a classy cheese board. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Lavradores de Feitoria 2024 Três Bagos Reserva (Douro). Fine focus and elegant texture carry notes of green-apple galette and lime curd in this harmonious and downright tasty bottling, with accents of toasted meringue, brioche, hazelnut, and white flowers framing it out. This'll make a fine dinner white. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Lua Cheia-Saven 2025 Andreza Reserva (Douro). White peach and toasted melon meet a pop of jasmine, macadamia nut, orange zest, and sourdough in this nicely concentrated and open-knit Douro white. Finishing with a subtle infusion of spice, it'll go great with chicken salad and the like over the next several years. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Lua Cheia-Saven 2024 Lua Cheia Reserva (Douro). With its driving focus and drying minerality, this'll prove highly versatile at the table. Baked green apple and white-peach tones are layered by scents of lime zest, brioche, and toasted Marcona almond, finishing long and refreshing. Drink it over the next several years. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

89 Duorum 2025 Altitude (Douro). A fresh zip of tangerine acidity carries flavors of green apple and white peach in this tasty crowdpleaser to enjoy over the next few years. It's complemented with pretty scents of brioche, coriander seed, and a hint of wildflowers, and closes with a peachy finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Lavradores de Feitoria 2025 Lavra Altitude (Douro). This is rounded and ripe, with good acidity keeping it on track, as golden apple and lemon curd flavors are framed out by aromas of pie crust, mint leaf, vanilla, and orange zest. A dash of white tea

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closes the finish. Ideal with main-course salads. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

89 Menin Douro Estates 2025 (Douro). Bringing together ripe green apple and honeydew melon fruit notes to go with pretty accents of white rose, celery seed, and a hint of honeysuckle, this'll be a great all-purpose white for the next few years. A squeeze of lime-centric acidity carries through to the lip-smacking finish. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Casa Ferreira 2025 Vinha Grande (Douro). This is crisp, flavorful, and versatile, offering up notes of red and golden apples, lime, and orange zest with accents of white tea, wet stone, and brioche. An underlying mineral note ties up the dry finish. This'll make a nice social pour over the next couple years. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Churchill's 2025 Grafite (Douro). Soft and open fruit flavors of green apple and white peach are framed by raw almond, wet stone, and citrus zest in this good value for enjoyment over the next couple years. A lively line of acidity keeps it all clean and refreshing. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Duorum 2025 Tons de Duorum (Douro). This is a fun and cheery pour for social occasions and outdoor entertaining, as the nose offers a burst of tangerine, peach reduction, and fresh mango topped by accents of coriander seed and a hint of green tea. It's bouncy and expressive in flavor, anchored by a lick of wet stone. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Lua Cheia-Saven 2025 Lua Cheia (Douro). A lick of stone and white pepper anchor fruit flavors of white peach, lemon/lime, and green apple, with aromas of celery seed, raw almond, and brioche on the nose. Versatile and easy to like, this'll do well in just about any setting over the next few years. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Santos & Seixo Wines 2025 Perspectiva (Douro). Wet-stone minerality underscores flavors of fresh peach and golden apple in this good setup for potato samosas. There's excellent fresh focus, while scents of brioche and white pepper add a dash of complexity. Drink it over the next few years. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Contexto 2025 (Douro). Ripe green apple and white-peach flavors team up with scents of honeysuckle, white pepper, and wet stone in this nice all-purpose pour. Zesty lime-centric acidity carries the open-knit flavors, finishing with a touch of green apple skin on the finish. Elite Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

87 Lavradores de Feitoria 2025 Lavra (Douro). This is nicely composed and well balanced,

with Asian pear, honeydew melon, and white-peach notes topped by dill, white flowers, and wet stone. Direct, and with a clean finish, it's a good value for any occasion over the next couple years. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Santos & Seixo Wines 2025 Santos da Casa (Douro). This is a fresh and direct Douro white, with fruit tones of Asian pear and white peach meeting accents of nut husk, lime zest, and wet stone. A good line of integrated acidity drives through the clean finish. An all-purpose pour for the next few years. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Badoxa 2024 (Douro). Soft green apple and white peach are topped by toasted almond, mint, and white pepper in this straightforward bottling. It's helped along by a grounding of wet stone. Give it a good chill to add some freshness and focus and drink over the next year or two. 4Front Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

LISBOA

93 Quinta do Pinto 2022 Grande Escolha (Lisboa). This is layered, rounded, and thoroughly compelling, as a ripe core of white-peach tart, kumquat, and dried pineapple are driven by a fresh line of acidity. It's aromatically complemented by complexities of baking spices, fennel frond, and macadamia nut. It's already a killer pour and will evolve further over the next four years. Wine Wise. *Editors' Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$68

92 Quinta do Pinto 2022 Vinhas Antigas Grande Reserva (Lisboa). Suave and gently elegant, this ancient-vine field blend brings together fresh nectarine and preserved citrus notes with an aromatic lift of fennel frond, pie crust, coriander seed, and oyster shell. It finishes pretty and clean, and will be a delicious dinner white for subtle flavors over the next several years. Wine Wise. —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$70

91 AdegaMãe 2023 Reserva (Lisboa). With its deep preserved citrus and peach tones, this will be a very compelling dinner white. The fruit is framed by complimentary scents of chamomile and toasted hazelnut, all centered by a suggestion of wet stone. It finishes long, with delicate focus and lingering floral and mineral notes. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

87 AdegaMãe 2024 (Lisboa). This serves up focused baked green apple and lemon/lime citrus to go with complexities of toasted sesame seed, nut husk, and grapefruit pith. Crisp and refreshing, with underlying savory subtleties, it'll do nicely over the next couple years. Perfect for a casual cheese board. Saranty Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

ALENQUER

92 Quinta do Pinto 2022 Limited Edition (Alenquer). With great concentration, a zippy line of acidity, and beguiling accents of chamomile, candied ginger, and orange zest, this skin-contact Arinto will make a really nice pour to play with complex pairings. A core of fresh peach and dried apple centers everything, closing with a lingering echo of those chamomile and ginger notes. Wine Wise. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$53

89 Quinta do Pinto 2023 Reserva (Alenquer). A lively core of lemon/lime acidity grounds expressive notes of dried pineapple and peach, with dashes of Marcona almond and wet-stone aromas on top. It's clean and poised on the finish and would make a perfect partner for grilled fish over the next few years. Wine Wise. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

86 Quinta do Pinto 2025 Vinhas do Lasso Colheita Seleccionada (Alenquer). This is gentle, open, and lighter bodied, with whispers of golden apple and green grape studded by hints of fennel bulb, raw almond, and white pepper. It'll make a good pour for casual settings suhe as the pool, park, and porch. Best drunk in the near term. Wine Wise. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

TEJO

90 Quinta da Alorna 2025 Legião de Alorna (Tejo). This is ripe and flavorful, while a core of clean acidity and subtle hint of wet stone keep it balanced. Ripe mixed citrus, white peach, and passion fruit all bring their flavors to the party, with scents of toasted almond, white pepper, and wildflower honey hovering above. It would be delicious with baked brie. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

89 Quinta da Alorna 2025 Reserva (Tejo). Upfront in fruit and zesty, this brings together lively Asian pear, dried pineapple, and mixed citrus topped with notes of brioche and wildflower honey. A refreshing line of acidity carries through a slightly peach finish. Enjoy over the next few years. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

89 Santos & Seixo Wines 2024 Encosta do Sobral Reserva (Tejo). This is opulent, with citrus curd, baked green apple, and white-peach flavors framed by scents of pie crust, Thai basil, sage, and a hint of hazelnut. The herbs keep the vanilla-centric notes in check, with enough acidity to hold it all together. Serve with creamy pastas, buttery baked fish, or on its own. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Lutra 2025 (Tejo). Nicely open flavors of orange, peach, and kiwi are carried by good focus and a squeeze of lime in this fine value pour.

Accents of white rose, brioche, and a fun touch of cilantro add some complexity. It'd go great with chips and guacamole. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 11% Price: \$10

87 **Quinta da Alorna 2025 Cardal (Tejo).** A solid fruit core of baked green apple and white peach are topped by tones of mint, poppy seed, and white flowers in this good all-occasion bottling. It's driven by an understated line of citrus acidity, closing with an echo of apple skin. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$9

87 **Santos & Seixo Wines 2025 Encosta do Sobral Selection (Tejo).** Juicy and round, this brings together baked golden apple and white melon with touches of honeysuckle, anise, peach tea, and brioche aromas. A good line of citrus acidity keeps it all driving to the finish. A fun and attractive pour for the next couple years. —J.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

87 **Tagus Creek 2025 (Tejo).** Expressive mixed citrus tones meet a pop of passion fruit in this clean, attractive, and versatile white. It offers additional interest with scents of parsley, white flowers, and lemon zest, while focused with an integrated current of acidity. Grape 2 Glass. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$11

86 **Quinta da Alorna 2025 (Tejo).** This brings together gentle flavors of subtle white orchard fruit with notes of white tea, paper, sesame seed, and phyllo dough. It's balanced by a solid core of acidity. Direct and easygoing, it's a good option for daytime outdoor good times. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$12

ALENTEJANO

89 **Monte da Raposinha 2024 Reserva (Alentejano).** Flavorful, with baked apples, tart white peach, and ripe mixed citrus, this'll do well alongside grilled chicken or lemon garlic prawns over the next few years. Some pie crust and white rose add charm, with a touch of chamomile gracing the finish. M Imports, LLC. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

87 **J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Loios (Alentejano).** Bringing together crisp green and golden apples with white peach, this'll be a nicely balanced, straightforward, and versatile offering for the next couple years. It's topped by aromas of white flowers, brioche, river stone, and a squeeze of orange peel. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$12

87 **J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Pouca Roupá (Alentejano).** Ripe green apple, melon rind, and lime all join forces in this tasty, sunny aperitif pour, with a dash of celery seed and swipe of wet stone offering a touch of complexity. Refreshing acidity slices

through to the finish, with a nudge of tart white peach closing things out. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$14

87 **Monte da Raposinha 2024 Raposinha (Alentejano).** This brings together crisp, zingy grapefruit with scents of grilled white peach, roasted almond, white flowers, and pie crust, finishing with a touch of tea leaf. A good wine for snacking on cheeses and nuts. Drink over the next couple years. M Imports, LLC. —J.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$19

86 **Gaião 2024 Reserva (Alentejano).** Soft and rounded, with modest acidity, this serves up golden apple and peach ring candy fruit tones with floral-savory accents of lavender, charred sage, and almond. Give it a good chill and serve with samosas and spicy mint-cilantro chutney. Sarmento's Imports. —J.S.
abv: 12.3% Price: \$20

86 **J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Vila Santa (Alentejano).** This is direct and refreshing, with crisp apple and citrus notes topped with white rose, raw almond, and green grape. A touch of honeysuckle adds a little charm to the finish. Supremely crushable, this is a good value for all-purpose enjoyment. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$12

ALENTEJO

90 **J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Marquês de Borba Vinhas Velhas (Alentejo).** There's good intensity to the fruit center of tangerine, peach, and pineapple core in this old-vine offering, with brioche and a pop of toasted hazelnut and coriander seed adding their voices. It's polished and well balanced all around, and would be delicious with fried whitefish with tartar sauce and tomato rice. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

88 **Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2025 Conde de Vidigueira Premium (Alentejo).** This is quite delicious and a versatile pour for the near term, as aromas of peach galette, cantaloupe rind, and roasted green apple come together with white flowers and lime zest. It's all underscored by supporting acidity and a lick of wet stone. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$12

88 **Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2025 Vidigueira (Alentejo).** This'll be a tasty pairing for cured meats and cheeses over the next few years, as expressive and balanced notes of nectarine, lemon curd, and white melon are joined by charming scents of white flowers, nut husk, and a pop of white pepper. Underlying minerality ties up the finish. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$12

88 **Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2025 Vila de Frades Private Collection (Alentejo).** Soft nectarine, golden apple, and white-melon flavors are topped by appealing notes of white rose, brioche, and a squeeze of lime in this nice value bottling. It's generous without trying to do too much, finishing with a lingering slice of melon rind. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$8

87 **Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2025 Vidigueira (Alentejo).** Rich and rounded lemon/lime curd, peach, and baked golden apple give this good value plenty of upfront flavor, with accents of slivered almond, rose petal, and brioche offering a little lift. It's gentle in acidity, so be sure to give it a good chill. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

87 **Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2025 Vila de Frades Premium (Alentejo).** Rounded and fruity, with an array of apple, watermelon, and peach flavors, this is a fun and flavorful park, porch, or picnic wine. It's framed up by scents of brioche, honeysuckle, orange zest, and almond, all tied together with integrated acidity. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$12

87 **J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Marquês de Borba Colheita (Alentejo).** Peach and ripe citrus hold down the center of this bottling, with brioche, wet stone, raw almond, and honeysuckle accents filling things out. It's expressive, with clean fruit and a gentle finish. A good option for all sorts of light chicken and seafood. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 **Taboadella 2022 Grande Villae (Dão).** Rounded and intense in flavor, with integrated acidity and a vein of drying minerality underneath, this is a seriously complex and compelling offering. Preserved lemon, baked green apple, and fresh mango tones are topped by deep aromas of pie crust, roasted hazelnut, and chamomile. Should be brilliant over the next four to five years at least. D.B. Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

91 **Aveleda 2023 Quinta d'Aguieira (Bairrada).** Preserved lemon, dried peach, and candied ginger form a compelling core to this deliciously complex Chardonnay-led Bairrada white. It's framed out with scents of beeswax, wildflowers, wet stone, and hazelnut, all carried by crisp acidity through a bone-dry finish. Great for fancy, gooey cheeses. Aveleda Inc. *Hidden Gem*. —J.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

91 **Taboadella 2025 Reserva (Dão).** A zesty line of citrus acidity carries notes of Asian pear and white peach through a long finish in this delicious bottling for white-sauce pastas and chicken dishes.

BUYINGGUIDE

Scents of brioche, unbuttered popcorn, and an underlying wet-stone minerality all add to its appeal. D.B. Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Aveleda 2025 Villa Alvor (Algarve). White rose, Marcona almond, and white pepper aromas frame the white peach and honeydew rind flavors of this nice pairing for the raw bar. It's driven by brisk acidity and an undercurrent of river stone, while closing with an appealing hint of cinnamon on the dry finish. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

90 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2025 (Douro). This is just delightful, with flavorful and focused green apple, tart strawberry, and crisp white peach topped by white-rose petal and river stone scents. Finishing long, with subtle floral and apple skin notes, it'll be just the thing over the next couple years with daytime Portuguese petiscos. DB Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Aveleda 2025 Villa Alvor (Algarve). Bright citric acidity drives abundant fruit flavors of strawberry, lychee, and dried peach, with scents of jasmine, tangerine zest, and wet stone hovering above. This is lively, fun, and refreshing, closing with a dusting of white tea. A great setup for fish croquettes. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

89 F'oz 2025 (Tejo). Deliciously expressive and finely balanced, this offers a brilliant value to crush over the next year or two. Watermelon, Fuji apple, and orange all team up, with accents of rose petal, lime zest, and pink peppercorn giving some complexity. A fresh line of acidity carries through the apple-skin finish. Grape 2 Glass. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

89 Lavradores de Feitoria 2024 Lavra Altitude Rosé (Douro). Precise acidity drives concentrated flavors of dried apple and white peach, as scents of toasted almond, dried herbs, white flowers, and river stone chime in. A squeeze of orange zest and apple skin finish things off. It'll be a nice bottling for sunny lunches over the next year or two. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 Casa Ferreira 2025 Vinha Grande (Douro). This is crisp and refreshing, while still serving up plenty of zesty flavor and a hint of underlying floral spice. Red apple and tart strawberry lead the way, with aromas of grain, wet stone, and a touch of orange zest. A nice choice for a cheese board or fresh, chilled shellfish. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Lua Cheia-Saven 2025 Lua Cheia (Douro). Expressively aromatic, with red apple, watermelon candy, and white peach framed with orange

zest and white flowers, this'll be a tasty and charming option served well chilled poolside, on the porch, or at the park. Solid balancing acidity leads to rose petal and white tea on the finish. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Casa Santa Eulália 2025 Plainas Rosé (Vinho Verde). Soft and rounded flavors of watermelon, dried red apple, and cranberry are sliced by citrus-centric acidity, with aromatic accents of white tea, poppy seed, and rose petal in support. This is a playful bottling that'll do best when well chilled at picnics and such. TheGreenWine. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

87 J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Pouca Roupá Rosé (Alentejano). This is brisk and expressive, with a cut of citrus-centric acidity running down the center. Dried white peach and Twizzlers meet white tea, orange zest, and a hint of charred herbs on the nose. It'll be a nice all-purpose bottling for casual enjoyment. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DOURO

97 Casa Ferreira 2017 Reserva Especial (Douro). Offering elegance to go with deep concentration and waves of flavor, this collectible is already in bloom with plenty left for the next decade-plus. Complexities of violets, licorice, old leather, and subtle herbs and mulling spices surround notes of blackberry reduction, roasted black plum, and blueberry. Not designated a Barca Velha, but an iconic wine in its own right. Evaton, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$300

96 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2022 Aeternus (Douro). Beautifully composed, the 2022 Aeternus brings together a dark core of black fruit and grilled Mission fig with scents of tobacco, Thai basil, espresso, sassafras, and toasted oak tones. It's rounded and silky, with elegant focus driving layers of flavor through the long finish. Will drink brilliantly now and continue to evolve positively for the next decade. DB Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Casa Ferreira 2022 Antónia Adelaide Ferreira (Douro). Generous aromas of roasted black fig, black cherry, and fresh blueberry are complemented by elegant tones of subtle tobacco, baking spices, Thai basil, and old leather. It's poised and focused, with layers of delicate flavors evolving through a finish framed by berry skin tannins. This limited release is already showing beautifully, but it'll really hit high gear from 2028 onward. Evaton, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$175

94 Casa Ferreira 2022 Quinta da Leda (Douro). Suave and elegant while precise and concentrated, this estate offering combines scents of subtle baking spices, old leather, toasted hazelnut, and damp earth with a core of Amarena cherry and ripe black plum. It shows lots of polish and class, finishing with a subtle black-tea note. Superb over the next five to seven years or so. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Lua Cheia-Saven 2021 Lua Cheia Reserva (Douro). This is a phenomenal value, offering rounded and elegant black-cherry tart and roasted black-plum flavors topped by scents of cigar box, clove, coffee grounds, and anise. It's layered and balanced, with a dusting of sweet spice and pencil shavings on the finish. Excellent over the next five to seven years. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

93 Menin Douro Estates 2020 54 Castas (Douro). A field blend of century vines, this serves up a deep aromatic well of cassis, blueberry, and fig paste accented by mulling spices, violets, pencil shavings, tobacco, and licorice. There's excellent focus to the rounded dark fruit, with spice woven into the texture. Finishing with an anchor of stony minerality, this is a brilliant pour for the next seven-plus years. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Santos & Seixo Wines 2023 Santos da Casa Grande Reserva (Douro). Richly impressive while polished and elegantly balanced, this utterly delicious Douro red will drink and develop beautifully over the next 10 years. It brings together complexities of violets, anise, tobacco leaf, and baking spices over a core of black-cherry compote and roasted blueberry fruit. It finishes long, with pencil shavings and fine tannins. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Casa Ferreira 2023 Castas Escondidas (Douro). Offering a superb take on a collection of Douro's less-heralded heritage varieties, this brings together red- and black-forest berries with scents of clove, dried sage, pink peppercorn, and pencil shavings. It's concentrated and perfectly focused, with a pretty, open-knit finish. This'll be a beautiful dinner wine and should evolve well in the cellar. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Lua Cheia-Saven 2023 Andreza Grande Reserva (Douro). This is rich and rounded, with dark black currant and roasted blackberry notes framed by accents of sweet baking spices, mocha, and hints of dried herbs and crushed stone. It's a flashy and flavorful crowdpleaser that'll do well at the table and on its own over the next five to six years. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

92 Quinta de S. José 2021 Reserva (Douro). This is ripe and structured, with black currant, blackberry, and charred fig flavors anchored by stony tannins. Scents of tobacco, leather, dark chocolate,

and clove add complexity, while a dusting of graphite coats the finish. Excellent over the next six-plus years. Grape 2 Glass. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Casa Ferreira 2023 Callabriga (Douro). This edition of the Callabriga offers rounded red fruit, good concentration, and excellent focus. Dried cherry and currant are framed by earthy/spicy aromas of dried herbs, tea leaf, clove, pink peppercorn. This will do exceedingly well paired with herb-infused pork dishes over the next five to six years. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Casa Ferreira 2023 Vinha Grande Red (Douro). A brilliant value, this focused and concentrated bottling serves up a core of blackberry and currants framed by pencil shavings, leather, damp earth, and elegant baking spice. There's fine tension between both depth and precision, and finishes with a lingering hint of leafy herb. Evaton, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Duorum 2023 Field Blend Reserva (Douro). A great all-around pour offering plenty of refinement, this serves up black-raspberry reduction and blueberry framed with enticing scents of caramelized cedar, tobacco, violets, and fennel frond. It's rounded, with fine integrated acidity and underlying dark chocolate and graphite tones on the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$58

91 Fonte Real 2024 (Douro). Ripe and creamy, with a core of cherry compote and roasted black plum, this is richly polished and seductively drinkable. Accents of pine straw, violets, root beer bark, and baking spices frame the fruit, and the finish closes with pencil shavings and sweet spice. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

91 Menin Douro Estates 2022 (Douro). This is a killer Douro value, offering a complex aromatic profile with rounded and expressive fruit. Roasted wild berries and strawberry scents team up with sweet basil, hazelnut, anise, nutmeg, and violets. An easy case buy to drink over the next five years or so. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Menin Douro Estates 2020 Reserva (Douro). Blackberry jam and grilled Mission fig hold center in this relatively complex bottling, with scents of leather, oil-cured black olive, sage, and tobacco leaf framing things out. It's nicely focused with a line of fresh acidity, while berry-skin tannins and pencil shavings close out the finish in style. Braised short ribs would be a great call with this. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2024 Reserva (Douro). Fresh focus cuts through ripe berry flavors in this varietal bottling, with scents of black raspberry tart and strawberry layered by rose petal, toasted hazelnut, clove, and leather. It finishes

with some stony grip, mineral, and suggestion of tea leaf. Would be an outstanding partner for any kind of meat pie. DB Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Sedoso 2024 Reserva (Douro). Round and opulent, with fine submerged tannins and an integrated line of acidity carrying roasted forest berry tones, this phenomenal value brings lots of impact and pleasurable sipping. Scents of anise, allspice, coffee grounds, and violets give some complexity, finishing with dark chocolate and tobacco leaf. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Churchill's 2024 Contexto (Douro). This brilliant value serves up rounded and polished blackberry reduction and mashed strawberry notes, all framed by compelling accents of coffee bean, fennel frond, and violets. The concentrated fruit is infused with a streak of salted licorice and fine tannins on the finish. Elite Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Churchill's 2022 Grafite (Douro). Ripe black raspberry and dried cherries merge with a mélange of dried herbs, aromatic wood spice, and toasted cedar in this concentrated and savory bottling. A lift of violets adds some charm, and the finish closes with dark chocolate and pencil lead. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Duorum 2024 Altitude (Douro). Offering upfront, ripe wild forest berries paired with savory scents of beef jerky, espresso, anise, and subtle dried herbs, this superb value offers a compelling pour for rich meaty dishes and grilled mushrooms. Fine tannins and pencil shavings mark the attractive finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Duorum 2024 Colheita (Douro). Ripe blackberry and blueberry scents team up with rose petal, black olive, and underlying herbs and baking spices. There's fresh focus and a mix of red and black fruit on the palate, finishing with sweet dusty graphite. Nicely made and ready to enjoy over the next five years. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Fat Baron 2024 Reserva (Douro). True to its name, this serves a rich array of cassis and roasted blackberry fruit combined with scents of violets, baking spices, coffee-toffee, and bacon fat. Some subtle tannins offer a bit of structure, with a hint of dried herbs underneath. Delicious right out of the gate and a great value. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Lavradores de Feitoria 2022 Três Bagos Reserva (Douro). With a rounded texture and integrated acidity, good concentration, and complex aromas, this is a satisfying and insistently gastronomic pour. Blackberry and dried red currant are framed by scents of fennel frond, toasted hazelnut, balsamic, and espresso bean, with a finish closed by

dark chocolate and graphite. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Lua Cheia-Saven 2023 Andreza Reserva (Douro). Fruity opulence meets savory accents in this round and generous bottling, with rich blackberry and baked black fig offset by jerky and dried herbs. Some mocha and violet tones smooth out any rough edges, and it finishes with touches of dark chocolate and pencil shavings. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2024 Terroir Blend Reserva (Douro). This opens with enticing aromas of raspberry pastille, strawberry, and rose petal framed by vanilla and white pepper. On the palate, it offers up ripe, soft red berries and fine structure, with a touch of underlying herb adding complexity. This'll be delicious over the next several years, particularly with grilled sausages. DB Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Santos & Seixo Wines 2024 Santos da Casa Reserva (Douro). Cassis, black cherry, and roasted Mission fig all bring plenty of richness to the party, with accents of espresso bean, allspice, and tobacco giving complexity. It's layered and suave in texture, with dark chocolate chiming in on the finish. A really nice dinner red for the next several years. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Churchill's 2023 Quinta da Gricha (Douro). This is a distinctly red-fruited expression of Douro, with red currant and strawberry notes topped with fresh herbs, rose petal, and a squeeze of blood orange. It's soft in texture, with gentle tannins and a dash of dark chocolate on the finish. Unique and a nice option for duck and pork. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

89 Enoport 2025 Ribeira Velha (Douro). Reduction of wild red berries and graham cracker meet floral tones of lavender and rose petal on the nose of this rounded and juicy bottling. It's grounded by suggestions of pine straw and tea leaf. This'll be a great choice for casual cookouts and such. WD Direct. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

89 Lavradores de Feitoria 2021 Lavra Altitude (Douro). Red and black currants join toasted black fig in this gently structured offering, with notes of tobacco, dill, and subtle baking spices rounding things out. There's good acidity leading to a pretty finish marked by tobacco/tea leaf. It'll drink well over the next several years. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 Duris 2024 Reserva (Douro). Rich fruit is layered with sweet oak tones and espresso in this bold and plush bottling, as aromas of roasted dark berries meet pie crust, vanilla cream, leather, and toffee.

BUYINGGUIDE

Focusing acidity holds it all together. This would go nicely with a rich beef stew. International Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Duris 2025 (Douro). This brings together mixed red-berry compote with a pop of vanilla, graham cracker, and leather. A suggestion of Thai basil adds to the appeal. It's well focused and will make a nice pop-and-pour over the next few years, especially with a sausage pizza. International Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Lavradores de Feitoria 2023 Lavra (Douro). This gives savory notes of fennel bulb, jerky, and leather on a core of perky strawberry compote and grilled Mission fig. It's driven by a good line of acidity and anchored by sweet graphite dust underneath. Versatile at the table and ready to go. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2024 Unoaked (Douro). Juicy and open, this offers a core of ripe wild berries grounded by scents of bacon fat, bay leaf, and nut husk. With its hearty, herb-inflected tannins and a pop of white pepper, it'll do great work as an all-purpose wine for casual sipping, burgers, and the like. DB Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

DÃO

94 Taboadella 2020 Grande Villae (Dão). With excellent depth, concentration, and class, this beauty is just getting going. A core of red-cherry reduction and cassis are heightened with accents of red rose, pine straw, tobacco, and subtle mulling spices. It finishes long, with berry-skin tannins and focused acidity. A dreamy setup for rich duck pairings over the next seven-plus years. D.B. Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Taboadella 2022 Reserva (Dão). Soft and luscious fruit meets woody/floral aromatics in this downright delightful offering. Dried mixed cherries and baked red plum are framed with scents of cinnamon bark, pine straw, and pink peppercorn. An utter joy to drink, it'll be superb at the table over the next five to six years. D.B. Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Taboadella 2022 Reserva (Dão). There's rounded flavor livened with fresh focus here, as dried black cherry and forest berries meet baking spices, nut husk, and the regional hallmark of pine straw. A very pretty and evocative bottling, it'll go great with dishes such as tea-smoked duck. D.B. Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Taboadella 2022 Reserva (Dão). Bright, refreshing acidity runs through the fresh blueberry and black raspberry core, with scents of pencil

shavings, tobacco, and a lift of violets in support. It's all underscored by a bit of mocha and lingering tea leaf. An excellent wine at the table over the next five years or so. D.B. Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Taboadella 2023 (Dão). This elegantly composed and gastronomic bottling features mashed boysenberry and dried red currant framed by accents of rose petal, sage, damp earth, and espresso. Linear acidity cuts to the finish, as a hint of baking spices lingers. Best over the next several years. D.B. Wine Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 F'oz 2021 (Dão). This is a nicely gastronomic pour, as wild blackberry and dried strawberry notes are infused with tea leaf, red rose, and a dash of mulling spices. It closes with red fruit tannins and a hint of mocha. Enjoy it over the next few years. Grape 2 Glass. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

LISBOA

92 Quinta do Pinto 2021 Grande Escolha (Lisboa). Rounded while focused with an integrated core of acidity and underlying saline minerality, this will show well and develop over the next six to seven years. Dried red and black cherries come together with aromatic complexities of fennel frond, mulling spices, hazelnut, sweet tobacco leaf, and a lift of violets. Grilled pork would be just the thing. Wine Wise. —J.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$68

90 AdegaMãe 2019 Reserva (Lisboa). With soft, open flavors of brandied cherry and roasted red plum, this is fully mature and ready to pair alongside a pan-seared filet mignon. Scents of wildflowers, mulling spices, and toasted cedar add depth and interest, with balancing acidity centering it all. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Quinta do Pinto 2020 Estate Collection (Lisboa). Amarena cherry, ripe red plum, and strawberry Twizzlers form an appealingly delicious fruit theme on the nose of this elegantly gastronomic bottling, with a tapestry of rose petal, nut husk, and tea-leaf accents. It's refined with integrated focusing acidity and a subtle dusting of chalky tannins. Wine Wise. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 AdegaMãe 2023 (Lisboa). Sweet baking spices and wildflower scents lift a fruity core of black-cherry compote and roasted blueberry in this crowd-pleasing pour. It's grounded by dark tones of nut husk and coffee grounds. Ripe, rounded, and with good focusing acidity, it'll drink well over the next several years. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

88 Quinta do Pinto 2021 Estate Collection (Lisboa). Offering bright, crunchy red plum and

red cherry notes framed by white flowers, tobacco, and hazelnut, this is food versatile for daytime grazing and social enjoyment. It's easygoing and tasty, finishing with a bit of cinnamon stick. Would also do nicely with a little chill. Wine Wise. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 AdegaMãe 2022 (Lisboa). This is zesty and distinctly red fruited, with dried red currant and raspberry countered by dried herbs, soapy flowers, and pink peppercorn. Some drying wood tannins firm up the finish. It'll pair well with cheeses and cured meats over the next couple years. Saranty Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 AdegaMãe 2022 (Lisboa). Dried red berries are given an earthy frame of bay leaf, mint, and rooty spice in this bottling. A pop of pink peppercorn adds liveliness, and focusing acidity carries through to a finish marked by savory root tones and dried herbs. This will go really well with pizza. Tri Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

TEJO

90 Quinta da Alorna 2023 (Tejo). A highly impressive value, this serves up ripe red forest berries anchored by bass notes of coffee-toffee, peppered jerky, and anise, with a lift of violets. It's rich and deep in flavor, with good focus and fine dark-chocolate tannins on the finish. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Santos & Seixo Wines 2022 Encosta do Sobral Reserva (Tejo). A brilliant choice for pairing with chili, this Tejo red brings together cherry galette and framboise notes framed by scents of rose petal, dried herbs, tobacco, and leather. Lively focused acidity keeps it all moving along nicely, with lingering pencil shavings and subtly sweet baking spices. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Terras de Alorna 2021 Signature (Tejo). Another killer value from Alorna, this serves roasted Mission fig and blackberry reduction to go with brooding scents of espresso, peppered jerky, baking chocolate, and clove. A lift of violets adds a dash of charm. Perfect for chargrilled meats, beef stew, or smoked brisket. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 F'oz 2024 (Tejo). This offers fresh fruit, elegant texture, and some subtle floral complexity. Ripe black cherry and strawberry mingle with scents of rose petal, leather, and almond. With fine, red berry-skin tannins on the finish, it'll make a nice companion for roasted turkey. A brilliant value. Grape 2 Glass. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

89 Fiuza 2024 3 Castas Reserva (Tejo). Quite delicious and nicely balanced, this offers a fruity core of dried cherry, framboise, and roasted red

plum framed out by wildflowers, mulling spices, and bay leaf. It's ripe, with good focus, and finishes with a subtle dusting of graphite and integrated spice. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

89 Tagus Creek 2022 Reserva (Tejo). This is a brilliant value and killer crowdpleaser, as wild-berry tart and grilled black-fig tones are anchored by deep aromas of espresso, dried sage, dark chocolate, and caramelized cedar. It's freshly focused, with a touch of tea leaf closing it out. Grape 2 Glass. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$11

88 Conde Vimioso 2023 Sommelier Edition (Tejo). Well composed, with juicy wild berries infused with complexities of leather, eucalyptus, graham cracker, and sesame seed, this'll make a good all-purpose bottle for the table. The texture is rounded, with some underlying savory accents and berry-skin tannins tying up the finish. Grape 2 Glass. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

88 Fiuza 2025 Escriba Reserva (Tejo). Pretty strawberry Red Vines candy and bilberry notes are framed by aromas of Thai basil, wildflowers, and tea leaf in this round and ripe bottling. Focused acidity keeps it all moving, with a lingering floral and dried leaf note underneath. This'll be nice with soft, creamy cheeses. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

88 Quinta da Alorna 2024 (Tejo). This offers bouncy red fruit, making it a great option for pork chops. Roasted red and black raspberry and dried strawberry team up with compelling accents of charcoal, wildflowers, and sweet tea leaf, all anchored by some gripping tannins and a touch of graphite on the finish. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

88 Quinta da Alorna 2024 Cardal (Tejo). There's snappy red fruit and soft texture here, as roasted black raspberry and dried red currant are topped by scents of basil leaf, rose petal, and subtle baking spices. Nicely focused, with a lingering hint of red-berry bubblegum, it's a fun pour that'll do well with lighter fare. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$16

88 Quinta da Alorna 2022 Reserva (Tejo). Zesty while gently creamy, this nice Tejo value serves up black-raspberry reduction and dried cherry tones layered by scents of licorice root, leather, coffee grounds, and a touch of dark chocolate. A good pour for rich dinner fare and solo sipping. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

87 Tagus Creek 2024 (Tejo). Sappy red fruit and a soft texture give this a friendly and attractive personality, as bilberry and strawberry are framed by notes of eucalyptus and tobacco/tea leaf. A nice line of

acidity keeps everything on track, with tea leaf lingering. Grape 2 Glass. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$11

86 Fiuza 2025 Eminente Reserva (Tejo). Soft, pliant, and medium bodied, this is a direct and versatile bottling for casual occasions. Strawberry fruit is underscored by raw almond, white tea, and tomato leaf, with a lift of rose petal above. It finishes with some dried-leaf tones and graham cracker. Tri Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

86 Fiuza 2024 Babu Reserva (Tejo). Expressive scents of roasted strawberry and framboise lead out front in this ripe and juicy bottling, as complexities of nettle, graham cracker, vanilla bean, and dried sage round out the profile. This'll do good work over the next couple years with rich, flavorful dishes such as braised goat. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

86 Santos & Seixo Wines 2024 Encosta do Sobral Selection (Tejo). A bright zip of acidity slices through roasted black-fruit tones in this straightforward offering for the next few years. It's framed by scents of pie crust, nut husk, leather, and peppercorn spice and will make a good, solid burger wine. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

86 Santos & Seixo Wines 2024 Pena Vermelha (Tejo). Bringing together bright black-fruit character with bell pepper, white pepper, and woody spice aromas, this will do best for casual sipping over the next couple years. Some espresso bean and vanilla scents tie it together, finishing with tobacco/tea leaf. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

85 Quinta de São João Batista 2025 Biológico Reserva (Tejo). Jammy and sweetly ripe, this brings together red-currant jam and raspberry-pastille scents with graham cracker, mocha, vanilla cream, and a lift of red rose. A line of cutting acidity keeps things going. Drink this over the next couple years. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

84 Fiuza 2024 Silent Oak Reserva (Tejo). Bran-died cherry and dried-cranberry notes are framed by a pop of wildflower honey, white pepper, and star anise, with a somewhat bitter walnut note underpinning it all. Rounded, with drying herb tones and earthy tannins, it'll do best with flavorful country stews and roasts. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

83 Wild Tejo 2023 (Tejo). This offers dried cherries, cranberry, and blood-orange notes with strong savory accents of nettle, white pepper, wool, and dusty earth. There's a spritz texture, with bright acidity and some tea leaf on the finish. Chill for near-term drinking. Brands of Portugal. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$9

ALENTEJANO

93 Monte da Raposinha 2021 Grande Reserva (Alentejano). For full review see page 8. M Imports, LLC. *Editors' Choice*.

abv: 14%

Price: \$48

91 Monte da Raposinha 2024 Reserva (Alentejano). For full review see page 12. M Imports, LLC.

abv: 14%

Price: \$29

90 Gaião 2021 Reserva (Alentejano). Deep aromas of roasted wild berries combine with sweet-savory mulling spices, leather, sassafras, and ginger root in this expressive and relatively complex bottling. It's rounded in texture and neatly focused, with attractively open-knit fruit. Finishing with lingering anise and rooty tones, it'll be ideal with roasted meats or wine-braised goat. Sarmento's Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

89 Lua Cheia-Saven 2024 Album Reserva (Alentejano). Earthy tea leaf, tobacco, and dried herb notes underscore soft, plummy red- and black-fruit tones in this nicely versatile pour. It's lifted by touches of sweet spice and rose petal. A fine choice for a dinner wine or on its own. Enjoy over the next several years. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

88 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2024 VDG (Alentejano). This brings pretty and perky dried red cherry and ripe strawberry scents together with appealing accents of white tea, raw almond, and a pop of rose petal. With medium body and nicely integrated acidity, it'll be a charming value and great weekend lunch choice. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: NA

Price: \$9

88 J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Loios (Alentejano). Friendly, with juicy fruit and good focus, this is a laid-back and versatile bottling for the next few years. Roasted red forest berries are topped by subtle fresh herbs, tea leaf, rose petal, and a dash of white pepper, while herb-centric tannins linger on the finish. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$12

88 Tiago Cabaço 2024 Parcela Velha Signature (Alentejano). There's good concentration to the red- and purple-fruit tones here, with an aromatic pop of bell pepper, rose petal, nut husk, and floral spice. Juicy acidity gives it lift, while some dried herbs and eucalyptus peek through the finish. Roast up a pork shank and enjoy over the next several years. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$19

87 J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Pouca Roupá (Alentejano). Raspberry/cherry coulis is studded by a pop of dill and oregano in this lively and fun wine, with scents of red rose and white pepper chiming in, all underscored by subtle tannins on the finish. This'll

BUYINGGUIDE

make an ideal pizza wine to pop and pour. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 J. Portugal Ramos 2025 Vila Santa (Alentejano). Soft and inviting strawberry, white cherry, and cranberry tones are framed by savory counterpoints of poppy seed and nut husk in this good, solid pour for pairing or easy socializing. Some dusty, earthy tannins and refreshing focus keep it all moving along. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Monte da Raposinha 2024 Raposinha (Alentejano). Compact, ripe dried currant and strawberry flavors are given a savory tilt by scents of peppered jerky, sage, and anise. Some salted licorice and baking chocolate come through on the finish. It's on the firm side, so give it time to breathe and serve with something like lamb or goat. M Imports, LLC. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 Tiago Cabaço 2025 .com Premium (Alentejano). Black raspberry compote and dried red currant team up alongside scents of nut husk, red bell pepper, tobacco leaf, and clove in this richly textured bottling. There's plenty of zesty acidity and some dusty stone tannins giving it form. Nice for a rich bean stew. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Tiago Cabaço 2024 Vinhas Velhas (Alentejano). This is round and soft, with good acidity slicing through the boysenberry reduction and dried black-cherry tones. Accents of nut husk, tobacco, and touches of eucalyptus and anise complete the picture. Some firming woodsy tannins close the finish. Enjoy with hearty country cooking. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

ALENTEJO

91 J. Portugal Ramos 2022 Vinha do Jeremias (Alentejo). The heat of the vintage gives this Alentejo Syrah deep, roasted blackberry- and blueberry-fruit tones married to scents of salted licorice, black olive, and leather. It's ripe and rich, with savory undercurrents and some grippy berry-skin tannins. A powerful and delicious pour to go with a chargrilled steak. Winebow Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Quinta da Viçosa (Alentejo). With its zesty berry flavors and fine structure and balance, this will be a nice setup for braised meats. Dried red and black cherry and black raspberry meet aromas of licorice root, dried tobacco/tea leaf, and a touch of toasted hazelnut, finishing with dusty tannins. Drink over the next six to eight years. Winebow Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Vinha do Lado (Alentejo). Showing compact, black-fruited character and chewy, herb-infused tannins, this needs some

time to round out and hit its groove. Dried dark berries combine with sage, dill, leather, and dry earth, with an anchor of baking chocolate under it all. Either hands off until 2029, or give it a long decanting and serve with a thick, char-crusted ribeye. Winebow Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Santos & Seixo Wines 2024 Duquesa Maria Private Selection (Alentejo). This is ripe and opulent, with rich oak tones infused in a core of black-currant reduction and blackberry compote. Stylish scents of coffee-toffee, clove, sassafras, and vanilla hover above. Finishing with bacon fat and pencil shavings, it'll be an impressive choice over the next five years. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 J. Portugal Ramos 2024 Marquês de Borba Colheita (Alentejo). Attractive and versatile for the table, this gives a core of dried red cherry and strawberry Twizzlers peppered with tobacco, white chocolate, and almond scents. It's juicy and ripe in fruit, with good focus and underlying tannin and wet-stone minerality on the finish. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

89 J. Portugal Ramos 2023 Marquês de Borba Vinhas Velhas (Alentejo). This offers soft texture to its ripe red cherry and red-currant fruit, offset by notes of unbuttered popcorn, dill, and baking spices. There's good focus and concentration, with some fine chalky tannins giving a framework. A nice choice for grilled pork over the next several years. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

88 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2024 Conde de Vidigueira Premium (Alentejo). Ripe red currant and dried red-cherry fruit is stirred with complexities of white pepper, rose petal, raw almond, and an undercurrent of wet stone, with fine tannins dusted in. This is a tasty and versatile value that'd go especially well with pulled pork in North Carolina vinegar sauce. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

88 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2024 Vidigueira (Alentejo). Red currant and ripe strawberry anchor accents of tobacco leaf, nut husk, and subtle baking spices in this rather elegant value pour. It's fresh and appealing, closing with a touch of tea leaf. Nice over the next few years with light meats and creamy pastas. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

88 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2024 Vidigueira Premium (Alentejo). Juicy red-cherry compote and strawberry notes are woven with accents of white tea, tobacco, and a hint of toasted hazelnut. It's nicely concentrated and freshly focused, finishing with tea-leaf tannins. A good buy for rotisserie chicken and the like. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

88 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2024 Vila de Frades Premium (Alentejo). A lick of river-stone minerality on the finish grounds bright and fresh tones of strawberry pastille and bilberry. A pop of rose petal, white tea, and dill add a bit of complexity. This is straightforward and crushable, and it'll do well with pairings such as seared salmon. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

87 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2025 Vila de Frades Private Collection (Alentejo). Fruity and fresh, with strawberry pastille meeting ripe black plum, this will make a tasty all-purpose pour over the next few years. It's accented with aromas of basil and black tea, finishing with a dusting of tea-leaf tannins. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

86 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2024 Conde de Vidigueira Reserva (Alentejo). Roasted red and black berries meet a sweet/savory pop of eucalyptus, Thai basil, leather, and violets on the nose of this bottling, with bright acidity cutting through to a finish of licorice and black olive. The bold, savory tones call for hearty rice dishes and such. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

OTHER RED WINES

91 Quinta Foz de Arouce 2022 (Beira Atlantico). Concentrated red fruit is dressed by subtle savory elements in this compelling offering. Wild berry tart and Red Vines candy meet accents of roasted herbs, tobacco leaf, espresso, and rose petal on the nose, with a dusting of crushed stone and red-berry skin tannins marking the finish. Even better in a few more years. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Aveleda 2025 Villa Alvor (Algarve). A pale, pseudo-clarete style and cheery disposition will make this a fun social pour to chill and share over the next couple years. An aromatic array of baked red apple, watermelon, and Red Vines candy is studded by accents of celery seed and orange tea. Fresh integrated acidity keeps it all on track. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Quinta do Pinto 2020 Vinhas Do Lasso Colheita Seleccionada (Alenquer). This serves open and pretty red fruit, with strawberry and roasted red plum meeting accents of hazelnut, red rose, and basil leaf. The finish closes with white tea and an echo of basil, making it a good setup for something like white-bean stew. Wine Wise. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Fonte Real 2021 Reserva (Península de Setúbal). This serves up rounded boysenberry and baked black-fig tones with accents of fennel frond, coffee grounds, and mulling spices. A fresh line of acidity keeps it all on track, underscored by subtle

tea leaf and herbs on the finish. A nice setup for lamb kebabs over the next couple years. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 15% Price: \$16

86 Alma Sol 2024 (Vinho da Mesa). Gently sweet red-berry skin and tea leaf close out the finish of this balanced and direct all-purpose bottling, with scents of baked red cherry and raspberry coulis hold center stage, accented by Thai basil, rose petal, and subtle baking spices. Best over the near term. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

83 Sedoso 2024 (Península de Setúbal). Soft and straightforward, this brings together mashed red and black berries with punchy, sweet-edged eucalyptus, toffee, and vanilla flavors, underscored by iron-like minerality. It closes with a swipe of sweet tea leaf and slice of citrus acidity. A casual pour for the near term. —J.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

MOSCATEL DE SETÚBAL

94 Quinta de Catralvos NV 10 Anos (Moscatel de Setúbal). A knockout, this offers spectacular concentration of flavor sliced by electric acidity. Caramel apple, sultanas, and pineapple soufflé tones are framed by tobacco, almond brittle, candied orange peel, and a pop of wildflower honey. It's long, rich, and vibrant, with a sprinkling of sea salt closing it all out. Somms could have a lot of fun pairing this gastronomic beauty. *Editors' Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 16% Price: \$40/500ml

92 Quinta de Catralvos NV 10 Anos (Moscatel de Setúbal). Gorgeous acidity lifts sweet notes of poached pear, sultanas, and honey-glazed almonds in this lovely Moscatel. It's framed by savory scents of new leather, tobacco, and pine resin. It evolves in complex layers on the palate, with the umami and spice tones leading to a long, rich, and generous finish, while the acidity keeps you coming back for more. —J.S.
abv: 18% Price: \$30/500ml

90 Quinta de Catralvos MV (Moscatel de Setúbal). This is a phenomenal value, offering rounded sweet fruit with excellent focusing acidity. An array of dried peach, candied orange, torched mango, and lychee notes are topped by savory tea leaf and basil, all anchored by toffee. A perfect example of how incredibly underrated this region is for sweet fortified wines. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 17% Price: \$9

PORT

99 Ferreira 2024 Vintage (Port). An utterly epic Ferreira, this is an endless sea of mashed blueberry, blackberry reduction, and dried red cherries dressed by detailed accents of pencil lead, dark chocolate, toffee, melted licorice, black tea, and rose/violet. It's so pure and seamless, with very fine but firm tannins. It'll enter its grand era in the mid-2040s and

go for many decades longer. Evaton, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —J.S.
abv: 20% Price: \$140

97 Sandeman 2024 Vintage (Port). For full review see page 3. Evaton, Inc. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 20% Price: \$140

96 Ramos Pinto 2024 Quinta de Ervamoira Vintage (Port). The Ervamoira really shines in 2024, with stunning focused acidity, superb purity, and a finish that goes on and on. Roasted blackberry, dried cherries, and cassis are framed by violets/roses, graphite, tobacco/tea, leather, and baking chocolate scents, all topped by a pop of peppery spice. Gorgeously seductive already, it'll be a refined heartbreaker from the late 2030s. Maison Marques et Domaines. *Editors' Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$100

95 Menin Douro Estates NV 40 Years Tawny (Port). Vibrant acidity carries the deep caramelized flavors and spice tones of this brilliant 40-year Tawny. Notes of coffee-toffee, leather, pecan, and pumpernickel lead out front, with backup from tobacco/shiso leaf, mulling spices, and Kalamata olive. A marvelous interplay of classy refinement and rounded opulence. —J.S.
abv: 20% Price: \$NA

95 Poças 2024 Vintage (Port). This is an inky and muscular block of fruit and savory tones right now, with blackberry compote, cassis, and dried black cherries studded with black tea, Kalamata olive, leather, and a pop of violets. Fine tannins and good, polished acidity bode very well for the future. Give it plenty of time to chisel out more finesse. Best from 2035 on. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.S.
abv: 18% Price: \$100

95 Ramos Pinto 2024 Vintage (Port). Beautifully lifted acidity carries rich, primary tones of cherry pie, cassis, and boysenberry reduction in the Ramos Pinto flagship vintage. It's wrapped in a pretty cloak of rose petal, clove, Earl Grey tea, dark chocolate, and leather aromas. An excellent effort, this should begin to start loosening up and showing finer palate detail after 2035 or so. Maison Marques et Domaines. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$120

94 Churchill's NV 40 Years Tawny (Port). The Churchill's 40 year is a deep and persistent pour, with aromas of brown sugar, pumpernickel, and toasted pecan studded with sweet tobacco, coffee grounds, leather, and oil-cured black olive. It's complex, refined, and well balanced, with a hint of sweet tannins on the rich, classy finish. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$199

93 Churchill's NV 30 Years Tawny (Port). This offers a layered evolution of dates, blueberry compote, and candied orange-peel notes, with beguiling scents of autumn leaves, rich mulling spices, and new leather wafting from the glass. It's all beautifully

integrated, with balancing acidity running underneath to a mineral and subtly nutty finish. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$140

93 Ramos Pinto MV Quinta do Bom Retiro 20 Years Tawny (Port). A personal go-to and sweet spot in the range, the 20-year Bom Retiro serves deep and layered flavors of dates and dried black cherry. It shows lots of umami complexity, with an array of butter-roasted pecans, tobacco/tea leaf, coffee-toffee, and clove. Finishes long and peppery, with savory dried leaves and dark candied fruit. Maison Marques et Domaines. *Editors' Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 20% Price: \$85

92 Churchill's 2023 Quinta da Gricha Vintage (Port). A good line of acidity centers soft layers of fruit and submerged spice in this already approachable while age-worthy single-quinta Vintage. Boysenberry pie and dried currant are lifted by aromatic accents of violet/rose, licorice, leather, and clove, while closing out the finish with dark chocolate and pencil shavings. Should evolve nicely for 20–30 years if so desired. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$99

92 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2023 Vintage (Port). Rich, with roasted cherries and currants teamed up with boysenberry compote and blood-orange zest, this is a vibrantly flavorful vintage that'll really start to hit its stride after 2033. Scents of clove, dried sage, tobacco leaf, and licorice add plenty of complexity, while finishing with sweet tobacco/tea leaf, dusty graphite, and a pop of peppercorn. Aveleda Inc. —J.S.
abv: 20% Price: \$NA

92 Ramos Pinto MV 20 Years White (Port). With its gentle acidity and long finish, this is a lovely offering. It serves up rich notes of sultanas, roasted green apple, and peach purée alongside complex accents of maple-glazed pecan, old leather, tobacco/tea leaf, and candied orange rind. An anchor of wet stone gives it a center. Would be dreamy with butter-infused banana bread. Maison Marques et Domaines. —J.S.
abv: 20% Price: \$100

91 Churchill's NV 10 Years Tawny (Port). A deliciously overachieving 10 year, the Churchill's offers roasted black cherry and black currant tones layered by coffee grounds, treacle, black olive, old leather, and salted licorice. A nice line of acidity holds it together, with sweet berry-skin tannins and a touch of dried herb closing it out. Perfect for herb-rind cheeses and toasted nuts. Elite Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$43

91 Churchill's NV 20 Years Tawny (Port). With its soft toffee-centric flavors, sweet tobacco/tea undertones, and drying mineral finish, this is an elegantly pretty 20 year. Notes of baked black cherry and poached black plum are submerged by expressive aro-

BUYINGGUIDE

mas of date syrup, coffee bean, leather, and mulling spices. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$78

91 Ramos Pinto MV Quinta de Ervamoira 10 Years Tawny (Port). There's plenty of lifting acidity giving drive to the brandied blueberry core, as savory scents of black olive, leather, almond brittle, and tobacco leaf offer contemplative interest. A squeeze of aromatic orange zest gives it lift, while finishing with some pencil shavings, sweet dried leaf spice, and dark-berry tannins. Maison Marques et Domaines. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$44

90 Churchill's 2021 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). This is overall a really pleasant pour that'll go perfectly with a creamy gorgonzola. Rich blueberry/blackberry compote and grilled Mission fig are framed up by savory/sweet tones of tea leaf, mulling spices, Kalamata olive, and a charming lift of violets. Unfiltered, so it will continue to evolve well over the next decade. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Churchill's NV Reserve (Port). A solid, well-made reserve, this offers copious baked boysenberry and blueberry fruit topped by savory tones of new leather, oil-cured black olive, licorice, and a pop of herb-centric gin. It's rich and rounded, with sweet dusty graphite closing out the finish. Elite Wines. —J.S.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$24

MADEIRA

97 Blandy's 1980 (Madeira). Showing awesome depth of flavor and waves of wood spice and caramelized tones, this is a grand wine made from the Bual varietal for luxurious evenings. Rich sultanas and dates are topped by aromatic tobacco, exotic spices, old leather, pumpernickel, and coffee-toffee, all focused by fresh acidity and anchored by minerally sea spray on the long, layered finish. Bottled 2026. Premium Port Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —J.S.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$575

97 Cossart Gordon 1976 (Madeira). Searing intensity and majestically harmonious complexity set this Sercial apart, as spicy tones of incense, ginger, mace, and sea spray frame bass notes of toasted walnut, old leather, and torched caramel. The initial core of candied citrus peel builds and evolves, as salty, oceanic minerality and electric acidity carry the load through the long finish. Bottled 2026. Vineyard Brands. —J.S.
abv: 21% **Price:** \$NA

96 Cossart Gordon 1992 (Madeira). This is a gorgeously gastronomic Bual, with a nervy core of oceanic minerality and fresh, orange-zest acidity slicing through deep, rounded tones of treacle, walnut, quince paste, sandalwood, spicy tobacco, and old leather. It's equally food worthy and distinctively contemplative on its own, finishing long with sweet/

savory wood spice. Bottled 2026. Vineyard Brands. —J.S.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$350

95 Blandy's 1987 (Madeira). Exotic spice, fennel frond, and mint add subtle complexities to the expressive coffee-toffee, sandalwood, walnut, candied ginger, and tobacco notes in this genteel and elegant Verdelho. It's deeply layered in flavor while cut by lime and tangerine zest, with a polished closing of walnut and warming white pepper. Bottled 2026. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 21% **Price:** \$475

94 Blandy's 2013 Colheita (Madeira). A hugely impressive Colheita, this searing Sercial offers complex scents of raw pecans, oyster shell, and ginger root given depth by caramelized Meyer lemon, leather, tobacco, and baking spices. It builds and builds on the palate, finishing long, linear, mineral, and incredibly precise. Ideal with hard salty cheeses and all manner of shellfish. Bottled 2026. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 21% **Price:** \$NA

93 Blandy's 2013 Colheita (Madeira). Aromatically rich, with spice cake, dried tropical fruit, and candied citrus tones, this shows contrasting precision on the palate, with an electric core of acidity and oceanic salinity running down the center. Savory accents of toasted pecan, leather, and bay leaf complete the picture. Finishes long and poised, with drying stony minerality. Bottled 2026. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$NA

93 Cossart Gordon 2014 Colheita (Madeira). A zip of minerally acidity cuts through the rounded texture in this superb Colheita, as rich scents of toasted orange peel, candied walnuts, date syrup, and cinnamon toast are anchored by iodine and old leather. It finishes long, with lingering white pepper warmth. Perfect for an elaborate spread of cheeses and nuts. Bottled 2026. Vineyard Brands. —J.S.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$75/500ml

91 Miles 2009 Colheita Doce (Madeira). This is delicious and downright fun, with rounded notes of candied pecan, leather, and coffee-toffee teaming up with zesty tangerine and strawberry, all driven by a core of citric acidity and sea salt. A tobacco/tea leaf note ties up the finish. This'll do great with all sorts of cuisine, savory and sweet. Bottled 2026. Vineyard Brands. —J.S.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$100/500ml

SPAIN WHITE WINES RÍAS BAIXAS

94 Bodega Veiga da Princesa 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This is an attractive wine with layers of flavor. Enticing, sunny aromas of pastry dough, apple tar, and macerated Concorde pear charm

the nose guided by honeysuckle and acacia blossom. A firm palate of orchard fruit opens into crushed stone and white peach complemented by a touch of tangy acidity. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. *Editors' Choice*. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

93 Bodegas y Viñedos Tamaral 2024 La Carmina (Rías Baixas). Lemon-gold in color, the wine draws you in with perfumed aromas of Golden Delicious apple, honeysuckle, and orange marmalade accented by dried white blossom. The palate opens with reserved orchard fruit that rests on a foundation of wet stone that is framed by chalky acidity. Pair with more complex dishes and seafood. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Paco & Lola 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). For full review see page 10. Dreyfus Ashby & Co.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

92 Serra da Estrela 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Delicate aromas of lemon blossom, white peach, and pastry dough open on the nose along with a touch of petrichor and lilac. Well-integrated and concentrated flavors on the palate are lifted by streaks of salty acidity that add intrigue while unlocking green pear on the lengthy finish. This wine can accommodate a range of dishes from seafood to creamy risottos. Ventura Selections LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Conde del Pazo 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This wine hydrates and refreshes. Vibrant floral aromas of citrus blossom, honeysuckle, and green pear wrap around muddled golden apple and pastry dough on the nose. Tart green fruit is enlivened by tangy acidity that rests on a foundation of shattered stone and crushed shells. MISA Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

91 El Brazo 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Gentle aromas of pastry dough, green-apple tart, and white nectarine ensnare the nose guided by a gentle suggestion of bruised white blossom. Chalky acidity opens on the attack and carries ripe orchard fruit framed by wet river stone into a soft, supple finish. Votto Vines Importing. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 Rectoral do Umia 2025 Pedra da Auga Albariño (Rías Baixas). Aromas of crushed shells, white-rose petal and chalk-dusted white nectarine cascade across freshly sliced green apple complemented by subtle hints of field grass. Tangy orchard fruit pops on the palate supported by a persistent streak of minerality that lingers on the finish. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Adegas Tollodouro 2025 Pontellón Albariño (Rías Baixas). Muddled apple, lemon peel, and dried field-grass aromas open on the nose along with a touch of pastry dough. The creamy-textured palate echoes with equal intensity unlocking green pear that flirts with shattered stone. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Faustino Rivero Ulecia 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Fragrant aromas of orange blossom, muddled Bosc pear, and lilac come together in the glass accented by hints of pastry dough. Reserved flavors of freshly picked golden apple are supported by a gentle layer of acidity that finishes with a touch of ocean air. A perfect wine to enjoy with the sun on your skin. MISA Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Martín Códax 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). For full review see page 14. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Rectoral do Umia 2025 Miudiño Albariño (Rías Baixas). Subtle aromas of orange zest, Bosc pear, and bread dough converge on the nose along with a touch of white blossom. Rolling hills of orchard fruit fill the palate along with crushed stone and a rounded layer of acidity dusted with lemon zest. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Sentidiño 2025 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Floral-led aromas of white peach, Fuji apple, and crushed stone lead into honeysuckle and orange blossom. The palate elevates the nose adding Bartlett pear and tangerine zest that rests on a mineral-driven foundation of crushed shells. Kysela Pere et Fils, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

RIBEIRO

93 Emilio Rojo 2022 Castes Branco (Ribeiro). Well-integrated aromas of Fuji apple, lemon zest, and pear tart open on the nose buttressed by pastry and honeysuckle. The palate begins with chalky-minerality that resolves in rounded orchard fruit on a stony, citrus-lifted finish. Drink now, but this wine will continue to improve with age. USA Wine West. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$175

90 Bodega Alanís 2025 (Ribeiro). Aromas of banana peel, white nectarine, and pastry open into lilac and honeysuckle on the floral-driven nose. Supple in texture, the palate echoes with equal intensity unlocking ocean air and hints of bread and crushed shells on the finish. Kysela Pere et Fils, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Bodega Alanís 2025 Elara Treixadura Godello (Ribeiro). This wine has an attractive floral nose of lilac and pear blossom that leads into pastry dough and honeydew melon zest. Cheerful flavors of freshly picked green apple rest on a foundation of shattered stone imparting an attractive minerality that fills the finish. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Viña Costeira SCG 2025 Meu Albariño (Ribeiro). Reserved aromas of Bartlett pear,

red apple, and white-peach skin are undergirded by a subtle layer of forest floor and dried white blossom. The steely palate echoes in like intensity while raising wet river stone dusted with hay and grated lemon peel. Pair with seafood and tapas. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

90 Viña Mein 2023 Mein Castes Brancas (Ribeiro). Aromas of white peach, melon, and orange zest open on the nose supported by an undercurrent of white tea. The mineral-driven palate washes across wet stone into a pool of zested lemon and shattered shells. USA Wine West. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

RIOJA

93 Rioja Vega 2025 (Rioja). Round, pure, and downright gorgeous, this offers a perfect core of refreshing acidity carrying peach and baked green-apple flavors through a long finish. Expressive white flowers and tangerine zest add to its charm, with a hint of mixed raw nuts offering a bass note. A great conversation piece at the table. EcoValley. *Hidden Gem.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$170

93 Ukan 2023 (Rioja). This has nice depth of flavor without being heavy, as peach tea and dried pineapple notes are framed with deep hazelnut, pie crust, chamomile, and licorice-root scents, all topped by a gentle dollop of vanilla. A vein of drying mineral tidies up the finish. Delicious with creamy dishes of all sorts. MISA Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

90 Manzanos 2025 1890 Finca Manzanos Viñas Viejas (Rioja). Rounded baked green apple and peach flavors are cut by a nice squeeze of tangerine citrus running through the center. Scents of toasted macadamia nut, brioche, and white rose add complexity. It'd do great work alongside gourmet mac and cheese. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Manzanos NV Fermentado en Barrica (Rioja). This brings together expressive notes of dried peach, pineapple core, and baked green apple with accents of macadamia nut, chamomile, and wet stone. Finishing with a squeeze of orange zest and mineral underpinnings, it'll do great work with grilled fish. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Bodegas Berceo NV Gonzalo de Berceo (Rioja). This shows good harmony and integration to its fruit flavors of baked golden apple and lime curd, with a lift of orange pith, bubblegum, and nut husk adding interest. A vein of river stone grounds it all, making it an appealing and food-worthy crowd-pleaser. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Voché NV Fermentado en Barrica (Rioja). With a medium body and soft, generous flavors, this would be a nice setup for all sorts of cheeses

or chicken empanadas. Dried pear, baked green apple, and peach notes are framed with aromas of pie crust, citrus zest, and dill. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

88 Siglo NV (Rioja). Open-knit baked green apple and green-plum scents are framed by toasted almond, brioche, and wet stone. A line of lemon/lime citrus gives balance, with a lingering celery seed note on the finish. This is a nice all-purpose pour for any sort of occasion. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

RUEDA

92 De Alberto NV Pálido (Rueda). Gold in color, fragrant aromas of dried fruit open on the nose including white fig and apricot followed by brioche and orange marmalade. Made in an oxidative style, the palate lets fruit shine ahead of a persistent layer of chalk-dusted acidity that unlocks orange zest on the finish. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$87/500ml

90 Marqués de Riscal 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Rueda). Savory aromas of muddled yellow apple, white-button mushroom, and forest floor lead on the nose accented by flashes of white-peach skin. The palate tilts toward orchard fruit while bringing on additional flavors of hay and zested lemon. Pair this wine with savory dishes including risotto, chicken Marbella, and leek tarts. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Bodegas y Viñedos Tamaral 2025 Verdejo (Rueda). Orange blossom, golden apple and white-peach aromas begin on the nose bolstered by a streak of hay. The stony palate leads into crushed stone and chalk-dusted green pear on the finish that completes with a twist of lemon zest. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Rippa Dorii 2025 Verdejo (Rueda). Vibrant, fresh aromas of white nectarine, dried orange zest, and jasmine charm the nose along with white tea and honeysuckle. Creamy in texture, the palate lays a red carpet for stony minerality that walks arm-in-arm with orchard fruit toward a citrusy finish. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Viñas Murillo 2025 Valdihuete Verdejo (Rueda). Round aromas of golden apple, white peach, and papaya zest are followed by orange marmalade and a touch of honeydew melon on the nose. A mineral-driven palate acknowledges orchard fruit while maintaining a stony character that completes with a kiss of baby's breath on the finish. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA

90 Guadianeja 2025 Airén Encascado (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Fragrant aromas of Bosc pear skin, bruised white blossom and Empire apple flirt with pastry dough and forest floor on the nose. Stony in texture, the palate begins with tart green fruit and resolves in crushed shells on the finish. Ballester Hermanos. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Hoto de Vides 2024 Macabeo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Stony aromas of Gala apple, lilac, and late-summer meadow grass open on the nose guided by hints of pear blossom. The mineral-driven palate is built around a core of orchard fruit framed by shattered stone and a whisper of chalk. Ballester Hermanos. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Dominio de Punctum 2025 20000 Leguas (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Aromas of peach skin, pineapple, and orange marmalade open on the nose guided by pastry dough and lemon zest. Rounded flavors of pear, muddled apple, and acacia blossom chime in on the palate, which finishes with flowery acidity. Sandalo Organic Estates. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Finca Fella 2025 Cala Rey Verdejo Sauvignon Blanc (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Airy aromas of white blossom, petrichor, and Fuji apple open on the light, fresh, dainty nose. Stony in texture, the palate revolves around chalk-dusted lemon citrus and crushed shells that are supported by a balanced, complementary acidity that refreshes the palate. Pair with moules frites, escargot, and panfried fish. Retagio Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

89 Volver 2024 Paso a Paso Organic Verdejo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Chalk-dusted Bartlett pear, hay, and yellow-apple aromas open on the nose along with pastry dough and slivered almond. Pithy lemon citrus and just-ripened orchard fruit lead on the palate followed by shattered stone and zested lemon. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

94 Ossian 2023 Capitel (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Lemon-gold in color, perfumed aromas of golden apple, brioche, and white peach lead into orange marmalade and pastry dough on the nose. The palate follows suit with concentrated flavors of honey-drizzled grilled orange that are lifted by a wave of stony acidity that persists on the elongated finish. USA Wine West. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Viñedos de las Acacias 2025 Palacio de Arganza (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Enticing aromas of muddled yellow apple, pastry dough, and forest floor are lifted by faint ocean breeze. The palate is fresh and bright with jubilant orchard fruit percolating through the length of the taste that completes with a twist of lemon. WD Direct. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Ossian 2023 Quintaluna (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Lemon-gold in color, firm aromas of white nectarine, tangerine zest, and Fuji apple open on the nose along with a touch of orange blossom. The palate opens with juicy fruit framed by a layer of stony minerality that persists on the slightly chalk-dusted finish. USA Wine West. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

UTIEL-REQUENA

90 Bodega Raíces Ibéricas 2025 Pasión de Bobal Rosel (Utiel-Requena). Reserved aromas of green pear, baby's breath, and apple blossom lift from the glass accented by lemon pith and dew-dusted forest floor. The palate opens with just-ripened, muddled green apple framed by rounded acidity that completes with a citrus kiss. Eustela Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Bodegas Vicente Gandia 2025 Bobal Blanco Blanc de Noirs (Utiel-Requena). Pale lemon in color, this wine opens with subtle aromas of citrus pith, pastry dough, and Anjou pear complemented by a dusting of white blossom. The palate has a stony texture backed by a chalk-dusted acidity that propels the floral-tilted wine forward in your glass. Ventura Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

90 Bodegas Vicente Gandia 2025 Ceramic Sauvignon Blanc (Utiel-Requena). This wine is a cornucopia of tropical fruit. Late-summer wildflower, meadow grass, and muddled McIntosh apple aromas lift from the glass guided by a touch of banana peel and dried white blossom. The palate echoes with heightened intensity revealing additional flavors of kiwi and papaya skin. Ventura Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Dominios de Mgp 2024 Casa Turús Malvasia (Valencia). This wine opens with perfumed aromas of papaya skin, orange marmalade, white peach, and tangerine zest. The energetic palate is fresh with floral-guided fruit flavors that elongate on the finish that unlocks pastry and bread dough. Vidalco International LLC. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

92 Finca Bacara 2025 Time Waits for No One Chardonnay (Spain). This is a structured wine with substance. Charming aromas of sweet bak-

ing spice meet with crushed red apple, clove, and dried orange peel on the nose. The sinewy-muscular palate echoes in parallel intensity revealing additional flavors of ginger skin and pear tart that go long on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Marañones 2023 Albillo Real Albillo Real (Vinos de Madrid). Lemon-gold in color, firm, yeasty aromas of biscuit, apple galette, and bread dough open on the nose along with muddled green pear. The palate leads with juicy orchard fruit that wants to rest under pie crust and chalk-dusted lemon peel. USA Wine West. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

91 Borsao 2024 Suia (Campo de Borja). This is round and ripe, with peach galette, roasted green apple, and macadamia-nut scents set off by a pop of chamomile and baking spices. There's good zesty acidity centering it all, with the chamomile tea note echoing on the long finish. Great for baked fish. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Ego Bodegas 2025 El Goru Chardonnay (Spain). This is an attractive bottling. Lemon-gold in color, fragrant aromas of white peach, sweet baking spice, and kumquat zest entice the nose that is sprinkled with dried orange peel. Rich and creamy in texture, the palate is blanketed with a seductive layer of orchard fruit that comforts on the extended finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Ego Bodegas 2025 Talento (Spain). Enticing aromas of golden apple tart, bread dough, and shortbread are complemented by honeysuckle and orange marmalade on the nose. The palate is more restrained in comparison with rounded fruit that leans into dried citrus peel on the finish. Pair with more substantial, complex dishes that need a pairing partner of similar ilk. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 3 Terruños 2024 La Sirvienta Airén (Jumilla). Gold in color, the wine opens with intriguing aromas of grilled-orange slice, white peach, and papaya complemented by a whisper of pineapple skin. Round and creamy in texture, a core of orchard fruit is supported by a supple layer of acidity that reveals a touch of stoniness on the finish. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Finca Río Negro 2025 Gewürztraminer (Río Negro). Dramatic aromas of quince, papaya, and candied orange erupt from the glass punctuated by guava and tangerine zest. Tropical fruits continue on the palate with reserved intensity joined by additional flavors of white-rose petal and honeysuckle. Pair with pork shoulder and roasted vegetables that will bring out the fruit and floral character of the wine. Real Vinum LLC. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Bodegas Luzon 2025 Luzón Colección Blanco Sauvignon Blanc Macabeo (Jumilla). Pale-

lemon in color, the wine opens with aromas of freshly sliced Golden Delicious apple, ripe yellow pear, and nectarine blossom. The palate elevates chalk-dusted orchard fruit complemented by grated lemon peel and shattered stone. This wine would be an ideal accompaniment with shellfish, seafood, and pasta salad. Mon-sieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

89 **Parajes Del Valle 2025 Macabeo Ecológico (Manchuela).** A combination of orange blossom and white nectarine aromas cascade on the nose along with honeydew melon and lilac. Stony in texture, the palate raises sliced green apple supported by an energetic layer of acidity that completes with a mix of lemon citrus and crushed shells. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

89 **Tomàs Cusiné 2025 Auzells (Costers del Segre).** Baked green apple, white melon, and white-peach tones are matched by a squeeze of lime zest and rose in this charming, fun, and versatile bottling. It's fresh, with zesty fruit flavors and a touch of drying mineral closing out the finish. Delicious for the next few years. Ventura Selections. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 **Bodegas Fernando Castro 2024 Real Orange (Spain).** Lemon-gold in color, a mix of golden apple, forest floor, and orange marmalade aromas come together in the glass along with a hint of acacia blossom. The palate opens with muddled golden apple followed by a reserved layer of acidity punctuated by a whisper of saline and lemon pith. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

CAVA

88 **Covides NV 44 by Bronzeville Winery Barcino Brut (Cava).** A scouring froth of bubbles gives plenty of food-worthy appeal to this nice bottling for cured meats and tapas. Kumquat, pineapple core, and baked green-apple notes are accented by honeysuckle, popcorn, and an anchor of river stone. Be sure to serve well chilled. Olé & Obrigado. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$27

ROSÉS

92 **Milsetentayseis 2023 La Peña (Ribera del Duero).** This has impressive depth of flavor and pristine focus, as red apple, white peach, and tart red plum are underscored by a streak of wet stone. Scents of Meyer lemon zest, popcorn kernel, and brioche frame the fruit. It's polished and long, and it'll do great over the next several years with an array of charcuterie and cheeses. USA Wine West. *Editors' Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

90 **Marqués de Cáceres 2025 Excellens Rosé (Rioja).** Offering elegant flavor and texture

with a long finish, this lovely rosado brings together aromas of white peach, Asian pear, and dried apple framed by rose petal, rising dough, and coriander seed. Refreshing acidity and a wet-stone undercurrent suggest service with oysters and mignonette would be brilliant. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 **Siglo 2025 Rosé (Rioja).** Excellent focus drives flavors of red apple, mixed melon, and white peach in this long and delicious offering. It's all framed by scents of macadamia nut, tangerine zest, white flowers, and an anchor of river stone. Perfect for a white bean and tuna salad. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Finca Fella 2025 Cala Rey Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** This wine wants to make your weekday meals all the better. Juicy, fragrant aromas of boysenberry and black plum lead into crushed black cherry and dried cranberry on the nose. The palate combines well-integrated black fruit with relaxed, joyful tannins that want to complement whatever meal you dream up to pair with it. Retaggio Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Sierra Cantabria 2025 (Rioja).** Delicate apple, melon rind, and tart plum flavors are topped by a pop of cinnamon, white flowers, and brioche in this zesty and relatively complex rosado. It's rounded while cut with good acidity, finishing with a whisper of floral spice. A no-brainer standout value for tapas. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$7

87 **Marqués de Cáceres 2025 Rosado (Rioja).** This is lively, fresh, and pretty, with ripe red apple, tart strawberry, and peach ring candy scents tied to notes of white rose, brioche, and celery seed. It's easygoing and fun, closing with a hint of cranberry and orange pith. Chill, crush, repeat. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

SPAIN RED WINES

NAVARRA

91 **Manzanos 2016 Time-Lapse Crianza (Navarra).** This aged offering brings a soft and elegant core of cherry cola, cassis, and mulling spices topped by a pop of licorice and cigar box scents. There's excellent integration of the elements, with a good line of acidity carrying the finish. Downright delicious now, it'll do great with something like prime rib. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 **Príncipe de Viana 2018 Aniversario Reserva (Navarra).** A concentrated core of focused Amarena cherry and black raspberry is underscored by river-stone minerality in this impressive offer-

ing. Scents of cigar box, Thai basil, and old leather are topped by a touch of violets. Finishes with some powdered graphite. It'll be great with sautéed beef tournedos over the next several years. EcoValley. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$170

90 **Manzanos 2012 111 Reserva (Navarra).** Serving up a gently rounded core of black cherry and black plum to go with scents of black tea, toffee, damp earth, and mulling spices, this is a polished and pretty aged bottling that'll be a really fun social pour and dinner party conversation piece. Best enjoyed over the next couple years before it fades. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Monte Ory 2024 (Navarra).** A burst of berry flavor is supported by a framework of fine tannins in this outstanding value, with blackberry tart and currants layered by dark chocolate, violets, tobacco, and subtle baking spices. Long and impressively built, it'll be even better from 2027 onward. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 **Portil de Lobos 2024 (Navarra).** This brings together rich cherry galette and boysenberry notes with savory spice, bacon fat, and a lift of violets. It's nicely structured, with some firming stony tannins and baking chocolate on the finish. Grilled pork would be a great call here. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 **Portil de Lobos 2024 (Navarra).** A layer of vanilla-centric oak fuses with red and black fruit tones, with white pepper, clove, and rose petal scents rounding things out. It's silky and nicely focused with a fresh line of acidity. It's all very well integrated and will drink deliciously over the next several years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 **Castillo de Enériz 2022 Colección Crianza (Navarra).** There's excellent concentration to the oak-infused fruit in this Crianza, with toasty wood, vanilla, rose petal, and baking spices providing a rounded tapestry of flavors. It's nicely balanced, easy to like, and finishes with a hint of tobacco leaf. Enjoy it over the next several years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 **Monte Ory 2022 Crianza (Navarra).** Bringing together blackberry compote with roasted black plum and a zip of focused acidity, this'll make a tasty pairing to cut through roasted meats. Aromatic accents of violets, tea leaf, licorice root, and clove complete the picture, with nutmeg and graphite lingering on the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Portil de Lobos 2024 (Navarra).** A bright zip of acidity carries perky red-fruit flavors in this relatively complex offering. The aromatics are a bit darker and more savory, as dried sage and ginger mix with black olive, toasted cedar, and licorice root.

BUYINGGUIDE

Drink it over the next few years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Castillo de Enériz 2024 (Navarra). With medium body and nice focus, this brings soft, creamy raspberry and dried-currant flavors together with scents of licorice root, tobacco, and baking spices. It's well composed overall and will make a versatile pairing wine over the next several years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Castillo de Enériz 2022 Crianza (Navarra). Baked cherry tart and roasted red plum offer up a soft and appealing canvas for accents of vanilla cream, anise, and mint in this versatile and balanced bottling. It's medium bodied, with some sweet baking spice and graphite on the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Lur Mendian 2022 Crianza (Navarra). This offers soft and pretty roasted strawberry and black-raspberry tones framed by scents of rose petal, basil leaf, and phyllo dough. It's medium bodied, with a little tea leaf and an echo of basil on the finish. A versatile table red for the next few years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Manzanos 2022 1864 Castillo de Olite Crianza (Navarra). Soft red-fruit flavors stand in contrast to deep aromas of roasted black plum and black cherry compote in this fine choice for pork dishes. Accents of roasted hazelnut, baking spices, rose petal, and tobacco complete the picture. Medium bodied and ready to drink, it'll be best enjoyed over the next few years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Manzanos 2016 111 Crianza (Navarra). This offers open and fresh black-cherry reduction and roasted blueberry notes together with aromas of violets, sweet baking spices, and fennel frond. Some plum-skin tannins and a touch of black tea mark the finish. It's in a nice place to enjoy over the next couple years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Príncipe de Viana 2022 Edición Crianza (Navarra). Showing elegant focus while still offering juicy red fruit, this brings a wave of red currant jam, ripe strawberry, and fresh blueberry scents marked by tea leaf, rose petal, and raw hazelnut. Some fine tannins firm the finish. Serve it alongside pork tenderloin over the next several years. EcoValley. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

88 Señorío de Irati 2024 (Navarra). This brings together an aromatic pop of strawberry Twizzlers and red-plum galette with complements of pistachio, white chocolate, and grounding dark spice and anise underneath. It's lifted and pretty on the palate, with silky red fruit and focusing acidity. A delightful,

easygoing pour for charcuterie and tapas. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Señorío de Irati 2024 (Navarra). Wild forest berries are accessorized with perky aromas of mint, leather, toffee, tobacco, and clove in this soft and balanced bottling. It's medium bodied with integrated acidity, and it'll do rather well with pork dishes and the like over the next several years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Manzanos 2024 111 (Navarra). This offers a juicy core of boysenberry jam infused with minty wood spice, vanilla, and some firming, rustic tannins. Aromas of toasted hazelnut, peppercorn, and tobacco frame the picture. It'll be a good choice for chili or a rich stew. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Príncipe de Viana 2022 Crianza (Navarra). This offers up lifted and pretty scents of strawberry compote and bilberry, with notes of green tea, rose petal, and iron framing it out. Some tea leaf and strawberry linger on the finish. Serve it with roasted duck and enjoy over the next few years. EcoValley. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

87 Señorío de Irati 2022 Crianza (Navarra). Graceful in texture with a good line of focusing acidity, this brings together mixed red berries with accents of tobacco, baking spices, pie crust, and rose petal. It's tasty and straightforward, with subtle tannins giving it form. A good tapas and snacking wine for the next two to three years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

85 Albret 2022 Finca El Balcón Crianza (Navarra). Savory notes feature on this bottling, with bell pepper meeting tomato leaf, dry earth, and sassafras scents. There's zesty ripe red berries at the center, and rustic tannins closing it out. This'll show its best with something like a rich bean stew or chili over the next few years. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

RIOJA

94 Marqués de Cáceres 2021 Gaudium (Rioja). Luxurious and expressive scents of black-cherry reduction and blackberry are wrapped in a refined cloak of cigar box, vanilla, leather, and violets in this superpolished and utterly delicious 2021. It's all beautifully integrated and balanced, with fine stony tannins framing the finish. A knockout for the next seven to nine years and potentially longer. *Editors' Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

94 Sierra Cantabria 2017 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This is a wonderfully successful 2017, with deep mashed forest berries and black-plum galette

framed out by sexy tones of violets, vanilla, cigar box, and coffee-toffee. The interplay between sweet barrel spice and fruit is right on point, closing with a long, silky finish. It's in a great place now and through 2032. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

93 Bodegas Vinícola Real 2014 Loriñon Gran Reserva (Rioja). Impressively rounded and silky, this offers roasted black plum and dried currant fruit framed by scents of licorice, leather, root beer bark, wet stone, and some underlying dried herbs. The finish lingers with berry-skin tannins and integrated spice tones. A seriously elegant dinner wine in its prime drinking window. WD Direct. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Viñedos Sierra Cantabria 2023 Finca El Bosque (Rioja). Bringing together oak-infused black raspberry and dried cherry fruit with elegantly focused acidity, this shows serious class. Cedar, vanilla cream, and tobacco scents are all in balance, and baking spices and some woody tannins tie up the finish. It'll broaden and gain further depth with plenty of air or time in the cellar. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Voché 2020 Tres Laderas Reserva (Rioja). This offers lots of generous flavor while still keeping it classy and focused with fresh acidity, as bold and rich wild berry fruit pops with pie crust, oak spices, licorice root, and a lift of lavender. Everything is in good balance, with fine chalky tannins and pencil shavings closing it out. Excellent over the next seven-plus years. Tri-Vin Imports Inc. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Embeleso 2022 Reserva (Rioja). Sweet scents of baked red plum and brandied cherries are framed by spicy dried tobacco, sassafras, and licorice root in this deliciously enticing bottling. There's fresh focus to the rounded fruit, with pencil shavings and tobacco leaf lingering. It'll do exceedingly well alongside spice-rubbed meats. Votto Vines Importing. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

92 Marqués de Cáceres 2022 Generación MC (Rioja). There's serious stony tannin structure supporting the rounded blueberry compote and dried black-cherry core, as aromas of cigar box, violets, baking spices, and old leather complete the picture. It finishes with lingering dark chocolate and a dusting of graphite. Give this powerful bottling until 2028 to soften a bit, or serve now with rich eats. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Marqués de Cáceres 2020 Reserva (Rioja). There's excellent concentration and focus to the expressive boysenberry reduction and dried black currant tones of this beautiful Reserva, with aromas of baking spices, anise, toffee, and subtle dried herbs chiming in. Fine but firming dusty tannins and a touch of dark chocolate mark the finish. Great now with a roast or steak, even better from 2028 on. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Palacio de Invierno 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Blackberry and toasted black fig form the center of this rounded and creamy offering. Aromatic accents of cinnamon stick, cigar box, licorice root, and a hint of Thai basil give it plenty of appeal, and excellent focused acidity keeps it all moving along nicely. Finishes with sweet chalk dust and graphite. It'll cut through rich roasted dishes nicely. Votto Vines Importing. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$69

92 Senorio de San Vicente 2022 San Vicente (Rioja). This is soft and open, with delicious layers of creamy vanilla-infused blackberry and dried cherry flavors. Fresh acidity brings it to life, and classic scents of baking spices, tobacco, and cedar complete the picture. Some crushed stone on the finish gives backbone. Excellent over the next five to six years. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Sierra Cantabria 2018 Reserva (Rioja). There's superb focus to the supple boysenberry and roasted purple plum core of this very polished and pretty Reserva, as enticing scents of violets, licorice, cigar box, and pencil shavings offer a harmonious profile. Some fine stony tannins tie up the finish. Distinctly 2018 in elegant character, this'll delight over the next five to seven years. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

92 Ukan 2022 (Rioja). This offers graceful blackberry and dried-cherry notes infused with subtle spice, toasted cedar aromas, and crushed stone. It's nicely integrated and harmonious, with a dusting of graphite on the finish. A great match for a simply seared bavette steak for the next five to six years. MISA Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Viñedos Sierra Cantabria 2021 Única Reserva (Rioja). Offering precision and sophisticated nuance, this brings deep red-berry notes into harmony with complex accents of clove, cinnamon bark, star anise, tobacco leaf, and a subtle layer of vanilla and toffee. Finishing with a grounding mineral note and upright structure, it'll loosen up a bit from 2028. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Bodegas Berceo 2020 Reserva (Rioja). Deliciously open-knit, with medium to fuller body, this'll make a sophisticated dinner wine for the next five-plus years. Cherry tart and dried currants are surrounded by pretty notes of caramelized cedar, tobacco, baking spices, and Thai basil. It's polished and silky, with a drying mineral note grounding the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Bodegas Familia Chávvarri 2017 Tierras de la Reina Reserva (Rioja). This is dark, rounded and soft, with lots of roasty aromatic spice tones, as baked wild berries meet salted licorice, peppercorn, clove, and ginger root. A touch of dark chocolate ties

up the finish. It'll do great as a companion for hearty Spanish pork and beef dishes. Assa Imports Inc. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

91 Finca El Recreo 2022 Reserva (Rioja). Serving up roasted cherries and spice baked red plum, this is a soft and genteel Reserva carried by a fine line of focusing acidity. It's complemented by accents of star anise, cigar box, and ginger root, and a touch of dusty sweet graphite closes out the finish. It'll do great work with roasted pork dishes. Votto Vines Importing. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Licenciado 2022 Reserva (Rioja). Flashy raspberry reduction is setup by an aromatic pop of Thai basil, tea leaf, graham cracker, and tobacco. It's beautifully cohesive in flavor and juicy, rounded texture, with an echo of attractive dried leaf tones on the finish. It'll be delicious over the next several years with something like rich lentil stew. Kysela Pere et Fils, Ltd. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

91 Manzanos 2016 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This is polished, rounded, and pretty, with crushed blackberry and dark cassis flavors framed by aromas of leather, tobacco, toffee, black olive, and a bit of dried herb. It's mature and in an ideal drinking window, so enjoy it over the next couple years. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Medieval 2019 Marques de Sota Gran Reserva (Rioja). This is deep and plummy, with additional aromas of black raspberry framed by cigar box, licorice, and violets. There's bright, fresh focus from integrated acidity, and some plum skin and graphite tannins close it out. It'll do its best work at the dinner table over the next several years. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Palacio del Burgo 2022 Reserva (Rioja). This has good focus and an inviting soft texture, with sweet spice tones layered through a core of baked cherry fruit. Scents of cigar box, anise, and ginger root give it extra complexity, and a drying mineral note wraps up the finish. An excellent wine at the table for the next several years. Kysela Pere et Fils, Ltd. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Siglo 2020 Reserva (Rioja). Ripe and elegant, with pretty fruit and excellent focus, this brings together dried red currant and black cherry with blueberry, violets, cigar box, and baking spices. Some fine submerged tannins tie it all together, with a hint of pencil shavings gracing the finish. In a great place now. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Voché 2024 Eco del Barranco (Rioja). Creamy/silky fruit meets woody spice notes in the beautifully integrated and harmonious bottling, as a core of black-cherry compote and ripe blackberry is framed out by aromas of pine straw, toasted cedar, licorice root, and a touch of dark chocolate. A polished

dinner wine for the next four to six years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Voché 2023 Viña del Silencio Crianza (Rioja). This is deliciously silky and rounded, with fresh blackberry and blueberry tart tones coming together with baking spices, licorice, and aromatic accents of cigar box and violets. A nice line of focus runs through the soft texture. This is a lovely dinner wine or solo sip for the next four to six years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

90 Bodegas Berceo 2024 (Rioja). Fresh acidity perks up rounded black raspberry and dried cherry, with accents of peppercorn, toasted pine, dill, and dark spice. It's very well balanced and framed by a dusting of stony tannins and dark chocolate on the finish. An impressive pour over the next several years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Bodegas Berceo 2023 Crianza (Rioja). Rich boysenberry tart and dried black cherry are at the center of this balanced, harmonious bottling, as accents of licorice root, allspice, tobacco, and dark chocolate add complexity. It's nicely focused, with rounded texture and a waft of violets above it all. A fine pour for the next four to five years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Bodegas Ugalde 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This offers soft and juicy red currant and roasted black raspberry fruit with plenty of dried herb accents. Sage, dried oregano, tea leaf, and saffron all sound off on the nose, and a subtle lift of wildflowers adds some charm. It'll make a fine tapas wine with its savory character and fresh acidity. EcoValley. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

90 Burgo Viejo 2022 Reserva (Rioja). Soft and pretty with good integrated acidity, this opens on a spicy note with licorice root, peppercorn, cedar, and dried tobacco leaf surrounding baked red berries. A hint of fine tannins and dusty stone close out the finish. Drink over the next several years. Kysela Pere et Fils, Ltd. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Campo Viejo 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 12. Vinarchy.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Manzanos 2023 Los Hermanos Manzanos Crianza (Rioja). This has great texture and an open-knit strawberry compote and black-cherry core of fruit, surrounded by scents of tobacco, pine straw, baking spices, and violets. Some underlying tannins give it a framework, and it finishes with a touch of graphite and dark spice. A nice dinner wine for the next four to five years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Marqués de Cáceres 2022 Crianza (Rioja). This offers rounded blackberry and toasted black fig tones with good depth and underlying notes of licorice root, tobacco, leather, and clove. Some crushed-stone tannins give it a solid framework on the finish. A superb value as usual, and a nice dinner wine for the next four to five years. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

90 Marqués del Silvo 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). There's evolved fruit and lovely harmony to this Gran Reserva, as brandied cherry is enveloped in aromas of licorice, leather, tobacco leaf, and baking spices. It's at its peak, so enjoy over the next few years with something like pan-seared tournedos. MISA Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Medievo 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Some fine, drying tannins give structure to the juicy and expressive baked red fruit, with additional notes of dates, cinnamon graham cracker, leather, and subtle dried herbs framing it out. It's nicely focused and will go well over the next few years with lamb chops and such. Carb Mayer T/A Summit Selection. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Siglo 2023 Saco Selección Especial Crianza (Rioja). Bringing dried black cherry and boysenberry fruit framed with licorice root, bay leaf, and a slight floral lift, this is a suave and elegantly ripe bottling. It finishes with a grounding dusting of chalk. A fine sip now and over the next several years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Bodegas Berceo 2020 Gonzalo de Berceo Reserva (Rioja). This brings soft, baked red berries into alignment with attractive scents of clove, anise, blood-orange zest, and white pepper. It's silky in texture, with good focusing acidity, all ending with a touch of drying chalk. A nice setup for a meaty paella. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Bodegas Corral 2023 Martín Corral Crianza (Rioja). Rounded red currant and black-raspberry notes are infused with subtleties of vanilla cream, pie crust, and parsley in this softly delicious crowd-pleaser. A sprinkling of chalk-dust tannin on the finish gives it an underlying framework to drink well over the next several years. Aviva Vino. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Manzanos 2020 Castillo de Logroño Reserva (Rioja). This medium-bodied, fresh, and open-knit bottling is friendly and ready to go, with black raspberry and roasted red plum notes topped with a pop of cedar, dill, tobacco, and anise. A touch of chalk dust neatly wraps up the finish. A versatile go-to. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Manzanos 2020 Reserva (Rioja). Roasted wild berries and dried black cherry offer a rounded texture, with accents of old leather, tobacco,

licorice, and mulling spices in support. It's all carried by integrated acidity, finishing with a mineral undercurrent. This'll show well for the next four to five years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Marqués de Cáceres 2024 Organic (Rioja). This brings mixed dried berries and peppercorn notes, with medium-bodied fruit and some firming tannins underneath. Savory scents of bay leaf, clove, pine straw, and dried sage give it plenty of aromatic complexity. It'll be a lot of fun to pair with herb-crusted dishes. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 Marqués del Silvo 2023 Crianza (Rioja). Blackberry and red-cherry tones come together in a gentle texture, with medium body and fresh focus in this subtly spicy and pretty Crianza. It's all set off by complementary aromas of violets, baking spices, and a hint of sage. A very nice all-purpose red. MISA Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Marqués del Silvo 2021 Reserva (Rioja). With freshly focused red and black fruit and classic Rioja notes, this will be a versatile winner at the table. Black raspberry and currants meet scents of toasted cedar, tobacco, and licorice root, all with a graceful, high-toned finish. MISA Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Palacio de Otoño 2022 Reserva (Rioja). Sweet scents of graham cracker and caramelized cedar rise above raspberry compote and mashed strawberry in this well-balanced bottling. The creamy red fruit is balanced out by notes of tobacco leaf and licorice root, with lifted acidity and some light woody tannins giving focus. Try with a meaty paella. Votto Vines Importing. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

89 Rioja Vega 2023 Edición Limitada (Rioja). Zesty and ripe red berries meet spicy aromas of cigar box, cinnamon, clove, and star anise, while a bit of wood tannin grip adds structure. This is very well made and will bring plenty of pleasure over the next several years. EcoValley. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

89 Sierra Cantabria 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Always a great all-purpose pour and phenomenal value, this brings together blackberry and dried black-cherry fruit with savory aromas of licorice root, peppercorn, and hints of damp earth and herbs. It's soft in texture with good focused acidity and a lingering dusting of chalk. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

89 Siglo 2024 Tinto (Rioja). Black-raspberry jam and dried currents center an aromatic array of toasted cedar, clove, and peppercorn, with medium body and rounded, elegant fruit texture. Herb-inflected spice tones carry through an appealing finish, closing with a touch of chocolaty tannin.

A nice choice for the next several years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Voché 2013 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Muddled cherry and fig paste come together with mature scents of anise, old leather, sandalwood, and balsamic in this fully evolved bottling. It's delicious right now, though will probably begin fading over the next few years, so enjoy over the near term. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Bodegas Berceo 2023 Gonzalo de Berceo Crianza (Rioja). This is fresh and open in texture, as red berries are offset by more savory notes of licorice root, cedar, tobacco, and clove. Some dusty earth provides an anchor to the finish, with the rooty spice tones lingering. Tasty and ready to drink over the next several years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Bodegas Corral 2025 Martín Corral Cosecha (Rioja). Light and pretty strawberry and raspberry compote meet more savory tones of bay leaf, peppercorn, and dusty earth in this nicely balanced bottling. The fruit is gently silky/creamy, with subtle dried herb dotting the finish. A versatile pour that'll do well for daytime sipping. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Bodegas Corral 2025 Martín Corral Vendimia Seleccionada (Rioja). Strawberry cream-sicle and baked raspberry tart aromas offer an appealing option to enjoy over the next few years. It's framed by accents of tobacco, chocolate, and clove, with soft texture and good balance. This'll make a nice wine for tapas and the like. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Manzanos 2024 1890 Finca Manzanos (Rioja). This gives fresh and pliant raspberry fruit teamed up with a subtle anisette note underneath. Scents of bubblegum, celery seed, and rose petal provide aromatic lift, and it finishes with some grounding chalky tannin. Nice with rilletes and cheeses over the next few years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Manzanos 2024 1890 Finca Manzanos (Rioja). With its lifted, red-fruited acidity and undercurrent of chalky tannin, this'll do nicely at the table with a wide variety of dishes. Raspberry and dried cherry tones are framed out by tobacco, rose petal, and cedar aromas, with a squeeze of blood orange zest on the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Manzanos 2024 Los Hermanos Manzanos (Rioja). Wood-centric peppery spice frames fruit tones of kirsch and black raspberry on the nose of this fresh and expressive Rioja, with scents of licorice root, peppercorn, cedar, and sage. It'll be just the thing for weekend lunches over the next few years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Manzanos 2023 Crianza (Rioja). Soft and lifted black-raspberry galette and roasted strawberry tones are studded by aromas of clove, toasted cedar, and white pepper in this medium-bodied and gently structured offering. There's good focus, with lingering woodsy spice. It'll go nicely with things like grilled pork kebab. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Manzanos 2020 Primi Reserva (Rioja). Baked wild berries and plums team up with dried herbs, pine straw, sandalwood, and leather scents in this attractive bottling. The texture is gently rounded, with underlying wet-stone minerality drying the finish. This'd go great with a veggie pizza loaded with black olives. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Rioja Vega 2024 Colección Tempranillo (Rioja). Classic Tempranillo scents of tobacco and licorice root layer over a core of blackberry and black cherry in this medium-bodied offering. With its refreshing focus and dusting of baking spices, it's nicely composed and will make a good pour at the lunch or dinner table. EcoValley. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

87 Campo Viejo 2020 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 14. Vinarchy. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 Manzanos 2024 1890 Finca Manzanos (Rioja). Offering direct and attractive flavors of strawberry creamsicle and dried cherry, this'll make a nice choice for sunny weekend lunches. Subtle cedar and white-pepper notes add some depth, with a suggestion of Marcona almond lingering on the crisp finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Siglo 2023 Crianza (Rioja). A soft-spicy aromatic combo of forest berries, nettle, green peppercorn, and baking spices is the theme on the nose here, though the strawberry-centric flavors really carry the show overall. A touch of dusty chalk dots the finish. Try it with croquettes with spicy mustard. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

87 Siglo NV Saco (Rioja). There's bright focus and fresh ripe strawberry and raspberry fruit in this offering, framed by notes of dried sage, pine resin, and earthy spice. The underlying herb tones and touch of lingering minerality suggest it'll make a nice companion to dishes like paella and such. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

COSTERS DEL SEGRE

92 Tomàs Cusiné 2021 Geol (Costers del Segre). This is beautifully structured and in a harmonious place right now, as baked black cherry and roasted-plum scents are infused with root beer bark, violets, clove and pie crust. There's excellent poise to

the integrated acidity, finishing with fine dusty tannins. A delight over the next several years. Ventura Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Tomàs Cusiné 2023 Vilosell (Costers del Segre). Rounded yet zesty fruit tones of dried cherry and baked plum are countered by subtle rooty spice and pine straw in this well-framed bottling. A touch of graphite dust and toffee tie up the finish, with some stony tannins giving some grip. It'll go nicely with grilled pork. Ventura Selections. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

87 Tomàs Cusiné 2024 Llebre (Costers del Segre). Fresh, juicy notes of raspberry and dried red cherry meet floral scents of rose petal and pink peppercorn. A hint of green nettle gives it an earthy undercurrent, and a touch of caramelized cedar wraps it all together. Fun and straightforward, it's a versatile "pop and pour." Ventura Selections. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

TORO

94 Teso La Monja 2023 Victorino (Toro). This is concentrated and muscular, with stony tannins supporting rich blackberry and black-cherry pastille notes complemented by scents of violets, sage, tobacco, and peppercorn. A swipe of dark chocolate and herbs tie up the finish. Long and just getting started, it'll do its best work from 2028 onward. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$63

92 Teso La Monja 2023 Almiraz (Toro). Deep and rounded, the 2023 edition of the Almiraz brings together pretty aromas of violets, sassafras, cigar box, and licorice root surrounding a center of baked black cherry and blackberry. Nicely integrated acidity keeps everything in check, and it finishes long with hints of sweet dark spice and baking chocolate. Grill up a sirloin. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Teso La Monja 2024 Románico (Toro). This serves up a burly nose of blackberry compote, dried black currant, and roasted Mission fig framed by clove, baking chocolate, and coffee grounds. The flavors show more lifted freshness, with a core of fine acidity cutting through the dark fruit. Nicely balanced for its size, and a great setup for rich roasts or meaty stews. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$9

94 Dominios de Mgp 2022 Casa Turús Tempranillo (Valencia). For full review see page 6. Vidalco International LLC. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76

RIBERA DEL DUERO

97 Pago de Carraovejas 2021 Cuesta de las Liebres (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 3. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$250

96 Pago de Carraovejas 2021 El Anejón (Ribera del Duero). This shows off so much purity and refinement, with its cassis and fresh blackberry tones carried by a perfect line of acidity through the center. Fine details of violets, subtle herbs, tobacco, and old leather shine on the nose, and dusty stone tannins and a mineral note anchor the finish. This'll really start to blossom from 2030. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —J.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

94 Finca La Capilla 2022 Vendimia Seleccionada (Ribera del Duero). This powerful bottling shows superb concentration and palate-coating flavor, with cassis and roasted blackberry topped by dark chocolate, toasted cedar, clove, leather, and tobacco leaf. Good acidity keeps it all lively, while firming tannins suggest more time in the bottle is warranted. Approachable now with a good decanting, but better from 2029 on. *Cellar Selection.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

94 Milsetentayseis 2022 (Ribera del Duero). With dusty stone tannins underpinning the core of rounded cassis and dried black-cherry flavors, this has plenty of structure and staying power. Scents of cigar box, subtle baking spices, and a hint of hazelnut are lifted by violets. Give this superb bottling a few more years and drink through 2035. USA Wine West. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Pago de Carraovejas 2023 (Ribera del Duero). There's a mineral underpinning to the dark wildberry core, with scents of clove, nut husk, cinnamon stick, and violets rising above. It's impeccably focused while rounded in texture, with all the components integrated beautifully. It'll be excellent over the next seven to eight years. USA Wine West. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Finca La Capilla 2022 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Rich, rounded flavor is focused by elegant acidity and firming by dusty stone tannins in this excellent RDD. Roasted blackberry and dried black currant flavors meet aromas of coffee-toffee, tobacco, sweet mulling spices, and dark chocolate. Perfect for grilled meats over the next seven-plus years. —J.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

91 Señorío de Nava 2019 Vega Cubillas Reserva (Ribera del Duero). A creamy-silky core of mashed black cherry and roasted black fig is livened by complexities of tobacco, licorice, wood spice, and leather in this harmonious and balanced offering. The finish lingers with echoes of sweet wood spice. Ideal

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for a bacon-wrapped filet over the next several years. WD Direct. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Señorio de Nava 2022 Vega Cubillas Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** This is medium bodied, with integrated acidity lifting black raspberry and dried black cherry tones. The fruit is framed by appealing notes of cigar box, clove, leather, and dark chocolate. It's gentle in texture, with a hint of spice and dark chocolate on the finish. A fine pour for the next four to five years. WD Direct. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

89 **Bodegas Berceo 2024 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** This is fresh and vibrant, with raspberry jam and a touch of bubblegum on the nose giving way to accents of rose petal, cedar, and white pepper. With medium body, soft texture, and submerged floral-spice tones, it'll give lots of easygoing enjoyment over the next couple years. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

89 **Señorio de Nava 2025 Vega Cubillas Roble (Ribera del Duero).** Bringing together lively fruit notes of raspberry jam and dried currants with woodsy-floral accents of pine straw, lavender, and cedar, this is a deliciously friendly bottling to enjoy over the next few years with tapas and light dining. It's fresh in acidity and anchored by a touch of stony mineral and baking chocolate. WD Direct. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA

92 **Hoto de Vides 2023 Cencibel (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Ruby in color, well-integrated aromas of black cherry, orange peel, and blackberry lead into violet blossom and hibiscus on the nose. The palate follows suit with chalky tannins that lounge in a pool of crushed stone that adds depth and elongates the finish. Ballester Hermanos. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Volver 2023 Single Vineyard Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Mature aromas of blackberry compote, black raspberry, and crème de cassis erupt from the glass buttressed by hints of bergamot and cranberry skin. Shattered-stone-dusted tannins lead on the attack followed by a streak of red currant and purple blossom, which leads into a mouthwatering, chalky finish. Drink now, or wait until 2028 to experience this wine that will continue to gather steam with additional time in bottle. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

90 **Volver 2025 Paso a Paso Organic Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Vibrant blackberry and violet-blossom aromas unwind on the nose, buttressed by hints of soy sauce, red currant, and black cherry in this wine made with organic grapes. The palate opens with cheerful baking spice and tart

cranberry framed by minerality that surfs to the finish on a wave of youthful, grippy tannins. Decant and drink now or enjoy from 2028 onward. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 **Volver 2024 Paso a Paso Organic Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** A swirl of black cherry, red raspberry, and black plum aromas open on the nose that also brings along hints of licorice and cassis. Chalky tannins give way to muddled blackberry and shattered stone that add depth and dimension. Decant now or drink from 2028 onward. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Dominio de Punctum 2025 Lobetia Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Made with organic grapes, blackberry, muddled black cherry and boysenberry aromas swirl in the glass lifted by pastry dough and hibiscus. Plump, juicy fruit and grippy tannins provide structure framed by muddled violet blossom that unwinds on the floral finish. Sandalo Organic Estates. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Dominio de Punctum 2024 Lobetia Tempranillo-Petit Verdot Roble (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Blackberry and muddled black-cherry aromas are buttressed by hibiscus and red raspberry on the nose. The palate opens with drying, chalky tannins that unhurriedly release red fruit on the finish, which empties into a pool of crushed stone. Sandalo Organic Estates. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 **Guadianeja 2023 Cencibel (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Aromas of red cherry, bread dough and hibiscus open on the nose that walks across a trail of dried field grass and dew-dusted forest floor. The firm, concentrated palate revolves around black fruit framed by youthful velvety tannins. Pair with beef ribs, stews and hearty dishes. Ballester Hermanos. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

92 **De Alberto 2023 18 meses Tempranillo-Cabernet Sauvignon (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** Ruby in color, the wine opens with perfumed aromas of muddled black plum, red cherry, and boysenberry dusted with hibiscus tea and rosehip. Well-integrated red fruit on the palate is bolstered by a wave of relaxed tannins that guide supple red fruit toward a silky, elongated finish. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 **Clunia 2019 Syrah (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This wine has benefited from age in bottle. Reserved aromas of crushed pomegranate, hibiscus, and Alpine strawberry are complemented by red cherry and cranberry skin. A wave of juicy black

fruit opens on the palate supported by a playful mix of tart and ripe red fruit that empties into a reservoir of chalky acidity. Quigley Fine Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

91 **Quinta Sardonía 2023 Sardón (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** Leathery blackberry and black-raspberry aromas dusted with cocoa powder open on the nose bolstered by subtle streaks of late-summer field grass and hibiscus. Velvety tannins pull the palate forward unlocking crushed black cherry, forest floor, and chalky black fruit that unwinds and elongates on the finish. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$18

RÍO NEGRO

93 **Finca Río Negro 2021 5º Año (Río Negro).** Purple-ruby in color, perfumed aromas of dried cranberry, fig, and pomegranate open on the nose guided by rosehip and hibiscus. Dry, grippy tannins lead on the attack followed by cocoa-dusted black plum and red cherry that raises forest floor on the lengthy finish. Decant and drink now, but this wine will continue to gather steam in bottle through 2035. Real Vinum LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Finca Río Negro 2024 992 (Río Negro).** Earthy, forest-floor aromas lead into white truffle, dried mushroom, and field grass that punctuate the nose. A full-bodied palate of cocoa-dusted black fruit resolves in a predicate of velvety tannins, coarsely chopped blackberry and leather. Pair with grilled meats and stews. Real Vinum LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 **Finca Río Negro 2022 (Río Negro).** Ruby in color, aromas of blackberry, black raspberry, and red currant unfurl on the nose guided by pomegranate and dried cherry flakes. Grippy tannins open into chalk-dusted red fruit on the palate that leads into a mouthwatering finish dusted with cocoa. Real Vinum LLC. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

ALMANSA

92 **Finca Fella El Maso 2023 (Almansa).** Fragrant aromas of black cherry, smoked raspberry, and peach skin open on the nose along with muddled blackberry and rosehip. Youthful, grippy tannins kick off the attack ahead of black fruit that is the wine's core. Open and decant for 30 minutes now or enjoy from 2027 onward. This bottling will reward patience. Retaggio Imports LLC. —R.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$38

92 **Volver 2023 Quinta del '67 (Almansa).** Reserved aromas of rosehip, red raspberry, and cranberry open on the nose joined by violet blossom and hibiscus tea. Velvety tannins are elevated on the palate followed by black currant and black cherry.

Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

90 Finca Fella 2025 Altado Monastrell (Almansa). Black raspberry, red currant, and dried cranberry lead into rosehip, black olive and forest floor on the nose. Grippy-yet-relaxed tannins cultivate red fruit on the palate that resolves in chalk-dusted black cherry on the finish. Retaggio Imports LLC. —R.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25

JUMILLA

92 3 Terruños 2024 La Intrépida (Jumilla). Spicy aromas of leather, blueberry, beef jerky, and cocoa powder open on the nose guided by grilled meats and smoky black raspberry. Still-youthful tannins unlock black tea, hints of marjoram and strawberry on the palate that is a meaty, herbal, fruity amalgam. Pair with braised dishes, beef short rib and stews. —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

92 3 Terruños 2024 La Reina Monastrell (Jumilla). Black cherry and cola aromas open on the nose joined by strawberry and hibiscus. Mouth-watering tannins pull forward on the palate and unveil ripe red fruit that sits atop a cheerful layer of chalky acidity that provides balance and depth. Decant and drink now, or open from 2028 onward. —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$52

92 Ego Bodegas 2023 Fuerza Monastrell Cabernet Sauvignon (Jumilla). Plump black plum and black-cherry aromas lead into red-rose petal and partially crushed pomegranate on the nose along with purple blossom. The palate opens with grippy, velvety tannins that ride a wave of supple black fruit and surrender in a pool of chalk. You can drink this wine now, but it will reward patience from 2028 onward. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Finca Bacara 2023 Tabá (Jumilla). Ruby in color, elegant, reserved aromas of red cherry, field grass, and black plum open into black tea on the nose. The palate follows suit with black raspberry and leather elevated by a svelte layer of tannins that stroll into the lengthy finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Bodegas Luzon 2025 Luzón Verde (Jumilla). I've tasted this wine made from organically grown grapes for multiple years and every year it impresses more and more. Enticing aromas of black cherry, blackberry, and violet blossom envelop the nose joined by hints of dried field grass and eucalyptus. The palate is awash with ripe red and black fruit that is lifted by svelte tannins that elongate on the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 3 Terruños 2024 La Princesa Monastrell (Jumilla). Black cherry and cola aromas open on the nose joined by strawberry and hibiscus. Mouth-watering tannins pull forward on the palate and unveil ripe red fruit that sits atop a cheerful layer of chalky acidity that provides balance and depth. Decant and drink now, or open from 2028 onward. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Ego Bodegas 2024 Acuma (Jumilla). Charming aromas of boysenberry, muddled black plum, and blackberry open on the nose punctuated by violet blossom, forest floor and hibiscus tea. Dusted with cocoa powder, the palate rests on a bed of chalk-dusted black fruit that leans into black olive and grilled meats on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER RED WINES

92 Ruth Fernandez 2023 Clásico (Ribera del Júcar). Ruby in color, aromas of muddled red cherry, cola, and spiced blackberry open on the nose that leans into mint leaf and hibiscus. Grippy tannins lead on the attack into a core of black fruit framed by chalky tannins that elongate on the extended finish. Sandalo Organic Estates. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Borsao 2023 Tres Picos (Campo de Borja). For full review see page 11. Opici Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Finca Museum 2023 La Renacida (Cigales). Juicy black raspberry, violet blossom, and forest-floor aromas are lifted by leather and hints of hibiscus. An amalgam of bright red and black fruit opens on the palate complemented by a wave of introverted tannins that maintain in equal measure. Opici Wines & Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

91 Finca Museum 2021 Reserva (Cigales). An alluring mix of black tea, boysenberry and coarsely crushed black raspberry aromas are heightened by forest floor, field grass, and hibiscus on the nose. The creamy-textured palate presents mature, well-integrated flavors suggested on the nose joined by relaxed, sinewy tannins. Drink now–2035. Opici Wines & Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Viña Mein 2023 O Gran Meín Castes Brancas (Ribeiro). Lemon in color, aromas of white peach, tangerine zest, and yellow apple frolic on a bed of forest floor. The palate adds a savory note of dried hay and white blossom that leads into a mineral finish. Pair with shellfish, appetizers, and turkey burgers. USA Wine West. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

91 Viña Mein 2022 O Gran Meín Tinto (Ribeiro). Ruby in color, fragrant aromas of red currant, dried field grass, violet blossom, and red cherry open

on the nose accented by cocoa-dusted dried-cranberry flakes. Stony minerality rides under a tangy layer of acidity that lifts and emboldens the finish. USA Wine West. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Marqués de Cáceres 2024 Red Blend (Cariñena). With medium body and good concentration of red-berry flavor, this pretty Garnacha-led blend will be great with duck, pork, or mushroom dishes. Red cherry tart and baked black raspberry merge with notes of rose petal, chocolate-covered espresso bean, and a hint of fresh herbs, with subtle chalky tannins closing the finish. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

88 Castillo 2025 Merlot Syrah Tempranillo (La Mancha). Blackberry puree, bread dough, and violet blossom lead into strawberry jam and muddled black plum on the nose. The palate brings juicy fruit to the fore guided by supple tannins that get out of the way of strawberry compote that infuses the finish. Boutique Beverage Company. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Borsao 2025 Selección (Campo de Borja). Always a great value and all-purpose “pop and pour,” the 2025 brings a burst of raspberry, blood orange, and strawberry to the party, with pink peppercorn and rose petal adding to the fun. Finishes with cranberry tannins and fresh, juicy acidity. Opici Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

SHERRY

94 VEC MV Oloroso (Jerez). The best Olorosos are filled with complexity as is this bottling. Enticing aromas of toasted walnuts, and dried fruit open on the nose that leads into orange marmalade and baking spice. The palate draws you in further with mature flavors of dried apricot, nutmeg and honey-drizzled red apple which converge on the elongated finish. —R.S.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$35/500ml

92 VEC MV Amontillado (Jerez). Attractive aromas of bread dough, dried white fig, and caramel erupt on the nose guided by dried orange peel and notes of leather. Concentrated, dried fruit aromas abound on the palate that wraps itself around sundried citrus and honey-drizzled golden apple that is pulled forward by a vibrant, chalk-dusted streak of acidity. —R.S.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$46/500ml

DESSERT WINE

93 De Alberto NV Dorado (seco) (Rueda). For full review see page 8. Cuddihy Wine Importers. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$71/500ml

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93 De Alberto NV Dorado Dulce (Rueda). Gold-amber in color, fragrant aromas of orange marmalade, white fig, honey, and toasted almond joyfully converge in the glass. The wine is sweet, concentrated, and supported by a vibrant layer of acidity that lifts and refreshes the finish revealing attractive oxidative notes that contribute to depth of flavor on the midpalate. Pair with a dessert course or mix with sparkling wine and enjoy as an aperitif. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —R.S.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$71/500ml

86 Príncipe de Viana 2022 Vendimia Tardia Chardonnay (Navarra). This offers orange marmalade and dried-peach flavors centering notes of bay leaf, bitter walnut, and a squeeze of lemon zest. It's rounded in texture, with some tea leaf underneath. Finishes with a pop of white pepper. Enjoy with washed-rind cheeses over the next several years. Eco-Valley. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

GERMANY RIESLING

96 Weingut Odinstal 2024 Himmelreich Herxheim GG Riesling (Pfalz). Electrifying and tightly coiled, driven by searing acidity that propels a core of yellow fruit and mineral with remarkable force. Cool-toned nuances of thyme and spearmint add precision and lift, giving the wine a distinct mineral feel. Deeply structured and still unfolding, it carries immense tension and clarity, finishing long and resonant, with serious aging potential. Becky Wasserman Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$119

95 Weingut Rings 2024 Saumagen GG Riesling (Pfalz). Powerful and deeply layered, with a broader core of yellow fruit—think ripe apricot and mirabelle—interwoven with flint, spice, and mineral tones. The palate has real presence and drive, carried by vibrant acidity and a strong sense of structure. Complex and commanding, with a long, expansive finish that keeps unfolding. You can drink it now, but best would be to forget about this one for at least five years. The German Wine Collection. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$189

95 Weingut Schnaitmann 2023 Lämmle GG Riesling (Württemberg). Stunningly precise, with white raspberry leading into a vivid interplay of green mango, tangerine, and orange blossom. The palate is defined by a crunchy, energetic texture and great acidity, giving the wine both tension and elegance. Deeply mineral and finely layered, unfolding in waves toward a long, complex finish. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$52

94 Gunderloch 2024 Rothenberg GG Riesling (Rheinhessen). A riveting, profoundly mineral Riesling of exceptional tension and finesse. Lean and tightly coiled, it derives its authority from the

interplay of crystalline acidity and a powerful stony backbone rather than sheer weight. Layers of elderflower, quince, Meyer lemon, and finely woven spice gradually unfold across the palate, revealing remarkable depth beneath its restrained surface. Still youthful and destined to evolve beautifully with bottle age, it finishes extraordinarily long, precise, and echoing with saline minerality and citrus lift. Best after 2030. David Bowler Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

94 Weingut Odinstal 2023 Basalt Riesling (Pfalz). Striking and complex, opening with a charming reduction that adds intrigue before giving way to a ripe, rounded profile. Layers of spice, marjoram, and mangosteen unfold in succession, creating a dynamic, evolving palate. Structured and multilayered, it moves in waves of flavor, finishing long with depth and precision. Becky Wasserman Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$109

94 Weingut Robert Weil 2025 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Auslese Riesling (Rheingau). Layered aromatics of ripe apricot, candied citrus, and orange blossom, with a hint of honey and spice. Lush and concentrated on the palate, yet lifted by precise acidity that keeps the sweetness in check. The texture is rich but finely detailed, unfolding into a long, resonant finish marked by citrus oils and mineral tension. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$105/375ml

94 Weingut Wittmann 2024 Westhofen Aulerde GG Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). Striking and deeply layered, with flint and white raspberry adding lift to a mineral-driven core. The palate is taut and precise, carried by vibrant acidity and a strong sense of structure. Complex and still tightly wound, with depth that unfolds gradually into a long, commanding finish. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$100

94 Weingut Wittmann 2024 Westhofen Morstein GG Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). Bright and incisive, with a vivid core of citrus and orchard fruit layered over a pronounced mineral, saline backbone. The acidity is electric, driving the wine with clarity and precision. Taut yet expressive, unfolding into a long, radiant finish with remarkable persistence. Best after 2029. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$140

93 Domdechant Werner 2024 Hochheimer Hölle Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). Expressive and layered, with elderflower syrup and apple cake at the core, lifted by baking spice. The palate is rich yet balanced, with a smooth, integrated feel. Complex and inviting, finishing long with depth and persistence. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$39

93 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2024 Forster Jesuitengarten Grosses Gewächs Riesling (Pfalz). Fresh and tightly wound, this Ries-

ling reveals layers of lemon and crisp apple wrapped in a cooling thread of spearmint. Vibrant acidity and a finely etched mineral backbone give the wine exceptional tension and precision, while its restrained, youthful character hints at considerable potential. The finish is remarkably long, saline, and focused, suggesting that patience will be well rewarded. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Lichti & Astroh GbR 2023 Coeur Riesling (Germany). Beautifully made, with a round yet well-balanced profile supported by fresh acidity. Notes of cardamom, quince, and peach unfold alongside a savory mineral edge. Layered and refined, with a long, complex finish that carries both spice and fruit with precision. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Prinz Salm 2018 Kirchberg GG Riesling (Rheinhessen). Intense and powerful, with saffron and a hint of smoke layered over quince and peach. The palate is structured and driven by great acidity, with a distinct saline edge emerging on the finish. Concentrated yet controlled, unfolding into a long, commanding close. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Weingut Bianka und Daniel Schmitt 2024 Nieder-Floersheimer Goldberg Riesling (Rheinhessen). Textural and tightly wound, with wax and lanolin lending depth to a core of lime and orchard fruit. There's a serious, structured feel here, with acidity and extract working in tandem. Still very much in its shell, this needs time to fully open, but the length and underlying complexity are already clear. Best after 2028. Merchants of Thirst. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$43

93 Weingut Kaufmann 2022 Wisselbrunnen GG Riesling (Rheingau). Ripe and concentrated, with yellow fruit at the core, showing depth of nectarine alongside cardamom and elderflower. The palate is layered yet seamlessly integrated, with a strong sense of harmony. Polished and expressive, with a long, balanced finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Weingut Leipold 2023 Escherndorfer Lump Riesling (Franken). Striking and precise, with white raspberry and watery apple notes carried by powerful acidity. A distinct crunchy texture adds tension and shape, giving the wine real drive across the palate. Energetic yet controlled, finishing long and sharply defined. Vom Boden. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Weingut Odinstal 2024 Tertiär Riesling (Pfalz). Saline and intensely mineral driven, with flint at the forefront and a core of lime and mangosteen. The palate is structured and tightly wound, showing depth and precision. Complex and layered, with a long, mouthwatering finish and clear potential

for aging. Best after 2027. Becky Wasserman Selections. *Cellar Selection*. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$73

93 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2024 Kastanienbusch GG Riesling (Pfalz). Taut, mineral driven, and beautifully restrained, this Riesling combines a saline backbone with remarkable precision. Layers of elderflower, peach blossom, and fresh ginger unfold gradually across the palate, supported by vibrant acidity and a finely textured, stony structure. Still youthful and tightly wound, it finishes exceptionally long, echoing with mineral freshness and quiet complexity. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$186

93 Weingut Pfeffingen 2024 Ungstein Herrenberg Riesling (Pfalz). Beautifully layered, with yellow fruit at the core, supported by well-integrated acidity. Nuances of wet stone and exotic blossoms unfold with air, adding depth and intrigue. Harmonious and inviting, with a long, expressive finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$85

93 Weingut Reichsrat von Buhl 2024 Forster Ungeheuer GG Riesling (Pfalz). Layered and expressive, with beeswax, elderflower, and quince blossom framing a core of juicy apple. Fruit and mineral elements are tightly interwoven, giving the wine both depth and clarity. Complex and finely structured, with a long, resonant finish. Best after 2028. The German Wine Collection. *Cellar Selection*. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$130

93 Weingut Schnaitmann 2022 Réserve Riesling (Württemberg). Flinty and expressive, with a juicy core of longan fruit and peach. The palate is layered and precise, with a savory mineral edge emerging on the finish. Complex and well structured, with a long, evolving finish that highlights both fruit and minerality. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$72

93 Weingut Wittmann 2024 Westhofen KIRCH-SPIEL GG Trocken Riesling (Rheinhausen). Deeply mineral and driven, with savory, salty notes framing a core of citrus and orchard fruit. Powerful acidity gives it tension and precision, keeping the palate tightly coiled. Structured and intense, with a long, mouthwatering finish. Best after 2029. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection*. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$125

93 Willems-Willems 2025 Ockfener Bockstein Spätlese Riesling (Saar). Exceptionally aromatic and beautifully composed, this Spätlese layers exotic notes of mangosteen, longan, and ripe papaya with fragrant elderflower and chrysanthemum. The palate is rich without ever feeling heavy, as vibrant acidity creates remarkable tension and precision from start to finish. Every element is seamlessly integrated, leading to a long, mineral-driven finish that lingers with floral elegance, tropical fruit, and impressive freshness. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$28

92 Ansgar Clüsserath 2024 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling (Mosel). A subtle yeasty note opens the aromatics before giving way to layers of orchard fruit, bright citrus, and delicate spice. The palate is beautifully composed, combining concentration with vibrant acidity and a fine mineral thread. Long and refined, the finish lingers with citrus, spice, and impressive freshness. M.S. Walker Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 10% Price: \$57

92 Ansgar Clüsserath 2024 Trittenheimer Apotheke Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Bright and beautifully expressive, with vibrant notes of white raspberry, guava, and Meyer lemon. The palate strikes an effortless balance between gentle sweetness and lively acidity, creating both energy and finesse. Long and refined, the finish lingers with citrus, exotic fruit, and a delicate mineral freshness. M.S. Walker Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$55

92 Domdechant Werner 2022 Domdechaney VDP GG Riesling (Rheingau). Fruit forward yet nuanced, with a core of ripe citrus and orchard fruit interwoven with thyme and mint. A touch of singed lemon peel adds complexity, leading into a mouthwatering, mineral-tinged finish. Balanced and expressive, with depth and persistence. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

92 Domdechant Werner 2022 Hölle im Neuenberg VDP GG Riesling (Rheingau). More linear and restrained, with a taut, focused profile built around citrus and orchard fruit, accented by subtle floral and mineral notes. The palate shows excellent tension, carried by vibrant acidity. Precise and composed, finishing long with clarity and persistence. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.1% Price: \$NA

92 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch) 2024 Berncasteler Doctor GG Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Elegant and almost ethereal, opening with expressive aromas of melon, papaya, white flowers, and finely woven spice. The palate is remarkably light on its feet, yet layered and precise, with vibrant acidity lending both energy and definition. A subtle mineral thread carries through the long, refined finish, leaving a lingering impression of floral complexity and quiet finesse. Grape Expectations Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$75

92 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch) 2024 Berncasteler Doctor Kabinett fruchtsüß VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel). A textbook Kabinett, combining delicate aromas of hops, jasmine, and ripe peach with remarkable purity and finesse. The palate balances gentle sweetness with vibrant acidity, creating a wine of effortless poise and precision. Light on its feet yet wonderfully persistent, it finishes with lingering floral, stone fruit, and mineral nuances. Grape Expectations Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$60

92 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2020 Deidesheimer Hohenmorgen Grosses Gewächs Riesling (Pfalz). Medium bodied and beautifully rounded, with generous layers of yellow orchard fruit, vanilla, and a subtle creamy richness. The palate is seamless and finely balanced, combining concentration with vibrant acidity that keeps the wine poised and energetic. Long and elegant, it finishes with lingering stone fruit, spice, and a refined mineral edge. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

92 Maximin Grünhaus 2025 Abtsberg Kabinett VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Impressive and wonderfully expressive, opening with layered aromas of quince, lemon parfait, vanilla custard, and delicate baking spice. The palate is beautifully poised, with vibrant acidity bringing lift and precision to the gentle sweetness. Elegant and persistent, it finishes with remarkable purity and lingering spice, citrus, and orchard fruit. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7% Price: \$56

92 Maximin Grünhaus 2025 Abtsberg Spätlese | VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Remarkably lean and precise for the style, with vibrant acidity beautifully balancing layers of Gala apple, quince, and peach-blossom honey. The palate combines concentration with freshness, giving the wine effortless poise and energy. Long and refined, it finishes with lingering orchard fruit, floral nuances, and a delicate mineral lift. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$76

92 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2023 Josephshöfer GG Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Beautifully layered, with aromas of crisp apple framed by cardamom, baking spice, and subtle floral notes. The palate is precise and energetic, its crunchy texture supported by vibrant acidity that keeps every element in focus. The finish is long, mouthwatering, and distinctly mineral, adding both freshness and refinement. American B.D. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$NA

92 Vereinigte Hospitien 2025 Scharzhofberg Spätlese | VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel). Concentrated and beautifully poised, with layered notes of orange-blossom honey, apricot pastry, and baked pineapple. Rich and expressive on the palate, yet lifted by vibrant acidity that brings remarkable freshness and precision. The finish is long and seamless, lingering with honeyed citrus, stone fruit, and refined mineral notes. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$NA

92 Weingut Dautel 2023 Steingrüben Grosses Gewächs Riesling (Württemberg). Lightly flint tinged, with kiwi and clementine at the core, wrapped in a firm mineral frame. Balanced and precise, with a focused palate that carries through to a long, clean finish. Skurnik Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$53

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92 Weingut Fritz Haag 2025 Juffer Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). A beautifully executed Kabinett, combining expressive notes of quince, guava, starfruit, and elderflower with remarkable purity. Gentle sweetness is effortlessly balanced by vibrant, crystalline acidity that gives the wine exceptional lift and precision. Light on its feet yet intensely flavored, it finishes long, refined, and irresistibly fresh. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$31

92 Weingut Haart 2024 Goldtröpfchen Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Expressive aromas of candy apple, white blossom, and delicate hops give this Spätlese immediate appeal. The palate is beautifully balanced, with vibrant acidity lifting the wine's ripe fruit and gentle sweetness into a seamless, energetic whole. Focused and refined, it finishes long with lingering floral, orchard fruit, and mineral notes. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$45

92 Weingut Haart 2023 Goldtröpfchen GG Riesling (Mosel). Elegant and beautifully knit, with layered aromas of ripe pear, quince blossom, delicate white flowers, and finely woven spice. The palate is poised and harmonious, combining concentration with impressive precision, while vibrant acidity lends freshness and lift throughout. A subtle mineral thread emerges on the long, refined finish, adding depth to this graceful, expressive Riesling. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$80

92 Weingut Kranz 2024 Ilbesheim Kalmit VDP Grosses Gewächs Riesling (Pfalz). Well crafted and classic in profile, with orchard fruit at the core, framed by baking spice and mineral notes. The palate is balanced and composed, with a clear sense of structure. Good length carries the flavors through a clean, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

92 Weingut Künstler 2024 Hattenheimer Pfaffenberg Monopole GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Fresh and tightly knit, with pear and mango at the core, lifted by elderflower and a touch of spice. The palate is precise and well balanced, showing both clarity and depth. Expressive and composed, with a long, harmonious finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$105

92 Weingut Matthias Müller 2023 Feuerlay Spätlese VDP Große Lage Riesling (Mittelrhein). Intensely aromatic, with layers of quince jam, orange blossom honey, dandelion tea, and a delicate thread of saffron. Rich and expressive on the palate, yet beautifully balanced by vibrant acidity that lends energy and precision. The texture is silky and concentrated, unfolding into a long, persistent finish marked by floral, honeyed, and gently spiced nuances. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$NA

92 Weingut Michael & Patrick Philipps 2025 Spätlese Ayler Kupp Riesling (Saar). Beautifully expressive, with layered aromas of Gala apple,

orchard blossom, elderflower, and starfruit. The palate is vibrant and beautifully balanced, combining ripe fruit with lively acidity that lends energy and precision. A persistent mineral finish adds freshness and elegance, carrying the wine through a long, refined close. —A.Z.
abv: 8.1% Price: \$NA

92 Weingut Michael & Patrick Philipps 2025 Spätlese Feinherb Ayler Kupp Riesling (Saar). Beautifully balanced and impeccably made, with vibrant acidity bringing lift to layers of crisp apple, quince sauce, vanilla, and wet stone. Richly flavored yet remarkably precise, the palate combines gentle sweetness with crystalline freshness. The finish is long, refined, and mineral driven, leaving a lasting impression of purity and finesse. —A.Z.
abv: 10.4% Price: \$NA

92 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2024 Ganz Horn GG Riesling (Pfalz). Elegant and intensely floral, with aromas of elderflower, peach blossom, and white blossoms layered over subtle citrus and fresh ginger. The palate is finely etched and mineral driven, with vibrant acidity lending precision and lift throughout. Long and graceful, it finishes with lingering saline notes and refined floral complexity. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$180

92 Weingut Pfeffingen 2024 Ungstein Weilberg Riesling (Pfalz). Clean and more restrained in style, yet quietly charming, with orchard blossom and pear at the core. The acidity is bright and well-integrated, giving the wine lift and precision. Balanced and composed, with good length and a refined, lingering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$85

92 Weingut Robert Weil 2025 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). Expressive notes of ripe peach, nectarine, and citrus zest, with a touch of floral lift. Juicy and finely balanced, the sweetness wrapped in vibrant acidity that gives the wine energy and definition. Silky in texture, with a long, precise finish that carries both fruit and freshness. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% Price: \$105

92 Weingut Siegrist 2023 VDP. Große Lage Sonnenberg Riesling (Pfalz). Beautifully balanced and crafted with impressive precision, this Riesling layers green stone fruit with fresh ginger and delicate floral notes. The palate is taut and mineral driven, with vibrant acidity creating exceptional focus and energy. Long and refined, it finishes with lingering floral complexity, stony freshness, and remarkable poise. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$37

92 Willems-Willems 2025 Ockfener Bockstein Kabinett Riesling (Saar). A textbook Saar Kabinett, combining remarkable precision with effortless charm. Vibrant acidity is beautifully balanced by gentle sweetness, carrying layered notes of crisp orchard fruit and delicate blossom across the palate. Light on its feet yet intensely flavored, it fin-

ishes long, mineral, and wonderfully inviting. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$30

91 Ansgar Clüsserath 2024 Dhron Hofberger Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Friendly and expressive, with layered notes of ripe peach, lime, and mango-steen. Classic in profile, the palate combines generous fruit with vibrant acidity and a fine mineral backbone. Long and beautifully balanced, it finishes with freshness and impressive persistence. M.S. Walker Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 11% Price: \$85

91 Balthasar Ress 2023 VDP Berg Rottland Rudesheim GG Riesling (Rheingau). Spice-tinged and mineral driven, with a core of stone fruit. The palate is balanced and focused, with a clear interplay between fruit and structure. Composed and expressive, finishing with good length and precision. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$75

91 Domdechant Werner 2024 Hochheimer Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). Expressive and classically styled, with ripe orchard fruit and citrus at the core. Nicely balanced, with fresh acidity giving lift and clarity. Polished and composed, with a long, clean finish. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 9% Price: \$22

91 Domdechant Werner 2022 Kirchenstück Im Stein GG Riesling (Rheingau). Expressive and well balanced, with yellow fruit at the core, lifted by elderflower and daisy. The palate is open and harmonious, with a subtle wet stone note emerging on the finish. Clean and composed, with a steady, lingering close. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$NA

91 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2020 Forster Jesuitgarten Grosses Gewächs Riesling (Pfalz). Elegant and finely etched, with delicate baking spice layered over vibrant citrus fruit. The lighter-bodied profile is driven by prominent acidity, giving the wine exceptional lift, precision, and energy. Long and focused, the finish lingers with stony minerality and refined spice. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Gunderloch 2025 Jean Baptiste Riesling (Rheinhessen). Gently off dry, yet wonderfully fresh thanks to vibrant acidity that keeps the palate energetic and precise. Inviting notes of clementine, ripe peach, and fresh ginger unfold with excellent clarity, creating a Riesling that is both approachable and beautifully balanced. The finish is long, refreshing, and subtly mineral. David Bowler Wine. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 10% Price: \$20

91 Gunderloch 2025 Roter Schiefer Riesling (Rheinhessen). Expressive and beautifully composed, with layers of yellow orchard fruit, kiwi, elderflower, and an attractive thread of spice. The palate is round yet precise, supported by vibrant acidity

that keeps the wine fresh and focused. Long and harmonious, it finishes with lingering floral and mineral notes. David Bowler Wine. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

91 Korrell 2024 Paradies Riesling (Nahe). Medium bodied and beautifully knit, with a linear profile that layers ripe pear and peach with hints of thyme and baking spice. Bright acidity and a firm mineral backbone bring precision and tension, while the long, focused finish highlights the wine's balance and quiet complexity. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$50

91 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2023 Scharzhofberger Kabinett VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Beautifully balanced, with gentle sweetness seamlessly offset by vibrant acidity. Ripe peach, yellow plum, and a lively mix of lemon and lime unfold across the palate, creating both richness and precision. Elegant and energetic, it finishes long with lingering citrus, stone fruit, and mineral freshness. American B.D.. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut August Eser 2023 Hattenheim Nussbrunnen GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Rounder in style, with baking spice and nectarine shaping a warm, expressive profile. The acidity provides balance, keeping the palate composed and lively. Smooth and well integrated, with a clean, steady finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut August Eser 2020 Oestrich Doosberg GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Gently creamy, with exotic fruit and orchard blossom shaping a layered, aromatic profile. The palate shows good integration, with a smooth, composed feel. Nicely complex, with solid length and a refined finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Felix Waldkirch 2022 Weyherer Michelsberg Riesling (Pfalz). Nicely integrated, with peach and mangosteen at the core. Bright acidity gives it balance and structure, keeping the palate focused and lively. Well composed, with a long, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.6% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben 2025 Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Charming and expressive, with ripe pear layered alongside mint and thyme, followed by notes of candied orange peel and baked pineapple. The palate is beautifully balanced, with lively acidity bringing freshness and definition to the ripe fruit. Long and harmonious, it finishes with lingering citrus and spice. Massanois Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Künstler 2023 Erbacher Marcobrunn GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Clean and fruit forward, with a mix of orchard and exotic

fruit shaping a bright, expressive core. The palate is balanced and well defined, finishing with a touch of wet-stone minerality. Persistent and composed, with a steady, lingering finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$190

91 Weingut Künstler 2023 Hochheimer Kirchenstück GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Exotic yet linear, with a refined interplay of mineral and floral elements. The palate is focused and precise, carrying a clean, well-defined structure. Balanced and composed, with a steady, lingering finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$105

91 Weingut Mönchhof 2024 Erdener Prälat Auslese Riesling (Mosel). Intense and beautifully layered, with aromas of orchard blossom, forest honey, pine, and peach compote. Richly flavored yet lifted by vibrant acidity, the palate remains poised and focused throughout. Long and inviting, the finish lingers with honeyed fruit, floral notes, and a subtle resinous complexity. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$81

91 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2024 Birkweiler vom Rotliegenden Riesling (Pfalz). Very lean and bone dry, this Riesling is built on structure, tension, and remarkable precision. Vibrant acidity and a firm mineral backbone carry notes of lime, fresh ginger, and menthol, creating a palate that is both austere and compelling. The finish is long, saline, and exceptionally focused, rewarding those who appreciate a taut, terroir-driven style. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 11% Price: \$84

91 Weingut Peter Stolleis 2024 Gimmeldinger Meerspinne Riesling (Pfalz). Flinty and expressive, with white raspberry and mangosteen shaping a vibrant, slightly exotic profile. The acidity is well integrated, giving the wine balance and flow. Clean and focused, with a solid, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Robert Weil 2025 Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). Notes of ripe apple, peach, and a touch of citrus peel. Generous yet well balanced, with a gentle sweetness lifted by fresh acidity, keeping the palate lively and composed. Smooth in texture, finishing clean with a lingering hint of orchard fruit. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% Price: \$52

91 Weingut St. Annaberg 2024 Burrweiler Schärer Große Lage Riesling (Pfalz). Dry and rounded, with well-integrated acidity supporting a core of stone fruit and elderflower. The palate is smooth yet precise, finishing with a distinct saline edge that carries through a long, composed finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut St. Annaberg 2024 Ilbesheimer Kalmit Große Lage Riesling (Pfalz). More intense

and layered, with a core of ripe pear framed by mineral tones and baking spice. The palate shows added depth and drive, while remaining balanced and composed. Longer on the finish, with a smooth, persistent close. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Werner Anselmann 2018 Edesheimer Rosengarten Beerenauslese Riesling (Pfalz). Sweet and richly textured, with beeswax and vanilla custard at the core. Lush yet balanced, with enough freshness to keep it lifted. Smooth and layered, finishing long with a gentle, honeyed persistence. —A.Z.
abv: 8.1% Price: \$NA/375ml

90 Ansgar Clüsserath 2024 Trittenheimer Apotheke Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Bright and finely focused, with notes of white raspberry, Meyer lemon, and a touch of guava. The palate leans toward freshness, with vibrant acidity taking the lead over the gentle sweetness. Clean, energetic, and mineral driven, it finishes with impressive precision and length. M.S. Walker Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$38

90 Ansgar Clüsserath 2024 Trittenheimer Apotheke Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Crisp apple leads the aromatics, joined by subtle hints of lanolin. The palate is energetic and defined by a crunchy texture, with vibrant acidity carrying the wine toward a savory, mineral-driven finish that lingers with precision. M.S. Walker Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 11% Price: \$85

90 Balthasar Röss 2023 VDP Nussbrunnen Hattenheim GG Riesling (Rheingau). Light and elegant, with notes of orchard fruit framed by subtle baking spice. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused and fresh, while a gentle mineral edge adds definition. Clean and balanced through the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$70

90 Balthasar Röss 2022 Réserve Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). A light matchstick reduction gives way to notes of elderflower, daisy, clementine, and ripe peach. Bright acidity and a finely textured palate keep the wine focused and energetic, finishing with a clean mineral edge. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

90 Domdechant Werner 2024 Hochheimer Kirchenstück Im Stein Riesling (Rheingau). Well balanced and persistent, with orchard and stone fruit at the core. The acidity is bright and well judged, giving the wine lift and structure. Clean and composed, with a steady finish. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

90 Domdechant Werner 2023 Hölle VDP GG Riesling (Rheingau). Tightly wound and slightly austere, with quince and pomelo framed by a subtle herbal edge. The palate is lean and structured, emphasizing precision over generosity. Clean

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and focused, with a firm, restrained finish. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.3% Price: \$NA

90 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2025 Forst VDP Ortswein Riesling (Pfalz). Fresh and finely focused, with crisp Granny Smith apple layered alongside tarragon and shiso leaf. A touch more tension and minerality gives the palate added precision, while vibrant acidity carries the wine to a long, refreshing finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Georg Mosbacher 2023 Forster Ungeheuer Trocken VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Pfalz). Leaner and precise, with orchard fruit and blossom notes at the core. The palate is focused and finely structured, finishing with a distinct wet stone mineral edge. Clean and composed, with a steady, refined finish. wUst Fine Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Gunderloch 2025 Red Stone Riesling (Rheinessen). Lean and bone dry, with a satisfying mineral crunch underpinning notes of orchard fruit, stone fruit, fresh mint, and subtle spice. Bright acidity gives the palate precision and drive, while the long, stony finish reinforces its focused, terroir-driven character. David Bowler Wine. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

90 Karl Schaefer 2021 Weilberg Riesling (Pfalz). Expressive and warmly spiced, with baking spice framing a core of stone fruit. A subtle floral note emerges on the finish, adding lift and nuance. Balanced and composed, with a steady, gently lingering close. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

90 Korrell 2025 Kabinett Riesling (Nahe). Gently off dry, with ripe orchard fruit at the core and lively acidity providing excellent balance. The interplay of sweetness and freshness gives the palate energy and precision, leading to a clean, lingering finish. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$20

90 Laura Weber Weine 2023 Monzinger Halenberg Riesling (Nahe). Lean and bone dry, with a pronounced mineral core supported by subtle citrus and orchard fruit. Vibrant acidity and a chalky texture give the wine impressive precision and tension. A compelling choice for lovers of austere, mineral-driven Riesling, finishing long and stony. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

90 Leitz 2023 Berg Kaisersteinfels GG Rudesheim Trocken Terrassen White Riesling (Rheingau). Classic orchard fruit and citrus aromas are complemented by a refreshing hint of spearmint. The palate is taut and well defined, with vibrant acidity creating impressive tension and drive. A subtle mineral streak carries through the clean, focused finish. Elysia & Co. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Maximin Grünhaus 2024 Grünhäuser 1G | VDP Aus ersten Lagen Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). A steely, finely focused Riesling with notes of crisp apple framed by hints of vanilla and cardamom. Bright acidity gives the palate tension and precision, while a firm mineral backbone carries through to a long, clean finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$51

90 Mueller-Ruprecht 2020 Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling (Pfalz). Fresh and well knit, with crisp acidity supporting notes of cardamom, quince, and orchard blossom. The elements are nicely integrated, giving the wine a balanced, composed feel. Clean and precise, with a steady, lingering finish. Vom Boden. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2024 Josephshöfer Kabinett VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Leaning toward the drier side of feinherb, this Riesling is highly aromatic, offering notes of Granny Smith apple, clementine, and shaved ginger. Bright acidity and a firm mineral backbone keep the palate focused, leading to a long, refreshing finish. American B.D. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$NA

90 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2024 Scharzhofberger Kabinett VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Just off dry, with inviting notes of crisp apple, spearmint, and orchard blossom. Bright acidity gives the palate freshness and precision, while a subtle mineral streak carries through the long, well-balanced finish. American B.D. —A.Z.
abv: 10% Price: \$NA

90 Schloss Saarstein 2025 Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Crisp apple and delicate white flowers lead the aromatics. The palate leans toward the sweeter side of Kabinett, yet vibrant acidity brings excellent balance and freshness. Clean and harmonious, with a lingering orchard fruit finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 7% Price: \$36

90 Schloss Vollrads 2025 Winkel Spätlese VDP Ortswein Riesling (Rheingau). Opens with ripe peach, apricot, and a touch of honeyed citrus. The palate is gently off dry, with juicy stone fruit balanced by lively acidity, giving both roundness and lift. A soft, flowing texture leads into a finish of candied lemon that lingers with clarity and poise. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$45

90 Schloss Vollrads 2024 Schloss Vollrads Schlossberg GG Riesling (Rheingau). Subtle notes of citrus, stone fruit, and wet stone. Structured and dry, with firm acidity and a more concentrated core, giving the wine both tension and depth. The finish is long, precise, and mineral. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$70

90 Ulrich Langguth 2024 Piesporter Günterslay 36° Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Notes of

lime, green plum, and gentle spice are complemented by a subtle wooly character. The palate carries greater depth and richness, with sweetness beautifully balanced by vibrant acidity. A long, harmonious finish adds freshness and persistence. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$30

90 Vereinigte Hospitien 2025 Piesport Goldtröpfchen Kabinett | VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Rhein-Mosel). Light and graceful, with expressive aromas of peach, guava, and delicate white flowers. The palate is fresh and beautifully balanced, with vibrant acidity lending lift to the ripe fruit. A long, elegant finish rounds out this inviting Kabinett. —A.Z.
abv: 9% Price: \$NA

90 Vereinigte Hospitien 2024 Piesport Goldtröpfchen Spätlese | VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel). Subtle lanolin and wooly notes frame aromas of ripe nectarine and crisp apple. The palate is generous yet well balanced, with lively acidity bringing freshness and definition. Finishes long, with lingering orchard fruit and a gentle mineral edge. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut August Eser 2024 Rauenthaler Rothenberg Kabinett VDPERSTE LAGE Riesling (Rheingau). Off-dry and focused, with a subtle interplay of lime and kiwi. The palate is precise and well-balanced, with a clean line and good length. Fresh and composed, with a gently lingering finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 10% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut August Eser 2023 Hattenheim Wieselbrunnen GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Subtle and textural, with cardamom and white chocolate adding a soft, spiced frame to nectarine and papaya. The palate is smooth and well-integrated, with a gentle sense of depth. Balanced and composed, with a clean, quietly persistent finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut Burg Ravensburg 2023 Lerchenberg VDP Erste Lage Riesling (Baden). Fresh and vibrant, with peach and kiwi layered over a streak of tangerine-like acidity. Bright and energetic, with a clean, focused palate and good length for the style. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut Burg Ravensburg 2021 Husarenkappe VDP Grosses Gewächs Riesling (Baden). Fresh and vibrant, with peach and kiwi layered over a streak of tangerine-like acidity. Bright and energetic, with a clean, focused palate and good length for the style. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut Felix Waldkirch 2023 Weyherer Michelsberg Spätlese Riesling (Pfalz). Lush and aromatic, with intense baking spice and candied apple shaping a rich, expressive profile. The sweetness is generous yet balanced, carried by enough freshness

to keep it lifted. Smooth and well-knit, with a lingering, gently spiced finish. —A.Z.
abv: 8.1% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Haart 2024 Goldtröpfchen Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Juicy and expressive, with ripe nectarine, green peach, and a touch of citrus at its core. Gentle sweetness is beautifully balanced by vibrant acidity, giving the wine both freshness and precision. The finish is clean, lively, and lingering. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Weingut Kaufmann 2025 Hattenheim Riesling (Germany). Clean and well knit, favoring subtlety over flash, with a gentle mix of exotic fruit and spice. The palate is balanced and composed, showing quiet precision. Refined and understated, with a steady, lingering finish. NakedWines. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Margarethenhof 2023 Ayler Kupp GG Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Smoky and herbal on the nose, with restrained notes of lemon and green apple. Austere in style, the palate is driven by bright acidity and a firm mineral backbone, giving the wine focus and precision. The finish is clean, dry, and quietly persistent. Lisa Tupetz Wine LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

90 Weingut Matthias Müller 2024 Feuerlay VDP Großes Gewächs Riesling (Mittelrhein). Ripe yellow orchard fruit is layered with subtle spice and pronounced stony minerality. The palate has greater depth and concentration, while vibrant acidity provides tension and precision throughout. A persistent mineral finish adds length and quiet power to this well-composed Riesling. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Meine Freiheit 2023 Riesling (Nahe). Rounder in style, with a hint of white chocolate alongside subtle orchard fruit. Smooth and balanced, with a soft, approachable profile and a clean finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Meine Freiheit 2023 Roter Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). Crisp and lively, with lemon candy and quince shaping a bright, playful profile. Fresh and friendly, with a balanced palate and a clean, mouthwatering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Mönchhof 2024 Erdener Treppchen Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Classic and beautifully balanced, with fresh apple at the core and delicate floral aromas. Gentle sweetness is offset by vibrant acidity, creating an energetic, aromatic palate with excellent freshness. The finish is clean, harmonious, and persistent. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$35

90 Weingut Mönchhof 2024 Erdener Treppchen Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Ripe peach and jasmine lead the aromatics, with subtle lanolin add-

ing depth and complexity. The palate is balanced by lively acidity, while a gentle creamy note emerges on the long, harmonious finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$40

90 Weingut Pfeffingen 2024 Ungstein Terra Rossa Riesling (Pfalz). Clean and refreshing, with a classic core of apple and citrus, accented by a subtle note of spearmint. Bright and balanced, with a crisp, lively finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

90 Weingut Robert Weil 2025 Kiedricher Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Notes of citrus, green apple, and a hint of white flowers. Dry and precise, with bright acidity and a clean, linear palate that emphasizes freshness and clarity. Finishes crisp, with a subtle mineral edge. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$42

90 Weingut Robert Weil 2025 Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). Fresh notes of green apple, white peach, and a touch of lime. Light and finely balanced, with delicate sweetness carried by bright acidity, giving the wine lift and clarity. Clean, focused finish with a subtle citrus edge. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$40

90 Weingut St. Annaberg 2024 Edition Johannis-kreuz Riesling (Pfalz). Round and well-balanced, with pear at the core, framed by mineral and baking spice. Clean and composed, with a smooth, steady palate and good length on the finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Werner Anselmann 2025 Auslese Riesling (Pfalz). More intense in profile, with a fuller expression of ripe apple and orchard blossom. The sweetness is well balanced and the wine carries with greater length and persistence, giving it a more complete, rounded finish. —A.Z.
abv: 8.7% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Werner Anselmann 2025 Spätlese Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Classic in profile, with apple and orchard blossom at the core. Clean and well balanced, showing good clarity and solid persistence through the finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Württemberg 2025 Kabinett Goldstück Serriger Württemberg Riesling (Saar). Classic in style, with expressive notes of ripe apricot and elderflower. The gently off-dry palate is beautifully balanced by lively acidity, giving the wine both generosity and precision. A lingering finish of fresh pineapple adds brightness and length, making for an inviting and harmonious Kabinett. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Württemberg 2025 Serriger Rotschiefer Riesling (Saar). Crisp and focused, with bright notes of Granny Smith apple, Meyer lemon, and delicate daisy. The palate is clean and precise, driven

by vibrant acidity and a firm mineral backbone that lends both tension and clarity. The finish is persistent and refreshing, with lingering citrus and floral notes. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Württemberg 2025 Serriger Württemberg GG Riesling (Saar). Classic aromas of citrus and orchard fruit are complemented by subtle floral and mineral notes. The palate is silky and well-defined, with bright acidity and a gentle phenolic grip adding structure and depth. A long, focused finish leaves a lasting impression of freshness and stony minerality. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

90 Willems-Willems 2024 Krettnacher Eucharisberg Kabinett Riesling (Saar). Mineral driven and beautifully composed, with wet stone and green peach at its core. Gentle sweetness is seamlessly balanced by vibrant acidity, creating a palate of precision and energy. The finish is long, clean, and refreshingly stony. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Ansgar Clüsserath 2024 Vom Schiefer Riesling (Mosel). Leaning toward the drier side of feinherb, with crisp apple, green peach, and a touch of fresh ginger. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused and lively, leading to a clean, mineral-tinged finish. M.S. Walker Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$28

89 Balthasar Ress 2024 VDP Hattenheimer Schützenhaus Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). Steely and finely focused, with subtle notes of orchard fruit and white flowers. The palate leans to the drier side of Kabinett, driven by vibrant acidity that gives the wine precision and energy. Clean and refreshing through the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Balthasar Ress MV Decades Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). White raspberry and flinty mineral notes define the aromatic profile, lending freshness to an otherwise restrained style. The palate balances austerity with bright acidity and a clean, focused structure. Moderately long, with a crisp mineral finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Bamberger Wein & Sektgut 2023 Monzinger Frühlingsplätzchen Riesling (Nahe). Lean and bony in style, with savory minerality framing subtle notes of lemon and green pear. Bright acidity keeps the palate taut and focused, leading to a clean, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Domdechant Werner 2024 Hochheimer Domdechane VDP Erste Lage Riesling (Rheingau). Fragrant and lifted, with orchard blossom, elderflower, and lime shaping a bright, aromatic profile. Clean and well balanced, with a focused palate and solid length on the finish. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

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89 Dr. Bürklin-Wolf 2024 Hommage à Luise Riesling (Pfalz). Off dry and softly styled, with subtle aromatics and a core of peach. Smooth and approachable, with a balanced, easygoing finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Dr. Bürklin-Wolf 2023 Domaine Riesling (Pfalz). Dry and well integrated, with a lovely mineral core supporting subtle fruit. Clean and composed, with a balanced palate and a steady, refreshing finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

89 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2025 Gutswein Trocken VDP Gutswein Riesling (Pfalz). Fresh and inviting, with crisp Granny Smith apple accented by notes of tarragon and shiso leaf. Bright acidity keeps the palate lively and focused, leading to a clean, mineral-tinged finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2024 Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Pfalz). Gently off dry, with an inviting mix of ripe orchard fruit and delicate floral notes. Bright acidity keeps the palate fresh and balanced, leading to a persistent, harmonious finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Immich-Anker 2024 Eisbruch Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Refreshing and linear, with quince blossom, ripe pear, and clementine zest at its core. Bright acidity keeps the light-bodied palate focused, while a subtle mineral note carries into a finish that falls away just a touch early. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Korrell 2024 Von den grossen Lagen Riesling (Nahe). Friendly and inviting, with crisp apple, Meyer lemon, and subtle herbal notes. Bright acidity keeps the palate fresh and focused, leading to a clean, mineral-tinged finish. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Leitz 2025 Dragonstone White Riesling (Rheingau). Ripe apricot and mango are framed by a pronounced mineral streak in this inviting off-dry Riesling. The palate balances juicy fruit with lively acidity, giving the wine freshness and definition. Finishes clean and persistent, with impressive length. Elysia & Co. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

89 Maximin Grünhaus 2025 Schloss Kabinett | VDP Gutswein Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Exceptionally zesty, with vibrant notes of Meyer lemon, orange zest, and crisp green apple. Bracing acidity drives the palate from start to finish, making this a Kabinett that will especially appeal to lovers of racy, high-acid Riesling. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Mejs 2025 Villa Tabernus Riesling (Pfalz). Well balanced and approachable, with lemon

and apple shaping a bright, friendly profile. The acidity is nicely integrated, giving the wine a smooth, easy flow and a clean finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$5

89 Mueller-Ruprecht 2025 Kabinett Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Clean, crisp, and approachable, with Meyer lemon and Bosc pear at the core. Fresh and friendly in style, with a balanced palate and a tidy finish. Vom Boden. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Schloss Saarstein 2024 Trocken Ortswein Riesling (Mosel). A light spritz adds immediate energy, leading into generous notes of orchard and stone fruit. Bright acidity keeps the palate vibrant and beautifully balanced, giving the wine both freshness and precision. The finish is clean, persistent, and quietly mineral. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Schloss Saarstein 2023 Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Großes Gewächs Riesling (Mosel). Austere in style, with subtle wooly and lanolin notes alongside restrained orchard fruit. Bright acidity and a firm mineral backbone keep the palate focused, finishing clean and dry. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Schloss Vollrads 2024 Winkel Kabinett Feinherb VDP Ortswein Riesling (Rheingau). Fresh notes of green apple, white peach, and a hint of citrus peel. Off dry, with a light, playful sweetness balanced by crisp acidity, keeping the palate lively and precise. Clean, refreshing finish with a touch of zesty lift. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$36

89 Schloss Vollrads 2024 Winkel Kabinett VDP Ortswein Riesling (Rheingau). Notes of apple, citrus, and a touch of white flowers. Light and finely balanced, with delicate sweetness offset by bright acidity, giving a clean, focused feel. Finishes fresh and gently lifted. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$36

89 Weingut Bibo Runge 2024 Romantiker Hallgartener Hendelberg Riesling (Rheingau). Expressive and well defined, with clementine and pear shaping a bright, inviting profile. Shows enough complexity to keep it engaging, with a balanced palate and a clean finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Burg Ravensburg 2025 VDP Gutswein Riesling (Baden). Classic and fruit-forward, with peach and citrus at the core. Good acidity keeps it lively and refreshing. Clean and well balanced, with a tasty, easygoing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Dautel 2024 Bönningheim Village Riesling (Württemberg). A step up in intensity, with lemon and green apple supported by a light herbal edge. Still clean and crisp, but with a bit more

depth and drive, finishing with greater persistence. Skurnik Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Weingut F.J. Regnery 2024 Edition Michelskirch Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Slightly austere in style, with fresh notes of lemon and crisp apple. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused, leading to a clean, moderately long finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Fritz Haag 2025 Fritz Haag Estate Riesling (Mosel). Bright, linear, and beautifully clean, with notes of orchard fruit, quince blossom, and fresh lime. Vibrant acidity gives the wine excellent precision and energy, while a subtle mineral edge carries through the focused, persistent finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

89 Weingut Hörner 2025 Steinbock Riesling (Pfalz). Steely and well defined, with stone fruit at the core, framed by spice and mineral notes. The acidity is well integrated, giving the wine a balanced, focused feel. Clean and composed, with a steady finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben 2024 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Delicate and finely balanced, with notes of ripe pear, apricot blossom, and fresh lime. Bright acidity lends freshness and precision, carrying the wine through a clean, elegant finish. Massanois Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben 2023 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Gently off dry, with a distinctive saffron note leading into aromas of daisy and ripe quince. Bright acidity keeps the palate balanced and focused, finishing clean with a subtle mineral lift. Massanois Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Matthias Müller 2025 Bopparder Hamm Alte Reben VDP Ortswein Riesling (Mittelrhein). Yellow orchard fruit is complemented by subtle spice and a stony mineral note. The palate is well balanced and focused, with bright acidity lending freshness to its moderate concentration. A clean mineral finish adds definition and quiet complexity. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Michael & Patrick Philipps 2025 Kabinett Feinherb Ayler Kupp Riesling (Saar). Classic in style, with notes of crisp apple and elderflower. Fresh acidity keeps the palate lively and well balanced, leading to a solid finish with subtle mineral lift. —A.Z.
abv: 9.1% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Mohr KG 2023 Alte Reben Riesling (Rheingau). Crisp and linear, with fresh apple at the core and subtle citrus notes adding brightness. Prominent acidity drives the palate, giving the wine

precision and energy, while a clean mineral edge carries through the refreshing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Mönchhof 2024 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Direct and expressive, with notes of ripe pear and lime complemented by subtle spice and a light herbal touch. Bright acidity keeps the palate fresh and focused, leading to a clean, balanced finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$35

89 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2025 Riesling (Pfalz). Friendly and approachable, with a mix of green and yellow orchard fruit complemented by delicate elderflower notes. Dry and well balanced, with bright acidity carrying the wine to a solid, mineral-tinged finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

89 Weingut Pfeffingen 2025 Dry Riesling (Pfalz). Fresh and crisp, with orchard fruit at the core, lifted by light floral hints. Clean and balanced, with a bright, mouthwatering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Weingut Robert Weil 2025 Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Notes of lemon, green apple, and a hint of herbal freshness. Dry and straightforward, with bright acidity and a clean, balanced palate. Finishes crisp and refreshing. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

89 Weingut Werner Anselmann 2025 Kabinett Riesling (Pfalz). Off dry and juicy, with peach and lime at the core. Crisp acidity keeps it lively and well balanced. Clean and refreshing, with a smooth, mouthwatering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 9.9% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Werner Anselmann 2025 Spätlese Riesling (Pfalz). Sweet and classic in profile, with apple and orchard blossom at the core. Smooth and approachable, though it tapers slightly on the finish. —A.Z.
abv: 9.8% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Würtzberg 2025 Scivaro Riesling (Saar). Orchard blossom, apple candy, and a hint of spearmint give this Riesling an inviting aromatic profile. The palate is fresh and well balanced, with bright acidity supporting the fruit and adding lift. Moderately complex, it finishes clean with lingering floral and minty notes. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Würtzberg 2025 Saar Feinherb Riesling (Saar). Granny Smith apple, Meyer lemon, and delicate white flowers define the aromatic profile. Gently off dry, the palate balances juicy fruit with bright acidity, giving the wine freshness and pre-

cision. Clean and well balanced, it finishes with lingering citrus and a subtle mineral lift. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Willems-Willems 2024 Oberemmeler Altenberg Kabinett Riesling (Saar). Mineral driven, with notes of wet stone and green peach. Gentle sweetness is beautifully balanced by vibrant acidity, giving the palate freshness, precision, and a clean, lingering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$26

88 Balthasar Ress 2025 VDP Von Unserm Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Clean and transparent, with classic notes of citrus and fresh apple. Bright acidity keeps the palate lively and focused, finishing crisp and refreshing. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Balthasar Ress 2025 Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Friendly aromas of fresh apple and orchard blossom introduce a bright, approachable palate. Refreshing and well balanced, with lively acidity and a clean, moderate finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Balthasar Ress 2024 VDP Hattenheim Off-Dry Riesling (Rheingau). On the drier side of the feinherb style, offering direct notes of stone fruit and white blossom. Fresh acidity keeps the palate focused, leading to a clean, balanced finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Domdechant Werner 2025 Guts Riesling (Rheingau). Lightly prickly in texture, with herbal notes and spice framing subtle orchard fruit. Clean and fresh, with a balanced, gently lively finish. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Dr. Bürklin-Wolf 2024 Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Crisp and clean, with orchard fruit and lemon shaping a classic, straightforward profile. Fresh and balanced, with a tidy, refreshing finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 Forster Winzerverein eG NV Forster Kirchenstück Riesling (Pfalz). Clean and crisp, with a classic mix of apple and lemon. Straightforward and refreshing, with a balanced, easygoing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

88 Korrell 2024 Trocken Riesling (Nahe). Crisp and friendly, with fresh notes of lemon and apple. Bright acidity keeps the palate lively and refreshing, leading to a clean, balanced finish. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 Leitz 2025 Eins-Zwei-Dry White Riesling (Rheingau). Friendly and direct, with notes of green peach, citrus, and crushed stone. Bone dry and

refreshing, the palate is driven by bright acidity and finishes clean with a crisp mineral edge. Elysia & Co. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Maximin Grünhaus 2025 Schloss Trocken | VDP Gutswein Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Crisp and refreshing, with notes of spearmint, fresh apple, and lime. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused and lively, finishing clean with a subtle mineral edge. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Maximin Grünhaus GmbH 2024 Maximin Riesling (Mosel). Light and aromatic, with friendly notes of fresh apple and lime. Bright acidity keeps the palate lively and focused, finishing clean and refreshing. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$21

88 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2024 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Kabinett VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Green apple leads the aromatics, complemented by a touch of gentle sweetness. Fresh and approachable, with lively acidity and a clean, moderately long finish. American B.D. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$NA

88 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2024 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett VDP Grosse Lage Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Fragrant notes of jasmine, white pepper, and green peach define the aromatic profile. Fresh acidity keeps the palate lively and balanced, leading to a clean, moderately long finish. American B.D. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$NA

88 Robert Weil 2024 Tradition Riesling (Rheingau). Notes of yellow apple, citrus, and a touch of peach skin. Fresh and straightforward, with bright acidity and a clean, balanced palate. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

88 Schloss Vollrads 2024 Weingut Schloss Vollrads Qualitätswein Trocken VDP Gutswein Riesling (Rheingau). Clear notes of green apple and white peach, with a hint of lime zest. Fresh and lively on the palate, supported by brisk acidity and a clean, focused finish. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Ulrich Langguth 2024 Traben Gaispfad 18^o Ortswein Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Gently off dry, with notes of lanolin, yellow plum, and citrus. Bright acidity keeps the palate balanced, leading to a clean, refreshing finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weinbiet Manufaktur eG 2023 Mandelgarten Riesling (Pfalz). Crisp and clean, with orchard blossom and citrus shaping a fresh, lifted profile. Balanced and straightforward, with a bright, tidy finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

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88 Weingut August Eser 2025 Roter Trocken VDP Gutswein Riesling (Rheingau). Easygoing and clean, with pear and peach blossom shaping a soft, friendly profile. Light and balanced, with a smooth, approachable finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut August Eser 2024 Charta Riesling (Rheingau). Refreshing and steely, with a rocky, mineral edge and lemon at the core. Clean and focused, with a crisp, straightforward finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Dautel 2024 Estate Riesling (Württemberg). Easy drinking and straightforward, with citrus at the core and a touch of herbal nuance. Clean and crisp, with a refreshing, uncomplicated finish. Skurnik Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Weingut F.J. Regnery 2024 Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Leaning toward the drier side of feinherb, with crisp apple and delicate orchard blossom notes. Fresh and well balanced, finishing clean with moderate length. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Fritz Haag 2025 Fritz Haag Estate Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Fresh notes of apple, lime, thyme, and mint give this Riesling a lively aromatic profile. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused, finishing clean with moderate length. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Weingut Margarethenhof 2024 Ayler Schiefermineral Riesling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Light, dry, and slightly austere, with fresh notes of lemon and green apple. Bright acidity and a subtle mineral edge keep the palate focused, leading to a clean, crisp finish. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Weingut Meine Freiheit 2023 Berg Schlossberg Riesling (Rheingau). Light in weight yet round in texture, with baking spice, peach, and a touch of cream shaping the profile. Soft and approachable, with a balanced, easygoing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Mohr KG 2021 Lorch Bodental-Steinberg Riesling (Rheingau). A gentle yeasty note opens the aromatics, followed by a mix of orchard fruit and bright citrus. Round and approachable on the palate, with fresh acidity bringing balance and a clean, satisfying finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Mönchhof 2024 Mönchhof Estate Riesling (Mosel). Friendly and direct, with fresh notes of apple and pear. Bright acidity keeps the

palate lively and balanced, finishing clean with moderate length. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Württemberg 2025 Saar Trocken Riesling (Saar). Direct notes of lemon and fresh apple lead the aromatics. Bright acidity keeps the palate lively and focused, with a clean, dry profile and a solid, refreshing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Württemberg 2025 Serriger Herrenberg Riesling (Saar). Crisp and clean, with a lean profile built around notes of fresh lemon and chamomile. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused and energetic, finishing with a subtle mineral edge and refreshing precision. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Winzerverein Deidesheim eG 2024 Deidesheimer Paradiesgarten QbA Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Softer in style and approachable, with a friendly profile and pleasant acidity. Clean and balanced, with a smooth, easygoing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Dr. Loosen 2025 Blue Slate Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Rather direct in style, with subtle notes of lanolin, orchard fruit, and citrus. Leaning toward the drier end of the Kabinett spectrum, the palate is fresh and well defined, finishing clean with a delicate spice edge. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$23

87 Königsmosel 2024 Qualitätswein Riesling (Mosel). Gently off dry, with notes of lanolin, quince, aromatic flowers, and soft spice. Fresh acidity keeps the palate balanced, leading to a clean, moderately long finish. Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$7

87 Schloss Saarstein 2025 Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Dry, crisp, and lean, with direct notes of lemon and orange blossom. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused, leading to a clean, moderately long finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$26/1L

87 Schloss Saarstein 2024 Riesling (Mosel). Light and gently off dry, with direct notes of peach and apple blossom. Fresh and approachable, with bright acidity and a clean, easygoing finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Schloss Vollrads 2024 Volratz Qualitätswein Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Direct notes of pear and quince blossom, clean and lifted. Light-bodied, with bright acidity and a crisp, straightforward finish. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Ulrich Langguth 2024 Piesporter Günterslay 36° Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). A light spritz lifts aromas of wool, lime, green plum, and a touch of

spice. Fresh and lively on the palate, with bright acidity and a clean, straightforward finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$25

87 Wegeler 2024 BTHVN Charta Riesling (Rheingau). A touch of yeasty complexity accompanies subtle notes of apple and citrus. Light and well balanced, with fresh acidity and a clean, straightforward finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

87 Weinbiet Manufaktur eG 2024 Réserve Riesling (Pfalz). Clean and crisp, with orchard blossom and apple at the core. Straightforward and refreshing, with a tidy, uncomplicated finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Weingut Mohr KG 2024 Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Dry and steely, with subtle notes of orchard fruit and fresh lemon. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused and crisp, leading to a clean, refreshing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Immich-Anker 2024 Alte Reben Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Light, dry, and direct, with fresh notes of lemon, lime, and crisp citrus. Bright acidity keeps the palate lively, leading to a clean, refreshing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Ulrich Langguth 2024 Traben Gaispfad 18° Ortswein Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Woolly and dry, with subtle notes of quince and fresh herbs. Cleanly made, with a crisp, straightforward finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Weingut August Eser 2024 My Way Trocken VDP Gutswein Riesling (Rheingau). Somewhat muted, with direct citrus and orchard fruit at the core. Clean but understated, with a simple, straightforward finish. Credo Imports LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

CHARDONNAY

94 Weingut Greiner 2023 Venus Chardonnay (Baden). Rock solid and mineral driven, with white raspberry and lime at the core. The palate is tightly structured, showing depth and precision with a strong stony backbone. Long and mouthwatering, finishing with clarity and persistence. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Weingut Kopp 2023 Felsenstück Chardonnay (Baden). Incredible tension defines the wine, with haunting orchard blossom and singed lemon peel leading into a deeply mineral core of flint and sea salt. The palate is taut and precise, driven by vibrant acidity and a finely chiseled structure. Layered and compelling, finishing long with remarkable clar-

ity and persistence. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

93 Privat-Weingut Schlumberger-Bernhart 2023 Klosterwingerte GG Chardonnay (Baden). This is layered and intricate, with ripe orchard fruit framed by subtle spice and mineral tones. The palate shows added depth and precision, with a smooth, well-integrated texture. Complex and composed, finishing long with clarity and persistence. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

93 Weingut Dautel 2023 Niedernberg Erstes Gewächs Chardonnay (Württemberg). More intense and concentrated, with a pronounced saline, stony core and deeper layers of grapefruit, ripe peach, and preserved lemon. A firm flinty reduction and a tightly wound, granular texture give the wine drive and structure. Powerful yet controlled, unfolding with clarity into a long, resonant finish. Skurnik Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$58

93 Weingut Noll GbR 2024 Seefelder Maltesergarten Chardonnay (Baden). Beautifully reductive, with white raspberry and mangosteen shaping a vibrant, slightly exotic core. The acidity is long and well integrated, bringing freshness and precision. Layered and expressive, with a persistent, finely tuned finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

92 Privat-Weingut Schlumberger-Bernhart 2024 Muggardter Berg 1G Chardonnay (Baden). A light matchstick reduction opens into notes of quince blossom and longan on the palate. Dry and savory in style, with a focused, mineral-leaning profile and a clean, mouthwatering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

92 Weingut Dautel 2023 Sonnenberg Erstes Gewächs Chardonnay (Württemberg). Intensely saline and mineral driven, with a light flinty edge and a crunchy texture that adds precision. Notes of citrus and stone fruit flow through a palate that is both structured and fluid. Balanced and expressive, with strong persistence and a composed finish. Skurnik Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

92 Weingut Greiner 2024 Gutswein Chardonnay (Baden). Flinty and distinctly stony, with a mineral, savory core. Notes of lime and kiwi bring brightness, while the palate remains focused and precise. Long and mouthwatering, with a clean, persistent finish. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$39

92 Weingut Knab 2024 Eckkinzig * Chardonnay (Baden).** Flinty and distinctly saline, with lime and apple shaping a bright, focused core. The palate is precise and well structured, carrying a strong

mineral drive. Clean and confidently made, with a long, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$26

91 Lichti & Astroh GbR 2023 Leistadter Kalkofen Chardonnay (Pfalz). Juicy and expressive, with peach at the core, framed by a touch of baking spice. The palate is rounded yet balanced, with good depth and a moderately long, composed finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Abril 2024 Zeit Bleckmen Chardonnay (Baden). More driven and precise, with wet stone and citrus zest taking the lead, supported by peach and a touch of vanilla. The acidity is more pronounced, giving the wine lift and structure. Balanced and focused, finishing long with clarity and persistence. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2023 Kaiserberg Herbolzheim Chardonnay (Baden). Round and classic in style, with ripe peach at the core, layered with cardamom and a hint of butterscotch. The palate is smooth and well balanced, with a gentle richness that carries through to a lingering, softly spiced finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Petri 2023 Chardonnay (Pfalz). Flinty and polished, with vanilla bean weaving through a core of apricot and subtle mangosteen. The palate is suave and layered, balancing richness with a mineral edge. Charming yet composed, finishing long with clarity and finesse. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 Oliver Zeter 2023 Haardt Herzog Chardonnay (Pfalz). A light matchstick reduction introduces a core of orchard fruit, with a gentle grip adding structure to the palate. The acidity is mouthwatering, giving the wine lift and clarity. Balanced and composed, with a clean, refreshing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

90 Walz 2024 Badenweiler Römerberg Chardonnay (Baden). Round and gently complex, with vanilla bean framing a core of apple and quince. Smooth and well balanced, with a composed palate and a clean, steady finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut Abril 2024 Zeit Bischoffinger Enselberg Chardonnay (Baden). Mineral and lightly polished, with wet stone and vanilla framing notes of peach and lemon zest. Balanced and composed, with a smooth, well-integrated palate and a clean, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut Heitlinger 2021 Heinberg VDP Grosses Gewächs Chardonnay (Baden). Spiced and structured, with baking spice framing crisp apple and a touch of daisy-like florality. The palate shows a grippy texture, giving the wine defini-

tion and shape. Balanced and composed, with a clean, steady finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2023 Chardonnay (Pfalz). Notes of quince, citrus, and roasted almond, underscored by a subtle smoky nuance. The palate is taut yet finely creamy, with bright acidity, restrained oak, and a chalky mineral core that brings focus and length. A poised, oaky Chardonnay with a long, savory finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$145

89 Mueller-Ruprecht 2022 Chardonnay (Pfalz). Bright and slightly exotic, with white raspberry and mangosteen shaping a fresh, lifted profile. Clean and refreshing on the palate, with a balanced structure and a moderately long finish. Vom Boden. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

89 Weinbiet Manufaktur eG 2024 Réserve Chardonnay (Pfalz). Balanced and easygoing, with a mix of exotic and orchard fruit shaping a rounded, approachable profile. Clean and well-made, with a solid, steady finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

89 Weingut Dautel 2023 Bönningheim Village Chardonnay (Württemberg). Flinty and lightly smoky, with a mineral edge framing orchard fruit. Clean and focused, with a balanced palate and moderate length. Skurnik Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

89 Weingut Frey 2023 Kalkgrube Chardonnay (Baden). Round and softly styled, with baking spice taking the lead, partially veiling a core of light orchard and stone fruit. Smooth and balanced, with a gentle, easygoing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

89 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2023 Réserve Chardonnay (Baden). Steely and restrained, with a zesty, clean profile. Subtle in expression, focusing on freshness and precision, with a crisp, tidy finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

89 Weingut Heitlinger 2023 Hilsbach VDP Ortswein Chardonnay (Baden). Clean and softly styled, with subtle fruit and orchard blossom notes. Gentle and balanced, with a smooth, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

89 Weingut Kilian Hunn 2021 Réserve Chardonnay (Baden). A light salty butter note frames a core of orchard fruit and lemon zest. Clean and balanced, with a gentle texture and a moderate, tidy finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

89 Weingut Kopp 2024 Chardonnay (Baden). Aromatic and lifted, with exotic and citrus fruit shaping a bright, open profile. Clean and refresh-

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ing, with a balanced palate and a tidy finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$NA

89 Weinhaus Franz Hahn GmbH & Co. KG 2025 Chardonnay (Pfalz). Inviting aromas of vanilla, salted butter, and orchard blossom define this approachable Chardonnay. The palate is rounded and well balanced, with fresh acidity bringing lift to the ripe fruit before a clean, lingering finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$5

88 Weingut Hörner 2022 Widder Chardonnay (Pfalz). Steely and composed, with spice and apricot notes shaping a balanced, slightly firm profile. Clean and focused, with moderate length and a tidy finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Weingut Bernhard Ellwanger 2023 Fumé Blanc Sauvignon Blanc (Württemberg). Fresh and aromatic, with wheatgrass, gooseberry, and pomelo shaping a bright, lively profile. Crisp and well balanced, with a clean line and a refreshing, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

89 Oliver Zeter 2024 Fumé Sauvignon (Pfalz). Rounder in style, with a gentle herbal edge framing notes of white peach. Smooth and balanced, with a composed palate and a clean, moderately persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

89 Weinhaus Franz Hahn GmbH & Co. KG 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Pfalz). Bright and expressive, with notes of pomelo, gooseberry, and fresh wheatgrass. Lively acidity keeps the palate crisp and focused, leading to a clean, persistent finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$5

88 Weingut Hörner 2025 Steinbock Sauvignon Blanc (Pfalz). Fresh and aromatic, with gooseberry and lemongrass shaping a bright, lifted profile. Clean and refreshing, with a balanced palate and moderate length. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

WEISSBURGUNDER

95 Weingut Odinstal 2023 odinstal monopol Wachenheim GG Weissburgunder (Pfalz). Striking and deeply textured, with a vivid note of white raspberry set against a backdrop of flinty edge. Subtle hints of stone fruit and citrus flicker beneath, adding lift without distracting from its focus. The palate shows a distinctive corduroy-like texture, giving both grip and dimension, while acidity keeps everything taut and precise. Complex and finely structured, unfolding in layers and finishing long with remark-

able persistence and clarity. Becky Wasserman Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$139

93 Weingut Kranz 2024 Ilbesheim Kalmit VDP. Grosses Gewächs Weisser Burgunder (Pfalz). Round and deeply expressive, with salted butter and flint framing a core of apple. The palate is textured and composed, balancing richness with a precise mineral edge. Complex and confidently made, with a long, layered finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2023 Schlossberg Staufen Weisser Burgunder (Baden). Oak-infused and structured, with baking spice, flint, and matchstick shaping a layered, reductive profile. Firm acidity cuts through the richness, revealing notes of pear and citrus zest on the finish. Taut and precise, built in a style that will appeal to fans of a more worked, barrel-influenced expression. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2024 Im Sonnenschein GG Weisser Burgunder (Pfalz). Lean yet beautifully balanced, with subtle notes of crisp apple and lime wrapped around a mineral core. Delicate quince blossom emerges alongside a gentle touch of spice, while vibrant acidity keeps the palate focused and refined. The finish is long, precise, and quietly elegant. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$172

89 Weingut Knab 2024 Wihlbach * Weisser Burgunder (Baden).** Round and smooth, with baking spice and dandelion tea framing a core of Red Delicious apple. The palate is gently textured and balanced, offering a soft, composed feel. Clean and steady, with a moderately persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

89 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2025 Weisser Burgunder (Pfalz). Friendly and open knit, with crisp apple at the core and subtle orchard fruit nuances. Bright acidity gives the palate a clear, refreshing character, leading to a clean, mouth-watering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$38

88 Weingut Felix Waldkirch 2024 aus Rhodt Weissburgunder (Pfalz). Subtle and clean, with orchard fruit and a hint of lemon. Lightly structured, with a balanced palate and moderate length. —A.Z.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$NA

88 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2023 Réserve Weisser Burgunder (Baden). Lightly spiced, with white pepper framing citrus and apple. Clean and balanced, with a straightforward palate and a moderate finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

87 A. Heinrich 2023 A Heinrich Weissburgunder (Württemberg). Lightly spiced, with white pepper framing citrus and apple. Clean and straight-

forward, with a balanced palate and moderate length. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

85 Weingut Hörner 2025 Steinbock Weissburgunder (Pfalz). Light and crisp, with apple at the core. Simple and refreshing, with a clean, uncomplicated finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

PINOT BLANC

90 Balthasar Ress 2022 >>RÉSERVE<< Trocken Pinot Blanc (Rheingau). Flinty minerality leads the way, followed by delicate notes of chamomile, lemongrass, and crisp orchard fruit. The palate is taut and energetic, with bright acidity creating impressive tension and precision. A chalky mineral note lingers through the clean, focused finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Weingut Siegrist 2023 VDP Große Lage Sonnenberg Pinot Blanc (Pfalz). Round and beautifully textured, with layers of Bosc pear framed by delicate baking spice. The palate is generous yet well balanced, supported by fresh acidity that keeps the wine focused. A long, solid finish completes this polished expression of Pinot Blanc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$37

88 Schloss Saarstein 2025 Pinot Blanc (Mosel). Round and approachable, with notes of fresh apple and a hint of vanilla. Clean and direct on the palate, with balanced acidity and a moderately long finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$28

87 Weingut Heitlinger 2025 VDP Gutswein Pinot Blanc (Baden). Clean and crisp, with direct apple and citrus shaping a straightforward profile. Light and refreshing, with a simple, tidy finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

PINOT GRIS

92 Salwey 2022 Eichberg GG Pinot Gris (Baden). Copper tinged, hinting at a touch of skin contact, with thyme and white pepper framing a core of citrus and orchard fruit. The palate shows a crunchy, tactile texture, giving the wine energy and structure. Complex and well balanced, with great length and a persistent finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$57

90 Weingut Heitlinger 2022 Tiefenbach VDP Ortswein Pinot Gris (Baden). Rose-gold in hue, with a clean, precise palate showing pear and white pepper, accented by a hint of vanilla. Smooth and well balanced, with a polished texture and a composed, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Weinhaus Bettina Schumann 2022 Graues B Pinot Gris (Baden). Substantial and layered,

with a wide spectrum of flavors from white pepper and smoke to crushed strawberry and blood orange. The light skin-contact influence brings a subtle tannic grip, adding texture and structure. Complex and food-friendly, with a savory edge that pairs well with grilled fish or poultry. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

88 Weingut Heitlinger 2025 VDP Gutswein Pinot Gris (Baden). Clean and crisp, with apple and citrus at the core. Fresh and straightforward, with a balanced, refreshing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

GRAUER BURGUNDER

90 Weingut Abril 2023 Zeit Grauer Burgunder Bischoffinger Enselberg Grauer Burgunder (Baden). Round and suave, with white pepper and vanilla bean adding spice to a core of crisp pear and lime zest. Smooth yet balanced, with a polished palate and a clean, composed finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Knab 2024 Steinhald * Grauer Burgunder (Baden).** Clean and crisp, with pear at the core, layered with a touch of baking spice. Shows a bit more depth than expected, with a balanced, composed palate and a steady, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Weingut Klenert 2024 Grauburgunder (Baden). Crisp and clean, with Gala apple and Meyer lemon lifted by a touch of sea salt. Fresh and well balanced, with a bright, refreshing finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$1

89 Weingut Klepper GbR 2020 Grauer Burgunder (Rheingau). Idiosyncratic and copper hued, with melting tannins and a distinctly tea-like texture. Subtle herbal bitterness and gentle oxidative notes add complexity, giving the wine a contemplative, savory character that lingers through the finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

88 Mejs 2025 Villa Tabernus Grauer Burgunder (Pfalz). Round and softly textured, with vanilla framing a core of apple. Clean and balanced, with a smooth, moderate finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$5

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Hans Wirsching 2022 Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg GG Silvaner (Franken). Layered and finely balanced, revealing interwoven notes of fruit, mineral, and spice with impressive clarity. There's a subtle textural crunch that adds definition, giving the palate both grip and precision. Everything unfolds with control and depth, leading into a long, composed

finish that underscores its class. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Privat-Weingut Schlumberger-Bernhart 2024 Laufener Altenberg Gutedel Kracher IG Chasselas (Baden). Charming and precise, with clementine and quince blossom at the core. The palate is tactile and mineral driven, showing both finesse and depth. Elegant and expressive, with a long, refined finish that underscores its precision. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

93 Weingut Bianka und Daniel Schmitt 2024 Furmint NF from Nieder-Floersheim Furmint (Rheinhessen). Optimistic wine for the region. This is precise and textural, with white raspberry and flinty reduction shaping a refined, mineral-driven profile. The acidity is well judged, giving lift and clarity, while the palate shows a beautiful, layered texture. Harmonious and composed, with a long, resonant finish. Merchants of Thirst. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$26

92 Gebrüder Anselmann GmbH 2025 Trockenbeerenauslese Ortega (Pfalz). Deeply concentrated and layered, with honey, baked pineapple, and jasmine unfolding in rich succession. The sweetness is intense yet balanced, supported by enough freshness to keep it precise. Complex and enveloping, with a very long, resonant finish. —A.Z.
abv: 9.2% **Price:** \$NA/375ml

90 Weingut Greiner 2023 Gutswein Chasselas (Baden). Clear, light, and elegant, with an emphasis on texture over overt flavor. Suave and quietly expressive, showing notes of rice porridge, chamomile tea, and very subtle orchard fruit. Delicate and refined, with a clean, fluid palate and a gently persistent finish. It is well suited to sashimi or crudo. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

89 Mueller-Ruprecht 2025 Orange (Pfalz). Cloudy and gently expressive, with subtle aromatics leaning into an herbal, smoky edge alongside apple. Textural and balanced, with a clean, quietly persistent finish. Vom Boden. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Balthasar Röss 2024 Sauvignier Gris (Rheingau). White pepper leads the aromatics, followed by notes of quince and white blossom. Clean and focused on the palate, with bright freshness and a crisp, well-defined finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Felix Waldkirch 2023 Spätlese aus Rhodt Gewürztraminer (Pfalz). Sweet but balanced, with pineapple and elderflower syrup shaping an aromatic, expressive profile. The acidity provides enough lift to keep it from feeling heavy. Smooth and approachable, with a clean finish. —A.Z.
abv: 8.9% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Klenert 2025 Auxerrois (Baden). Light and gently aromatic, with white floral notes framing peach and apple. Clean and balanced, with a soft, easygoing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Werner Anselmann 2025 Spätlese Gewürztraminer (Pfalz). Sweet yet balanced, with subtle lychee notes seamlessly integrated. The acidity adds lift, keeping the palate fresh. Smooth and composed, with a clean, gently lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 9.6% **Price:** \$NA

88 Winzerverein Deidesheim eG 2025 Goldmuskateller QbA Feinherb Gelber Muskateller (Pfalz). Aromatic and gently sweet, with chrysanthemum, orange-blossom honey, and peach yogurt shaping a fragrant, expressive profile. Soft and rounded, with enough freshness to keep it balanced. Clean, with a lightly lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$NA

87 Christian Hirsch Weine e.K. NV Grapes of Glory Weiss Sauvignier Gris (Württemberg). Light and floral, with subtle fruit in the background. Easygoing and delicate, with a clean, uncomplicated finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Weingut Margarethenhof 2024 Elbling der Spritzige Elbling (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer). Bright notes of lemon, lime, and fresh apple define this light, refreshing wine. Crisp acidity and a lively palate make it an easy-drinking summer style, finishing clean and invigorating. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$28

WHITE BLENDS

93 Neverland Vineyards 2020 Opus K Cuvée Prestige White Blend (Rheinhessen). Idiosyncratic, oxidative, and deeply textural, with a suave, tactile palate that immediately stands out. Notes of blanched almond and cardamom layer over a core of orchard fruit, creating a complex, savory-leaning profile. Rich yet composed, with impressive depth and a long, evolving finish. —A.Z.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Johan Klaus 2024 Piesporter Michelsberg Qualitätswein White Blend (Mosel). Light and gently off dry, with direct notes of orchard blossom and crisp Gala apple. Fresh acidity keeps the palate lively and balanced, leading to a clean, approachable finish. Flats Distributing LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$8

87 Weingut Felix Waldkirch 2024 Auxerrois & Weissburgunder White Blend (Pfalz). Clean, crisp, and refreshing, with floral and orchard fruit notes shaping a light, easygoing profile. Straightforward and balanced, with a tidy finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$NA

BUYINGGUIDE

87 Weingut Hörner 2025 Riesling & Gewürztraminer Stier White Blend (Pfalz). Off dry and lightly floral, with orchard blossom and poached pear notes. Soft and approachable, with a gentle, easygoing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

SPARKLING WINES

94 Griesel & Compagnie 2019 Auerbacher Fürstenlager Dosage Zero Pinot Noir (Hessische-Bergstrasse). A beautifully layered sparkling wine, opening with an intricate interplay of starfruit, ripe melon, and shaved ginger, followed by delicate floral tones, subtle baking spice, and a hint of crushed stone. The palate is both expansive and finely detailed, its persistent, silky mousse carrying remarkable depth without losing precision. Vibrant acidity and a pronounced mineral backbone lend energy and tension, while the long, seamless finish unfolds in waves of spice, orchard fruit, and lingering floral notes. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$150

93 Griesel & Compagnie 2021 Brut Nature Prestige Pinot Noir (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Complex and beautifully layered, with aromas of ripe pear and quince unfolding alongside orchard blossom, elderflower, and delicate hints of sweet spice. The palate is textured and refined, carried by a fine, persistent mousse that enhances both depth and precision. Bright acidity keeps the wine vibrant, while subtle savory nuances emerge toward a long, inviting finish that lingers with floral, orchard fruit, and mineral notes. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

93 Griesel & Compagnie 2021 Rosé Extra Brut Prestige Rosé Pinot Noir (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Complex and deeply inviting, unfolding with layered aromas of kirsch, dried rose petals, blood orange, and sweet baking spice, underscored by a subtle chalky minerality. The palate is beautifully textured, its fine, persistent mousse lending both richness and precision, while vibrant acidity keeps the wine taut and energetic. Savory nuances emerge with air, adding further depth before a long, seamless finish that echoes red fruit, spice, and delicate floral notes. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

93 Griesel & Compagnie 2020 Auerbacher Fürstenlager Dosage Zero Pinot Blanc (Hessische-Bergstrasse). A serious and beautifully composed wine, opening with layered notes of clementine zest, elderflower, and ripe papaya, underpinned by subtle stone and spice nuances. Round and seamless on the palate, it balances generous fruit with vibrant acidity and a finely textured mousse. A striking saline minerality builds toward a long, complex finish, leaving a lingering impression of citrus, florals, and crushed granite. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$150

93 Raumland 2016 XVI Triumvirat Grande Cuvée Brut Champagne Blend (Rheinhessen). Layered and precise, with a compelling interplay of savory mineral tones and citrus fruit. The palate shows excellent drive, with flavors persisting and evolving as they move across it. Structured yet refined, finishing with clarity and poise. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$215

93 Weingut Bianka und Daniel Schmitt 2021 Prestige Brut Nature Chardonnay (Rheinhessen). Beautifully composed, with brioche playing a subtle, supporting role behind a layered core of apple, pear, quince, and a touch of baked citrus, intertwined with ginger spice and crushed almond. The mousse is refined, giving way to a textured, precise palate that balances richness with tension. Complex and well structured, finishing long with both depth and finesse. Merchants of Thirst. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

92 Griesel & Compagnie 2021 Brut Nature Prestige Chardonnay (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Brioche, singed lemon peel, and graphite lead the aromatics, with subtle hints of toasted hazelnut emerging with air. The palate is defined by a fine, mouthfilling mousse that gives the wine both energy and texture, while bright acidity keeps it taut and focused. Chalky mineral notes linger on the finish, adding precision to this elegant sparkler. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

92 Griesel & Compagnie 2021 Brut Nature Prestige Riesling (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Flint and crushed stone frame expressive notes of white peach, guava, and preserved lemon. The palate is precise and linear, yet carries greater depth and concentration, with a fine, persistent mousse lending both texture and energy. Bright acidity and a pronounced mineral core drive the wine toward a long, layered finish that remains remarkably focused. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

92 Griesel & Compagnie 2020 Auerbacher Höllberg Dosage Zero Pinot Blanc (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Ripe yellow orchard fruit takes center stage, accented by subtle citrus and delicate floral notes. The palate is generous yet finely balanced, with vibrant acidity providing lift and precision to the ripe fruit profile. Hints of salted butter emerge on the long, textured finish, adding a savory dimension and extra complexity. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$150

92 Griesel & Compagnie 2020 Grande Cuvée Dosage Zero Chardonnay-Pinot Noir-Pinot Blanc (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Ripe Meyer lemon and nectarine form the core, complemented by subtle oxidative notes that lend depth and charm, alongside hints of marjoram and toasted nuts. The palate is layered and finely textured, with bright acidity balancing the wine's generous fruit. A savory edge emerges

on the long, composed finish, adding complexity and persistence. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

92 Sektmanufaktur Schloss Vaux AG 2020 l'Artiste Rosé Pinot Noir (Rheingau). Well wound and finely textured, with a pleasant mousse that gently caresses the palate. Notes of guava pastry, raspberry, and lemon mingle with subtle mineral and spice accents, adding depth and intrigue. Balanced and expressive, with a long, composed finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$78

91 Griesel & Compagnie NV Blanc et Noir Brut Tradition (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Ripe cherry and preserved lemon form the core, accented by subtle notes of toast and cardamom. Round and expressive on the palate, with a frothy mousse that adds generosity without sacrificing freshness. Bright acidity and a gentle spicy lift carry through to a clean, persistent finish. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

91 Griesel & Compagnie NV Brut Tradition Riesling (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Flinty and precise, with notes of white raspberry, guava, and a touch of citrus zest. The palate is linear and finely focused, driven by vibrant acidity and a delicate mousse that enhances its sense of purity. A chalky mineral streak carries through the long, inviting finish. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

91 Griesel & Compagnie 2021 Brut Nature Prestige Pinot Blanc (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Orchard fruit and bright citrus form the core, complemented by delicate floral notes that add aromatic lift. A fine, persistent mousse gives the palate a refined texture, while ripe acidity brings impressive tension and focus. Cleanly structured and well balanced, it finishes long with lingering citrus and mineral freshness. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

91 Sektmanufaktur Schloss Vaux AG 2019 Erbacher Marcobrunn Riesling (Rheingau). Intensely flavored and frothy, with ripe peach layered alongside apple pie and cardamom. The palate is rich yet structured, carried by a lively mousse and a distinct saline edge. Long and expressive, finishing with depth and persistence. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$105

90 Griesel & Compagnie NV Rosé Brut Tradition Pinot Meunier-Pinot Noir (Hessische-Bergstrasse). Delicate notes of violet and rosehip lead the aromatics, with hints of red berries adding brightness. Fresh and well balanced on the palate, the lively mousse enhances its easygoing character. Clean and refreshing, with a floral lift on the finish. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

90 **Sektmanufaktur Schloss Vaux AG 2019 l'Artiste Brut Riesling (Rheingau).** Rich and complex, with melon, brioche, and lemon oil unfolding in layers. The palate shows depth and a gentle creaminess, balanced by a savory, mineral-infused finish. Well structured and expressive, with solid persistence. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$78

90 **Weingut Bibo Runge 2020 Crémant Hallgarten Riesling (Rheingau).** Juicy and expressive, with pear at the core, layered with longan and a touch of savory minerality. Balanced and composed, with a fine mousse and a clean, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Weingut Kilian Hunn NV Brut Pinot Noir (Baden).** Beautifully composed, with orange zest leading into blanched almond and orchard blossom, touched by a hint of sea salt. Fresh and well-balanced, with a fine mousse and a long, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Bamberger Wein & Sektgut 2019 Rosé Prestige Brut Nature Pinot Noir (Nahe).** An assertive mousse introduces delicate notes of rose petals, red cherry, and a touch of spice. Fresh and lively on the palate, with bright acidity bringing balance before a clean, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Sektmanufaktur Schloss Vaux AG NV Cuvée Vaux Riesling (Germany).** Frothy and light, with orchard blossom and crisp apple shaping a delicate, fresh profile. Clean and balanced, with a tidy, refreshing finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

89 **Sektmanufaktur Schloss Vaux AG NV Rosé Pinot Noir (Germany).** Light and lifted, with raspberry and violet at the core. Crisp and balanced, with a clean, moderately persistent finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

89 **Weingut Bibo Runge 2021 Provokateur Riesling (Rheingau).** Pleasant and aromatic, with raspberry and rose shaping a fresh, lifted profile. Clean and precise, with a delicate mousse and solid length on the finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Weingut Klenert 2024 Scheurebe (Baden).** Aromatic and inviting, with lychee and quince blossom leading the profile. Bright acidity keeps it lifted, giving the wine a friendly, easygoing feel. Clean and balanced, with a smooth, approachable finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉS

87 **Mueller-Ruprecht 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé (Pfalz).** Light and delicate, with watermelon and rosehip notes. Simple and refreshing, with a clean, easy-going finish. Vom Boden. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Weingut Kopp 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé (Baden).** Bright and fruit forward, with raspberry and cherry candy at the core. Fresh acidity keeps it lively, with a clean, uncomplicated finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Leitz 2025 Eins Zwei Dry Rosé (Rheingau).** Salmon pink in color, with direct notes of white cherry and a hint of red berries. Fresh and straightforward on the palate, finishing clean with moderate length. Elysia & Co. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Mejs 2025 Villa Tabernus Rosé (Pfalz).** Light and easygoing, with watermelon and white cherry notes. Simple and refreshing, with a soft, straightforward finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$5

PINOT NOIR

95 **Weingut Schnaitmann 2023 Lämmle GG Spätburgunder (Württemberg).** This shows pure cherry, red currant, and violet layered over loamy earth and cedar. The texture is silky and seamless, with melting tannins giving the wine a fluid, refined feel. There's already impressive depth and clarity, yet it remains slightly youthful, hinting at further complexity to come. This is a wine that needs a few more years to fully shine and will age beautifully, unfolding into even greater nuance. Long and elegant, with a refined, persistent finish. The German Wine Collection. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$78

94 **Weingut Odinstal 2024 Herxheimer Honigsack IG Spätburgunder (Pfalz).** Remarkable purity, with cherry, rosehip, and hibiscus tea seamlessly interwoven. The texture is suave, with melting tannins giving the wine a fluid, elegant feel. Fresh and precise, with strong persistence and excellent aging potential. Becky Wasserman Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$82

93 **Lichti & Astroh GbR 2023 Laumersheimer Kirschgarten Spätburgunder (Pfalz).** Beautifully perfumed, with sandalwood and rose lifting a core of pomegranate and forest fruit. Elegant and finely textured, with a silky palate and melting tannins. Poised and expressive, finishing long with grace and precision. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

93 **Privat-Weingut Schlumberger-Bernhart 2023 Klosterwingerte GG Spätburgunder (Baden).** Shows real pedigree, combining depth with juicy black cherry and violet at the core. A subtle note of rooibos tea adds nuance, giving the wine an extra layer of complexity. The palate is polished and expressive, with a smooth, flowing texture and a long, inviting finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Weingut Kopp 2022 Felsenstück Spätburgunder (Baden).** Layered and expressive, with damson plum at the core, intertwined with loamy earth. The palate shows real depth and complexity, carried by melting tannins that give a seamless, flowing texture. Subtle floral notes emerge on the finish, which is long and composed. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Weingut Peter Stolleis 2022 Gimmeldinger Meerspinne Spätburgunder (Pfalz).** Ripe and structured, with plum and violet layered over a subtle tarry note. The tannins are firm yet well-integrated, giving the wine both grip and polish. Balanced and expressive, with a long, persistent finish that underscores its depth. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Salwey 2022 Henkenberg GG Spätburgunder (Baden).** Expressive and refined, with black cherry and violet at the core, accented by white pepper and a hint of sandalwood. The palate is smooth and well structured, with fine tannins and a polished flow. Balanced and nuanced, finishing with great length and quiet persistence. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$53

92 **Weingut Dautel 2022 Forstberg Grosses Gewächs Pinot Noir (Württemberg).** Deeper in tone, with black cherry and dark plum layered over a subtle earthy, spiced edge. The tannins are more pronounced, giving the wine a firmer structure and added grip. Concentrated yet controlled, with a long, structured finish. Skurnik Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

92 **Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2023 Steingröble Bad Krozingen Spätburgunder (Baden).** More layered and nuanced, with red cherry and plum joined by a distinctive note of sandalwood. The palate shows added complexity and depth, with fine, well-integrated tannins giving structure. Polished and expressive, with a long, composed finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2019 Kaiserberg Herbolzheim Spätburgunder (Baden).** Dark and well-extracted, with a mature profile where the tannins have softened, providing structure without intrusion. Notes of dark fruit and spice carry through, with dark spice nuances lingering on the finish. Well developed and composed, with a steady, persistent close. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Weingut Greiner 2023 Vulkan Pinot Noir (Baden). Very elegant, with pomegranate and red currant at the core. The tannins are ripe and finely integrated, giving the wine a smooth, poised structure. Subtle mineral notes add a tactile edge on the finish, carrying through with clarity and finesse. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

92 Weingut Kranz 2022 Ilbesheim Kalmit VDP. Grosses Gewächs Spätburgunder (Pfalz). Refined and expressive, with pomegranate and damson plum at the core, lifted by a subtle note of Earl Grey tea. The tannins are dusty yet well shaped, giving the wine structure without heaviness. Balanced and poised, with good length and a gently lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Meyer-Näkel 2023 Blauschiefer VDP Ortswein Dernau Pinot Noir (Ahr). Beautifully composed, with expressive notes of blackberry, red currant, and violet. The palate is structured by firm yet well-integrated tannins, giving the wine both depth and precision without sacrificing elegance. Fresh acidity carries the fruit through a long, balanced finish with subtle savory complexity. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$92

91 Oliver Zeter 2022 Im Sonnenschein Pinot Noir (Pfalz). Smooth and polished, with black cherry and plum at the core. The tannins are melting and well-integrated, giving the wine a seamless, easy flow. Clean and balanced, with a composed, gently lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

91 Weingut Abril 2023 ZEIT Jechtinger Kapellenmosesbuck Pinot Noir (Baden). Juicy and inviting, with dark berry fruit at the core. The tannins are well-shaped, giving the wine structure while maintaining a smooth flow. Fresh and attractive, with a balanced, gently persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Weingut Burg Ravensburg 2021 Löchle VDP Grosses Gewächs Pinot Noir (Baden). Soft and rounded, with plum and cranberry sauce shaping a gently ripe profile. Dusty tannins add structure, giving the palate a subtle grip. Balanced and composed, with a smooth, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Weingut Dautel 2022 Sonnenberg Erstes Gewächs Pinot Noir (Württemberg). Bright and finely tuned, with plum and pomegranate at the core. Lightly grippy tannins add structure, while the overall profile remains precise and well balanced. Clean and composed, with a steady, lingering finish. Skurnik Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Weingut Gebrüder Mathis 2023 Rosenloch Spätburgunder (Baden). Darker in profile, with blackberry and dark cherry at the core, framed by spice and a touch of cedar. The tannins are melting

and well-integrated, giving the wine a smooth, cohesive feel. Balanced and composed, with a steady finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Weingut Gebrüder Mathis 2023 Rotgrund Spätburgunder (Baden). Well crafted and balanced, with cherry and pomegranate at the core, accented by a touch of sandalwood. Shows good ripeness while retaining freshness, with a smooth, well-integrated structure. Elegant and composed, with a clean, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Weingut Kopp 2023 Roter Porphyrt Spätburgunder (Baden). Juicy and fresh, with forest berry fruit at the core, layered with loam and floral notes. The tannins are nicely integrated, giving the wine a smooth, balanced feel. Expressive and composed, with a clean, gently lingering finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Weingut Kopp 2022 Varnhalter Sommerhalde Spätburgunder (Baden). Juicy and expressive, with raspberry and damson plum at the core, lifted by a touch of gentle spice. The palate is silky smooth, supported by bright acidity that keeps it fresh and balanced. Polished and elegant, with a long, refined finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2020 Im Sonnenschein GG Spätburgunder (Pfalz). Well developed and beautifully textured, with integrated tannins supporting layers of kirsch, woodland herbs, and savory spice. The palate is balanced and refined, offering excellent complexity without excess weight. Long and harmonious, it will particularly appeal to fans of mature, traditionally styled Pinot Noir. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$190

91 Weingut Peter Stolleis 2023 Estate Wine Spätburgunder (Pfalz). Elegant and finely textured, with cassis and rosewater lifted by a hint of pepper. The palate is silky and poised, balancing fruit and spice with precision. Refined and expressive, finishing long with clarity and grace. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Weingut Pfeffingen 2022 Ungstein Spätburgunder (Pfalz). Silky and poised, with cherry and rosehip tea at the core. Well-integrated tannins and fresh acidity give it balance and flow. Elegant and composed, with good length and a refined finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Balthasar Ress 2023 Von Unserm Trocken Pinot Noir (Rheingau). Light to medium bodied, with jammy raspberry at the core, complemented by subtle gamy nuances and a touch of sweet spice. The palate is supple and well-balanced, with fresh acidity lending lift to the ripe fruit. Finishes smooth

and persistent, with savory notes adding complexity. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Dagernova Weinmanufaktur 2023 Alte Rebe Pinot Noir (Ahr). Medium to full bodied yet remarkably silky, with subtle notes of ripe cherry and violet. Fine tannins and fresh acidity keep the palate poised, while a hint of tar on the finish adds savory complexity and length. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Dagernova Weinmanufaktur 2022 Heimersheimer Kapellenberg Pinot Noir (Ahr). Full bodied and firmly extracted, this Spätburgunder will appeal to fans of the richer style. Dark fruit is layered with savory herbal notes, while fresh acidity and well-integrated tannins keep the palate balanced. Well made, with impressive depth and a long, persistent finish. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Christian Bamberger 2022 Schloßböckelheimer Vulkangestein Dry Spätburgunder (Nahe). Extracted and firmly structured, with dark plum and black fruit layered over notes of black tea. A gently chewy texture gives the palate grip, while fresh acidity keeps the wine balanced through the savory finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Dautel 2023 Cleebronn Village Pinot Noir (Württemberg). Distinctly cor-duroy-like in texture, with forest berries and plum shaping a dense yet polished core. Structured and balanced, with a tactile palate and a steady, composed finish. Skurnik Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2024 M Spätburgunder (Baden). Fresh and invigorating, with a fruit-driven core framed by a touch of oak influence. The palate shows good intensity, supported by fine tannins and a slightly chalky texture. Lively and balanced, with a clean finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2023 Alte Reben Spätburgunder (Baden). Bright and lightly aromatic, with red currant and hibiscus tea shaping a fresh, lifted profile. Clean and balanced, with a smooth palate and good persistence through the finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2023 Roter Berg Kenzingen Spätburgunder (Baden). Slightly riper in tone, with red cherry and plum at the core, accented by a touch of sweet spice and floral nuance. The palate is smooth and rounded, with well-integrated tannins giving it a polished feel. Balanced and expressive, finishing with a gentle, lingering warmth. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2023 Sommerhalde Bombach Spätburgunder (Baden). More lifted and expressive, with pure red cherry and rasp-

berry at the core, accented by a hint of violet and subtle spice. The palate shows greater clarity and detail, with a smooth, balanced structure and fine, integrated tannins. Fresh and more nuanced, with a clean, gently lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Gebrüder Mathis 2023 Hohrain Spätburgunder (Baden). Lightly reductive on opening, giving way to bright red currant and fresh red fruit. The tannins are nicely integrated, lending a smooth, balanced structure. Clean and precise, with a composed, gently lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Heitlinger 2019 Königsbecher VDP. grosses Gewächs Pinot Noir (Baden). Juicy and ripe, with kirsch at the core, layered with rooibos and hibiscus tea. The tannins are nicely integrated, giving the wine a smooth, balanced structure. A light bittersweet herbal edge emerges on the finish, adding complexity to an otherwise polished profile. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Kilian Hunn 2022 Réserve Spätburgunder (Baden). Fresh and juicy, with candied cherry at the core. The tannins and acidity are well integrated, giving the wine balance and flow. Clean and expressive, with a long, steady finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Knab 2022 Steinalde * "R" Spätburgunder (Baden).** Smooth and suave, with kirsch and a hint of tar adding depth to the profile. The tannins are melting and well-integrated, giving the wine a seamless, polished feel. Balanced and composed, with a clean, steady finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Weingut Künstler 2020 Hochheimer Reichs-etal GG Dry Pinot Noir (Rheingau). Ripe and slightly extracted, with plum at the core, edged by a touch of herbal bitterness. The palate combines fruit and structure, leaning into a more robust style. Balanced and composed, appealing to fans of a richer, more worked expression, with a steady finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

90 Weingut Martin Wassmer 2023 Schlatter Maltesergarten Spätburgunder (Baden). Silky and easygoing, with red currant, cherry blossom, and rooibos tea shaping a fragrant, lifted profile. Smooth and balanced, with a gentle flow and a clean, satisfying finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Mohr KG 2020 Lorch Bodental-Steinberg Blauer Spätburgunder (Rheingau). Ripe cassis and bramble fruit lead the aromatics, with subtle hints of spice adding complexity. Juicy and well-structured on the palate, the wine combines generous fruit with fresh acidity and fine tannins. It finishes with good length and intensity, leaving a lingering impression of dark berries and spice. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz 2023 Spätburgunder (Pfalz). Fresh and charming, with velvety tannins framing notes of red currant, sandalwood, and subtle spice. Smooth and beautifully integrated, the palate combines elegance with vibrant acidity, leading to a long, polished finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$82

90 Weingut Otto und Martin Frey 2022 Eichberg Spätburgunder (Baden). Suave and fruit-driven, with a core of red-berry fruit lifted by floral notes. The tannins are melting and well integrated, giving the wine a smooth, flowing texture. Balanced and polished, with a clean, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Weingut Petri 2022 Herxheimer Kirchenstück Spätburgunder (Pfalz). Riper in tone, with dark cherry and bramble shaping a more generous, fruit-driven profile. Shows good intensity, with a balanced structure and a smooth, steady finish. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Robert König 2024 Assmannshausen Höllenberg Spätburgunder (Rheingau). Black cherry and raspberry coulis remain at the core, joined by subtle floral and spice notes that add extra nuance. Elegant and finely balanced, the palate combines fresh acidity with silky tannins, finishing with greater depth and persistence. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

90 Weinhaus Bettina Schumann 2021 Achtkantig Pinot Noir (Baden). Lightly spiced, with sandalwood framing a core of cherry and red mulberry. Smooth and balanced, with a polished texture and a gentle, lingering finish. Lisa Tupetz Wine LCC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

89 A. Heinrich 2018 Monopol Pinot Nero (Württemberg). Ripe and fruit driven, with dark berry fruit at the core, accented by bramble and hints of dark chocolate. Full and slightly plush in style, appealing to those who enjoy a richer expression. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Christian Bamberger 2022 QX Dry Spätburgunder (Nahe). Dark fruited and structured, with notes of blackberry and a subtle herbal bitterness. Lightly grippy tannins add definition to the palate, leading to a balanced, savory finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Dautel 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (Württemberg). Lightly reductive, with cassis and cherry shaping a charming, fruit-forward profile. The tannins are melting and well-integrated, giving the palate a smooth, easy flow. Balanced and clean, with a tidy finish. Skurnik Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Weingut Hörner 2020 Widder Réserve Pinot Noir (Pfalz). Silky and fruit forward, with pomegranate and violet at the core. Smooth and balanced, with a gentle, polished finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Knab 2022 Wihlbach * Spätburgunder (Baden).** Plum driven and slightly robust, with chewy tannins giving it a firm structure. Hints of herbal and spice add depth, leaning into a more extracted style. Balanced, with a steady, structured finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Weingut Kopp 2023 Spätburgunder (Baden). Light and lively, with raspberry and rose shaping a fresh, juicy profile. Easygoing and balanced, with a clean, gently refreshing finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Weingut Robert König 2024 Assmannshausen Spätburgunder (Rheingau). Classic and fruit-driven, with expressive notes of black cherry and raspberry coulis. Fresh acidity and supple tannins give the palate balance and lift, leading to a smooth, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Weingut Siegrist 2019 VDP Große Lage Sonnenberg Pinot Noir (Pfalz). A firm, chewy Pinot Noir with ripe cherry fruit offset by savory herbal bitterness and woodland spice. Structured and slightly austere, the palate will appeal to those who favor a more robust, traditional style, finishing with good persistence despite its restrained charm. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

88 Dagernova Weinmanufaktur 2023 Der-nauer Spätburgunder (Ahr). Lighter in style, with bright cherry and violet complemented by subtle herbal notes. Fresh acidity and supple tannins give the wine a lively, approachable character and a clean finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Bamberger Wein & Sektgut 2023 Meddersheimer Altenberg Pinot Noir (Nahe). Medium bodied, with tart cherry and wild blackberry layered alongside hints of black tea and bitter cocoa. Fresh acidity and fine tannins balance the fruit and savory bitterness, leading to a clean, well-structured finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Gebrüder Anselmann GmbH 2025 Spätburgunder (Pfalz). Direct and fruit driven, with cherry at the core. A slight chew from the tannins adds structure, while freshness keeps it lively. Clean and straightforward, with a balanced finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$NA

88 Korrell 2021 Spätburgunder (Nahe). Black cherry and subtle amaro notes define the aromatic profile. Lightly grippy tannins give the medium-bodied palate structure, finishing balanced

BUYINGGUIDE

with a gently savory edge. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Weingut Burg Ravensburg 2023 VDP Gutswein Pinot Noir (Baden). Light and juicy, with cherry and rosehip at the core. Fresh and easygoing, with a soft, balanced finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Fritz Wassmer 2024 Spätburgunder (Baden). Direct and lightly aromatic, with pomegranate and hibiscus tea at the core. Clean and fresh, with a simple, balanced finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Heitlinger 2022 Tiefenbach VDP. Ortswein Pinot Noir (Baden). Direct and lightly aromatic, with berry fruit and red floral notes at the core. Clean and balanced, with a straightforward, easygoing finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Mohr KG 2023 Pinot Noir (Rheingau). Smooth and silky, with fruit-driven notes of mulberry and rosehip. Light to medium bodied, with fresh acidity and supple tannins that carry through to a clean, approachable finish. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Robert König 2024 Spätburgunder (Rheingau). Light and approachable, with direct notes of cherry and mulberry. Fresh acidity keeps the palate lively, while the finish lingers with good length and bright fruit. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

90 A. Heinrich 2019 Sandwasen Sülzbach Lemberger (Württemberg). Concentrated and inky in tone, yet impressively pure, with cassis at the core, layered with spice and hints of cocoa. The palate is juicy and expressive, offering a riper, more generous style without losing balance. Well-composed, with a smooth, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Burg Ravensburg 2022 Lerchenberg VDP erste Lage Blaufränkisch (Baden). Velvety and refined, with red currant and a subtle note of rooibos tea. Silky on the palate, with a smooth, flowing texture and enough length to carry the flavors cleanly through the finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Dagernova Weinmanufaktur 2023 Dernauer Hardtberg Frühburgunder (Ahr). Silky in texture, with ripe tannins and lively acidity giving the wine balance and lift. A subtle bitter edge adds a savory dimension to the ripe fruit, leading to a clean, well-structured finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Felix Waldkirch 2020 Comme il Faut Dornfelder (Pfalz). Juicy and charming, with fresh cherry and violet leading the way. Light on its feet, with a lively, fruit-driven palate. Easy to enjoy, though the finish is on the shorter side. —A.Z.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weingut Werner Anselmann 2023 Dornfelder (Pfalz). Fruity and approachable, with a soft, easy-drinking profile. Smooth and balanced, offering modest depth and moderate length on the finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Dautel 2023 Estate Trollinger (Württemberg). Juicy and fruit forward, with a lively core of red berries and cherry. Light-bodied and easy to drink, with a fresh, supple palate. Bright and charming, offering a Beaujolais-like appeal with a clean, refreshing finish. Skurnik Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Weingut Schnaitmann 2022 Beutelsbacher Lemberger (Württemberg). Medium bodied and elegant, with a suave texture and notes of blueberry and violet. The palate shows nice fluidity and juiciness, giving the wine an easy, flowing feel. Balanced and composed, with a clean, steady finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

89 Weingut Christian Bamberger 2022 Merlot Réserve dry Merlot (Nahe). Dark and brooding, with generous notes of plum sauce, cocoa, and sweet spice. Full bodied and richly textured, it delivers a bold, concentrated style that will especially appeal to fans of opulent Merlot. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

RED BLENDS

90 Weingut Abril 2023 Zeit Cabernet & Merlot Jechtinger Eichert (Baden). Dark and smooth, with cassis at the core, layered with loamy earth. The tannins show a light grip, giving structure without heaviness. Balanced and composed, with a steady, polished finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Winzerverein Deidesheim eG 2024 Rhino Vino QbA Trocken Red Blend (Pfalz). Smooth and velvety, with violet and plum shaping a plush, expressive core. Nicely balanced between richness and freshness, with a polished palate and a clean, composed finish. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

DESSERT WINES

94 Willems-Willems 2025 Auslese Bockstein Riesling (Saar). An elegant, brilliantly composed Auslese that marries richness with remarkable finesse. Fresh apricot jam, lemon parfait, candied gin-

ger, and cool mint unfold in beautifully defined layers, each lifted by vibrant, crystalline acidity that keeps the palate weightless despite its concentration. The texture is silky and seamless, while a persistent mineral thread carries the wine through an exceptionally long, inviting finish. A complete and captivating expression of the style. The German Wine Collection. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Bardorf Stefan 2018 Randersacker Teufelskeller Trockenbeerenauslese Spätburgunder (Franken). Lush and opulent, with layers of baking spice, butterscotch, and quince marmalade unfolding generously across the palate. Rich yet controlled, with enough underlying structure to keep it from feeling heavy. The finish is long and enveloping, carrying both sweetness and spice with persistence. —A.Z.
abv: 6.5% **Price:** \$NA/375ml

93 Herzog von Württemberg 2025 Trockenbeerenauslese Maulbronner Eilfingerberg VDP Riesling (Württemberg). Intensely concentrated, with layers of honey, peach jam, lavender, and elderflower syrup unfolding in succession. Rich yet balanced, with enough freshness to keep the profile lifted. Complex and enveloping, with a long, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$NA/375ml

93 Weingut Georg Gustav Huff 2024 Nierstein Schloss Schwabsburg Beerenauslese Riesling (Rheinhessen). Lush and concentrated, with raisin, apple marmalade, and poached pear unfolding in layers. A bright streak of orange adds lift, while vibrant acidity keeps the sweetness in check. Rich yet precise, finishing long with clarity and energy. —A.Z.
abv: 6.5% **Price:** \$NA/375ml

92 Korrell 2024 Paradies Riesling Auslese Riesling (Nahe). Layered and beautifully structured, with expressive notes of honey, candied orange, and apricot jam. Rich and concentrated on the palate, yet lifted by vibrant acidity that brings remarkable balance and precision. The finish is long and persistent, lingering with honeyed citrus, stone fruit, and subtle mineral nuances. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Laura Weber Weine 2023 Monzinger Halenberg Auslese Riesling (Nahe). Sweet and beautifully poised, with layered notes of honey, ripe apricot, guava, beeswax, and candied orange peel. Rich and concentrated on the palate, yet vibrant acidity provides remarkable balance and precision. The finish is long and elegant, lingering with honeyed fruit, citrus, and a delicate mineral freshness. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$NA/500ml

92 Weingut Petri 2015 Herxheimer Honigsack Auslese Riesling (Pfalz). Beautifully developed, with a subtle smoky edge framing layers of apple pie, vanilla custard, and candied orange peel. Lush and expressive, yet balanced by a thread of acidity that

keeps it from feeling heavy. Complex and harmonious, with a long, enveloping finish. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$NA/500ml

90 Weingut Mohr KG 2024 Lorch Krone Auslese Riesling (Rheingau). Clean and expressive, with aromas of elderflower syrup, baked apple, and a hint of vanilla pastry. The palate is sweet yet well-balanced, with fresh acidity lending lift and definition. Finishes long and inviting, with lingering floral and orchard fruit notes. —A.Z.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weingut Petri 2020 Herxheimer Honigsack Auslese Gewürztraminer (Pfalz). Aromatic and richly styled, with lychee and mirabelle plum layered alongside a distinct note of rose-flavored Turkish delight. Lush yet balanced, with enough freshness to carry the sweetness. Expressive and lingering on the finish. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$NA/375ml

ROMANIA

WHITE WINES

90 Cramele Recas 2024 Dreambird Estate Selection Chardonnay (Romania). Fragrant aromas of apple tart, vanilla baking spice and honey-drizzled golden apple entice the nose. Ripe, developed fruit unfolds unhurriedly on the midpalate that sees a touch of candied orange peel flatter the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Cramele Recas 2025 Dreambird Estate Selection Pinot Grigio (Romania). Fresh aromas of spring wildflower, orange blossom and Pink Lady apple open on the nose joined by a touch of hay. A refreshing burst of tart acidity leads into chalk-dusted lemon peel on the palate that resolves in a bouquet of white rose petal. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Cramele Recas 2025 I am Sauvignon Blanc (Romania). Reserved aromas of white nectarine, green apple, and honeydew melon are guided by honeysuckle on the nose. Wet river stone begins on the attack supported by a complementary layer of acidity that unlocks lemon citrus peel on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Cramele Recas 2025 Legendary Estate Series Pinot Grigio (Transylvania). Pale-lemon in color, supple, floral aromas of peach blossom and slivered almond are dusted with baby's breath on the nose. Rounded acidity frames stony orchard fruit on the mineral-laden palate that completes with citrus uplift. Pair with toasted bread, a baguette sandwich, or buttered noodles. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 Cramele Recas 2025 Dreambird Estate Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Romania). Fragrant aromas of Anjou pear, meadow grass and dried white

blossom rest under a halo of baby's breath. Chalky orchard fruit opens on the attack undergirded by a streak of floral acidity that empties into a pool of crushed shells. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Cramele Recas 2024 Legendary Estate Series Sauvignon Blanc (Transylvania). Fresh aromas of meadow wildflower, shattered stone, and freshly sliced red apple open on the nose along with hints of lilac. The orchard-fruit-forward midpalate is complemented by a supple, floral acidity that bathes on a bed of chalk. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

RED WINES

89 Cramele Recas 2023 Legendary Estate Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Transylvania). Aromas of black cherry, smoky raspberry, and dried cranberry open on the nose joined by dried field grass and hibiscus. Grippy tannins lead on the palate followed by a layer of black fruit that unwinds on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

88 Cramele Recas 2025 I am Cabernet Sauvignon (Romania). A mix of blackberry and rhubarb aromas is joined by pencil shavings and violet blossom on the nose that runs across dusty forest floor. Ripe black fruit is framed by grippy tannins that lead into soy sauce and a briary compote on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

88 Cramele Recas 2024 Legendary Estate Series Pinot Noir (Romania). Black plum and red cherry aromas coalesce on the nose and lead into red currant and hibiscus tea. Plump, ripe fruit meets with corresponding acidity on the palate that relaxes on a bed of forest floor and red rose petals. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Cramele Recas 2025 Dreambird Estate Selection Pinot Noir (Romania). Blackberry, pencil shavings, and black-plum aromas open on the nose that enjoys a touch of dried field grass. Juicy black fruit fills the palate along with muddled red cherry. This wine is perfect for everyday enjoyment. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

GEORGIA

SAPERAVI

91 Corporation Georgian Wine 2024 Qvevri Saperavi (Kakheti). For full review see page 13. Georgia Products Inc. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

91 Corporation Georgian Wine 2024 Umano Saperavi (Kakheti). Expect red fruit, leather, and herbaceous notes from this lively, layered bottle

made from an indigenous Georgian red-wine grape. The finish is long and tannic. Pair it with grilled or roast lamb or meaty portobello mushroom. Georgia Products Inc. *Best Buy.* —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Corporation Georgian Wine 2022 Umano Saperavi (Kindzmarauli). For full review see page 13. Georgia Products Inc. *Best Buy.* —E.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Corporation Georgian Wine 2022 Umano Carbonic Maceration Saperavi (Kakheti). Red plum and pomegranate aromas and flavors headline this lively wine, which also has earthy and herbaceous notes. There are grippy tannins on the long, tart finish. Georgia Products Inc. *Best Buy.* —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Corporation Georgian Wine 2022 Umano Mukuzani Saperavi (Kakheti). Expect blood orange, black tea, and cherry aromas from this off-dry Kindzmarauli from Kakheti. It's balanced and bright, and would shine alongside spicy, sticky glazed pork ribs, or beef bulgogi. Georgia Products Inc. *Best Buy.* —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

BULGARIA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Hayk & Hobbs 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sakar Hills). For full review see page 8. G&B Importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$49

CALIFORNIA

CHARDONNAY

98 Auteur Wines 2024 Green Acres Chardonnay (Los Carneros). A glimmer of green flickers at the core of this Chardonnay, while the nose dances with aromas of bright citrus, firm stone fruit, chalky minerality, and lemon blossom. The palate is a wave of electric acidity, with flavors of tart pineapple, freshly sliced nectarine, crystallized ginger, pithy Meyer lemon, and flowers for days across the finish. Pair this with roasted halibut or prawns and lemongrass beurre blanc. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$74

97 Donelan Family Wines 2023 Genevieve's Block Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A whisper of flinty reduction teases at the edges on the nose of this native-fermented Chardonnay, joining aromas of sliced Gala apple, chopped herbs, citrus blossom, and ginger. The palate is broad but nervy, with zesty acidity elevating flavors of caramelized pineapple, nectarine, white flowers, hazelnut, and lemongrass across the long and opulent finish. Delicious now, this will age gracefully for at least a decade. Drink now—2037. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$110

97 Lithology 2023 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This complex and intense wine from an iconic vineyard delivers punchy and focused aromas of fresh Gala apple, Meyer lemon, apricot, chalk, citrus blossom, and toasted spices on the nose. The palate brings energetic acid and a satisfying grip that frame flavors of grilled pineapple, zesty tangerine, candied lemon peel, and chopped green herbs across a nearly endless finish. Absolutely delicious now, this will show marvelously for at least a decade. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$150

96 Evan's Ranch 2024 Las Brisas Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Aromas of Asian pear and white melon float into hints of young coconut flesh on the supple nose of this bottling. There's a finely chiseled chalkiness to the palate, where white rose petal and lychee flavors work into an appealing harmony. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

96 Signal Ridge 2024 Signal Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge). The nose of this wine creates a story of overlooking someplace magical. Aromas of sea-salt air flow through alpine forests, joining youthful stone fruit, citrus, dried herbs, and subtle layers of French oak. The flavors are vibrant, with crisp Pink Lady apple, Cara Cara orange, allspice, and coriander layered with mineral and acidity. Cellar until 2033 or enjoy now. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

95 Meyer Family Cellars 2025 Elke Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This wine is vibrant, with aromas of the ocean air, youthful Golden Delicious apple, Bosc pear, alpine florals, sage brush, subtle oak, and mineral on the nose. The flavors are fresh apple, peach, pineapple, Seville orange, and bay leaf woven with ribbons of acidity, leaving a clean finish and the desire to start again. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$39

94 Auteur Wines 2024 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Bright and lifted aromas of Meyer lemon, Granny Smith apple, lemon balm, and citrus blossom waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate brings sumptuous acidity and flavors of fresh pineapple, fresh herbs, pithy citrus, and echoes of flowers on a generous finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 Benziger Family Winery 2024 Spirit & Earth Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Pali Wine Co. 2024 Wild Series Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 7.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

94 Stony Hill 2023 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). A whisper of flint teases the nose of this focused and ageworthy wine, mingling with aromas of pithy lemon, green apple, and flowers. The palate is linear, with zippy acidity centering flavors of apple skin, tart

nectarine, pithy lemon-lime, river rock, and herbal floral potpourri across a long finish. Some time in the cellar will soften this nicely. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

94 Waypoint 2023 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Whispers of buttered popcorn, flint, and flowers mingle with roasted apple, cinnamon, and butterscotch on the nose of this lavish wine. The palate shows vibrant acidity and pithy texture, with flavors of Bosc pear, apricot, citrus blossom, sandalwood, and ginger throughout a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Bonterra Organic Estates 2024 The Roost Chardonnay (Mendocino). From a leader in regenerative farming, this wine is organic and biodynamic. It is exuberant, with aromas of crisp green apple, apricot preserve, lemon balm, and baking spice. Notes of French oak caress the mineral and fruit throughout the nose. Lively flavors suggest lush Pippin apple, quince, pomelo, and brûléed Satsuma orange, interwoven with clove, bright acidity, and a graceful finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate High Serenity Ranch Chardonnay (High Valley). This wine is bright, with aromas of crisp yellow apple, baked pear, sweet pea, and subtle oak on the nose. Flavors convey youthful green apple, honeydew melon, white nectarine, and crystallized ginger, with a mineral finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Cambria 2024 Katherine's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). This has always been a reliably consistent Chardonnay to enjoy in a variety of settings, and this vintage feels even more versatile and sound. Very light colored in the glass, it begins with aromas of Asian pear, honeysuckle, and coconut on the nose. The palate is tense and grippy, making the mouth salivate with flavors of lychee in the midpalate and sea salt on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

93 Gainey 2024 Estate Vineyards Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Lovely and unique waves of mango and lychee show a balanced tropical front on the intriguing nose of this bottling. The palate is tense in structure, offering orange marmalade and pear flesh flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$26

93 Kendall-Jackson 2024 Sable Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Vibrant, this wine offers aromas of crisp Golden Delicious apple, papaya, orange blossom, citrus, and sedimentary rock on the nose. The flavors are lush peach, white nectarine, Meyer lemon, fresh dill, and white grapefruit rind. Supple mineral swirls throughout the palate leaving a dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

93 Meyer Family Cellars 2024 Ferrington Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This wine is bright, delivering aromas of Golden Delicious apple, yellow plum, peach, wildflower honey, minerality, and subtle French oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are crisp yellow apple, white nectarine, and pink grapefruit, wafting through, nutmeg, crystallized ginger, tangerine segments, and Himalayan sea salt, with an exuberant finish. Cellar until 2033 or grab a glass and enjoy now. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$50

93 Talley Vineyards 2024 Rosemary's Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley). Aromas of lightly toasted coconut and orange marmalade are subtle but stylishly presented on the nose of this bottling. The palate is generous in its apple and Meyer lemon flavors, all wrapped in a persistently firm texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Ten Acre 2024 Alder Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

92 Bishop's Peak 2025 Chardonnay (Central Coast). This widely available and fairly priced wine is great for any day of the week. Aromas of apple, chalk, and oak lead from the tightly woven nose into a firm palate of bright lemon, apple, and sea salt flavors, all washed in a steady acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Husch 2024 Family Farmed Chardonnay (Mendocino). Exuberant, this wine features aromas of youthful stone fruit, citrus, alpine florals, sea salt air, white blossom tea, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors are crisp green apple, yellow nectarine, orange sherbet, and clove. Minerality and lively acidity leave a lip-smacking finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

92 Kendall-Jackson 2024 Grand Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). The nose on this bottling hits a number of appealing notes, offering aromas of toast, white peach, and chalk. The palate pairs stone fruit with almond flavors, proving soft in texture with just enough edge thanks to lingering acid and spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Koehler Winery 2025 Maria Vista Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Mellow aromas of melon and Asian pear intrigue the nose on this bottling. The palate is tightly focused, with lime pith and white melon flavors riding a taut texture into the acid-washed finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$24

92 La Lomita Wines 2024 Islay Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley). There's a steely minerality to the nose of this bottling, which also offers lime blossom and lychee aromas. The palate is zesty with a strong acidity that slides into lemongrass, lime peel, and struck-stone flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$44

92 Marimar Estate 2025 Don Miguel Vineyard Acero Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

This clean and focused unoaked Chardonnay leads with aromas of Bosc pear, pithy lemon, fresh herbs, and white flowers on the nose. The palate of the wine feels light but rounded, with zesty acid and flavors of green apple, pluot, lemon verbena, and citrus blossom that linger at the finish. Shuck some oysters and go to town. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$42

92 Talley Vineyards 2024 Estate Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast).

Toasty aromas of almond, vanilla, and baked apple draw the nose into this bottling. The toasty nut qualities pair well with the apricot flavors of the taut palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$38

92 Vinum Cellars 2024 Chardonnay (Monterey).

There's a chalky edge to the nose of this bottling, which also offers citrus peel and brisk apple aromas. The palate is tense, brisk, and bright but with enough flavor from the apple and white flower flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$19

92 Weather Wines 2024 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

Focused aromas of lemon-lime, Anjou pear, and lemon verbena swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate feels fresh and nervy, with lively acid framing flavors of robust apple, fresh tangerine, lemon, toasted almond, and ginger across a decadent finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$25

92 Will 2023 Chardonnay (Mendocino County).

This wine is bright, with layers of citrus, Golden Delicious apple, alpine herbs, French oak, and supple mineral throughout the nose. The palate brings flavors of Meyer lemon, lime marmalade, white grapefruit, white peach, fennel, and acidity on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

91 Evan's Ranch 2024 Caitlin's Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).

This fairly subtle Chardonnay offers lightly toasted nuts, singed lemon peel, and white flower on the nose. The palate lands softly with white peach flavors and rides that mellow structure into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$52

90 Goldschmidt Singing Tree 2025 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

For full review see page 12.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$25

90 Gabrielle Ashley 2025 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).

For full review see page 13.

Best Buy.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

90 Kendall-Jackson 2024 Rancho Tierra Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).

Easygoing aromas of apple and pastry introduce the nose to this bottling. The palate pairs tart apple flavors with

intriguing hints of herb and marmalade on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

90 Rodney Strong Vineyards 2024 Sonoma Vineyards Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

The nose of this Chardonnay brings aromas of lemon, grilled pear, brioche, barrel spices, and flowers. On the firmly structured palate, flavors of sliced apple, toasted almond, pithy lemon, cinnamon, and flowers are framed by lively acidity before a barrel-spiced finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$14

89 Fog's Edge 2025 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Bold aromas of vanilla and lemon peel mingle with apple and spice on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers lush texture with soft acid and flavors of macerated apples, Meyer lemon, fresh cream, lemon balm, and white flowers at the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$22

89 Maddalena Wines 2024 Chardonnay (Monterey).

Peach and pithy pear aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. A creamy texture flows through the palate, where buttered apple and citrus-spray flavors are nutty and rich. —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$20

89 OGC 2024 The Mercantile Chardonnay (Napa Valley).

Bold aromas of brûléed banana, roasted pineapple, pear compote, and cinnamon drive the nose of this wine. The palate presents plush texture and flavors of baked apple pie, citrus blossom, and candied lemon peel through the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

89 San Simeon 2024 Chardonnay (Monterey).

This is made in the classic California Chard style, starting with bold aromas of toasted oak and roasted apple on the nose. The palate is rich with similar elements alongside smoked chicken and salt flavors, as a lingering acidity pushes into the butter-scotch finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$20

88 Kendall-Jackson 2024 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).

Subtle aromas of lemonade and citrus blossoms show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite soft in texture, as flavors of toasted nuts and browned butter hit the classic notes. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Gainey 2025 Limited Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).

One of the more compelling Sauv Blancs of the vintage, this bottling begins with subtle tones of apple, wet sidewalk, and grass on the nose. It's the palate's chalky, stony flavor and texture that are most intriguing. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$36

94 Margerum 2025 D Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).

This always-com-

elling bottling, which is fermented in cigar-shaped barrels, begins with lively aromas of nectarine, grass, and serrano pepper on the nose. The palate is texturally complex, with layers of grip spreading across the stone fruit and zesty green flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$50

93 Grassini Family Vineyards 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).

An invigorating mix of chalky stone, citrus, and brisk apple converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite complex and complete, with brisk citrus, suave orchard fruit, and a tense structure. —M.K.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$35

92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2025 Estate High Serenity Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley).

For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2025 Reserve High Serenity Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley).

This selection is lush, with creamy notes of white blossom, white peach, citrus, fennel, and mineral on the nose. The flavors are Meyer lemon, pomelo, quince, lime zest, and coriander, with acidity on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$39

92 Grassini Family Vineyards 2023 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).

A golden hue in the glass, this bottling pairs grassy notes with richer hints of pastry dough and toast on the nose. The palate is also warmer, with toasty, almost oak-like flavors that pair with the crisper orchard fruits. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

92 Husch 2025 Sauvignon (Mendocino).

Lovely aromas of crisp green apple, melon, citrus, fresh-cut grass, fine herbs, and sedimentary rock cascade across nose of this wine. Flavors of tart Meyer lemon, green guava, juicy tangerine, and spearmint on the palate lead into mineral and high acidity on the finish. An expressive wine from an old-vine Sauvignon Blanc vineyard. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$18

92 Laurel Glen 2024 Blanc Slate Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).

The nose of this wine possesses nervy aromas of lime, grapefruit, mango, and citrus blossom. On the palate, vibrant mouthfeel and racy acid frame flavors of lemon peel, chalk, white flowers, and ginger all through the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$45

92 Parker Station 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County).

For full review see page 13.

Best Buy.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

92 Stephen Ross 2025 Trestle Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (San Luis Obispo Coast).

This bottling from a vineyard owned by Cal Poly is aggressively grassy in compelling ways, with aromas of dank herbs and underripe citrus also arising. The palate is

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pungent with lawn clipping and wet sidewalk flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$34

91 Bricoleur Vineyards 2025 Kick Ranch Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Fountaingrove District). Punchy citrus, white peach, shattered slate, flowers, and grassy herbal aromas swirl on the nose of this focused wine. The palate displays plush texture and bright acid, with flavors of lively lime, lemon, candied ginger, pithy grapefruit peel, and floral potpourri resonating across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$36

91 J. Lohr 2025 Flume Crossing Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). For full review see page 13. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

91 Margerum 2025 Sybarite Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Apple peel and lime zest show on the nose of this bottling, which is refreshing if mellow. The palate's steady acidity cuts through citrus peel flavors and a light mouthfeel. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$26

91 Sunstone Winery 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Alisos Canyon). Grass, lime pith, peach, and some serrano notes make for a zesty nose on this bottling. A mossy element grows with time, as the palate reflects those brisk and grassy notes of lime peel. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$30

90 Gainey 2025 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). There's a core of apple and pear aromas to the broad nose of this bottling, with hints of citrus pith as well. The palate shows lime-like flavors atop a soft structure. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$24

90 Lucas & Lewellen Estate Vineyards 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County). The nose on this bottling from Los Alamos Ranch is quite mellow, with hints of apple flesh, white blossom, and sourgrass. The palate is full of grass and lime, with a hint of nuttiness on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$24

90 Merriam Vineyards 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Focused aromas of intense citrus, firm peach, green herbs, and white flowers waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate possesses energetic acidity that frames flavors of lime, tart pineapple, lemongrass, and flowers along the pithy finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

90 Rodney Strong Vineyards 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

PINOT GRIS

92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2025 Estate High Serenity Ranch Pinot Gris (High Valley). For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

91 Koehler Winery 2025 Gildred Family Vineyard Pinot Gris (Santa Ynez Valley). Green apple, chalk, and white flower aromas show on the nose of this wine. The palate lands broadly with white melon and coconut flavors cut by a lime edge. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

91 Navarro Vineyards 2025 Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley). Fresh aromatics of luscious kiwi, honeydew melon, Pink Lady apple, flinty stone, and mineral waft on the nose of this wine. The crisp palate offers yellow apple, orange zest, lime segments, and white pepper, lurching into a dry, mineral finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$26

89 San Simeon 2025 Reserve Pinot Gris (Arroyo Seco). Very pale in the glass, this wine offers subtle aromas of apple and pear on the nose. The palate's chalky texture grabs more attention than the easygoing flavors of nectarine and apple. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

88 Cline Family Cellars 2025 Pinot Gris (Sonoma County). This clean and fresh wine delivers a pop of fresh, lemony citrus and flowers on the nose. The soft, rounded palate brings lively acid and flavors of sweet peach, orange blossom, marzipan, and green herbs at the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

ALBARIÑO

92 Joyce 2025 Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Brisk and tight yet relatively mellow on the nose, this bottling shows melon rind and lime blossom aromas. There's a good sizzle of acidity on the palate, where lively and sharp citrus flavors cut into the nectarine core. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

92 La Lomita Wines 2024 Islay Hill Vineyard Albariño (Edna Valley). Whereas most Albariños are being made in a zesty style, this version aims for more weight and viscosity, like some that are made in Spain. Aromas of citrus peel and olive oil lead from the nose into a palate layered in crushed gravel, grapefruit, and white pepper flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$42

92 SeaGlass 2025 Albariño (Monterey County-Santa Barbara County). This widely available bottling is engagingly fresh, starting with grass, lime, and stone fruit aromas, like a convergence of Sauv Blanc and Viognier. The palate is zesty and acid-driven, with peach and citrus flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

90 Comartin 2025 Farm Day Vineyard Albariño (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is a richer style of Albariño, starting with candied peach and mango aromas on the nose. The palate is soft in texture and ripe with mango and pineapple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 Stephen Ross 2025 Spanish Springs Vineyard Albariño (San Luis Obispo Coast). Smashed Meyer lemon, wet rock, and nectarine aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit heavier than expected, showing ripe apple and lime peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$34

VIIGNIER

91 LOST RANCH Winery 2025 Swallow the Sun Skin Contact Viognier (Temecula Valley). Keeping skin-contact wines at lower ripeness levels amplifies the textural intrigue without imbuing the burnt-orange flavors that show up in almost every other orange wine. This version is a cloudy yellow in the glass, and begins with aromas of wet gravel and apple peel. The palate is very pithy in mouthfeel, offering more rock and grapefruit flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Sunstone Winery 2025 Linda's Vineyard Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley). Baked apple and toasted nut aromas work well together on the nose of this wine, which is an ode to the Winery's late matriarch. The apple-laden palate has a leathery grip. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Eberle Winery 2025 Estate Vineyard Viognier (Paso Robles). Peach blossom and apricot jam aromas make for a familiar nose on this bottling. The palate is bold with that peach quality, which is balanced by a sharp acidity and firm texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

90 LOST RANCH Winery 2025 Loosen Family Vineyard Viognier (Temecula Valley). Dried apple and pear slice aromas meet with a mellow nuttiness on the broad nose of this bottling. Zippy acidity kicks off the lightly bodied sip, and then fades into earthy apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$36

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

92 Fulcrum 2024 Dry Nature Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). Opulent, this wine offers aromas of lush peach, nectarine, marigold, orange blossom honey, ginger, and French oak on the nose. The palate brings flavors of ripe Golden Delicious apple, pear, pomelo, dried apricot, and nutmeg, with racy acid skipping across the palate. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

91 Husch 2024 Regeneratively Farmed Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). This is a classic expression of the grape variety seen through the lens of a cool-climate and colder vintage. The aromatics are youthful yellow plum, Golden Delicious apple, peach, freesia, and orange blossom honey on the nose. Flavors of crisp apple, quince, Meyer lemon, lime zest, and dried sagebrush skip into lively acidity, mineral, and a sumptuous, dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

93 Fulcrum 2024 Ferrington Vineyard Dry Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). This sumptuous wine gives aromas of jasmine, yellow plum, chamomile tea, lemongrass, and crisp apple on the nose. Flavors combine green apple, peach, crystallized ginger, and orange peel, with a silky finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$37

93 Navarro Vineyards 2025 Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). This vineyard is located in the Deep End, close to the Pacific Ocean. Heightened aromatics convey freesia, white nectarine, white peach, Bosc pear, and orange blossom on the nose. The palate is crisp with Asian pear, Gala apple, crystallized ginger, bay leaf, and mouthwatering acidity to finish. Pair with grilled abalone with ginger, soy, and orange blossom vinaigrette. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$33

93 Navarro Vineyards 2025 Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). This wine is concentrated, with aromas of orange blossom honey, fennel, poached pear, and crisp yellow plum entwined with allspice, limestone, and a kiss of oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are juicy white peach, nectarine, navel orange, cardamom, and star anise, gently cascading into expansive mineral on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

RIESLING

92 Navarro Vineyards 2025 Riesling (Anderson Valley). This bottling is a testament to the quality of Alsatian varieties grown in the region. The nose is lively, with aromas of sugar snap pea, green apple, white nectarine, alpine herbs, and honeyed orange blossom on the nose. The palate is zesty, with acidity turning into flavors of pink grapefruit, pomelo peel, jasmine tea, bay leaf, and a lip-smacking finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$26

92 Will 2023 Riesling (Mendocino County). This selection is aromatic, with alpine herbs, jasmine, citrus blossom, stone fruit, cardamom, and racy acidity on the nose. The palate brings flavors of sweet peach, tart white nectarine, makrut lime, pink grapefruit, white pepper, allspice, and mineral on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 Imagery Estate Winery 2025 Upper Ridge Vineyard Riesling (Pine Mountain-Cloverdale Peak). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Trefethen Family Vineyards 2025 Dry Riesling (Oak Knoll District). The nose of this wine leads with aromas of white flowers, chopped herbs, and tart stone fruits. The palate is nervy, featuring zippy acid framing flavors of lemon and lime zest, pineapples, shattered stone, and citrus blossoms at the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Vin Zant 2025 George Vineyard Riesling (Sonoma Valley). Classic aromas of petrol and flinty minerals mingle with fresh lemon and flowers on the nose of this Riesling. The palate feels broad and rich, with some nice high-tone acidity lifting flavors of grilled Meyer lemon, pithy lime, dried wildflowers, and candied ginger across a long, mouthwatering finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$19

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Gainey 2025 Limited Selection Sauvignon Gris (Santa Ynez Valley). One of the few Sauvignon Gris bottlings in California, this begins with yellow apple, lime blossom, and white flower aromas on the nose. It's expansive on the palate with bright apple and tart citrus flavors, as a leathery grip leads into a white-flower-laced finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$40

93 Koehler Winery 2025 Fiddlestix Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Sta. Rita Hills). This was one of the first vineyards in California to grow this variety, and it's great to see more producers get a crack at it. This bottling begins with rainy sidewalk, lime wedge, and serrano aromas on the nose. The palate is very pithy and sharp, pairing grapefruit peel with intriguing green pepper flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$38

93 Will 2023 Chenin Blanc (Mendocino County). This is a variety to watch in California. The wine is round and lush, with layers of alpine florals, citrus blossom, stone fruit, and spearmint on the nose. Flavors on the palate convey juicy pomelo, white nectarine, crisp Pink Lady apple, satsuma orange, makrut lime, and supple acidity throughout the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Husch 2025 Family Farmed Chenin Blanc (Mendocino). This lively wine delivers aromas of fresh pear, crisp yellow apple, white nectarine, alpine florals, sea breeze, and mineral on the nose. The flavors are similar, adding fennel seed in the midpalate, while zesty acidity rounds out the vibrant, dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$18

92 Koehler Winery 2025 Yellow Foxtrot Vineyard Aligoté (Santa Barbara County). Wine-makers across the Central Coast are starting to get excited about Aligoté, but this is one of the few bottlings available. It begins with aromas of lime and orchard fruit on the nose. The palate picks up a chipped-stone minerality alongside the apple flesh and lime zest flavors, finishing on a delicate nuttiness. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Navarro Vineyards 2025 Grüner Veltliner (Anderson Valley). I'm excited that this grape variety is becoming a trend in Northern California. Aromas on the nose of this wine are vibrant, with layers of alpine herbs, citrus blossom, makrut lime, white grapefruit, and flinty mineral on the nose. The flavors on the palate convey pink grapefruit segments, red apple skin, lime zest, coriander, and sea salt, transitioning into mouthwatering mineral and a dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$26

92 Navarro Vineyards 2025 Muscat Blanc (Anderson Valley). Perfumed aromas of jasmine, honeysuckle, lavender honey, white peach, and yellow plum are spiced with alpine herbs, sedimentary rock, and mineral on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers crab apple, makrut lime, Meyer lemon, allspice, and black pepper, exhalating into acidity and a dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Grapestake Cellars 2025 Grenache Blanc (Templeton Gap District). Citrus peel and pith aromas meet with wet earth on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more about freshness than earth, offering lime peel and honeydew flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$35

90 Ridge Vineyards 2025 Grenache Blanc (Paso Robles). Ripe apple and honeydew aromas show on the nose of this bottling, which includes 9% Picpoul, 8% Roussanne, and 4% Bourboulenc. The palate is broad in texture, offering dried apple and apricot flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$39

90 San Simeon 2025 Reserve Picpoul Blanc (Paso Robles). Lime peel and Granny Smith apple aromas are spiced in white pepper on the intriguing nose of this bottling. The palate is more soft and easygoing, with lime wedge and honeydew flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

WHITE BLENDS

92 Bouchaine Vineyards 2025 Alsatian White Blend (Los Carneros). For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2024 The Mariness Bordeaux-Style White Blend (Dry Creek Valley). The nose of this complex Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon-

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Muscadelle blend leads with aromas of white peach, grilled pineapple, honeyed lemon, crystallized ginger, and white flowers. Broad, pithy texture and zippy acid on the palate join flavors of zesty citrus, chopped herbs, fresh stone fruit, and lemon verbena that lingers along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$44

92 Frequency 2025 Blanc Rhône-Style White Blend (Santa Barbara County). The nose on this blend of 65% Grenache Blanc and 35% Viognier is attention-grabbing, boasting apricot, lychee, and mango-banana candy aromas. The palate is also quite bold, offering melon, peach, and baked lemon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Koehler Winery 2025 Magia Bianca White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). This Burgundy-meets-Rhône white blend of 50% Chardonnay, 25% Viognier, and 25% Grenache Blanc works quite well, offering down-the-middle aromas of lemon peel, apple flesh, and earth on the nose. The palate picks up rocky minerality to go along with the citrusy apple core. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Brassfield Estate Winery 2025 Serenity White Blend (High Valley). For full review see page 11. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

SPARKLING WINES

95 Iron Horse Vineyards 2018 Golden Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$195/1.5L

94 Domaine Carneros NV Cuvée de la Pompadour Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Los Carneros). This very pale, rose-gold-tinged sparkling wine displays soft aromas of stone fruit, citrus, and white flowers on the nose, giving way to energetic acid and persistent effervescence on the palate. Flavors of Rainier cherry, nectarine, Meyer lemon, marzipan, lemon balm, and citrus blossom linger all through the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$48

93 Scharffenberger Cellars NV Brut Black Label Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This intricate wine offers crisp aromatics of white peach, Gala apple, honeyed orange marmalade, and croissant. The midpalate features a medium mousse with tiny bubbles. Nuanced flavors of white truffle and baking spice gracefully pulsate into Cara Cara orange, Ruby Red grapefruit, Pink Lady apple, and a mouthwatering finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Scharffenberger Cellars NV Brut Excellence Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

93 Scharffenberger Cellars NV Rosé Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Scharffenberger Cellars NV Crémant Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This lush wine offers aromas of candied peach, pear, stone fruit, cream, mineral, and honey. It delivers tiny bubbles, medium mousse, orange cream sherbert, and a bright, dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Aesthete Wines 2022 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). This bright salmon-pink sparkler brings lifted florals, fresh citrus, and nectarine aromas on the nose. The palate feels broad but bright, with flavors of ripe peach, melon, citrus blossom, and lime peel across the finish. Nice stuff for poolside and chilled seafood. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Le Vigne Winery 2022 Rosa Maria Brut Rosé Sangiovese (Paso Robles). A light pink in the glass, this unique sparkling take on Sangiovese is intriguing, starting with aromas of pluot and iron on the nose. The palate is bright and fresh with citrusy flavors of grapefruit rind. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

ROSÉS

93 Margerum 2025 Riviera Rosé (Santa Barbara County). Always one of the more compelling rosés out of California each vintage, this bottling begins with tangerine peel and melon rind aromas that are tightly woven together. The palate's steely minerality cuts through the mandarin and pale cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Morgan 2025 Rosé of Grenache (Arroyo Seco). This is a bolder version of rosé, offering pink lemonade and cherry aromas on the inviting nose. The palate picks up pink grapefruit flavors and stronger red fruit elements, proving rather sharp and lively. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Sunstone Winery 2025 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Earth, citrus pith, and pomegranate aromas make for a compelling nose on this bottling. The palate's texture is chalky and leathery at once, framing lime-splashed bubblegum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Husch 2025 Blaze Rosé (Mendocino). This selection is named in honor of the Blaze roses that grace the entrance of the tasting room. The aromas captured in the glass are wild strawberry, plum, melon, and dried herbs on the nose. Flavors convey tart raspberry, watermelon, and youthful cantaloupe with a bit of rind gliding across the tongue, leaving

mouthwatering acidity and desire for another sip. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$18

90 Daou 2025 Rosé (Paso Robles). This rosé is superfresh on the nose, nearly effervescent in presentation. It's not quite as zesty on the palate but still quite satisfying, with flavors of watermelon rind, tangerine pith, and wet rock. Treasury Wine Estates. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

99 Lithology 2023 To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Pure, focused aromas of Bing cherry, fresh blackberry, graphite, and dark cocoa explode from the glass on the nose of this Cabernet Sauvignon from a legendary vineyard. The palate possesses immaculate balance, with ageworthy tannin and energetic acid lifting flavors of black plum, currant, espresso, shattered stone, licorice, and violets that blossom throughout the exceedingly long finish. Tempting now, better after 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$300

98 Lithology 2023 Dr. Crane Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This inky but charming Cabernet delivers focused aromas of black plums, freshly crushed berries, graphite, and anise on the nose. The palate brings powder-fine tannin and energetic acidity that frame flavors of crushed cherries, dark cocoa, tar, pencil shavings, cinnamon, and violets all across the minute-long finish. While certainly ageworthy, this possesses more immediate charms than some other wines from this exciting producer. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$300

97 Lithology 2023 Steltzner Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). On the nose, this opulent Cabernet bursts with aromas of roasted black cherry, plum, shattered slate, rose petal, and dried sage. The seamless palate possesses massive tannin but immaculately balanced acid and flavors of grilled plum, black currant, cassis, espresso, pithy orange, and bright florals that expand across the finish. That all sounds exciting, but patience is a virtue, people. Best from 2035–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$300

97 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2023 CASK 23 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine pops from the glass with deep, sultry aromas of spiced plum, black cherry, cocoa, pencil shavings, flowers, and dried sage. The palate possesses rich but balanced tannin, juicy acid, and flavors of black currant, blackberry concentrate, roasted coffee, granite, black pepper, and dried herbal-floral potpourri that elevates the finish. Exercise patience, as this beauty will evolve slowly and will be at its best sometime after 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$325

97 Taub Family Vineyards 2023 Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$184

96 Beau Vigne 2024 CULT Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Dark berries mingle with freshly cut flowers and malty chocolate aromas on the nose of this decadent wine. The palate is generous with potent tannin and high-tone acid framing flavors of black cherry, cassis, cinnamon, and cocoa powder before a rounded and floral finish. Give this a splash in a decanter and grill a steak. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$125

96 Brassfield Estate Winery 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.9% Price: \$105

96 Joseph Phelps Vineyards 2023 Insignia Cabernet (Napa Valley). Rich, complex aromas of spiced plum, black cherry, dark cocoa, pencil shavings, and sage swirl from the glass on the nose of this blend. The palate layers decadent, ageworthy tannin and neatly balanced acid framing flavors of crushed blackberry, espresso, graphite, dried herbs, and flowers across a long and intricate finish. While there's plenty to enjoy in the here and now, this is built for the cellar and will be best from 2030 through 2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$365

96 Nickel & Nickel 2023 John C. Sullenger Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Toasty spice and balsamic aromas mingle with black plum, Bing cherry, mint, cocoa, and fresh flowers on the nose of this powerful wine. The palate balances ageworthy tannic structure with supple acid and flavors of cassis, currant, dark chocolate, licorice, and sage across a long, forceful finish. Best from 2035–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$140

96 Taub Family Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 4. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.7% Price: \$64

95 Aperture 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

95 Austin Hope 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 4.
abv: 15% Price: \$62

95 Brassfield Estate Winery 2023 Block 14 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

95 Davies Vineyard 2023 Oliven Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Charming and complex, the nose of this wine explodes with aromas of roasted espresso, cocoa, crushed black cherry, plum, and flowers. The palate delivers vibrant acid and

plush tannin framing flavors of black plum compote, blueberry, dark chocolate, malt, graphite, and freshly cut flowers that blossom for a full minute along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$130

95 Davies Vineyard 2022 Jamie Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). For full review see page 4.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$275

95 Donelan Family Wines 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Dark berry, cinnamon, and baking chocolate aromas drive the nose of this punchy Cabernet. The palate expresses black fruits, spice, black olives, sage, and cut flowers in a framework of grippy tannin and supple acidity before a long, plush finish. Time in the cellar will soften this nicely. Best from 2030 with a grilled New York strip and mushrooms. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$100

95 Donelan Family Wines 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). On the nose, this supple wine delivers focused aromas of blackberry, dusty cocoa, wildflowers, and graphite. The palate brings broad, rich tannins, neatly balanced acid, and flavors of black plum skin, concentrated Bing cherry, sage, slate, and violets across the finish. Charming now, better in five years or so. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

95 Nickel & Nickel 2023 Martin Stelling Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Bright, ripe aromas of roasted cherry, blackberry jam, licorice, and peppercorn pop on the nose of this Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate feels fully saturated with flavors of macerated Bing cherry, plum jam, cocoa, and sage in a framework of decadent tannin and rounded acid before a soft finish with echoes of flowers and spice. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$325

95 SOM Wines 2023 Trailside Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This bright and energetic wine brings aromas of fresh raspberry, cocoa, cedar, and flowers on the nose. The palate is a wave of plush, ageworthy tannin and bright acidity framing flavors of black plum, crushed black cherry, orange peel, graphite, and violets at the finish. Lively but balanced, this style invites slow-roasted lamb or pork with mushrooms and onion. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$210

95 SOM Wines 2022 Beckstoffer Bourn Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Bright, focused, and spicy, the nose of this wine offers aromas of grilled plum, blackberry liqueur, graphite, peppercorn, and sage on the nose. The palate brings opulent tannin and vibrant acidity framing flavors of spiced black cherry, sandalwood, baking chocolate, chopped herbs, and violets across the minute-plus finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$295

95 Taub Family Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$114

94 Brandlin Estate 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). The nose of this wine slowly reveals aromas of black plum, dark chocolate, graphite, and purple flowers. Densely packed, the palate features flavors of black fruits, licorice, gravel, peppercorn, and violets in a framework of firm tannin and elevated acid. Best from 2030. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$110

94 Gainey 2023 42nd Anniversary Limited Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). This is a tightly presented Cab, offering an impressive purity of fruit. The nose kicks off with aromas of blackberry and wet clay, and then the cohesive palate adds chalky tannins, a piquant freshness, and oregano spice to the picture. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$80

94 Meyer Family Cellars 2021 Bonny's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). The nose of this American-oak-aged Cabernet delivers punchy aromas of cassis, currant, cocoa, cedar, violets, and barrel spice. On the palate, soft tannins and zippy acid frame flavors of roasted cherry, pencil shavings, baking chocolate, balsamic, and cinnamon across the pithy-textured finale. Give this time to soften. Best from 2030–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$160

94 Nickel & Nickel 2023 Pellet Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Deep, dark aromas of blackberry, peppercorn, cocoa, and dried sage swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate possesses rich tannin and neatly balanced acid, with flavors of black plum skin, blueberry, graphite, baking chocolate, and cracked pepper that resonate throughout the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$175

94 Sojourn Cellars 2023 Monte Rosso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Robust aromas of ripe raspberry, dark chocolate, mint, and cinnamon drive the nose of this Cabernet. The palate brings juicy acid and plush tannin framing flavors of black plum, cocoa, licorice, and black pepper across a generous finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$125

94 SOM Wines 2022 Caldwell Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Cocoa, cedar, and cinnamon aromas mingle with dark berries and cherries on the nose of this wine from the relatively cooler Coombsville AVA. The palate exhibits bright acid and weighty tannins that frame flavors of blackberry, spiced plum compote, licorice, and chopped mint leaves throughout the finish. Charming stuff that will show great with grilled lamb or venison. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$175

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). For full review see page 7. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 15% Price: \$35

93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). For full review see page 7. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 15% Price: \$35

93 Burgess Cellars 2023 Contadina Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). With a few swirls, the nose of this wine reveals layers of dark berries, black plum, shattered stone, and dusty cocoa. The palate delivers opulent tannin and neatly balanced acid, with flavors of fresh black cherry, currant, espresso, herbs, and flowers all along the finish. Give this potent wine some time in the cellar to soften. Best from 2030. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

93 Cass 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Geneseo District). This wine is almost too juicy to put down, especially for a Cab. Aromas of blackberry, oak, oregano, and licorice entice the nose. The playful palate explodes with candied black cherry flavors that are cut by minty chocolate spices. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

93 Charles Krug 2022 Vintage Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Aromas of fresh blueberry, sour cherry, chopped herbs, and cut wildflowers drive the nose of this Cabernet. The palate possesses grippy tannin and zippy acid, with flavors of black plum skin, Bing cherry, shattered slate, violets, and licorice that linger through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$200

93 Davies Vineyard 2023 Red Cap Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Aromas of baked plum, cracked pepper, and cinnamon drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings waves of plush tannin and soft acidity framing flavors of concentrated raspberry, blackberry, baking spices, and cocoa powder across a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$130

93 Decoy Wines 2024 Limited Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Smoothly integrated aromas of red cherry, mace, and anise are pristinely packaged on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also suave in its presentation, delivering bright red and candied fruit flavors with a clay-like minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

93 Lewelling 2022 Wight Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Punchy aromas of dark berries, licorice, flowers, and cherry liqueur explode from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate feels firm but balanced, with polished tannin and bright acid framing flavors of roasted Bing cherry, salty plum compote, graphite, cocoa powder, and violets throughout a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$100

93 Porterhouse Winery 2023 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bold black fruits and berries marry with cinnamon, anise, rose petal, and chocolate aromas on the nose of this wine. The palate is weighty but balanced, with rich tannin, bright acid, and flavors of roasted plum, blueberry compote, cedar, dark chocolate, and tobacco all along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$100

93 Porterhouse Winery 2023 Riverview Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). Bombastic aromas of fresh cherry, mint leaf, violets, and coffee explode from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers opulent tannin and juicy acid framing flavors of roasted plum, blackberry coulis, balsamic, pencil shavings, lemon peel, flowers, and chopped green herbs all along the generous finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$100

93 Ridge Vineyards 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Hailing from an iconic mountaintop vineyard, this Cab, which includes 6% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, and 1% Cabernet Franc, offers a more affordable means to tasting this special site. Potent aromas of black cherry, blackberry, chocolate, and oak lead from the nose into a tense palate with black currant and purple flower flavors. The sticky tannins will mellow soon. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$50

93 Silver Ghost 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Bright aromas of black currant, spiced cranberry, orange peel, flowers, and iron-rich earth swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate presents plush tannin, supple acidity, and flavors of roasted cherry, cocoa powder, mint, and freshly cut wildflowers across the pithy finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

93 Silver Ghost 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The nose of this wine jumps from the glass with aromas of fresh raspberries, cherries, plums, balsamic, coffee, and mint. The palate shows expansive tannin and vibrant acid enmeshing flavors of blackberries, salty plums, pithy orange peel, and graphite, while dark chocolate surges to the front along the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

93 Smith-Madrone 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District). Classic aromas of currant, pencil lead, peppercorn, and herbs pop on the nose of this wine. The palate possesses nicely balanced acid for the vintage, with plush tannins and flavors of black cherry, fresh black plum, graphite, gravel, and violets lingering at the finish. This wine will show itself best after some time in the cellar. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$70

93 St. Supéry 2023 Dollarhide Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$135

93 Turnbull 2022 Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Bright aromas of berries, plum jam, barrel spices, and cocoa come into focus on the nose of this Cabernet. The palate is plush and weighty, with rich tannin balanced by smooth acidity and flavors of raspberry compote, cherry liqueur, cinnamon, malted chocolate, and licorice through the finish. This wine embraces the roundness of the vintage without being overblown. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$180

92 Burgess Cellars 2022 Promiscua Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The nose of this powerfully built Cabernet delivers aromas of spiced black plum, concentrated blackberry, gravel, and cracked pepper. The palate layers rich tannin and voluptuous acid along with flavors of baked blueberry, currant, pithy orange, fresh flowers, and sage through the finish. Best from 2030–2040. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$125

92 Cellarius by Stag's Leap 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The nose of this wine pops with aromas of spiced cherry compote, cinnamon, flowers, and cocoa. Broad and rounded, the palate offers rich tannin and flavors of baked plum, blackberry, dark chocolate, graphite, and violets that blossom along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

92 Davis Estates 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Punchy aromas of black plum, fresh raspberry, malty cocoa, gravel, and sage drive the nose of this Cabernet. The palate offers potent tannic structure framing flavors of blackberry, cracked pepper, baking chocolate, earthy minerality, and freshly cut violets that blossom along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$155

92 Dôl Dá 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). For full review see page 10. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14% Price: \$50

92 Etenia 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Potent aromas of black plum, charred nuts, and vanilla make for an enticing nose on this bottling. A hearty grip holds the palate, where juicy blackberry, pepper, and licorice flavors lead into a chalky finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

92 Force & Grace 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). On the nose, this wine pops with aromas of roasted raspberry, plum compote, baking spices, and dark chocolate. The smooth palate possesses silky tannin and vibrant acid framing flavors of black and blue berries, dark-chocolate-covered cherry, cracked pepper, licorice, sage, and grilled bread across a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$90

92 Lewelling 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Deep, vibrant aromas of crushed raspberry, currant, cinnamon, and cocoa pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is ripe and lively, with silky tannic structure framing flavors of

concentrated cherry, licorice, sage, and mint, with juicy acidity lifting the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

92 Loren Crossing 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The nose of this wine pops with aromas of juicy raspberry, black cherry, dark chocolate, and chopped mint. The palate is plush but lifted, with smooth tannins, lively acid, and flavors of concentrated plum, graphite, orange zest, violets, and notions of aromatic herbs across the finish. Awesome bang for the buck here. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Markham Vineyards 2022 Marked Parcels Bryan's Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). Dark chocolate, blackberry coulis, cinnamon, and mint aromas pop on the nose of this wine. The palate balances supple tannins and vibrant acidity with flavors of black plum, raspberry liqueur, dark spices, shattered granite, and purple flowers at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$95

92 Meyer Family Cellars 2023 Spitfire Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Punchy aromas of cinnamon, cocoa, and toasted almond mingle with black cherries and plum jam on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers lavish tannin framing flavors of baked blackberry pie, dark chocolate, dried sage, and mint throughout the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

92 No Love Lost 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich aromas of roasted espresso and cracked pepper mingle with dark berries and plums on the nose of this unmistakable Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate expresses black fruits and spices with oaky richness and smooth tannins across the finish. Enjoy this with grilled beef ribs and caramelized onion. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

92 Peju 2022 HB Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Big, opulent aromas of chocolate-covered maraschino cherry, fresh mint, and crème de cassis pop on the nose of this wine. The palate is broad and weighty, with smooth tannin and acid framing flavors of plum compote, berry coulis, cocoa, and licorice through a long, weighty finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$245

92 Porterhouse Winery 2023 Peaceland Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Bright, zesty aromas of dark berries, licorice, mint, and flowers swirl from the glass on the nose of this Cabernet. The palate is neatly balanced, with smooth tannin and lively acid buoying flavors of crystalline cherry, raspberry liqueur, chopped green herbs, cinnamon, and dusty cocoa through the silky finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

92 Reputation 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 11.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

91 Bloc Wines 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Ripe and punchy flavors of concentrated raspberry, blueberry, licorice, and caramel pop on the nose of this easy-drinking, bag-in-box Cabernet. The palate offers smooth tannins framing flavors of roasted cherry, Chambord, milk chocolate, and fresh-cut flowers that linger across the finish of the wine. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$94/3L

91 Bonterra Organic Estates 2025 MENDO Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). Robust aromas of ripe black plum, blackberry, vanilla cream, sage, toasty oak, and orange blossom swirl on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate suggest concentrated huckleberry, black currant confiture, nutmeg, espresso, and bittersweet chocolate. Supple tannins leave a dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$22

91 Buena Vista 2023 Chateau Buena Vista Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Davies Vineyard 2023 Simpkins Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Big, intense aromas of blueberry, blackberry liqueur, chocolate, and barrel spice drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers grippy tannic structure and flavors of charred plum, cherry skin, roasted coffee, shattered stone, and dried herbs on the finish. Allow a few years to integrate the oak and serve with grilled lamb. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$130

91 Grassini Family Vineyards 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Blackberry and toasted pastry notes are dusted in light herb on the nose of this bottling. Crumpled oregano and peppercorn flavors decorate the muddled cherry core of the palate, which is smooth in texture and starting to show older notes. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

91 Lucas & Lewellen 2021 Clone 6 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark berry aromas are wrapped in leafy woodspice on the nose of this wine. The palate pairs mahogany and cigar box touches with dried cherry and tobacco leaf flavors, with firm tannins pushing into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69

91 Markham Vineyards 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The nose of this easygoing Cabernet lands with bright plum, raspberry coulis, and licorice aromas. The palate feels rounded but nimble, with smooth tannin, zesty acid, and flavors of roasted cherry, cracked pepper, cinnamon, and sweet mint across the finish of the wine. Drink now–2035. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$53

91 Markham Vineyards 2022 Marked Parcels Rockerbox Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Chopped herbs and flowers mingle with aromas of black plum and cherry on the nose of this wine. The palate presents flavors of concentrated raspberry,

bitter chocolate, herbal-floral potpourri, and cinnamon across a smooth finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

91 Meyer Family Cellars 2023 Fluffy Billows Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Aromas of black plum, dusty cherry, graphite, and black pepper drive the nose of this wine. The palate shows rich tannin and balanced acid, with flavors of blackberry, dark chocolate, cinnamon, and purple flowers across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

91 No Love Lost 2023 Love Found Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Aromas of ripe red berries, plum, cedar, and chocolate swirl on the nose of this easygoing Cabernet. The palate delivers balanced tannin and acid that frame flavors of baked plum pie, currant, flowers, and cinnamon along the finish. It's a soft and fresh style that will show nicely for the next five to 10 years. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

91 OGC 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Deep, dark, and brooding, this wine offers aromas of blackberry, plum, dry cocoa, and black pepper on the nose. The palate shows powerful tannic structure, supple acid, and flavors of black cherry, plum skin, shattered slate, coffee, and cut wildflowers through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Porterhouse Winery 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Focused aromas of blackberry, plum, tobacco, and violets drive the nose of this Cabernet. The palate is fleshy and rich, with potent tannin and juicy acidity lending structure to flavors of baked plum pie, blueberry gastrique, cinnamon, coffee, and cracked peppercorn across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$85

91 Reputation 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 The Vice 2024 "The House" Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Toasty aromas of cocoa, cinnamon, and dried herbs mingle with sour cherry and currant on the nose of this wine. The palate brings layers of grippy tannin and soft acidity framing flavors of roasted berries, balsamic, dark chocolate, and wildflowers across the finish. Nice value here. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36

90 Devil's Well 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Zippy aromas of fresh cherries, plums, mint, and licorice pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate brings vibrant acid and smooth tannins, with flavors of baked plum tart, dark chocolate, fresh herbs, and grilled bread across a silky finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Kirkland Signature 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Aromas of tart cherry, blackberry, eucalyptus, and flowers drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings lively acid and

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potent tannic structure framing flavors of raspberry, plum skin, malty chocolate, chopped herbs, and floral potpourri that elevates along the finish. *Best Buy*. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

90 **Magnetic Compass 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** For full review see page 13.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

90 **Precision 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 13.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

90 **Rodney Strong Vineyards 2023 Blue Wing Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** Aromas of blackberry, cassis, cinnamon, and grilled bread pop on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers broad structure and smooth tannins framing flavors of black plum, chocolate, candied cherry, and mint throughout a long finish. *Best Buy*. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

89 **Kula 2022 Ken's Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** A lighter hue in the glass, this wine begins with compelling aromas of pepper and baked cranberry on the nose. The palate proves much softer and nearly sweet, with candied cherry flavors that grow riper in each sip. —M.K.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$48

89 **OGC 2023 The Mercantile Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** On the nose, this wine leads with aromas of blackberry, currant, cocoa powder, and herbs. The palate delivers flavors of roasted raspberry, Bing cherry, milk chocolate, cinnamon, and roses in a framework of soft tannin and lingering acidity. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

88 **Eagle Glen 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** The nose of this wine lifts from the glass with aromas of fresh raspberry, currant, chopped herb leaves, and cocoa. Plush tannin and soft acidity on the palate partner with flavors of baked blackberry pie, dark chocolate, gravel, orange peel, and licorice resonating through the finish. *Best Buy*. —T.R.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$18

88 **Tribute 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dark cherry, toasted wood, and cocoa dust make for a familiar nose on this bottling. There's a harder grip to the palate, which also shows flavors of woodspice and baked cherry. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

87 **Kirkland Signature 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** On the nose, this wine delivers aromas of Bing cherry, spiced plum, flowers, and cinnamon. The palate possesses grippy tannic structure and flavors of roasted berry compote, spiced fig, salty orange peel, mixed herbs, and cocoa at the finish. *Best Buy*. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$14

CABERNET FRANC

94 **Gainey 2024 Limited Selection Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Here is a Cab Franc that tastes like it should, blending fruit and spice in precise ways. Aromas of raspberry and white pepper are cleanly presented on the nose. The palate lands with a zesty energy, offering raspberry, strawberry, rose petal, and more white-pepper flavors. *Editors' Choice*. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$75

93 **Gainey 2024 Estate Vineyards Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Fresh aromas of Bing cherry are lush and inviting on the nose of this wine. The palate pairs that red-cherry fruit flavor with toasty spices and a firm tannic edge. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$32

92 **Acorn 2023 Alegría Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Russian River Valley).** This native-fermented Cab Franc pops from the glass with aromas of fresh cranberry, chopped herbs, tobacco, and anise. The palate possesses smooth tannin, juicy acid, and flavors of raspberry, blueberry, licorice, black pepper, and leather along the decadent finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$50

92 **Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Cabernet Franc (High Valley).** Bordeaux varieties thrive in this high-elevation location, with the cool microclimates creating bright, aromatic wines. This wine becomes supple with aeration, yielding aromas of youthful damson plum, sage, toasty oak, and crushed florals on the nose. The flavors on the palate are black raspberry, green olive, black tea, bay leaf, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Editors' Choice*. —T.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$60

92 **Kula 2023 Happiness Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** An intriguing line of graphite on the nose of this bottling gives a mineral streak to the dark fruit and toasted woodspice aromas. The palate pairs lightly bitter cocoa with tobacco leaf and baked fruit flavors. *Editors' Choice*. —M.K.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$48

92 **Quest 2024 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 11.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$27

91 **Big Dog Vineyards 2021 Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley).** Punchy aromas of dusty berries, cocoa, cedar, and chopped mint leaves swirl from the glass on the nose of this high-elevation Cabernet Franc. The palate delivers robust tannin and beautifully balanced acid that elevate flavors of fresh raspberry-cherry, balsamic, stemmy herbs, and violets that linger all along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$48

90 **Grapestake Cellars 2024 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Earthy aromas of toasted walnut, strawberry compote, and sagebrush show on the nose of this wine. The palate

is savory and rustic, offering cranberry, raspberry and tomato flavors alongside hints of game. —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$65

PINOT NOIR

98 **Pisoni Estate 2024 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 3.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$110

97 **La Lomita Wines 2024 Islay Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Potent aromas of pomegranate, orange rind, and dank herb converge on the nose of this bottling, which is grown on one of the region's volcanic outcroppings. The palate is awash in juicy red-cherry flavors with ample eucalyptus leaf and a minty finish. It's thought-provoking and delicious all at once. —M.K.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$68

96 **Auteur Wines 2024 Campbell Ranch Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast).** The nose of this generous Pinot brings focused aromas of pomegranate molasses, spiced plum compote, rose petal, and sandalwood. Concentrated but zippy, the palate delivers flavors of Bing cherry coulis, orange peel, fresh mint leaf, flowers, and dusty cocoa across a long finish. Delicious now, this will reward patience. Best from 2030–2045. *Cellar Selection*. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$115

96 **Evan's Ranch 2024 Morgan's Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Muddled black plum and black cherry aromas are laced with cola spice on the rich and layered nose of this bottling from the Gainey family's Sta. Rita Hills vineyard. The palate snaps with raspberry, cherry, and pepper-spice flavors that play in excellent harmony. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

96 **Signal Ridge 2024 Signal Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** This wine is sumptuous, with lush aromas of dark Bing cherry, black raspberry, Christmas spice, orange pekoe black tea, frankincense, and subtle French oak on the nose. The flavors are ripe damson plum, juicy blackberry, maple, crushed bay leaf, cracked black pepper, and all-spice, interwoven with supple acidity, silky tannins, and a mouthwatering finish. This is high-elevation Pinot Noir at its best, with a beautiful journey ahead. *Cellar Selection*. —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$65

95 **Gainey 2024 Estate Vineyards Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice*.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$36

95 **Kanzler Vineyards 2024 One Fifteen Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Lifted aromas of fresh raspberry, rose petal, cocoa powder, and cinnamon pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate feels light and bright, with silky tannic structure and bright acidity framing flavors of cherry, pithy

orange peel, flowers, and roasted mushroom on a smooth finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 25% **Price:** \$90

95 Kanzler Vineyards 2024 Walker Station Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this Pinot features punchy aromas of black cherry, cedar, roses, and cola on the nose. The palate of the wine brings plush tannin, vibrant acid, and flavors of concentrated raspberry, Bing cherry compote, plum skin, toasted spices, and flowers that blossom along the finish. Serve with grilled duck and berry gastrique. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$90

95 Williams Selyem 2024 Olivet Lane Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Intense aromas of Bing cherry, spiced plum compote, cedar, and rose petal erupt from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate balances rich tannin and vibrant acid with flavors of fresh raspberry, nectarine, orange zest, cocoa powder, and herbal-floral potpourri that lifts the finish. Charming now, this will blossom for a decade in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$90

94 Bravium 2024 Wiley Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Sumptuous, this wine delivers lush aromas of black plum, black raspberry, fresh florals, nutmeg, alpine herbs, star anise, and sweet French oak on the nose. Flavors highlight jellied red currant, pomegranate, blood orange, bay leaf, sage, mocha, and supple acidity. The mouthwatering finish leaves participants wanting another sip. Cellar until 2036 or aerate and enjoy. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$40

94 Davies Vineyard 2024 Ferrington Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Davies Vineyard 2024 Georgian Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This bright wine features aromas of dark raspberries, ripe black strawberries, molasses, alpine herbs, dried potpourri, sweet French oak, and savory mushrooms on the nose. The flavors convey taut cranberry-rhubarb, blood orange, and fennel. Mineral is intertwined throughout the mouthfeel, leaving an earthy, dry, and supple finish. Cellar until 2034 or decant and enjoy. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

94 Davies Vineyard 2024 Hyde Vineyards Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Bright, focused aromas of raspberry, pomegranate, and tangerine dance with cocoa powder and flowers on the nose of this wine. The palate offers rich texture and zippy acid, with flavors of concentrated Bing cherry, orange zest, rose petals, and dark chocolate across a long finish. Yummy now, this will soften nicely in the cellar. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

94 Davies Vineyard 2024 Nobles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). Juicy cherry,

pomegranate, orange peel, and nori aromas swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate exhibits velvety tannins and supple acid with flavors of raspberry coulis, plum, shiitake, sandalwood, and roses that blossom across a long finish. This crowd-pleaser will pair beautifully with everything from grilled mushrooms to lamb. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$85

94 Dehlinger 2023 High Plains Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Explosive aromas of Bing cherries, anise, cinnamon, flowers, and cedar highlight the nose of this sumptuous wine. The palate brings seamlessly integrated acid and tannin framing flavors of crushed cherries and raspberries, cocoa powder, licorice, rose petals, and sage that linger along an orange-peel-scented finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

94 Meyer Family Cellars 2025 The AV Way Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Lush, this wine features aromas of concentrated pomegranate, juicy wild strawberry, watermelon, orange blossom, coriander, and toasty oak that flicker throughout the nose. Flavors highlight tart raspberry, dark Bing cherry, sagebrush, and nutmeg. Generous acidity creates a mouthwatering, creamy, and dry finish. Cellar until 2035 or decant and pair now with grilled duck breast, farro, arugula, and pomegranate jus. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$42

94 Sojourn Cellars 2024 UV Silver Eagle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This bright and expressive Pinot pops from the glass with aromas of fresh plums, cherries, berries, licorice, and flowers on the nose. The palate balances sumptuous tannin and bright acid, with flavors of raspberry tart, cocoa, shiitake, cinnamon, and roses that linger for over a minute on the finish. Major "yum" factor here. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85

94 Waypoint 2023 Silver Eagle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this complex and charming wine leads with aromas of fresh Bing cherry, cocoa powder, sandalwood, Darjeeling, and cut flowers. The palate presents broad tannic structure with energetic acidity and flavors of pomegranate, earthy mushroom, nori, toasty spices, black tea, and rose petal across a long and winding finish. Give this some time to soften and enjoy with roasted duck and fried mushrooms. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Bishop's Peak 2025 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). This is always one of the best Pinot Noirs for the price, and this vintage is one of the best. Aromas of raspberry, pomegranate, and white pepper make for a cohesive nose. The palate is lightly bodied with zesty blood-orange peel and more pomegranate flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

93 Bravium 2024 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This rich wine offers aromas of raspberry, pomegranate, citrus, alpine herbs, fresh florals, and French oak on the nose. Flavors feature ripe plum,

cassis, wild strawberry, orange zest, spearmint, coriander, and allspice, all wrapped around subtle tannins that leave a lip-smacking finish. Cellar until 2033 or aerate and enjoy. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$35

93 Cordant Winery 2024 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Clean lines of black cherry, plum pudding, and gingerbread show on the spicy nose of this bottling. The palate is bold and rich with fruit flavors, yet layered in black pepper dust and a leathery texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Davies Vineyard 2024 Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Juicy berry and licorice aromas pop from the glass on the nose of this richly structured wine. The palate offers firm tannin and vibrant acid framing flavors of crushed raspberry, pomegranate, pithy citrus peel, fried shiitake, and cocoa all along the lifted floral finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

93 Davies Vineyard 2024 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This vibrant wine offers aromas of lush cassis, pomegranate, guava, red licorice, citrus, crystallized ginger, maple, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors are plum, black raspberry, watermelon, orange cream, bay leaf, and mineral, leading to silky tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Davies Vineyard 2024 Keefer Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Supertripe aromas of cherry and raspberry dominate the nose of this wine. Plush tannins and lively acid on the palate join flavors of cherry compote, orange peel, cola, and flowers at the finish. Pair this with richer pork or duck courses. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$85

93 Davies Vineyard 2024 Three Amigos Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Candied cherry and raspberry aromas mingle with dark chocolate and flowers on the nose of this wine. The palate is broad and weighty, with bright orange-peel acidity that elevates flavors of pomegranate molasses, red plum compote, cinnamon, and herbal-floral potpourri at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Dehlinger 2024 Goldridge Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of dark berries, dusty cocoa, violets, and toasty spices drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of concentrated black cherry, cola spices, fried shiitake, and tangerine zest throughout a long, pithy finish. Charming now, this will unfold nicely over the next decade. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Fulcrum 2024 Ferrington Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This robust wine features aromas of dark plum, soy, cumin, dried florals, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors are deep on the palate, with blackberry, olallieberry, grilled grapefruit,

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cinnamon, earth, and mineral on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$80

93 Holman Ranch 2024 Three Sisters Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley). This is a brisk style of Pinot Noir, showing how coastally influenced this appellation can be. Muddled pomegranate, cranberry, and thyme aromas decorate the nose. The palate pops with sour cherry, lemon peel, and peppery spice flavors, riding persistent acidity deep into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$67

93 Koehler Winery 2025 Maria Vista Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). The nose on this bottling starts a bit wild, with foggy, damp earth, cranberry, and tart raspberry aromas. The palate is lusher than expected, pairing stemmy, mushroom-like savory flavors with notes of rich strawberry and graphite minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$24

93 Koehler Winery 2024 Drum Canyon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Fresh and lovely aromas of cherry, pomegranate, and root beer spice entice the nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate needs some time to open, but when it does, flavors of snappy sour cherry and orange peel meet with clipped herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

93 Niner Wine Estates 2024 Jespersen Ranch Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Cranberry, strawberry, sage clippings, and rooibos tea aromas converge into a uniquely compelling nose on this bottling. The palate pairs tart red-fruit flavors with mace and curry leaf elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

93 Pali Wine Co. 2023 Pali Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Rich and bold aromas of black cherry, loamy soil, and toasty wood are lifted by floral elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate' dark-cherry jam and oak-spice flavors are livened by a peppercorn zing. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

93 San Simeon 2024 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

93 Storm Wines 2024 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Here is a county cuvée that's worth laying down, and priced so that you could afford the multiple bottles to check in on it regularly. Aromas of loam-dusted cherries and beetroot lead into a palate that sizzles with acidity while presenting white pepper and blood orange zest flavors. Drink now, then again in 2030, then again in 2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$45

93 Tongue Dancer Wines 2024 Foxtrot Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Vibrant aromas of crushed cherries and raspberries mingle with fresh wildflowers and cola spices on the nose of this wine.

The palate brings sumptuous texture and bright acid with flavors of pomegranate, dusty cocoa powder, violets, roses, sandalwood, and chopped herbs throughout a long finish, with a core of pithy orange peel. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$49

92 Comartin 2024 R-Bar-R Ranch Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Cranberry and dank herb aromas meet with a rusty minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate is much more juicy than expected, with cherry flavors that are balanced by a eucalyptus leaf element. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$64

92 Cordant Winery 2024 Escolle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Raspberry, sagebrush, and lightly toasted woodspice aromas entertain the nose on this bottling. The palate of the wine pairs tart red fruit with cola and warm pastry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$60

92 Cuvaion 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Concentrated aromas of Bing cherry, raspberry coulis, cola spices, and flowers overflow the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate layers plush tannin and juicy acid that lift flavors of intense berry, black plum, dry cocoa, shiitake, and orange peel throughout the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$45

92 Davies 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Ripe Bing cherry, concentrated raspberry, cola spice, and cedar aromas drive the nose of this richly structured wine. The palate brings plush tannin and balanced acid framing flavors of roasted plum, cocoa, shiitake, and flowers across the finish. Great wine for a burger and mushrooms. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$60

92 Davies Vineyard 2024 Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Bold aromas of roasted cherry, toasted hazelnut, stemmy mushroom, and cinnamon swirl on the nose of this Pinot Noir. The palate is softly textured, with bright acid lifting supple tannins and flavors of fresh raspberry, cocoa powder, cola spices, and orange across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

92 Evan's Ranch 2024 Lone Oak Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Baked cherry and candied blackberry aromas pick up light floral elements on the juicy nose of this bottling. The palate's baked strawberry and cherry flavors are very enjoyable and straightforward on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$64

92 J Vineyards 2024 Eastside Knoll Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$65

92 Maker Wine 2024 Handley Estate Vineyard Organic Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine is bright, with aromas of lush Bing cherry, plum, dried potpourri, allspice, and toasty oak on the nose.

The palate brings flavors of wild strawberry, cranberry-pomegranate, star anise, and mineral on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$7/250ml

92 Neyers 2024 Placida Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine leads with bright aromas of black cherry, nectarine, cola, and rose petal. On the palate, rich tannin and juicy acidity frame flavors of raspberry compote, candied cherry, cinnamon, saffron, flowers, sandalwood, and orange zest at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

92 Outlier 2024 Pinot Noir (Lake County). Lively, this wine offers aromas of youthful stone fruit, savory herbs, dried florals, earth, and toasty oak on the nose. Flavors highlight cranberry-pomegranate, orange-zest vanilla cream, fennel seed, and black tea. Supple acidity pulsates throughout the palate, leaving a mouthwatering finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.3% Price: \$22

92 Ten Acre 2022 Alder Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). For full review see page 11. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.3% Price: \$80

92 Walt 2024 Blue Jay Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Opulent, this wine offers deep aromas of ripe blueberries, cardamom, maple, dried roses, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are fresh blackberries, mulberries, lime zest, crushed bay leaf, and black tea, waltzing into silky acidity and a dry, mouthwatering finish. Aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$50

92 Walt 2024 The Corners Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Aromas on the nose of this wine suggest baked stone fruit, alpine herbs, sage, dried florals, and French oak. The flavors on the palate highlight youthful Bing cherries, raspberries, orange sherbet, and nutmeg, morphing into dry, mouthwatering tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

92 Will 2023 Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This vibrant wine offers aromas of lush raspberries, damson plums, alpine herbs, roses, and sweet French oak on the nose. Juicy flavors convey dark strawberries, Bing cherries, white nectarines, cardamom, bittersweet chocolate, and supple tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

91 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (High Valley). For full review see page 11. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14% Price: \$32

91 Cordant Winery 2024 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This bottling is extremely dark in the glass for a Pinot Noir, and booms on the nose with pepper, violet, black pepper, and blackberry aromas. The palate is rich and thick, as

creamy, enveloping tannins wrap around black plum and tobacco flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Joyce 2024 Submarine Canyon Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). This is one of the best Pinots for the price in California. Quite light hued in the glass, it begins with fresh pomegranate, cranberry, and sage-brush aromas. The palate is easygoing, pairing cranberry, orange rind, and more chaparral spice flavors into a cohesive sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$25

91 Kendall-Jackson 2023 Panorama Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A medium-light hue in the glass, this wine starts with red cherry, pomegranate jelly, light chaparral, and stronger mace aromas on the nose. The palate hits sharply, perhaps from the higher alcohol level on a lighter frame, but the flavors evolve pleasantly across mulberry, rhubarb, and black pepper elements. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

91 The Vice 2024 The House Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). Punchy aromas of cranberry, Bing cherry, orange peel, cocoa, and licorice pop on the nose of this wine. The palate is soft and balanced, with smooth tannic structure, bright acid, and flavors of raspberry gastrique, pomegranate, cola spices, and cedar that linger all along the finish. This exceedingly charming Pinot offers great value for the price point. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Blue Oasis Wines 2024 Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Sour cherry, herb, and floral aromas pop on the nose of this wine. The palate brings soft tannin and smooth acidity alongside flavors of baked raspberry tart, cranberry, chopped stemmy herbs, and rose petal at the finish. Drink this with grilled salmon and mushrooms. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Lumen 2022 Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This wine is showing a bit of age, browning a touch in the glass, and offering tart cranberry, rust, and grapefruit peel aromas. The palate is a bit richer, offering a similarly sanguine combination of cranberry, citrus peel, and rusty nail flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

89 Will 2024 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Baked strawberry and potpourri aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe with lush strawberry flavors that sit atop a soft structure. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

89 Wrath Wines 2022 Cinco Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). There's a tart angle to the nose of this bottling, similar to black plum skins, with crumpled thyme providing some nuance. The palate is awash in a similar mix of sour fruit and wild herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

88 OGC 2024 The Mercantile Pinot Noir (Carneros). Spiced cherry compote, cranberry, cocoa, and rose petal aromas mingle on the nose of this wine. The palate feels plush, with some grip to the tannins, zip to the acid, and flavors of baked black cherry, raspberry, cedar, and cinnamon through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

SYRAH

96 Donelan Family Wines 2022 Cardiac Hill Syrah (Bennett Valley). The nose of this native-fermented Syrah explodes with aromas of black plum, blackberry coulis, sage, black olive, and roasting meats. Firm but balanced, the palate features polished tannins lifted by nervy acid and flavors of crushed black cherry, plum skin, dusty cocoa, and cracked black peppercorn before a long, violet-scented finale. Give this time to soften and enjoy with any roasted lamb dish. Best from 2035–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$120

96 Morgan 2024 G 17 Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

95 Creekcute Winery 2023 Syrah De Saule Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 4.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$80

95 Donelan Family Wines 2022 Kobler Family Vineyard Syrah (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Punchy aromas of black fruits, licorice, flowers, and roasty game meats swirl on the nose of this Syrah-Viognier bottling. There's lovely poise and balance here, with powder-fine tannin walking a tightrope with zesty orange-peel acid and flavors of roasted berries, cracked pepper, wildflowers, and sage all along a generous finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$100

95 Holman Ranch 2024 Syrah (Carmel Valley). This location on the coastal end of the Carmel Valley appellation may just be the ideal spot for Syrah, able to show both vibrant and meatier sides of the grape. Aromas of fresh boysenberry, violet, and rose extract lead from the nose into a juicy yet savory palate full of black raspberry and white pepper flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

95 La Lomita Wines 2024 Islay Hill Vineyard Syrah (Edna Valley). There's a familiar streak of cool-climate savoriness to this bottling, starting with aromas of black olive, charred lamb, and rosemary on the nose. The palate picks up hoisin, baked fig, and roasted plum flavors to pair with the gamy and herby elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$52

94 Evan's Ranch 2024 Lone Oak Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Potent aromas of purple and blue fruits meet with violets, turned earth, and toasted oak on

the nose of this bottling. The palate is layered in elderberry and lilac flavors, with a hint of dried mint on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

94 Frequency 2024 Zepherino Vineyard Syrah (San Luis Obispo Coast). Black currant and elderberry compote aromas make for a very fresh and inviting nose on this bottling from a vineyard in the hills behind Arroyo Grande. The palate is quite lavish in grape-like flavors that are fresh, fun, and spiced with white pepper on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$49

94 MacLaren 2023 Drouthy Neebors Syrah (Sonoma County). The rich and complex nose of this wine brings lavish aromas of fresh plums, black cherries, cinnamon, purple flowers, and grilled bacon. The palate offers plush tannic structure and generous acidity which lifts the midpalate, highlighting flavors of black berries, game meats, peppercorn, and charming florals on the finish. Share this with your own "Thirsty Neighbors". —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

94 MacLaren 2023 Dutton-Gregori Vineyard Cuvée V Syrah (Russian River Valley). This softer style of Syrah with a pinch of Viognier delivers bright raspberry, lemon peel, black tea, and purple flower aromas on the nose. The palate presents a balance of grippy tannin and zippy acid, with flavors of juicy cherry, blackberry, salty plum, gravel, cocoa powder, and pepper through the finish. Drink now–2035. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$67

93 Cass 2023 Backbone Syrah (Paso Robles Geneseo District). Rusty aromas of dried cherry and smashed cranberry meet with chaparral on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich and chewy in cherry fruit flavors but layered in lots of herbal elements, from thyme to fennel. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$52

93 Sunstone Winery 2023 Estate Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). Candied red-fruit aromas are pretty potent on the nose of this bottling from the estate's 2.3-acre Syrah block. The palate pairs that red fruit with red flower and peppercorn flavors, proving easy to like and satisfying, with a light vanilla finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Gainey 2024 Estate Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Very ripe and luscious aromas of blueberry and violet are a touch sharp on the nose of this bottling. Polished tannins make for a smooth texture on the palate, where dark red-fruit and cinnamon flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

88 McBride Sisters Collection 2019 Syrah (Edna Valley). Savory aromas of roasted meat, violet, blackberry, and peppercorn make for nose that shows some age on this bottling. The palate is tarry

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and reductive, with powerful oak spice and dried cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$19

92 Clay Shannon 2023 Winemaker Series Touriga Nacional (High Valley). The elevation of the High Valley appellation has produced little-known finds for years. From the tasty Winemaker Series, this selection is intense, with aromas of dark berries, spice, chocolate, dried flowers, French oak, and crushed rocks on the nose. The palate leads to tart blackberries, black raspberries, lush plums, coriander, and bay leaf, gliding into supple tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

MERLOT

94 Brave & Maiden 2023 Limited Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). Bold aromas of black cherry and an array of baking spices are very approachable on the nose of this bottling. Rich black-fruit flavors meet with woodspice and cracked pepper on the palate, where the acidity keeps things lively. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

94 Grassini Family Vineyards 2023 Merlot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Dark and intense black cherry aromas meet with licorice and tomato leaf on the alluring nose of this bottling. There's a solid core of roasted black plum on the palate, with hints of soy, herb, and peppercorn adding nuance. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$105

92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2023 Estate Merlot (High Valley). Bordeaux varieties thrive in the varied micro-climates of High Valley. This wine features exuberant aromas of cassis, sweet Bing cherry, black olive, sage, and dusty earth on the nose. The flavors on the palate are tart red plum, orange zest, vanilla cream, and allspice, pulsating into silky tannins on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Merriam Vineyards 2023 Windacre Estate Merlot (Russian River Valley). Big aromas of roasted cherries, dusty raspberries, chocolate, and cedar pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers velvety texture with plush tannin, juicy acid, and flavors of fresh berries, balsamic, dark cocoa, and violets across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$56

91 No Love Lost 2024 Merlot (Alexander Valley). Focused aromas of cinnamon, cedar, and flowers mingle with concentrated cherry and blueberry on the nose of this wine. The palate brings grippy tannin and soft acid that frame flavors of cherry coulis, fresh raspberry, dark chocolate, and mint across a long, pithy finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50

90 Cline Family Cellars 2024 Merlot (Sonoma County). Berries and cherries mingle with aromas of shattered stone, cracked pepper, and minty

herbs on the nose of this wine. The palate shows opulent tannic structure and flavors of baked cherry pie, cinnamon, cocoa, eucalyptus, and cedar through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

ZINFANDEL

94 Florence 2024 30 Year Vines Zinfandel (Rockpile). The nose of this wine presents opulent aromas of spiced plum, dark berry jam, and cocoa powder. Lavishly structured tannin and acid on the palate joins with flavors of baked cherry tart, blueberry coulis, cracked pepper, mint, and licorice across a long, gripping finish. Give this some time to soften in the cellar. Best from 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$60

93 Florence 2024 Jack's Reserve Zinfandel (Rockpile). Explosive aromas of concentrated cherry, licorice, and cinnamon swirl from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is robust, with plush tannin, zippy acid, and flavors of raspberry liqueur, orange zest, balsamic, and flowers that linger across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Ridge Vineyards 2024 Belloni Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Rich spice aromas and dark cocoa notes mingle with blackberries, plums, and sweet herbs on the nose of this Zin. The palate delivers layers of plush tannin and juicy acid that frame flavors of roasted cherries, licorice, violets, and mint chocolate across a long, plushly textured finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$43

92 Buckel Family Wine 2021 Zinfandel (Redwood Valley). Although this wine was produced by Buckel Family Wines in Colorado, the grapes come from a famous grower in California. Intense aromas of blackberries, boysenberries, candied orange slices, and cardamom intertwine with sweet cigar on the nose. The flavors feature ripe blueberries, olallieberries, baked black plums, molasses, root beer, cola, and silky, mouthwatering tannins on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$34

90 Cline Family Cellars 2024 Eight Spur Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of crushed blueberries, raspberries, gravel, cinnamon, and herbs lift the nose of this Zinfandel. The palate is richly structured with grippy tannin and supple acidity framing flavors of baked berry tart, plums, mint leaves, violets, and licorice that elevate the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

90 Fidelity 2024 The Railyard Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Jumpy aromas of candied cherry and raspberry mingle with flowers on the nose of this wine. The palate brings firm tannins and juicy acid, with flavors of baked blueberry, cranberry, cinnamon, mint, and cut wildflowers blossoming along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$22

90 LOST RANCH Winery 2023 Lopez Ranch Old Vines Zinfandel (Cucamonga Valley). The nose on this bottling is a bit tart, with sour cherry and sharp tomato aromas. These evolve into tart red-plum-skin and wild herb flavors on the palate, which offers an amaro-like spice tone. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36

89 OGC 2024 The Mercantile Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Aromas of tart cherry, spiced plum, anise, and cinnamon drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings soft tannins and lively acid, with flavors of raspberry gastrique, blueberry, toasty spices, and green herbs on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

96 La Lomita Wines 2024 Islay Hill Vineyard Grenache (Edna Valley). There's a strong core of fresh fruits like muddled plum and smashed boysenberry on the nose of this bottling, alongside earthy hints of rose potpourri, chaparral, and struck stone. The palate is tightly wound in a pithy grip and yet bright with black raspberry and pomegranate flavors that are decorated in forest floor spices. Drink now–2042. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

95 PHENO 2024 Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Stolpman 2025 Estate Trousseau (Ballard Canyon). This bottling of a very rare grape in California reveals how intellectually compelling a light red wine can be. Transparent in the glass, the wine begins with aromas of cherry, pomegranate, and wet stone on the nose. The palate is fresh with acidity and wrapped in a leathery tension that doesn't relent, presenting flavors of blood orange, white peppercorn, and slightly bitter tea leaves. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2023 Estate Malbec (High Valley). This high-elevation Malbec offers opulent aromas of ripe boysenberry confiture, black currant, nutmeg, dried florals, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are youthful mulberry, blackberry, allspice, star anise, and white grapefruit cream, cruising into a supple, dry finish. Definitely a guilty pleasure. Aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 Frequency 2024 Portico Hills Vineyard Gra-ciano (Santa Barbara County). Black currant and violet aromas make for a very purple nose on this wine. The palate lands with a bright acidity and booming flavors of açaí, blueberry, and more violet, with hints of pepper and lilac also in play. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$49

93 LOST RANCH Winery 2021 Mission (Riverside County). This bottling shows how this historic California variety can be made into a true red wine.

It's light in the glass but still clearly red, offering aromas of chaparral, earth, pepper, and rustic, rugged red fruits on the nose. The palate shows flavors of cherry cobbler and citrus pith, with hints of anise leading through the tense finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$36

93 Merriam Vineyards 2023 Windacre Estate Malbec (Russian River Valley). Robust aromas of grilled cherries, blueberries, espresso, cinnamon, and shattered stone pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is expansive, with rich tannin framing flavors of black cherries, cracked pepper, dark cocoa, and flowers all along the finish. Best from 2028 alongside a grilled ribeye and caramelized onions. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$56

92 Clay Shannon 2023 Winemaker Series Ali-cante Bouschet (High Valley). From a high-elevation appellation with volcanic soil, this selection spotlights an old-school French variety not used often enough. Generous and flirtatious, the nose features aromas of wild blackberries, boysenberries, soy sauce, violets, sweet oak, and minerals. The palate delivers juicy huckleberries, tart mulberries, orange zest, cardamom, and silky tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

RED BLENDS

95 La Lomita Wines 2024 Mirabilis Rhône-Style Red Blend (San Luis Obispo Coast). There's a mix of fun cherry and serious stone on the nose of this blend of 52% Mourvèdre from Rancho Arroyo Grande, and estate-grown 25% Grenache and 23% Syrah. The palate pops with a zesty fruit punch and hibiscus flavors that pick up a gravel minerality and white pepper spice on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

95 San Simeon 2024 Stormwatch Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Bold aromas of cassis, melted chocolate chips, and fresh violets kick off the nose of this blend of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Malbec, 15% Petit Verdot, 15% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc. Pleasurable yet serious, the palate pairs a suave mouthfeel with peppery spices and fresh blackberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

94 Brave & Maiden 2023 The Affair Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). This blend of Cab and Syrah is both very fresh and well-spiced, starting with aromas of blackberry, violet, and vanilla on the lush nose. The palate is laced in firm tannins that contain the juicy red cherry and strawberry flavors, as black pepper and licorice notes enliven the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

94 Cass 2023 Notorious Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles Geneseo District). Lush aromas of black currant are jammy on the nose of this blend of 46% Petit Verdot, 44% Malbec, 7% Merlot, and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, which is cut by a spicy

black-pepper kick. The palate of the wine is very ripe and juicy yet fresh and minty, proving easy to drink. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$62

94 Ink Grade 2021 Andosol Red Blend (Napa Valley). The nose of this complex blend delivers zippy aromas of sour cherry, fresh blackberry, coffee, and cinnamon. The palate shows supple acid, powerful tannic structure, and flavors of black plum skin, orange peel, dark chocolate, graphite, and black pepper across the finish. A touch reticent at first, this wine blossoms nicely in the glass and will drink beautifully for a decade or more. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2024 Gotham Series Hell's Kitchen Red Blend (Paso Robles). This is a bold, well-structured blend of 42% Merlot, 19% Syrah, 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petit Verdot, 8% Malbec and 4% Graciano that should last awhile. The nose offers a very strong boysenberry scent, and then the palate grows more complex, with violet and peppery flavors. The sticky tannins should hold up, so drink now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

94 Ridge Vineyards 2024 Geyserville Vineyard Red Blend (Alexander Valley). Aromas of concentrated Bing cherry, blueberry, dry cocoa, and flowers pop on the nose of this Zinfandel-based blend. The palate brings lavishly structured tannin balanced by zippy acid and flavors of fresh blackberry, cracked pepper, sandalwood, and wildflower potpourri throughout the finish. Great now, this will gain some polish and nuance in the cellar. Best from 2030 with grilled ribs. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$56

94 Sunstone Winery 2023 Soleil Rouge Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). This Super Tuscan-esque blend of 75% Sangiovese, 16% Cabernet Franc, and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon is quite a treat. Ample fruit aromas of black raspberry meet with crumpled purple flowers on the nose. The palate is silky in texture and lightly tense, offering boysenberry and violet flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

93 Creekcute Winery 2023 GSM (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 7.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$80

93 Larkmead 2023 Keyline Estate Research Block Series Red Blend (Napa Valley). Big, bold aromas of dark berries, crushed plum, graphite, and cocoa drive the nose of this unique blend of Shiraz, Malbec, and a few other varieties. The palate brings powerful tannin and neatly balanced acid that frame flavors of juicy blackberry, blueberry, and plum. Notions of violets, dark chocolate, and gravel ebb and flow across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 LOST RANCH Winery 2023 Moonshadow Nero d'Avola-Syrah (Temecula Valley). This is a fascinating and eye-opening blend of 53% Nero

d'Avola and 47% Syrah that could be a formula for the future. Aromas of red currant, wet clay, crumpled chaparral, and peppercorn show on the nose. The palate is quite easygoing with red fruit flavors that are enlivened by pepper and thyme. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$44

93 Priest Ranch 2023 Peacemaker Red Blend (Napa Valley). Boisterous aromas of blackberry coulis, licorice, and cinnamon drive the nose of this blend. The palate possesses rich but smooth tannin framing flavors of roasted black plum, dusty cherry, cocoa, and flowers across a long, supple finish. A little time in the cellar will soften this wine nicely. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$90

93 St. Supéry 2023 Élu Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

92 Beckmen Vineyards 2023 Cuvee le Bec Rhône-Style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). This priced-to-sell blend of 46% Grenache, 40% Syrah, 7% Mourvèdre, and 7% Counoise is always a reliable midweek sipper or party wine. Aromas of blackberry and oak lead from the nose into a palate of plum, pepper, fine acidity, and taut tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

92 Brave & Maiden 2023 Rule of Thirds GSM (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark berry, peppercorn, nutmeg, and vanilla cake aromas converge on the nose of this wine. The palate pairs wild plum with wild fennel frond and chaparral herbs, with hints of black pepper and game on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

92 Creekcute Winery 2023 S&M Rhône-Style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Very plush on the nose, this blend of 57% Mourvèdre and 43% Syrah blends cassis, milk chocolate, and violet aromas while retaining some fresh energy. Soft tannins envelop the sip, where stewed black plum and hoisin flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$60

92 Gainey 2023 Inés Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). This Bordelaise blend of 39% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 23% Cabernet Franc is a newer offering for this brand, and this version is still quite young. Aromas of roasted cherry, blistered tomato, and baking spice lead from the nose into a palate of berry and oregano flavors that are firmly held by stiff tannins and a persistent acidity. Drink 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$56

92 J. Lohr 2024 Pure Paso Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Kula 2023 Hana's Blend Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). There's a potent, amaro-

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like bitterness to the nose of this blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Cabernet Franc, which also offers cherry, mahogany, and squid ink aromas. The palate is rustic with peppery chaparral and dried fruit flavors, as a long-lingering acidity floats vanilla spice into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 15.9%

Price: \$48

92 Old Winery Road 2023 Red Blend (Napa Valley). Lavish aromas of concentrated cherry, berry coulis, roasted espresso, and cracked pepper swirl on the nose of this blend. The palate feels weighty and broad, with nicely refined acid that lifts flavors of black plum compote, dark chocolate, raspberry, fresh-cut flowers, and black peppercorn that linger for over a minute on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

92 Pope Valley Winery 2023 Faultline Red Blend (Napa Valley). Intense aromas of concentrated raspberry, candied cherry, and sweet spices explode from the glass on the nose of this blend. The palate possesses velvety tannin and a decadent, syrupy body framing flavors of roasted berry-plum compote, purple flowers, candied lemon peel, and spearmint all along the finish. Fans of a riper style will adore this. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$98

92 Priest Ranch 2023 Remedy Red Blend (Napa Valley). Black fruits, earthy minerality, cut wildflowers, and toasted spice aromas pop from the glass on the nose of this blend. The palate is powerful but smooth, with velvety tannin framing flavors of grilled plum, balsamic, dried sage, espresso, and herbal-floral potpourri that elevates the finish of the wine. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$85

92 Sunstone Winery 2022 Fred's Red Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Graphite and dark cherry aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 73% Merlot and 27% Cabernet Franc. There's an herbal bitterness to the palate that balances the lighter-bodied strawberry flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$70

91 Clay Shannon 2023 The David Red Blend (Lake County). This bottling pays homage to high-elevation red wines. It is opulent, with aromas of olallieberry, damson plum, black currant confiture, star anise, French oak, and dried florals on the nose. The palate delivers ripe black plum, black strawberry, molasses, and sarsapilla, morphing into grippy tannins to finish. —T.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

91 LOST RANCH Winery 2023 Turquoise Moon Red Blend (Temecula Valley). This proprietary blend is a bit wild and tart on the nose, pairing cranberry, orange peel, roasted tomato, and dank herb aromas. The palate shows cherry tomato and baked fennel flavors, and would make a nice pairing with tacos. —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$22

91 Lucas & Lewellen 2021 Hidden Asset Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Charred walnut, roasted licorice, and stewed fruit aromas show on the nose of this kitchen sink-like blend of Malbec, Merlot, Syrah, Petite Sirah, and Cab Franc. The palate is softer with red plum, pepper, and sagebrush flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$34

91 Markham Vineyards 2022 The Character Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Aromas of dusty berries, black plums, and cocoa mingle on the nose of this Merlot-based blend. The palate is grippy and open, with flavors of black cherry coulis, espresso, green herbs, and violets across a tannic finish. Some time in the cellar will soften the edges nicely here. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$150

91 OGC 2023 The Mercantile Red Blend (Napa Valley). The nose of this blend hits with robust aromas of freshly squeezed cherry, concentrated raspberry, dark chocolate, cinnamon, and star anise. The palate is broad and smooth, with neatly balanced tannin and zippy acid framing flavors of crushed black plum, Bing cherry juice, warm spices, and freshly cut flowers. Drink this with grilled chops and caramelized onion. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

91 Peju 2022 Fifty/Fifty Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Napa Valley). The nose of this Merlot-Cabernet blend leads with focused aromas of candied cherries, chopped herbs, coffee, and cinnamon. On the palate, juicy acid and grippy tannin join flavors of dark berries, dusty cocoa, mint, and wildflowers that linger throughout the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$130

91 Pandemonium Wines 2024 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Zesty aromas of pomegranate and strawberry meet with white pepper on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with smooth, soft tannins, framing easy-to-enjoy red fruit and delicate spice flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$40

91 Sunstone Winery 2023 Fred's Red Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). A lighter color in the glass, this blend of 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc begins with Luxardo cherry and anise aromas on the nose. The palate's simple red currant flavors are approaching sweetness, with a light herb element providing balance. —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$70

91 Sunstone Winery 2022 Villa Reserve Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Plummy aromas are lifted by hints of pepper and tobacco leaf on the nose of this blend of 44% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc, and 18% Syrah. The palate pairs strawberry with oregano, marjoram, and peppercorn spices, proving quite intriguing. —M.K.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$69

90 LOST RANCH Winery 2023 Mélange Masque Red Blend (California). This blend of 55%

Syrah, 33% Grenache, and 12% Mataro is browning a bit in the glass, and offers rustic, sanguine aromas of iron and dried fruit on the nose. The palate highlights dried cherry, dust and sagebrush flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$42

90 Morgan 2022 Cotes du Crow's Red Blend (Monterey). A lighter hue in the glass, this blend of 66% Grenache, 16% Mourvèdre, 14% Syrah, and 4% Tempranillo offers candied strawberry, chaparral, and peppercorn aromas on the nose. The palate is quite herbal with thyme and marjoram elements that play against the rather brisk and sharp raspberry flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

89 Sunstone Winery 2023 Rapsodie Reserve Rhône-Style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Rustic aromas of cranberry, singed chaparral, and flinty slate show on the nose of this blend of 46% Grenache, 40% Syrah, and 14% Mourvèdre. The palate is full of tart red fruit that is decorated in somewhat sour sagebrush elements. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$70

88 Sunstone Winery 2023 Eros Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Tart black plum aromas consume the nose on this blend of 60% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 15% Cabernet Franc. The palate picks up some herbs and spice but the tart black-plum-skin flavor stays dominant. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$80

DESSERT WINES

94 Frey Vineyards 2022 Organic Late Harvest Zinfandel (Mendocino County). It's rare to see Zinfandel used as dessert wine. This version is subtle, with delicate flavors of dark plum, raspberry, wild strawberry, cardamom, oolong tea, violets, mocha, and supple tannins to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$18

94 Husch 2024 Late Harvest Gewurztraminer (Anderson Valley). Lush, this wine features aromatics of honeysuckle, baked Pink Lady apple, white nectarine, jasmine, and orange blossom honey on the nose. The flavors are poached peach, baked pear, brûléed orange jelly, acacia honey, and mouth-watering mineral on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$30

90 J. Lohr 2025 Late Harvest Riesling (Arroyo Seco). Apple sauce, honey, and kumquat aromas converge on the nose of this sweet sipper. The palate is very viscous and sweet, tasting of candied apples. It would be great on ice cream. —M.K.

abv: 11%

Price: \$25/375ml

AMERICA

SPARKLING WINE

90 Gruet NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (America). I'm not exactly certain where all of the grapes used to make this wine came from, but I do think this wine is an all-American value worthy of purchase by the case. Bubbles that are as lazy as a cat on a sunny afternoon help to deliver aromas of pink grapefruit, rye bread, and wet slate to the part of the olfactory system that measures happiness. The wine's flavors are similar, but behind the citrus and baked goods there lurks a dollop of the sweetest red raspberries imaginable. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

95 Domaine Serene 2023 Etoile Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). The Étoile Vineyard Chardonnay is yet another 2023 vintage home run for this producer. The wine's aromas mix yellow apples and lemon curd with striking notes of fresh-cut grass and a mineral mix of chalkboard dust and talc. Back by blazing acidity, the wine's tart nectarine, white peach, lime zest, and saline flavors feel as though they are vibrating like a fluorescent light tube about to die out. Pair with acid jazz and a beachside blanket. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$128

95 Evening Land 2024 Summum Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). When this wine is served straight from the bottle, it is somewhat shy. With a bit of glass swirling and patience, aromas such as Golden Delicious apple slices and Genmaicha green tea, with all its roasted brown-rice goodness, begin to emerge. The flavors of apples return with your first sip, joined soon thereafter by flavors of butter, earthy oregano, and the saline qualities of a maritime breeze. Enjoy this wine and its silky texture with as many seafood dishes as you can think of from 2027 until at least 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$95

94 Aubaine 2024 Windfall Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$60

94 Domaine Serene 2023 Aspect Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). The tropics and Oregon forests collide here, as aromas of pineapple, pine needles, and almonds duke it out for aromatic supremacy. Lemon curd and peach flavors are spiced up by bits of ginger and lime zest, with a trace of chamomile tea on the long finish. This smooth-sipping Chardonnay feels almost creamy, with gentle acidity massaging the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$115

94 Domaine Serene 2023 Evenstad Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). The 2023 vintage was a strong one for Domaine Serene's Chardonnay program. The Evenstad Reserve offers layer after layer of classic aromas such as yellow apples, toasted filberts, butter, lemon, and daisies. Flavors of baked apples, peaches, and cinnamon are amplified by a brilliant amount of acidity, with just a hint of melon on the finish. This wine feels elegant, lively, and juicy, all at the same time. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

94 Domaine Serene 2022 Récolte Grand Cru Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Elegance personified, the Récolte opens with aromas of wet slate and Golden Delicious apple slices drizzled with butterscotch. The wine's rich, smooth texture is the playground for its flavors of lemon, almond butter, and touches of oak spice and chamomile tea. This is medium-bodied fare, with mild acidity and a finish as long as Disneyland's summertime lines. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$160

94 SOM Wines 2024 Eola Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). A first sniff of the wine reveals a massive amount of lemon citrus, followed by smoky flint and earthy daisy aromas. This earthiness turns to citrus on the palate, where lemon, lime, pineapple, and guava flavors hold court. What really makes this Chardonnay stand out is its electrifying acidity and mouthfeel so snappy, you will want to dance to it. So break out the LPs and turntable after pouring a glass. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$78

93 Aubaine 2024 Anahata Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). After a lemon-lime burst, aromas of saline and sagebrush after a good rain take over. It helps to make Aubaine's Anahata Vineyard Chardonnay smell like a stroll in high desert country. Acidity that is elevated without being overly tart helps frame the wine's key lime pie, thyme, toasted filbert, and salty Marcona almond flavors. Try pairing it with your next plate of crab puffs. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

93 Aubaine 2024 Athas Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). A quick whiff of ripe passion fruit is soon joined by aromas of grilled pineapple, smoky flint, and brioche warm from the oven. There is a beautiful balance here between restrained alcohol, crisp acidity, nicely integrated oak, and fruit, with a long finish. The wine's citrus-driven flavors range from lemon verbena and grilled lemons to chamomile and toasted filberts. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$65

93 Aubaine 2024 Vreugde Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Vreugde, a Dutch word for glee or delight, is the perfect name for this Chardonnay. The wine smells fresh and herbal, as if you are walking barefoot in a bed of white clover, yarrow, and chamomile flowers. There's also a faint whiff of kiwi fruit in the background. The wine feels tart and lean in the mouth, with amplified acidity driving flavors of

lime zest and pink grapefruit. If your palate feels at all fatigued, here's your wake-up call. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$65

93 Evening Land 2024 La Source Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). The scent of pineapple slices grilling over a smoky/salty driftwood fire at the beach is met by wisps of butterscotch and talc. The smoke and fruit combination picks up again on the palate, with flavors of smoked pears matching up with notes of ginger, lime zest, and thyme. The wine's acidity is on the perky side, with a fresh and clean mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Kristof 2024 Kristof Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). A tangy lemon zest aroma is counterpointed by the wine's sweet honeysuckle scent. An additional aroma that is similar to gunpowder green tea hovers in the background. The Chardonnay's acidity is as invigorating as an ice bath, with lemon marmalade, thyme, and honey butter flavors approaching decadence territory. There's plenty of chills and thrills with this wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 SOM Wines 2023 Eola Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Here is yet another data point for the notion that Chardonnay and the Eola-Amity Hills are a match made in heaven. With its yellow apple, honeysuckle, flint, and lemon-waxed hardwood floor aromas, you will be tempted to sniff your glass all night long. But taste you must. That's where you will find flavors of pears, ginger and buttery macadamia nuts. Lending more than moral support to all of this is a crunchy bit of acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$78

93 Soter 2023 Estates Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). An autumn hay ride's worth of aromas feature here, with baked apples vying with spicy ginger, cinnamon, and straw for attention. The wine feels crisp and lively as flavors of tart green apples, lime zest, ginger, and a touch of brown sugar zoom about the palate in energetic fashion. This would be a great Chardonnay to try with your next batch of seared scallops. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 Dancin 2024 Chainé Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). Talk about an aroma juxtaposition. On one side, you have crisp, fresh yellow apple and saline aromas. The other side offers super-earthly aromas of oregano and marigolds. This is a lean, brisk-textured Chardonnay with lively acidity and flavors of lemon butter, spicy ginger, orange zest, and white pepper. Those flavors hang around for a nice, long finish. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$36

92 Dukes Family 2019 Pearl Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). The wine's aromas come in waves, beginning with a combination of lemon peel and pears. Then, a spicy ginger note teams up with touches of coconut and toasted filberts. The fla-

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vors are a similar mix of lemon verbena tea, Asian pears, raw almonds, and bok choy, all gliding along an almost-creamy texture. This will be an excellent wine to pair with a plate of cold fried chicken and hot mashed potatoes. —M.A.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$55

91 Anderson Family 2023 Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). A dessert-like set of aromas that feature a poached pear spiced with ginger melds with mild notes of coconut and thyme. The wine, with its brisk acidity, feels lively and crisp on the palate, with tangy flavors of lemon zest, lemon basil and a hint of butter-scotch. This is a Chardonnay that is easy to enjoy all by itself. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$56

91 Wine by Joe 2024 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The wine's pear, apricot and green-tea aromas are fine by themselves, but when you add a bouquet of Hawaiian lei flowers, look out. This is a tart, light-bodied Chardonnay with flavors of melon and an earthy combination of marjoram and oregano. And watch out if you are shy around acidity, as this wine packs a laser beam's worth. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$14

88 Kings Ridge 2024 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A distinctly herbal nose featuring fresh-cut grass, chamomile and sweatpea flowers is complemented by a touch of chalkboard dust. The wine's flavors of yellow grapefruit and lemon verbena tea served with a dollop of honey feel lean in the mouth, with slightly elevated acidity holding steady. —M.A.

abv: 12%

Price: \$22

88 Lanphere Cellars 2024 Weathervane Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A bouquet of sweet pea and chamomile flowers overwhelms aromas of tangerine and tart apple. The Chardonnay's acidity is a bit underwhelming, with flavors of lemon, honey and orange cake drifting about. You can expect a texture that tiptoes up to creamy territory. —M.A.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$25

PINOT GRIS

93 Proteus 2025 Ramato Pinot Gris (Laurelwood District). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$48

91 King Estate 2024 Steiner Block Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 12.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

91 Ponzi 2025 Pinot Gris (Laurelwood District). Ponzi has a long and distinguished history when it comes to Pinot Gris, and I think this might be the best one I have ever tasted. The wine's aromas feature a really ripe, almost sweet Fuji apple and a touch of limeade. Lemony acidity the lights up the wine's green apple, lemon drop hard candy and mineral flavors.

Try a glass of this excellent Pinot Gris with your next batch of smoked kippers. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

90 King Estate 2025 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$20

90 King Estate 2025 Artisan Series Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$20

89 Anderson Family 2023 Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills). This is a tale of two wines. Aromatically, this is a crisp combination of lemon verbena, green tea, fresh-cut grass, and a touch of melting candle wax. In a gear shift worthy of Bo and Luke Duke, the wine's pear and apple-custard flavors coat the palate in thick, creamy fashion. You can expect soft acidity and a mildly bitter almond note on the finish. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$42

89 Christopher Michael 2025 Pinot Gris (Oregon). An orchard one-two punch of apricots and white peaches is accented by a mildly bitter-almond note. This is a Pinot Gris with some body and a creamy texture, with gentle acidity bringing up the rear. The mildly sweet ripe apricot and marzipan flavors are simple and satisfying. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

89 King Estate 2024 Goschie Vineyard Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The aroma of a big bowl of ripe Golden Delicious apples is complemented by the wine's scents of caramel and wet slate. With just enough acidity to keep things lively, the Goschie Vineyard Pinot Gris features flavors of an icy lemon granita served with a side of mouthpuckering Granny Smith apples. This is a 100% stainless steel wine, from fermentation to seven months of *surlie* aging. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$31

89 Kings Ridge 2025 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). A complex set of aromas begins with Fuji apples and sage, then finishes with puffs of lanolin and fresh-cut grass. There's even a mineral note that conjured up memories of swimming pool water warming in the sunlight. The flavors are less complex, with apricots, lemon, and tarragon floating along the wine's creamy texture, relatively undisturbed by gentle acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$17

89 Raptor Ridge 2025 Vineyard Select Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). There's a sweet fruit aroma here that mixes ripe peaches and apricots with a spicy ginger note that hovers in the background. There's also a starchy note that made me think about corn masa. The wine's mildly elevated acidity matches up with flavors of lime curd, lemongrass tea, and a tiny amount of raw honeycomb. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

88 Greenwing 2025 Pinot Grigio (Willamette Valley). A Pinot Gris by any other name still

smells like pears, lychee, and rose water. There's a touch of sweetness here, with flavors of apple sauce and quince paste. The wine's acidity is on the softer side, with a texture that edges up to creamy territory. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

88 Proteus 2025 Legacy Pinot Gris (Yamhill-Carlton). Chunks of dried apple mix with lemon and chalkboard-dust aromas. The acidity is a bit too gentle, with pleasant flavors of grilled lemons and a glass of quinine on the rocks that's been garnished with a lime wedge. The producer names Vinho Verde as an inspiration, but it needs a bit more zippy acidity. —M.A.

abv: 11.7%

Price: \$40

RIESLING

92 Brooks 2024 Riesling (Willamette Valley). The wine's white gold color certainly slowed down my sniffing and sipping. It is an attractive hue, so take your time enjoying it. Once the gazing is over, dig into the wine's sweet Mirabelle plum, nectarine, and mint aromas. Backed by a jolt of acidity, the dry, light-bodied Riesling's tangerine and rosewater flavors are pierced by a tart bit of orange zest. As with its color, take all the time you need to enjoy each sip of this wine. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

90 A to Z 2023 Riesling (Oregon). Year-in, year-out, A to Z's Oregon Riesling represents one of the state's best wine values. This year's model features aromas of ripe pears, lemon, honeysuckle, and beeswax. The wine has a touch of sweetness, but its elevated acidity maintains a sense of balance. Meanwhile, look for flavors of clover honey, pear, ginger, and lemon gelato to coat your palate in pleasing fashion. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12%

Price: \$16

90 Evolution by Sokol Blosser 2025 Riesling (Oregon). This is an impressive Riesling with an asking price that won't break your wine budget. Golden Delicious apple, chamomile tea, and sweatpea flower aromas are pierced by a touch of petrol. Slightly elevated acidity shines its lemony light on the wine's tart lemon, caramelized pineapple and lemon-verbena tea flavors. I quite enjoyed that juxtaposition of tart and sweet flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$16

VIOGNIER

90 Freed 2025 Viognier (Umpqua Valley). The sweet aromas of really ripe yellow apples and melon are matched against the earthy qualities of daisies and patchouli. The wine's creamy mouthfeel hosts flavors of fresh-pressed Fuji apple juice and green tea served with lemon and honey. This is a pleasing, fruit-forward Viognier that might be right at home with a pile of Boz Scaggs records and a chunk of aged Gouda. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

89 **Cascadia 2023 24K Schmidt Family Vineyard Viognier (Applegate Valley).** Childhood memories are triggered by the wine's candied orange peel and lemon Jell-O aromas. Joining this trip down memory lane are touches of honeysuckle and wet slate. The flavors are a nice mix of lemon tea served with a dollop of honey and herbal notes similar to sage, all backed by just enough acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$34

89 **Freed 2024 Viognier (Umpqua Valley).** A not-quite-ripe Bosc pear aroma is buttressed by notes of Granny Smith apples, mint, and white clover. There's more than enough acidity here to perk up the wine's pear, ginger and nutmeg flavors. The wine is a spicy take on Viognier, with a clean, crisp texture. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 **Raptor Ridge 2025 Estate Grüner Veltliner (Chehalem Mountains).** There isn't a lot of Grüner Veltliner planted in Oregon, but given this wine, there really should be more. With aromas of apples, an earthy meadow packed with wildflowers, white pepper, and brioche drizzled in a wee bit of caramel, this wine dares you not to love it. The wine's Mediterranean-like preserved lemon, walnuts, and spicy Ligurian olive-oil flavors are no slouch, either. Whipping everything into a frenzy is the wine's acidity, which is so crisp, your puckering smile may just freeze in that position. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 **Andante 2023 Ardea Alba Marsanne (Van Duzer Corridor).** I do not get to drink 100% PNW Marsanne very often, so this was a real treat. The aromas are a nice mix of melon and banana esters, with just a touch of beeswax and crunchy dried leaves. The wine's lime zest, frozen banana, and bitter-almond flavors make for a refreshing combination, especially when acidity as invigorating as a cold shower is factored in. My mouth waters just thinking about this wine. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 **Dancin 2025 Cambré Fiano (Rogue Valley).** One of my favorite white wine grapes has decided to take up residence in southern Oregon. The Rogue Valley take on Fiano begins with aromas that mix the earthiness of mushroom tea with tart gooseberries, and ripe peaches. Backed by energetic acidity, the wine's white grapefruit, lychee, lime, and wet-stone flavors dance a tarantella across the palate. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$36

92 **Ridgecrest 2025 Ridgecrest Vineyards Chenin Blanc (Ribbon Ridge).** After 10 months spent resting in a combination of concrete eggs, stainless steel and neutral French oak barrels, this crisp Chenin Blanc is eager to make your acquaintance. The initial handshake is made with aromas of melon, lemon zest, wet slate and a puff of the sweet and nutty qualities of alfalfa baling hay. The wine's

Ginger Gold apple flavor dominates lesser notes of honeycomb and a bitter note similar to a cup of strong-brewed green tea. This wine is a joy to sip on a warm summer afternoon, toes dipping into a body of cold water, still or running. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$36

92 **Yamhill Valley 2024 Estate Pinot Blanc (McMinnville).** In the wrong hands, Pinot Blanc can be a wine without much in the way of character. Fortunately, Yamhill Valley is a veteran with this fickle grape. The wine's initial lemon and fresh-cut grass aromas are quickly joined by bursts of guava and a touch of smoky flint. The wine's fresh and brisk texture is right at home with its lemony acidity and flavors of apricots, white pepper, and a wee bit of grilled pineapple. If you are curious about Willamette Valley Pinot Blanc, start here. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

91 **King Estate 2025 Croft Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

90 **Wine by Joe 2024 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley).** This tart and tangy Pinot Blanc is as refreshing as it is a bargain. Its sweet pineapple, pine bough, and sweatpea flower aromas are pierced by a mildly bitter note that is similar to arugula. With acidity crisp enough to give you chills, the wine's lemon zest, lemon-verbena tea, and grilled-pineapple flavors feel like they are pulsing with electricity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 **Proteus 2021 Illusion White Pinot Noir (Lau-relwood District).** Illusion does not disguise its earthy aromas, which include golden raspberries, loamy soil, olive-oil cake, and a puff of talc. The wine's flavors are a mix of citrus and berries, with a tart orange zest note mixed with a bowl of red raspberries. Acidity is on the modest side, while the wine's tannins are resolved. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$28

88 **Wine by Joe 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** Slice up a Golden Delicious apple and drizzle the slices with honey to get an inkling of this wine's aroma profile. The flavors are a simple, but pleasing—a mix of lemon, guava, and an earthy herbal note similar to oregano. Great pool party fare for a nice price. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

WHITE BLENDS

92 **Cho 2025 CHO Blanc White Blend (Willamette Valley).** The Winery calls this blend of 70% Chardonnay 18% Aligoté and 12% Melon de Bourgogne a "textural white wine." I call it tantalizing. My senses perked up with the wine's lemon zest, musk melon, and mildly earthy oregano aromas. The wine tiptoes up to creamy texture territory, with flavors of lemon, sage, and butter ticking all the pleasure boxes. I was also fascinated to learn that this blend was

fermented separately in a concrete egg, traditional Korean terra cotta fermentation pots called "Onggi," neutral oak barrels and stainless-steel tanks. Textural to the max. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

91 **Brooks 2025 Amycas White Blend (Willamette Valley).** Amycas, a tip of the cap to friends and Alsatian field blends, brings together Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Muscat, Riesling, and Gewürztraminer. As always, Amycas opens with a fresh foray of lemon peel, apple, peaches, puffed rice, and chamomile aromas. Electrifying acidity then lights up the wine's lime zest, tonic water, apple, and anise flavors. This is a mineral-driven refresher that could be served with everything from lobster rolls and bouillabaisse to roasted pork shoulder and a bowl of Tuscan white-bean soup. Circle your friends and enjoy. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

SPARKLING WINES

96 **Brooks 2021 Sparkling Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

96 **Lytle-Barnett 2021 Le Mélangeur Pinot Meunier (Yamhill-Carlton).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

95 **Domaine Serene 2016 Vintage Brut Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** This traditional-method sparkling wine's aroma set is dominated by warm brioche and chilled Golden Delicious apple slices. The baked good and fruit tandem is accented by notes of spicy ginger and trace of talc. After a nice, long rest in the bottle, the wine's acidity feels like it is eager to get out and slap some palates around. Its juicy flavors are on the tart side, with Granny Smith apples and lemon zest holding court. Although it says 2016 on the label, this sparkling still feels young and vibrant. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$110

94 **Argyle 2021 Spirit Hill Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** After my first sip of this traditional-method sparkling wine, I wrote down "sophisticated" in my notes. This is a warm and comforting wine with languid bubbles and a gentle texture that fits like a favorite robe. The wine's aromas match citrus, lemon brûlée, and lemon-verbena tea with the orchard—namely, yellow apples. Flavors of chamomile tea, lime zest, and brioche then coat the palate in pleasing fashion. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$68

94 **Cho 2022 Mentaiko Brut Nature Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** It feels like Oregon is awash with dynamic sparkling-wine producers these days, and Cho is among the best. After three years en tirage, the Mentaiko is eager to get out and make introductions with aromas of cold, crisp Pink Lady apples, lemon basil, and chalkboard dust. The wine's invigorating acidity blazes a path for its lemon zest,

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honey, and anise flavors, all of which would be right at home with a plate of tuna belly nigiri. I also enjoyed Mentaiko's snappy texture and lively bubbles, both of which were revitalizing. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$95

94 **Domaine Serene MV Evenstad Reserve Brut Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** This is a dazzling blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that opens with aromas of melon, melting beeswax, butterscotch, and talc. With elevated acidity and energetic acidity, the traditional-method sparkling wine's flavors of apples, pears, chamomile, thyme, and more butterscotch feel like they are positively vibrating. Toast to as many nice things in life as you can with this brut. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.2%

Price: \$85

94 **Domaine Serene MV Evenstad Reserve Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** A bowl of red raspberries drizzled with lemon zest and white chocolate makes for a fine aromatic introduction to this stately traditional-method sparkling wine. There's also a mineral note that resembles talc floating in the background. Boisterous acidity and a tight column of small bubbles then unite with the wine's red fruit, lemon, and chamomile flavors, along with a trace of chilled cucumber-slice flavors. This pinkish-hued wine feels fresh and lively on the palate. The next time I am faced with a truly special occasion, I'm pouring myself a glass of this. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.2%

Price: \$105

94 **Lytle-Barnett 2019 Brut Sparkling Blend (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 12%

Price: \$45

93 **Lytle-Barnett 2019 Brut Rosé Pinot Noir-Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** A combination of red apples and strawberries dominates a set of aromas that also includes wee bits of wet slate and powdered sugar. The brut rosé's strawberry flavor is tart, making it a nice partner for accompanying flavors such as melon, thyme, and lemon zest. Texture-wise, this is fresh and clean sparkling wine with energetic bubbles that tickle more than just the nose. —M.A.

abv: 12%

Price: \$45

93 **Proteus NV Blanc de Blancs Extra Dry Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$55

92 **Lytle-Barnett 2020 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** The citrusy scent of a cup of lemongrass tea is complemented by super-fresh aromas of cut grass, wet slate, and a wisp of Manchego cheese. Lemony acidity lights the way for the wine's lime and lemon zest, yellow apple, nectarine, and earthy oregano flavors. The wine's texture feels soft and easy, with a touch of white chocolate arriving on the finish. After five years en tirage, the wine was disgorged in March 2026. —M.A.

abv: 12%

Price: \$75

91 **Cho 2025 Bubbles Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This frisky sparkler is 100% Pinot Gris that is whole-cluster pressed and co-fermented, "low and slow" as the winemaker likes to say, in stainless-steel vessels. The wine is lightly carbonated with 4.5 volumes of CO₂ before bottling. This is pure fun, beginning with the wine's fresh lime zest and saline aromas, the combination of which may have you hankering for margaritas. Surprisingly gentle acidity accompanies flavors of lemon zest and prickly-pear cactus candies. Light and lively, Bubbles PG is made for dancing nights away. —M.A.

abv: 12%

Price: \$40

91 **Argyle 2022 Knudsen Vineyard Brut Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** Bubbles that take their time to work the room help to deliver aromas of lemon brioche, chamomile tea, and a saline note worthy of a sea breeze and fresh-shucked oyster shell linings. Tart and tangy flavors of white grapefruit and a glass of tonic water garnished with rocks and a sprig mint fill the mouth. Ultimate refreshment. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$68

ROSÉS

92 **Anderson Family 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé (Dundee Hills).** This is not your average Willamette Valley rosé. The producer composed a three-clone blend using fruit from five blocks of 34-year-old Pinot Noir vines. The blend also includes two barrels of rosé fermented in 10-year-old Pinot Noir barrels. The wine's orange water, green apple and tart raspberry aromas are clean and crisp. Equally brisk flavors include tangerines, pink grapefruit, and lemon verbena, all backed by bright acidity. This wine feels nimble on the palate, with a long finish not often associated with a rosé. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$35

90 **Kristof 2025 Kristof Vineyard Rosé (Yamhill-Carlton).** There's a nice mix of tart fruit and earth here, with aromas of tangerines and red cherries melding with a cup of sage tea. The wine's brisk texture and lively acidity provide the backdrop for clean, flavors of peaches and juniper berries. This will make a great aperitif or pour it with the sunset of your choice. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

89 **Domaine St. Laurent 2025 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).** A blend of strawberry and orange-zest aromas are accented by wisps of orange zest and the saline qualities of a marine breeze. There's just a whisper of acidity here, with a red-fruit flavor that will trigger strawberry-flavored Starburst cravings. The pink Pinot's texture is as creamy as whipped butter. —M.A.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$20

89 **Sokol Blosser 2025 Estate Rosé of Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** A beautifully floral nose of sweet plums and cherry blossoms is accented by a puckering bit of tart guava. The pink wine unfolds with flavors that run the range from pink grapefruit and apricots to saline and a spicy bit of Ligurian olive

oil. This will make a nice pairing for a summery plate of fritto misto. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

88 **Underwood 2025 Rosé (Oregon).** Made from Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, and a wee bit of Muscat from Oregon's Willamette and Umpqua Valleys, the Underwood Rosé hits the ground running with aromas of red apples, peaches, and the saline qualities of a maritime breeze. There is a hint of sweetness here, with flavors of really ripe white peaches and a pink grapefruit sprinkled with sugar. A touch more acidity would help to add a better sense of balance. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12%

Price: \$14

PINOT NOIR

96 **Evening Land 2024 Anden Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** What an amazingly complex set of aromas. First you get a fruit wave that mixes blackberries and mulberries. The fruit is followed by a dark-chocolate note that will trigger hunger pangs for s'mores. Finally, there is an earthy/funky aroma that reminded me of a cup of Monsooned Malabar coffee from India. The wine's flavors are a mix of boysenberries and dark chocolate, along with a sweet and starchy note similar to yams. These flavors are ably backed by brisk acidity and silky tannins. There is a lot going on here, don't miss out. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$100

95 **Cho 2024 Dreamer's Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** America's first Korean-American Winery has done it again with its Dreamer's Reserve Pinot Noir. Aged in French oak, 25% new, for 10 months, the wine leads with aromas of black cherries, rose petals, and a touch of bittersweet dark chocolate. There is a successful balance here of restrained alcohol, silky tannins, and lively acidity that matches beautifully with the wine's Bing cherry, blueberry fruit leather, and candied lavender bud flavors. My dream is to sit with this all night to see how it evolves. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$65

95 **Domaine Serene 2023 Grace Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The scent of a bowl filled with red raspberries and marionberries fills the air as the wine is poured. Additional aromas of orange peel and forest floor, complete with cedar bark, emerge with a bit glass swirling. This is one of those wines where you can't stop thinking about its texture, which as sleek as a panther on the prowl. The wine's ripe black-cherry flavor is beautifully counterpointed by a bitter note similar to a sip of nocino, all backed by velvety tannins and a lemony spike of acidity. Enjoy this wine from now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$225

94 **Anderson Family 2023 Select Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The good news is this is a great Pinot Noir. The bad news is the fact there are only 72 cases for the world to fight over. It is made with fruit from three estate blocks: South (115 clone), Wädenswil and Roadside (667 clone). The first aro-

mas to emerge involve ripe blackcap raspberries and earthy blackberry tea. Then bursts of lemon zest and cedar bark take over. The wine feels nimble on the palate, with zesty acidity and fine-grained tannins offering ample support for flavors of ripe black cherries, bittersweet dark chocolate, spicy nutmeg and saline. Total package. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$150

94 Aubaine 2024 L'elu Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$95

94 Aubaine 2024 Windfall Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The earth and funk combine in George Clinton-esque fashion, with aromas of blackberry tea, worn leather, and loamy soil combining in compelling fashion. The wine's flavors include not-quite-ripe blackberries, straw, black walnuts, and espresso served with a twist of lemon, all cruising gracefully along the wine's smooth texture. The wine is nicely balanced, with zippy acidity matching nicely with fine-grained tannins. Enjoy now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Cascadia 2023 Imposter Syndrome Kenyon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Applegate Valley). Yes, Virginia, there are some great Pinot Noirs being made south of the Willamette Valley. This rather brilliant wine from the Applegate valley in southern Oregon makes that case. Its earthy blackberry tea and forest-floor aromas are counterpointed by a touch of violets. After that, energetic acidity and fine-grained tannins frame the wine's red raspberry, boysenberry, sage, and thyme flavors. This wine feels incredibly fresh and clean, from first sip to last. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$34

94 King Estate 2021 Bradshaw Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$70

94 Kristof 2024 Ladis Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Named after the father of one of the Winery owners, Ladis Kristof was a great Oregon educator, logger, and author who died in 2010. This wine does his memory justice. An aromatic mix of dark berries, violets, and sandalwood spice makes a wonderful introduction to the wine. The wine's flavors are a red-fruit medley of strawberries and pomegranate seeds, with just a bittersweet hint of fenugreek. Other Ladis highlights include lively acidity and a nice, long finish. There's only 100 cases of this in existence, so don't get caught watching the paint dry. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Le Cadeau 2022 Côte Est Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is such a nice aromatic combination of fruit and earth, you can imagine the blackberry vines growing up out of the soil. The wine's flavors are a spice treat where various chai-tea spices mingle with a ripe, concentrated black-currant flavor. This Pinot Noir feels light and silky in

the mouth, buoyed by zippy acidity and silky smooth tannins. If you are one of the people who think about wines in terms of music, the Côte Est is a precise and earnest young Marcus Roberts on piano. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

94 Open Claim 2023 Fauna's Wood Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). Fauna's Wood must be a magical place to produce such an excellent Pinot Noir. The wine's tart pie cherry, cardamom, saline, and pine-needle aromas are equally wondrous. Backed by silky tannins and acidity lively enough to awaken the most jaded palate, flavors of Bing cherries, rhubarb, orange zes, and chewing on a piece of straw coat the palate. Wherever Fauna's Wood is located, I need to hang out there. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Ridgecrest 2024 RR Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). With an understated charm that whispers instead of shouting, this lighter-bodied reserve wine won me over with its modest alcohol, crisp acidity, and silky smooth tannins. The wine's dominant dark-raspberry aroma is accented by saline wisps of a driftwood campfire at the beach. The flavors are a bit darker, with blackberries melding with traces of eucalyptus and black tea served with a toffee-like spoonful of Demerara sugar. Enjoy 2026–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

94 Ridgecrest 2024 Wind Ridge Block Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Just like in 2023, the Wind Ridge Block is a stunning wine marked by a silky texture, balance and restrained 13.4% ABV. The wine's black cherry and dark cocoa-powder aromas are graced by touches of earth and fresh rose petals. Backed by lively acidity and silky tannins, this Pinot Noir's blackberry, thyme, marjoram, and black-tea flavors seem to find every nook and cranny your mouth has to offer. This is a wine to serve with cool jazz, preferably something from the 1950s circa Los Angeles nightclub scene. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$60

94 SOM Wines 2024 Eola Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). An impressive wine from an impressive vineyard opens with aromas of dusty roadside raspberries, leather, and a hint of red licorice. The wine's acidity is next level, causing the mouth to water while enjoying its blackberry, sage, thyme, and lemon-zest flavors. This is a fresh and brisk Pinot Noir experience. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

93 Andante 2022 Reserve No. 7 Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). There is nothing reserved about this reserve wine. It grabs you by the collar with its aromas of blackcap raspberries, blackberry tea, loamy soil, and wet stones. Backed by a blitzkrieg of boisterous acidity and tannins with a bit of grip, No. 7 launches a wave of palate-coating flavors that includes tart red raspberries, earthy oregano and orange zest.

The wine spent 16 months on its lees in French oak, 40% of which was new. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

93 Aubaine 2024 Joie Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The earthiness of a cup of blackberry tea bumps up against the wine's boysenberry and smoky sage-smudge aromas. The combination is like a magnificent perfume to be applied to all pulse points. Joie has a smooth, elegant texture to accompany blackberry, thyme and black-tea flavors. Everything from the wine's modest alcohol to its silky tannins and gentle acidity are in balance. —M.A.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$82

93 Brooks 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The scent of wild berries picked from vines growing at the side of a country dirt road unlocks Kansas childhood memories for me every time. This nostalgic dusty fruit scent is joined by aromas of lilacs, nutmeg, and a touch of forest floor. The wine's acidity does yeoman's work to keep up with a jammy red-cherry flavor that is accented by touches of lemon peel, thyme, and a mineral note that tastes like a sodium-laden mineral water from a far away European spring. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Cho 2024 Luvi Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Someone alert Thurston Howell III, because Luvi is stepping out on her own. An aromatic mix of black cherries, dark chocolate and cherry wood kicks things off in fine fashion. Luvi takes it up a notch after that, delivering flavors like ripe Rainier cherries and a doppio espresso served with a lemon peel. Forget about a three-hour tour. With lip-smacking acidity and silky tannins, prepare to hang out with Luvi from now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$95

93 Cho 2024 Nash Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Native yeast fermentation for the 100% destemmed fruit begins in Korean terra cotta "onggi" pots. The wine is then aged for 10 months in French oak barrels, 25% new. The wine's ripe raspberry, earth, and saline notes give off a bayou vibe. Flavorwise, this is a fresh and bright wine that drips with blackcap raspberry juice and traces of pepper and black tea. This is a beautifully restrained wine where modest alcohol unites with mouthwatering acidity and smooth, well-rounded tannins. —M.A.

abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$85

93 Dukes Family 2019 Bella Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Beautiful Bella captivates with its lush strawberry, blueberry, and grilled portobello mushroom aromas. The wine feels round in the mouth, with gentle acidity and plush tannins as soft as five-star hotel pillows. Its flavors are a mix of dark raspberries, bittersweet dark chocolate and a wisp of café latte. Bella is one luxurious Pinot Noir perhaps best shared with people you adore. —M.A.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$68

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Dukes Family 2019 Jacqueline's Reserve Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The scent of the ripest, darkest Bing cherries imaginable hit the nose first, followed by the wine's hyacinth and wet-slate aromas. Backed by bracing acidity, the cherry, mint, and Thai basil flavors feel like they are a puck vibrating on an air hockey table. This is lighter-bodied fare, but it is not light on flavor. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$95

93 Dukes Family 2019 Nipple Hill Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). After several years of bottle conditioning at the Winery, the 2019 vintage of Nipple Hill is fresh, lively, and eager to make friends. The wine's dark-cherry aroma is flanked by bursts of fresh-turned soil and coconut candy. Acidity is ablaze here, fueling flavors of black cherries, thyme, and bittersweet dark chocolate. Nipple Hill's texture is light and crisp, making it quite easy to pour a second glass. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$75

93 Evening Land 2024 La Forêt Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This wine is the kind of forest bathing that I covet. The wine's boysenberry and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas are accented by a hint of fresh-picked violets. The fruit flavors are a mix of sweet, ripe blackberries, and boysenberries, along with bits of rosemary and green tea. La Forêt is balance personified, with restrained alcohol, juicy fruit, silky tannins, and acidity that will put a smile on your face. Forest life is the best life. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

93 Joleté 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Dark and hedonistic, Joleté is an easy wine to adore. Its blackberry and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas are accented by wisps of cedarwood and coffee. This medium-bodied Pinot Noir makes its biggest impression on the palate, with ripe, jammy lingonberries spread on a piece of rye toast. The wine's thick texture is Erling Haaland, hair flowing in the wind, decadent. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

93 King Estate 2022 Grand Oak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74

93 King Estate 2021 Blackjack Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$78

93 Le Cadeau 2023 Red Label Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Red Label is aptly named, as it opens with red raspberry and reddish rooibos-tea aromas. These red aromas are joined by a bit of zesty lemon peel and earth. Bright acidity is out ahead of the wine's faint tannins, with its blackcap raspberry, espresso, and mint flavors feeling light and nimble on the palate. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

93 Open Claim 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). The wine's sweet blackberry aroma is matched with outdoorsy scents of violets and pine

mulch. With a nice combination of elevated acidity and tannins with just a bit of grip, this is a Pinot Noir that makes its presence felt on the palate. Its flavors of dark cherries, thyme, and graham-cracker dust are joined by a faint bit of meatiness. If I was going to pour a Pinot Noir with a bowl of beef Bourguignon and mashed potatoes, Open Claim's estate wine would be given a lot of consideration. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Raptor Ridge 2023 Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Thanks to Raptor Ridge, I just found my Pinot Noir thrill on Temperance Hill (apologies to Fats Domino). The wine's dark-raspberry aroma smells juicy and sweet, making a nice pairing with a potpourri of violets, dried rose petals, thyme, and nutmeg. Firm tannins and more than enough acidity do a fine job supporting the wine's cranberry, orange zest, tomato leaf, and cedar flavors. With every sniff and sip from the glass, I felt like I was in my backyard garden. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 Soter 2024 Estates Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). If Bing cherries could be made into a perfume, you would have an inkling of how delightful this wine smells. In addition to the cherries, aromas of lilac powder and melting Crayola wax linger in the background. The Estates Pinot Noir has a nice, light texture, with silky tannins and boisterous acidity corraling flavors of sweet black cherries, cedarwood, and marjoram. Grab a Pendleton wool shirt and a blanket, and enjoy a fall evening at the firepit with this wine. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

93 Yamhill Valley 2019 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (McMinnville). The wine's initial aromas showcase tart plums, dried blueberries, and geraniums. Then a savory quality emerges that smells like a cross between grilled white button mushrooms and bamboo shoots. A sushi bar theme continues on the palate, with the taste of pickled plums and toro nigiri joining forces with bright red raspberries. Modest alcohol, lively acidity, and silky tannins create balance. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$64

92 Anderson Family 2023 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Talk about a wine screaming out for a "Twin Peaks" marathon binge. Made with five clones from 34-year-old estate vines, this Dundee Hills gem is packed with aromas and flavors of cherry pie, complete with crust, black coffee, vanilla, and wet stones. The wine's lively acidity and velvety tannins are more than up to the task of providing balance. Serve with a tuna fish sandwich on wheat and a screening of the "Twin Peaks" pilot. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

92 Brooks 2024 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A potent Bing-cherry aroma is complemented by the wine's notes of vanilla and lavender. Backed by crisp acidity and velvety tannins, the lighter-bodied Pinot Noir's ripe red raspberry, marjoram, and mocha latte flavors gently massage the palate. This juicy,

food-friendly treat will be right at home on any holiday table. Invite plenty of friends. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Dancin 2024 Adagio Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). A mix of pine needles, with perhaps a wisp of menthol, provide a lively foil for the wine's ripe blackberry aroma. Firm tannins and lively acidity bolster the Pinot Noir's concentrated blackberry, cedar and Earl Grey tea flavors. With a finish that seemingly goes on forever, you will be thinking about this wine throughout the evening. Pair with the first Ramones album and a bag of White Castle burgers, hold the onions. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$44

92 Domaine Serene 2023 Evenstad Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A ripe fruit aroma similar to boysenberry gelato mixes nicely with notes of sandalwood spice, violets, wornleather, and a tart cherry-tomato note. The wine's plush texture is a nice companion to its gentle acidity and silky tannins. There is a black theme on the palate, with black cherry and black-pepper flavors matching up with a cup of strong-brewed Irish breakfast tea. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$95

92 Domaine Serene 2023 Yamhill Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A mix of red raspberries and white chocolate is heavenly enough, but the wine's nose is also dusted with touches of graham-cracker dust and oak spices. The wine's flavors are a bit darker, with really ripe black cherries mixing it up with strong-brewed black tea and a dollop of candied rose petals. The medium-bodied wine feels round in the mouth, with plush tannins and enough acidity to keep things lively. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

92 Dukes Family 2019 Charlotte Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Ripe blackberry and sweet pea flower aromas are pierced by a tart citrus note similar to a lemon vinaigrette. In a bit of a reversal, the wine's blackberry and bay-leaf flavors are joined by a sweet note that will have you thinking about licking off the sugary glaze from a Krispy Kreme doughnut. Charlotte's texture is smooth and round, with restrained acidity and velvety tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$63

92 King Estate 2022 King Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$65

92 Ponzi 2024 Tavola Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Tavola, always one of the Willamette Valley's top Pinot Noir values, hits it big in 2024. The wine's primary dark-cherry aroma is surrounded by notes of fresh rose petals and cedar bark. Things get darker on the palate, with blackberry, horehound candy, and clove flavors backed by sturdy tannins and frisky acidity. This is not your average table wine. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$29

92 Ridgecrest 2024 Ridgecrest Vineyards Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). If you enjoy walks in the great outdoors, you may feel right at home with this wine's aromas of loamy soil, peat, and ripe Himalayan blackberries plucked from wild vines, lavender, and sandalwood. The wine's modest alcohol, lively acidity, and velvety tannins are nicely balanced, offering support to its briary dark raspberry, cedar, and herb trio of marjoram, oregano, and thyme. So pack a bottle, don the polar fleece or Pendleton wool flannel and head for the woods. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

92 Sokol Blosser 2024 Redland Cuvée Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Red-cherry aromas meet their match with earthy floral scents that include rose-scented geraniums, honey-tinged sweet alyssum, and loamy soil. A welcome mix of juicy acidity and tannins with a bit of grip are the backdrop for the wine's marionberry, raspberry, and fresh-picked sage flavors. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$34

91 Andante 2022 Ardea Alba Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). If you close your eyes while smelling this Pinot Noir's aromas of black cherries, walnuts, dark chocolate, and marshmallow, you might just think a bowl of Rocky Road ice cream is close by. After this aromatic dessert course, the wine's tart blackberry, espresso, and molasses flavors take things in a darker direction. Modest acidity and firm tannins help to maintain a sense of balance. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

91 Andante 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). From its zingy acidity to its crisp texture, this wine is so filled with energy, the first sip will likely make you want to go skipping down the front walk. The show begins with a perfume of lavender, clover, and black cherries. Backed by tannins that firm without being grippy, the Pinot Noir teases with its crisp cranberry, orange, and rose water flavors. Pair with a summer evening and a sidewalk hopscotch match. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Aubaine 2024 Anahata Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The Anahata Vineyard Pinot Noir opens with dark boysenberry and blueberry aromas, followed by tiny notes of earth and roasted pork shoulder. Flavorwise, the wine offers ripe elderberry and blackcap-raspberry flavors to go along with touches of black tea and a savory saline note that might have you craving uni served with nori-wrapped sushi rice. The wine's acidity is on the gentle side, while the tannins gently rough up the roof of the mouth. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$70

91 Averaen 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Averaen offers a perfume-like aroma mix of blackcap raspberries, orange peel and wet Kentucky bluegrass. Tangy marionberries take over after that, joined by fellow flavors of clove and black tea. There is plenty of acidity here, but the highlight for me was the wine's silky texture, which conjured memories of

the suits worn by David Bowie during his Thin White Duke Era. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Dukes Family 2019 Alyssa Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). When a wine smells like a bowl of brambleberries lightly dusted with powdered sugar, you want to dive right in. If you have patience, a few swirls of the glass yields notes of violets and seared steak. Braced by a wall of muscular tannins, the wine's rich black currant and coffee laced with Demerara sugar unfurl in palate-coating fashion. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

91 Evolution by Sokol Blosser 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). What a fantastic value. The wine's blackberry and earth aromas meld in pleasing fashion with notes of violets, spearmint, and the honey-like scent of creeping thistle. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir where dark raspberry and rosemary flavors are accented by a bittersweet taste similar to an amaro made with rhubarb, a.k.a. rabarbaro. With its bright acidity and velvety tannins, the wine's texture is sleek and slippery. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Kate Arnold 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). You can almost eat this wine's aromas with a spoon. It begins with a bright red raspberry and violets combination, which is soon joined by a vanilla, cream and baked-goods aroma that will have you looking around for a cannoli. The tartness of a not-quite-ripe blackberry melds with flavors of thyme and a cup of strong-brewed orange-peko tea. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Kristof 2024 Kristof Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). The wine's mix of sweet berries and ponderosa pine bark put me in the mood for a raspberry popsicle. The fruit flavor is tarter, like a blackberry that is almost ripe, with bits of nutmeg, cedarwood, wet rocks, and crunchy cacao nibs hovering in the background. Riding herd over all of this fruit is mildly elevated acidity and a wall of firm tannins that rough up the roof of the mouth. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Proteus 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). After a few years of bottle conditioning, this estate wine is in a great place right now. Let's start with an eclectic group of aromas that include tart red raspberries, chocolate Necco wafers, graham-cracker dust and a wisp of campfire smoke. If this wine doesn't put you in the mood for s'mores, nothing will. Integrated tannins and acidity that is still quite lively help to support the wine's tart blackberry, bay leaf, lemon zest, and seared-steak flavors. You can probably enjoy this wine for another five to six years, so get sipping. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

91 Raptor Ridge 2023 Estate Whole Cluster Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). The earthy scent of a fresh-tilled garden is just the first aroma course. The loamy soil is followed by notes of black cherries, cedar bark, and wet stones. Bolstered by just enough acid-

ity and firm tannins packing a bit of grip, the wine's flavors of black cherries, earthy oregano, cedar, and saline rough up the roof of the mouth in fine fashion. Vigorous glass swirling will be rewarded. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Cho 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). It is hard to pick a fruit for this aroma, as it keeps changing from dark raspberry to boysenberry, or perhaps it is a mulberry. Regardless, fruit dominates this wine's aromatic set, which includes faint bits of orange peel and cedar. Acidity is the dominant actor here, creating a juicy mouthfeel to accompany blackberry jam and black-tea flavors. There is also a mildly bitter note in the background that is similar to the bite of a Ligurian olive oil. The wine's tannins are plush and definitely overshadowed by its brisk acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Dancin 2024 Alto Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). This bold Pinot Noir is not for the faint of heart. It challenges you, beginning with a blackberry aroma that smells like you buried your face in a bowl of the ripe little brambleberries. Supporting the fruit aroma is a one-two floral punch of peonies and rose petals. Backed by grippy tannins, black currants duke it out with tangy orange zest and earthy cumin seeds for flavor supremacy. Those flavors coat the palate in pleasingly thick fashion. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

90 Jolété 2024 Le Verre Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Those of you looking for a great value in Willamette Valley Pinot Noir need to go 10 toes down on the Le Verre Cuvée, a "second label" of sorts from Le Cadeau. The wine features blackberry, leather, and sweatpea flower aromas, with just a wisp of a fresh-cut hay scent that may remind you of Emmentaler cheese. Tart and tangy acidity gets the juices flowing, as Bing cherry and bittersweet dark-chocolate flavors surf the palate. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$23

90 Lanphere Cellars 2024 Weathervane Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A supremely floral set of aromas sets up shop with fresh rose petals, hyacinth, and sweatpea flowers surrounding a bowl of blueberries. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir with zippy acidity, a lithe mouthfeel, and flavors of ripe, juicy blackberries and stinging nettle tea. Very crisp and refreshing. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Proteus 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). A soda's worth of cherry and vanilla aromas is counterpointed by the wine's loamy soil and cedar notes. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir that feels fresh on the palate. Supported by tangy acidity, the wine's tart red cherry, cocoa powder and black-tea flavors provide some serious pucker power. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

90 Sokol Blosser 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). An aroma of dark-chocolate-covered Bing cherries is flanked by an earthy scent that mixes forest floor with fresh-turned gar-

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den soil. The wine spent 16 months in French oak, 7% and displays nice balance between alcohol, fruit, velvety tannins, and crisp acidity. The flavors are a blend of blackberries that have a bitter tang, bay leaf, and espresso. Pour a glass of this wine the next time you lay out a charcuterie board. —M.A.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

90 Yamhill Valley 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (McMinnville). The wine's ripe dark-raspberry aroma is so sweet, you can almost taste it. It is joined by a sweet floral hyacinth aroma and a puff of balsa. Formidable tannins and elevated acidity that generates a lot of pucker power are the backdrop for the wine's tart blackberry, earthy marjoram, and saline flavors. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

89 Christopher Michael 2023 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Sweet Amarena cherries in syrup dominate a set of aromas that includes notes of earthy oregano and violets. In a bit of a reversal, the wine's cherry-pie flavor is quite tart, with cedar and herbal notes such as thyme and rosemary in support. There's a sturdy tannic structure to support all that fruit, with acidity that is on the gentle side. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Dancin 2024 Coda Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). Any music section that concludes with a glass of this wine is a fine coda by me. This wine Coda opens with an aria of ripe red raspberries, violets, and a touch of roasted pork shoulder. The next stanza strikes a chord with its cherry and black-peppercorn flavors. This is a smooth sipping wine, with bright acidity outpacing silky tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

89 Erath 2024 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a bright and juicy Pinot Noir that first catches attention with its aromas of blueberries, boysenberries, violets, and cocoa powder. The wine's crisp acidity propels flavors of blackberries, thyme, and rosemary. If you are looking for a nice aperitif or something to cut through grilled salmon or a bowl of porcini risotto, this wine represents a nice value. —M.A.

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

89 Erath 2024 Resplendent Pinot Noir (Oregon). Resplendent's raspberry and orange-blossom aromas nearly overwhelm lesser notes of chalk, pine park, and the scent of a new vinyl LP being removed from its sleeve. There's a nice balance between alcohol, fruit, acidity and tannins here, with flavors of blackberries, espresso shots, and a meaty note akin to a pork chop rubbed with cumin or paprika. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Kings Ridge 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The red-fruit aromas are a chameleon, changing from raspberry to strawberry to cranberry and back again. The red-fruit medley is accompanied by an earthy aroma similar to oregano. Flavorwise, this Pinot Noir is a wave of tart black-

berries that is punctuated by a tannic black-tea note. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Lagana 2023 Breezy Slope Vineyard Pinot Noir (Walla Walla Valley). Breezy Slope Vineyard is located just south of the Washington State border. The vineyard's grapes grow at 1,700 feet above sea level, which is one of the higher elevation sites in the valley. The wine's blackberry fruit aroma is complemented by notes of rose petals, clove, leather, and cedar. Gentle acidity and silky tannins frame the wine's black cherry, orange zest, clove, and seared-steak flavors. —M.A.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$56

89 Portlandia 2024 Pinot Noir (Oregon). A pork butt braised with red cherries and paprika is a nice set of aromas to make an acquaintance. The wine's flavors are a combination of red-cherry popsicles, black coffee, and cedarwood. While the tannins are on the plush side, the wine's acidity is of the blazing variety. —M.A.

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

89 SOM Wines 2023 Eola Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This is an aromatic set dominated by dark raspberries, with faint wisps of dark chocolate and thyme yearning to be noticed. Bing cherry and cola flavors are simple, but pleasing. The wine feels clean and crisp on the palate, with just enough acidity and unobtrusive tannins offering support. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

89 Violet Hill 2025 Pinot Noir (Oregon). A one-two fruit punch of raspberries and blueberries is accented by notes of lilac and dried rose petals. A modicum of acidity and plush tannins then attempt to corral big, jammy fruit flavors that combine boysenberries and blueberries. Touches of lemongrass and honey hover in the background, this is a great value for fans of a richer style of Pinot Noir. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Wine by Joe 2024 Pinot Noir (Oregon). A big burst of blackcap raspberries hit the nose first, followed by notes of worn leather and fresh-cut grass. With a texture as smooth as velvet, the wine's dominant sweet red-cherry flavor feels like it is gliding across the palate. The tannins are on the plush side, with acidity slightly elevated. Strong value here. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Amity 2023 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A straightforward black cherry and sauced-barbecue rib aroma combination is matched by flavors of tart pie cherries, pine wood, and a touch of pork fat. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir with bristling acidity, a juicy mouthfeel, and plush tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

88 Pacifica 2022 Evan's Collection Pinot Noir (Oregon). This is a kosher Oregon Pinot Noir with raspberry, fresh-cut grass, and earthy aromas that will make you feel like you are walking in a

garden. The wine's flavors are a mix of tart, unripe blackberries, dark chocolate, and a touch of methol. The tannins are still quite firm, with acidity that feels soft as satin. —M.A.

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

87 Underwood 2023 Pinot Noir (Oregon). While the main aroma here is a big bowl of ripe blackberries, there is this sweet, herbal note that may remind you of a mug of old fashioned root beer or sarsaparilla. The wine's sweet black-cherry flavor is tempered by a significant amount of oak spices and touch of cedarwood. A bit more acidity and sturdier tannins would have been most welcome. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

GAMAY NOIR

95 Evening Land 2024 Anden Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). What just might be the best North American Gamay Noir I have ever tasted (so far) opens with aromas of red raspberries, red apples, straw, and wisps of pepper and rain hitting a hot concrete sidewalk. The wine's hedonistic texture is perhaps its strongest feature, feeling like fresh-moisturized hands nestled inside a pair of silk gloves. Marionberry and black pepper flavors dominate the palate, joined by wee bits of earthy oregano and tangy orange zest. With its velvety tannins and crisp acidity, this Gamay Noir is a joy to sip as slowly as possible. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$65

94 Raptor Ridge 2025 Gamay Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Meet the punkish Gamay Noir that could have been the house wine at Max's Kansas City. The initial marionberry and cherry blossom aromas are soon joined by touches of orange zest, saline, and the worn leather scent of a motorcycle jacket—like Joey Ramone's old Schott Perfecto 613. The wine's flavors go black, with blackberry and thyme mingling with a subtle touch of white tea. This is a lighter-bodied wine with a silky texture, acidity that generates mosh-pit energy and velvety tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Lanphere Cellars 2025 Weathervane Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). This Weathervane tells you which way the Willamette Valley's Gamay Noir winds are blowing, and it is a good direction. The wine's ripe red-fruit aroma is like a boysenberry popsicle. There's also a tiny bit of earth hiding behind that popsicle. Led by a beautiful 12.8% ABV, this Gamay Noir offers impeccable balance, bolstered by vigorous acidity, and velvety tannins. The fruit on the palate is a tarter Bing cherry and pie cherry combo, along with touches of butter crust and lavender. —M.A.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

OTHER RED WINES

93 Cascadia 2022 Paydirt Schmidt Family Vineyards Touriga Nacional (Applegate Valley). Cascadia has struck Touriga Nacional paydirt in

southern Oregon's Applegate Valley. The 2022 vintage of this wine is superb, starting with its blackberry pie, complete with crust, lilac, and wet stone aromas. That alluring perfume is followed by flavors of blackberry jam, thyme, and fresh-cracked black pepper. With a nice combination of juicy acidity and sturdy tannins with the Kung Fu grip of a G.I. Joe doll, enjoy this wine from now–2038. *Cellar Selection*. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$34

93 Lanphere Cellars 2024 Weathervane Malbec (Walla Walla Valley). This impressive Malbec serves up a perfume of Bing cherry, basil, lavender, and pipe-tobacco aromas. With plenty of acidity and gentle tannins, the wine's texture is of the slick and slippery variety. The wine's dark cherry, dark chocolate, lime, and saline flavors feel like they are gliding on air. I look forward to try this wine with my next round of pork tamales and red sauce. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

91 Dancin 2024 Tribute Barbera (Rogue Valley). Barbera isn't exactly widely planted in Oregon, so getting to taste this wine was a treat. The wine itself is an equally nice treat. The wine's aromas are a rich mix of ripe mulberries and the cocoa powder goodness of a red-velvet cake. The Barbera feels bright and crisp in the mouth, with black cherry, nectarine, and mint flavors supported by zingy acidity and velvety tannins. *Hidden Gem*. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$68

91 Cascadia 2022 Claim Jumper Apricity Vineyard Tempranillo (Applegate Valley). The wine's fruit aromas are a dark mix of blackberries and black currants, which match up well with a puff of pipe tobacco and notes of sage smudge and lavender. The next thing you know, tannins as grippy as Gorilla glue grab your palate and never let go. In the midst of this tannic hostage situation, the wine's marionberry, cacao nib, and wet-stone flavors make a brave appearance. Claim Jumper's motto should be, "Come strong or go home." —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$34

90 Cascadia 2023 Paydirt Schmidt Family Vineyards Touriga Nacional (Applegate Valley). Touriga Nacional is a rare bird in Oregon, but I'm glad they have some planted in southern Oregon's Applegate Valley. First, I'd like to point out that this wine gets full-throttled flavor while registering a modest alcohol by volume. It has elevated acidity and the kind of firm tannin structure this grape is known for. Aromas of red cherries, violets, and cedarwood lead to flavors of black cherries, bay leaf and a seared steak rubbed with paprika and coffee. Paydirt indeed. *Hidden Gem*. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$34

89 Portlandia 2023 Big Believer Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). At first sniff, the wine's aromas mix black cherries with honeysuckle. Lurking in the background like a large animal hiding behind a tree, starchy and savory aromas trigger cravings for corn tortillas and carne asada. The fruit flavor is also black cherry, and once again there's a meaty

quality that suggests barbecue pork. There's also a tiny earthy note that tastes similar to bamboo shoots. Bigfoot is on the wine's label, and this Cabernet Sauvignon leaves an appropriately large footprint. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$20

89 Lanphere Cellars 2023 Weathervane Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). Weathervane leads with a potent black-cherry aroma that is flanked by herbal notes such as thyme and oregano, along with a trace of menthol. This is a medium-bodied Syrah with plush tannins and a decent bit of juicy acidity. The wine's dried cherry, bacon fat, and bay leaf flavors glide along its viscous texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

RED BLEND

89 Cascadia 2023 Clurichaun Red Blend (Applegate Valley). Clurichaun is a blend of approximately 66% Petit Verdot and 33% Syrah. It's also an Irish imp, cousin to the leprechaun, that enjoys drinking and haunting wine bars, breweries, and wine cellars. This sounds like any number of my friends. The wine's pie cherry, mace, and nutmeg aromas are joined by the scent of a new vinyl LP being removed from its cellophane-wrapped sleeve. Its bracing acidity and velvety tannins frame Clurichaun's cherry and butter-scotch flavors. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$42

WASHINGTON SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 L'Ecole No. 41 2025 Frenchtown Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). With enough acidity to put some pep in your step, the Frenchtown Sauvignon Blanc is a palate-restoring potion. The wine's aromas are sassy and grassy, with copious amounts of lemon zest, guava, and passion fruit. Flavorwise, this is a tale of two wines. First, there is the flavor of a cup of lemongrass tea served with a touch of honey. Then there is a flavor of quinine water on the rocks, served with a lime wedge. It all works. And did I mention acidity bright enough to power a small village? —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Portlandia 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy*.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 DarkRock 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Rattlesnake Hills). A sweet white-peach aroma is pierced by a bitter lime-zest note, with the scent of warm beeswax hovering on the perimeter. The wine's flavors range from nectarines and basil to wet slate and a strong-brewed cup of chamomile tea, all backed by modest acidity. Pair with a fresh-caught trout sizzling on the outdoor grill. *Best Buy*. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Mercer Small Lot 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Horse Heaven Hills). An initial burst of preserved lemons is soon joined by aromas of orange peel and fresh-cut grass. The wine's acidity is on the modest side, but it manages to keep up with its sage, pineapple, and tart lemon-pith flavors. I would like to try this Sauvignon Blanc with fish tacos made with Oregon-caught albacore. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

87 Washington Hills 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Washington). While these kiwi, lime, and fresh-cut grass aromas are fairly straightforward, there is an earthy note hovering in the background that is hard to pin down. The wine's acidity is on the gentle side, with sweet pineapple and Old Bay seasoning flavors pierced by a bitter almond note on the finish. Quaff this Sauvignon Blanc with a summertime fish fry and limbo contests. *Best Buy*. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

CHARDONNAY

91 Itä 2024 Kenny Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Walla Walla Valley). The wine's lemon scent is complemented by wisps of toasted sourdough and chalkboard dust. Citrus reappears as a flavor, but it's tangier, and closer to lime zest. The lime is joined by an earthy combination of corn masa and dried, slightly spicy, ancho peppers, making me incredibly hungry for a plate of tamales. This Chardonnay was fermented and aged for nine months in neutral French oak, but there's still plenty of texture and a hint of oak spice here to enjoy. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$34

90 Christopher Michael 2023 Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). Back up the truck for this excellent Chardonnay value. It opens with pear, dried ginger, chamomile flowers and cocoa butter aromas that will encircle your head. The flavors are equally compelling, with tangy grapefruit, lime and lemon granita flavors lit up by an electrifying burst of acidity. *Best Buy*. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Mercer Brothers 2024 Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). The wine's citrus-laced nose packs aromas of lemon and pineapple into every sniff. There's also an earthiness here to go along with that citrus, as the scent of meadow flowers and loamy soil hover in the background. Rich flavors like toasted coconut, passion fruit sorbet and guava combine to give the impression of snacking on a slice of pavlova with egg meringue. That is a lot for such a reasonable asking price. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$23

90 Subsoil 2025 Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). Aromas of straw, apples, butter, and honeysuckle will put you in the mood for a fall festival on the farm. The wine's Granny Smith apple, lemon grass tea, basil, and butter flavors are equally inviting. There's a faint touch of sweetness to the wine, with

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bold acidity in support. This is a great bargain for \$20. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

RIESLING

89 Pacifica 2023 Evan's Collection Riesling (Washington). This very nice kosher Riesling opens with aromas of Golden Delicious apples, chalkboard dust, and an earthy touch of daisies. Lemons and limes dominate the flavors, although flecks of honey and bay leaf make themselves known. There is plenty of acidity here to match with a touch of sweetness. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

89 SOM Wines 2024 Gagnon Kennedy Vineyards Riesling (Columbia Valley). What a tropical splash. This Riesling kicks off with aromas of passion fruit, wet slate, coconut, and macadamia nuts. With modest acidity and a creamy texture, these papaya and iceberg lettuce drizzled with lemon juice flavors feel like they are gliding on air. A bit more acidity would have been well received. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Kate Arnold 2025 Riesling (Columbia Valley). The orchard meets the tropics here, with the wine's passion fruit, lime, and lychee aromas colliding with a burst of Granny Smith apples. With its smooth texture and relaxed acidity, the Riesling's creamy lime sorbet, lemon popsicle, strawberry, and ginger flavors glide over the palate. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Mercer Small Lot 2025 Estate Vineyard Riesling (Horse Heaven Hills). The wine's aromas are a pleasant mix of tart lemon, sweet honeysuckle, and a mineral note similar to talc or chalk. Soft acidity lines up with a restrained fruit flavor that tastes like a mix of apples and pears. Wee bits of ginger and oregano add a bit of spice to the orchard fruit. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$38

88 Substance 2025 Ri Riesling (Columbia Valley). A fruity aroma combination of ripe yellow apples and melon is pierced by the tang of lemongrass paste and lemon verbena tea. There's a touch of sweetness to this Riesling, with just enough acidity and flavors of lemon-drop hard candies mixing with green and chamomile teas. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2025 Old Vines Chenin Blanc (Yakima Valley). L'Ecole has been paying skilled tribute to Vouvray with this Chenin Blanc since 1987. The latest vintage begins with aromas of fresh-cut grass, hay, yellow apples, and saline. The 2025 vintage is the briskiest one I can remember in terms of "melt your face" acidity. That acidity lights up the wine's lemon curd, pear, ginger, and white-pepper flavors. This tart and juicy wine would make a great

pairing with my next haul of fresh-shucked Yaquina Bay oysters. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Itä 2025 Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). The cool scent of fresh-turned garden soil mingles with the wine's juniper berry and almost-ripe pineapple aromas. Beautifully restrained alcohol and lively acidity complement complex layers of flavors that include lemon, lime zest, quince, bay leaf, and tonic water. This wine, which was fermented in concrete and stainless steel, is refreshing enough to both sip and dab on your pulse points. —M.A.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$28

90 Mercer Small Lot 2025 Pinot Gris (Horse Heaven Hills). Fermented in a combination of 75% amphora and 25% stainless steel, this Pinot Gris is a lean, mean gris machine with a nice bit of texture. The aromas are a combination of Golden Delicious apples, lemon, and an earthy/floral scent similar to daisies. Given the flavors of lemon verbena, ginger, and chamomile tea, you might even mistake this crisp white for a Chardonnay. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

WHITE BLENDS

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2025 Luminesce Seven Hills Vineyard Sémillon Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). I have long been a fan of this blend of Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc, and the 2025 vintage is really good. The homage to the white side of Bordeaux launches with aromas of grilled pineapple, melon, lemon, and grassy guava. The wine's flavors are a simple but elegant mix of lemon and white pepper, with maybe a touch of chamomile. As always, Luminesce has a lively, invigorating mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Evolution by Sokol Blosser 2024 Lucky No. 9 White Blend (Columbia Valley). Made with—you guessed it—nine grape varieties, No. 9 is a joyful mix of yellow apple, white-peach guava, lemon peel, and spearmint aromas and flavors. The actual blend is 22% Sémillon, 22% Pinot Gris, 20% Muller-Thurgau, 16% Riesling, 9% Muscat, 4% Sauvignon Blanc, 3% Chardonnay, 2% Pinot Noir, and 2% Pinot Blanc. Fermentation is finished with 7.2g/L of residual sugar, giving No. 9 a bit of sweetness to accompany its rich texture and frisky acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

91 Itä 2025 Rosé (Walla Walla Valley). This captivating blend of 60% Zinfandel and 40% Primitivo opens with aromas of ripe cantaloupe, cool cellar-floor earth, and a touch of red fruit. Backed by brilliant acidity, the wine's orange zest, lemon pastille, and saline flavors hit the palate like a well-aimed dart. This is a crisp and crunchy treat that will compel daydreams about sunny beach vacations. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$28

90 Mercer Small Lot 2025 Grenache Rosé (Horse Heaven Hills). I enjoyed the way the wine's sweet peach-pastille aromas are contrasted by a combination of bitter orange zest and the mineral tinge of chalkboard dust. I have always been partial to using Grenache to make rosé, and Mercer's version does nothing to dissuade me of that notion. Its juicy flavors of lime zest, lemon basil, and pink grapefruit are backed by a lightning strike of acidity. Get ready to do some twisting by the pool with this wine. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$32

90 Portlandia 2025 Rosé (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Charles & Charles 2025 Rosé (Columbia Valley). This pinkish-hued wine is one fine investment for a 10-dollar bill. With raspberry, peach, and citrus aromas, it is like a pink lemonade made for adults. In a slight gearshift, this blend of 35% Grenache, 34% Syrah, 23% Mourvèdre, and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon takes a creamy turn on the palate, with flavors of strawberries and cream holding court. Breakfast at Wimbledon, anybody? *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$10

89 DeLille 2025 Rosé (Columbia Valley). This pink-hued blend of Mourvèdre, Grenache and Cinsault was fermented and aged entirely in stainless steel. Its aromas are a summery mix of rose petals, watermelon, and ripe, sweet nectarines. There is a mild tartness to the wine's one-two combination of honeycomb apples and botanical flavors traditionally associated with gin and tonics. While refreshing, a bit more acidity would have been most welcome. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 DeLille 2023 Grand Ciel Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A springtime-like nose of cherries and cherry blossoms is accented by puffs of talc and cigar box. Bing cherries make an appearance as a flavor, joined by dark chocolate, earth and balsa. The wine's strength is its balance, with a modest alcohol by volume percentage matching up with elevated acidity and tannins with a touch of grip. After two weeks of fermentation in stainless steel on its skins, the wine aged in 100% French oak barrels for 20 months. It also rested in bottle at the Winery for an additional 18 months prior to release. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$160

93 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A sweet aromatic core of cherries draped in dark chocolate is surrounded by floral notes of hyacinth, thyme, and a wisp of cedarwood. This is a medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon with grippy tannins and a surprising amount of acidity. The flavors are a mix of black currants and black cherries, with small amounts of coffee and anise. It's cliché for a reason, but you should really consider grilling up a steak for this wine. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Lagana 2019 J & S Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Rainier cherries and an herbaceous note that mixes matcha and sage leads an aroma charge that also includes traces of graphite and cedar. The wine's blackcap raspberry, espresso, and cacao-nib flavors are ably backed by firm tannins and exuberant acidity. Even after several years of bottle conditioning at the Winery, this Cabernet Sauvignon still feels youthful. Enjoy 2026-2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$49

92 Jolété 2024 Destiny Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Joined by 3% Malbec and 1% Merlot, this Horse Heaven Hills Cabernet Sauvignon rides into your life with aromas of tart black cherries, loamy soil, saline, and a wisp of pine needles. Muscular tannins and lemony acidity help to propel the wine's Rainier cherry, molasses, black coffee, and cedarwood flavors across the incredibly long finish line. Giddyup and enjoy from now until 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 King Estate 2019 Bacchus Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$65

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). What an aromatic performance. You have black cherries surrounded by orange zest, clove, and a cigar box if it was made with mahogany wood. This regal beginning leads to rich black cherry and nocino flavors that are joined by touches of sage, earthy oregano, and tangy raisins. This roller coaster ride rests atop a foundation of muscular tannins and acidity that jitterbugs. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A fuller-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon that saw 22 months in French oak barrels, 35% new, L'Ecole's Estate wine fills the immediate air space with its blackberry, cocoa powder, and dusty/leathery/wormwood-driven used bookstore aromas (and I love used bookstores). There's some significant tannic structure here to act as a platform for the wine's herb-driven mixture of black currants, marjoram, oregano, and sage. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Mercer Family 2023 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This is one lush and luscious Cabernet Sauvignon. The show starts with the wine's black and blueberry aromas that are pierced by notes of orange zest and loamy soil. The flavors are a heady mix of blackberry jam and mocha latte, backed by velvety tannins and gentle acidity. The star of the show is the wine's lush mouthfeel, which is round and smooth. This reserve wine is so smooth, if it was a jazz musician, it would be Chris Botti. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$34

91 Grossmeister 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). Fans of silky-smooth Caber-

net Sauvignon unite, this Grossmeister demands your attention. A boysenberry aroma mixed with a touch of tangerines is complemented by earthy notes of loamy soil and dried leaves crunching underfoot. The wine's tannins and acidity are equally silky, creating a texture as smooth as polished stones. Black cherries mingle with flavors of blackberry tea and smoked meats, creating a craving for pork chops served with a cherry compote. Might not make a bad food pairing, either. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Subsoil 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). The scent of a blackberry tart cooling on the kitchen counter is guaranteed to draw you closer to your glass. Other aromas include cigar box and a bevy of spices that includes nutmeg and mace. Flavorwise, this Cabernet Sauvignon is a juicy mouthful of Damson plum, black tea, and fig flavors, backed by snappy acidity and silky tannins. The wine was aged for more than 18 months in a combination of French and American oak. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Greenwing 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is a very nice value, beginning with the wine's blackberry and dark-chocolate aromas. There's also a savory aroma that may remind you of bone broth. Backed by brawny tannins, the wine's black cherry, Earl Grey tea, and balsa flavors give the palate a nice, thick coating. Try not to be too surprised by the wine's rather lengthy finish. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

90 Mercer Brothers 2023 Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This is a red-fruit-dominated set of aromas that allows equal time for raspberries and Bing cherries. There's also a tiny coffee served with vanilla creamer note floating in the background. The fruit flavor is a darker cherry, with touches of salted cashews and cedar, all melding with the wine's silky smooth mouthfeel. An ultimate backyard burger wine if there ever was one, for a nice price. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Substance 2022 Cs Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon has a mouthfeel as silky smooth as a designer suit. The wine's aromas are a heady mix of crushed mulberries and wet-cedar bark. There is a nice balance here between fruit, elevated acidity, plush tannins, and all the Rainier cherry-fruit flavor that you can handle. Additional flavors of orange pekoe tea and dark-chocolate interest. Great value here. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

89 Browne Family 2023 Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is an impressive Cabernet Sauvignon for such a modest asking price. The aromas are a cherry fest, with Rainier cherries matching up with notes of cherry wood and seared steak. Back by gentle acidity and velvety tannins, the wine's flavors of blackberries, orange peel, black tea,

and black walnuts are as pleasing as they are mouth-filling. Go long on this one. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Christopher Michael 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). I enjoyed the wine's cherry-phosphate aroma and the way it conjured up childhood soda-fountain memories. The wine's other aromas, while not nostalgic, are a nice mix of nutmeg, rose petals, and cigar box. Darker fruit—think mulberries and blueberries—arrive on the palate, where they are joined by flecks of ginger, sage, and black tea. While the tannins are plush, the wine's acidity is nice and crisp. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

SYRAH

95 DeLille 2023 Red Willow Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). This Syrah, made with grapes from one of Washington state's oldest and grandest vineyards, would like to make your acquaintance. Don't say no, as this wine spent 20 months in French oak barrels for you, 32% of which were new. Your attention will be rewarded with aromas of juicy black fruit, wet stones, lavender, espresso, and roasted pork shoulder. If that's not enough, the wine's flavors will call your name, promising a marionberry pie, black coffee, basil, and a sweet note that suggests roasted heirloom carrots. Serve with a pork bahn mi sandwich and enjoy now—2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70

95 RJA Family Wines 2023 JDA Project Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$95

94 DeLille 2023 Grand Ciel Syrah (Red Mountain). An earthiness worthy of George Clinton's P-Funk greets the nose, followed by impressive bursts of blackberries and violets. The fruit on the palate is thick and delicious, with elderberries and blackberries laced with marjoram and saline. The fruit is corraled by nicely integrated tannins and acidity so brisk, you can feel your mouth water. Enjoy as many times as you can from now til 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$85

93 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Seven Hills Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This is a Syrah for pouring on a fall evening, while next to a fire pit, and all wrapped up in a Pendleton wool blanket. The wine's aromas are as dark as a fall night, with blackberries engulfing bits of orange peel, violets, and grilled steak. Tannins that rival circa 1970s Arnold Schwarzenegger for muscles offer ample support for the wine's concentrated mulberry and blackberry flavors, with loamy soil and bittersweet dark hovering on the perimeter. This is the kind of wine that adds two coats to the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Lagana 2023 Eritage Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). I loved the wine's blackberry and boysenberry aroma combination, and the way flecks of white peach, graphite earth and Thai basil played in it. There's 3% Viognier in this Syrah, which may be responsible for that delectable trio of fruit aromas. The flavors are black as night, with black cherries, black tea, black licorice, and thyme holding court. With its crisp acidity and velvety tannins, the wine's mouthfeel is silky and slippery. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$59

89 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Syrah (Columbia Valley). A Bing cherry wrapped in dark chocolate unites with candied lavender and nutmeg aromas to form an aroma set worthy of a candy shop. The wine's black and blueberry flavor combination is accented by spicy bits of cinnamon and more nutmeg. With soft acidity and plush tannins, this is a smooth-textured sipper. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

MERLOT

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2024 Merlot (Columbia Valley). There's a big bang for your buck with this savory Merlot. While there is a bit of Bing cherry on the nose, the wine's aroma set is dominated by bursts of loamy soil, beets, and a bowl of rice soaked with salty squid ink. There's almost a repeat with the flavors, with black cherries, bay leaf, black tea, and a meat and saline combination that will have you hankering for a roasted pork shoulder. This Merlot will offer you seemingly endless possibilities for food pairings. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

90 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Merlot (Columbia Valley). An impressive perfume of black currants, rose water, and birch fills the air as you pour this Merlot into its glass. The fruit flavors are equally black, with black cherries, black coffee, and bay leaf filling the mouth in slick and slippery fashion. The tannins are silky and unobtrusive, with acidity that holds up its end of the balance bargain. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Estate Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). After the wine's crushed raspberry and peach aromas are done flexing, notes of melting beeswax and a new LP record being removed from its sleeve join the party. There's a pronounced oak presence here to go along with the wine's muted cherry and dark raspberry flavors. A bit of decanting will likely be rewarded. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Subsoil 2023 Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills). This is a nicely balanced, medium-bodied Merlot that spent 18 months in a combination of French and American oak, 56% neutral. A compelling aroma mix of red apples and marionberries is joined by a hefty dose of cigar box. The wine's concentrated black-cherry flavor rubs up against notes of black coffee and clove. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

OTHER RED WINES

93 Itä 2025 Carbonic Zinfandel (Walla Walla Valley). A carbonic maceration Zinfandel. This fiendishly good creation springs from the imagination of Kelsey Albro Itämeri, Itä's founder/wine-maker. After a week of carbonic maceration, the wine rested for a short period of time in neutral French oak barrels. With its candied raspberry and cranberry-fruit aroma, think Jelly Belly: the wine smells like a seaside boardwalk candy shop. Touches of sweat-pea flowers and green tea join the jelly bean aromas. Bright acidity tells soft tannins to take a hike as it propels flavors like raspberry, lemon, candied lavender and thyme. This is flat out juicy-fruit fun. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$30

88 King Estate 2019 Weinbau Cabernet Franc (Wahlake Slope). This full-bodied Cabernet Franc spent 20 months in French oak barrels, 58% of which were new. The wine's aromas and flavors are nearly identical, with all the dark cherries, dark chocolate and anise that you can handle. It is a fruit-forward wine, with plush tannins and modest acidity. After a few sips, I was in the mood for a plate of roasted pork smothered in mole poblano. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$63

87 Pacifica 2021 Evan's Collection Malbec (Rattlesnake Hills). There's a meatiness suggesting short ribs with Kansas City-style barbecue sauce that runs throughout the wine's aromas and flavors. The wine's aromas also include tangy mulberries, with Bing cherries and aged balsamic making flavor appearances. The tannins are resolved, while the wine's acidity is on the gentle side. I would recommend drinking this kosher wine in the near future. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

RED BLENDS

94 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). Apogee's rich black cherry, dark chocolate and caramel aromas are tempered by puffs of cigar box and worn leather. The 2023 vintage of this wine is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 11% Malbec, and 4% Cabernet Franc that aged in French oak, 40% new, for nearly two years. Black fruit and bittersweet dark chocolate flavors coat the palate, accented by small amounts of orange zest and black coffee. The wine's alcohol, bright acidity, and silky tannins are in almost perfect balance. Enjoy over the next decade. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

94 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Ferguson Vineyard Estate Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This Bordeaux-style blend, driven by Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, is an impressive beast. It initially flexes with aromas of Rainier cherries, blueberries, cedarwood, and dried rose petals. The flavors involve a massive wall of blackberries, followed by sneaker waves of strong-brewed English Breakfast

tea and dill. The tannins are a final flex, showing off a grip worthy of Jason Momoa. Enjoy 2027-2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Pursued by Bear 2023 Bear Cub Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This is my favorite Bear Cub since Smokey was rescued. A blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, Bear Cub emerges from its long bottle hibernation with aromas of blackberries, loamy soil, violets and a lemon scent similar to a sweetbay magnolia. The flavors range from dried cherries and orange peel to touches of blueberries and maple, all backed by lively acidity and firm tannins with a subtle grip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$38

92 SAMA CELLARS 2024 Sargam Rhône-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This GSM blend has to be one of the best Washington state wine values that I have encountered in recent memory. The aromas are a fun mix of blackberries and a cherry popsicle, with a hint of clove floating in the background. Blackberries rule the palate roost, although notes of crushed caraway seeds, ginger, and sweet tea hold their own. Sargam's acidity is of the juicy variety, with silky tannins making this an easy wine to sip throughout the evening. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$20

91 L'Ecole No. 41 2024 Frenchtown Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Traditionally a Merlot-heavy blend that mixes Bordeaux with the Rhône, this year's Frenchtown kicks off with aromas of smoked black cherries and the savory qualities of a rare steak. The wine's crunchy acidity is nearly matched by tannins with a bit of grip. A Bing cherry and blueberry flavor combination melds nicely with bits of thyme and cumin. Frenchtown Red aged for a mere nine months in mostly neutral barrels. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Christopher Michael 2023 Red Blend (Horse Heaven Hills). This Malbec-heavy blend offers a compelling aromatic mix of black cherries, pork shoulder roasted over cedar chips, and a touch of cumin. Acidity bright enough to read by in the dark elevates the blend's flavors of Rainier cherries and dark chocolate laced with Ancho chilies. Bring on the shredded pork and corn tortillas. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

90 L'Ecole No. 41 2023 Perigee Seven Hills Vineyard Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). A ripe, sweet Rainier cherry scent is counterpointed by aromas of orange zest, talc, and the woody note of a popsicle stick. There's a touch of alcohol heat on the tongue at first, but soon enough, flavors of blackberries, cedar, and black coffee join the party. The wine has a slick and slippery texture to go along with its juicy acidity and velvety tannins. This Bordeaux-inspired blend spent nearly two years in French oak, 40% new. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Walla Walla Vintners 2024 Woven Fields Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This fuller-bodied blend of 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 16% Malbec, and 14% Cabernet Franc represents one heck of a fine wine value. Woven Fields spent 18 months in a combination of French and American oak barrels, 16% of which were new. The red blend's aromas mix dusty roadside blackberries and violets with a warm and woody dab of sandalwood. Firm, muscular tannins, and vigorous acidity frame the wine's Bing cherry, dark chocolate, and thyme flavors. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Subsoil 2023 Red Blend (Horse Heaven Hills). This bold, medium-bodied blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, and 8% Malbec leads with aromas of ripe black cherries, hyacinth, dark chocolate, and a double shot of espresso. It feels thick and rick in the mouth, with Rainier cherry, chocolate, and cedarwood flavors. The wine, which spent 18 months in a mix of French and American oak, possesses burly tannins and gentle acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

88 DarkRock 2024 Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Wahluke Slope). Ripe, sweet Rainier cherries with a touch of vanilla dominate a set of aromas that includes a blend of loamy soil, moss and saline. Things are just as rich on the palate, with sweet Amarena cherry, dark chocolate, and cedarwood flavors coating the palate in thick fashion. This is a blend of 71% Malbec, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 4% Cabernet Franc, with elevated acidity and plush tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$20

86 City Limits 2024 The Citizen Zinfandel-Petite Sirah (Columbia Valley). A blend of 80% Zinfandel and 20% Petite Sirah, The Citizen is one incredibly fruit-forward wine. The proceedings begin with a sweet aroma of Amarena cherries packed in syrup, followed by wisps of earthy oregano and blackberry scones with burnt, crusty edges. With its plush tannins and dialed-down acidity, the wine feels thick and jammy on the palate, with dark cherry and dark-chocolate flavors coating everything in sight. Fans of big and rich reds, rejoice. —M.A.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

TEXAS MOURVÈDRE

93 JACLYNN RENÉE WINES 2024 Desert Willow Vineyard Mourvèdre (Texas High Plains). Gorgeous aromas of roasted raspberry, juicy strawberry, nectarine, wildflowers, and pithy tangerine highlight the nose of this Mourvèdre. The palate is lifted and fresh, with bright berry and plum flavors mingling with floral-herbal potpourri in a framework of soft tannin and energetic acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$48

NEW YORK RIESLING

91 Silver Thread 2025 Semi-dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A heady bouquet of lemongrass, green apple and white florals makes for a lovely, hard-to-stop-smelling start. Semi-dry, the sweetness is well tucked within a round, slippery texture and freshened by mouthwatering acidity, with honeyed floral flavors lingering. Sip well chilled beside a cheese board or a creamy Southeast Asian curry. —C.P.
abv: 10.8% **Price:** \$NA

89 Eastern Daylight 2024 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's a honeyed cream character fringing on melon rind and stone fruit, like the fuzz of a donut peach, with a mushroomy edge. The palate is dry with lovely roundness and a peach pit pithiness to the finish. And open-knit, easy-going expression of this famed Finger Lakes variety. —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

88 Airy Acres Vineyard 2022 Dry Riesling (Cayuga Lake). Bright lemon and peach pit aromas come with honeyed bass notes. There's also something a bit mustier and more reductive, like mushrooms and onions. It's dry and pithy with citrusy goodness and a crisp, mouthwatering finish. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Millbrook 2022 Estate Castle Hill Riesling (Hudson River Region). A vibrant straw color, this offers up aromas of honey-drizzled lemons and limes with a truffle-y note, perhaps from bottle age, as well as an acetone tinge. It's dry with racy, citrusy acidity that's padded with some creamy texture. Overall, time has been good, sculpting softer edges and adding a layer of complexity here. —C.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$35

88 Silver Thread 2025 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A fresh (mostly) dry Riesling lifted by lemon-lime, white peach and jasmine flower aromas. There's bright acidity and a long citrusy finish. This would be a knockout with spicy tuna sushi or fish tacos. —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$NA

87 Airy Acres Vineyard 2022 Semi-Dry Riesling (Cayuga Lake). Lamp oil and lemon peel meet wooly aromas on this semi-dry Riesling. The palate is sweeter than the nose lets on, all honeyed waxy richness with quite a lot of mouthpuckering acidity. There's a mustiness at the back that's a little distracting but overall it's a solid bottling. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

86 Sheldrake Point Winery 2024 Estate Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A bright golden color, this shows some reductive Band-Aid notes on the first pour. They blow off eventually with aeration in the glass to make way for honey-flecked citrus and stone-fruit characters. The palate is mostly dry but a

little residual sugar sticks out, making the "dry" label feel a touch misleading. Thankfully, there's freshening, buoying acidity, ending on a lemonade note. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$24

85 Robinia Hill 2023 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). This Riesling from a Winery on Skaneateles Lake opens with a musty, mushroomy note that combines lemon air freshener and peach-pit nuances. Racy, cheek-sucking acidity is puckering and there's a lemony tang to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

SAUVIGNON BLANC

86 Billsboro 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Finger Lakes). There's ripe, somewhat confected, fuzzy peach and nectarine aromas on first sniff of this Finger Lakes Sauv B. A bit of sweetness on the palate is countered by a rush of acidity and fruit cocktail flavors to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$26

SPARKLING WINES

92 Limnad Wine 2021 Lake Bubbles Blanc de Blanc Extra Brut Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Peaches-n-cream, lemon popsicle and bread yeast aromas open this Finger Lakes fizz. Bright citrusy acidity and vigorous bubbles skitter across the palate, padded by a softly creamy texture, those bouncy lemon and stone-fruit flavors along for the ride. Highly refreshing and reflective of place (Seneca Lake), this is a lovely little black tie of a bubbly. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

92 Limnad Wine 2021 Lake Bubbles Extra Brut Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's a honeyed lemony richness like lemon drizzle cake to this bright gold-colored bubbly from the folks behind Red Tail Ridge Winery. Punchy fizz and bright acidity counter the richer, creamier notes, a core of citrus and nectarine flavor lingering long at the end. Both classy and smashable. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

91 Limnad Wine 2021 Lake Bubbles Blanc de Noir Extra Brut Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). A pale peach hue, this Pinot-based Blanc de Noir opens with brioche and stone-fruit candy with a honeyed underbelly. The somewhat confected start redeems itself on the palate where a combo of CO2 and acidity keeps things crisp and refreshing. A solid set of bubbles that walks to its own beat. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

90 Limnad Wine 2021 Lake Bubbles Rosé Extra Brut Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Red apple skin and peaches-n-cream notes open on this Seneca Lake bubbly. It's dry and fruity with a gently slippery texture amid the perky bubbles and crisp acidity, with appealing red- and stone-fruit flavors to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Sparkling Pointe 2020 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). The golden aromas of this Long Island Blanc de Blancs match its golden hue. Lifted apple peel and nectarine are etched in honey and pastry-crust notes. There's a bit of sweetness in the cracks of the palate, but the fizz and acidity keep things refreshing. A lovely fruit ripeness carries through to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

88 Buttonwood Grove Winery 2025 Pét-Nat Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). The color of a flaming orange sunset, this Cab Franc pét-nat is bombastically fruity with aromas of strawberries still on their stems and a wildness around its edges, with some sweetness on the cream-textured palate. It's a straightforward, crowd-pleasing drop. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Red Tail Ridge Winery NV Perpétuelle Change Cuvée N° 6 Brut Nature Sparkling Blend (Finger Lakes). Notes of cream, brioche, honey, and mushroom flow to a bone-dry palate of vigorous fizz, a big lift of tangy acidity, and subtle yeast-derived flavors. There's not a lot happening flavor-wise—the fruit seems to have missed the party—but it's nonetheless a balanced, classy drop. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$33

88 Sparkling Pointe 2019 Boisseau Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). Lemon curd and nectarine open the show, with an underlying onion and oatmeal note. A great swath of fizz and acidity on the palate balance the tickle of sweetness. It's a little lacking on the complexity and flavor fronts—and doesn't reach the heights of the previous vintage—but it makes for a pleasant sparkler nonetheless. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$58

86 Sparkling Pointe 2020 Cuvée Cynthia Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Blend (North Fork of Long Island). While the pink label suggests a rosé, this is a thoroughly white bubbly (made from the two red varieties in the Champagne canon, Pinot Noir and Meunier). The nose doesn't offer much—a yeasty vibe here, a creamy one there, and an overall synthetic plastic-y quality. On the palate, pointy acidity and fizz dissipate quickly. It's refreshing but is somewhat lacking in the flavor and character departments. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$68

85 Airy Acres Vineyard 2023 Blanc de Blanc Chardonnay (Cayuga Lake). Aromas of apple core and buttered toast are present, with some acetone and oatmeal nuances, too. The palate is dry with a shriek of acidity and not much fruit flavor. Drink closer to room temperature to temper the acid. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

ROSÉS

90 Fjord 2025 Cabernet Franc Rosé (Hudson River Region). Long reigning as a queen in this small Hudson Valley producer's stable, this salmon-hued rosé offers a bouquet of heady, hard-not-

to-like aromas of peaches and spiced strawberries. It's dry but fruity with crisp acidity. There's nothing hugely complex here, but it's high on the crowd-pleaser meter. —C.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$22

90 Six Eighty Cellars 2025 Gamay Noir Rosé (Finger Lakes). This vibrant pink-hued Gamay-based rosé needs a few good swirls in the glass to show off its fruit-cocktail aromas. It's dry and thirst-quenching with all the easy-drinking summer feels. But it also comes with enough weight to carry it through a warm weather meal. —C.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$23

90 Wölffer 2025 Summer in a Bottle Rosé (Long Island). One of the most successful rosé stories on the planet, this now iconic wine offers all the pretty pink color and fragrant fruity appeal you could hope for. 2025 was a strong vintage in Long Island and the ripe strawberry and peaches n' cream vibes flow freely to a dry, subtly textural palate lifted by tangy freshness, with stone fruit flavors aplenty. Sip and pretend you're at a celebrity house party in the Hamptons. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Billsboro 2025 Rosé of Cabernet Franc-Cabernet Sauvignon (Finger Lakes). A pale-orange hue, this Finger Lakes sipper is fresh and fruity with peaches-n-cream vibes. It's dry but fruity on the palate, with crisp acidity and chill down and knock back summertime appeal. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Buttonwood Grove Winery 2025 Rosé (Finger Lakes). Barbie pink, this Finger Lakes rosé is fairly muted on the nose but offers straightforward red-berry refreshment on the mostly dry palate, with enough padding to pair easily with food or to sip solo. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Sheldrake Point Winery 2025 Estate Dry Rosé (Finger Lakes). A vibrant strawberry hue, this Finger Lakes rosé is like smelling strawberry and watermelon juice. It pings the mouth with pointy-edged acidity and there's a wee bit of sugar to temper, which adds a little creamy texture. Straightforward and easy to knock back, but could pair with a wide range of cuisine, too. —C.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$22

87 Wölffer 2025 Estate Rosé (Long Island). This is a touch soapy and candied, like peach rings with a synthetic edge. The palate redeems itself. While dry and a little pithy, the fruit prevails, buoyed by bright acidity like just-ripe nectarines on an early summer's day. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Six Eighty Cellars 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé (Finger Lakes). A deep shade of lipstick pink, scents of peach and watermelon rind precede a palate that's creamy, almost waxy, in texture, with just

enough acidity and a cherry Chapstick flavor to the end. —C.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$21

85 Wölffer 2025 Grandioso Estate Rosé (Long Island). This may be Wölffer's high-end rosé, but this reviewer prefers the more every-day drinking versions. Currently a little chemical and synthetic in feel, the candied peach aromas mingle with plastic-y, onion-y ones. There's cheek-sucking acidity ending on a tart finish. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

CABERNET FRANC

90 Millbrook 2024 Estate Block 3 East Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). Made in the vein of a big age-worthy red wine—with minty, toasty oak and hulking tannins—this opens with lovely layers of supple cherry, wild strawberry, dried florals, and cedar-y, woody aromas. It's quite young and muscular for the moment, but should age gracefully for the next decade or so. This is one for the steak lovers out there. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

88 Fjord 2024 Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). It's hard not to stop smelling this Hudson Valley Cab Franc. If tasted in colors, it'd be greens and light reds, a splash of strawberry (leaves on), sprinkled with white pepper, like the precocious greenery growing beneath the vines in the verdant late summer. The palate is little more disjointed—rough and ready tannins show some bite that overpowers the otherwise lovely juicy red berry fruit flavors. Overall, it's a pleasant drop for those in-between months. —C.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30

88 Millbrook 2024 Cabernet Franc (New York). Supple dark-cherry aromas are underpinned by dusty dried herbal notes like tobacco and mint, with a campfire-embers note on this Hudson Valley bottling. There's a touch of oak on the palate in the form of quite drying tannins that lead to a raspy finish. Overall, the plump fruit shines through, but this reviewer would still love to see a brighter, lighter expression of this variety. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Millbrook 2024 Estate Clone 623 Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). Vanilla-coconut oak aromas dominate on this single clone and comparatively high-end Cab Franc. There's plump dark-berry fruit behind the wood curtains, but you've got your work cut out to focus on it. The palate follows a similar path. Midweight, the fruit tries to hold its own amid the muscular tannins. It's clearly set to age—and it may do quite decently—but this reviewer would love more judicious use of oak, particularly within a such a cool climate. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

87 Millbrook 2024 Estate Proprietor's Special Reserve Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). Black currant and cherry fruit mingle with

earthy herb and spice notes, and a touch of menthol-charred barrel influence. It's midweight, almost full bodied by New York red standards, with a grip of somewhat drying tannins that cry out for a plate of protein. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$45

87 Red Tail Ridge Winery 2023 RTR Estate Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Bombastically fruity, this Seneca Lake Cab Franc emphasizes the strawberry-raspberry jam elements of this variety, with flickers of dried herbs and florals—not to mention something just slightly sweaty there, too. There's more structure on the palate, thanks to a tug of quite rustic, powerful tannins, but the juicy red-berry fruit remains the star of the show. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

PINOT NOIR

88 Millbrook 2024 Estate Poppi Hill Pinot Noir (Hudson River Region). A red-berry cordial meets cocktail bitters note sees a touch of charred wood, like slightly burnt toast, on this Hudson Valley Pinot. But, while it's a touch intrusive for this oak-sensitive reviewer, many will love the savoriness it brings. There's some lovely structure to the palate, and while the tannins, again, veer a little drying and oak-driven, there's some density and a lifted tang of cherry-like acidity to temper. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$45

87 Millbrook 2024 Pinot Noir (New York). Vanilla, coffee bean and minty, charred-wood notes perch beside strawberry and cherry-cordial characters that, after some good swirls in glass, have a vibrant, pretty appeal to them. There's no mistaking you're in a cool climate here, for a rush of acidity pings the roof of the mouth. Tannins are leathery, a little raspy, but there's (just) enough red-berry fruit weight to balance. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$26

86 Red Tail Ridge Winery 2024 RTR Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Give this a few good swirls in glass for the onion-y vegetal characters to make room for more pleasant dried-herb sprinkled red-berry ones. The palate is lightweight and a touch lean with a grip of raspy, saliva-sucking tannins. But drink this at room temperature with a plate of fatty charcuterie and it should satisfy. —C.P.

abv: 12.2%

Price: \$33

GAMAY NOIR

92 Millbrook 2025 Estate Gamay Noir (Hudson River Region). From a longtime Hudson Valley producer, this Gamay pops with red currants and pomegranate aromas, backed with crushed herbs and rose petals. It's lightweight but with lovely succulent berry fruit, a tug of ripe tannins, and a dried herb-spice combo to finish. This is a top example of a vari-

ety too rarely seen in New York—and that is a crying shame. More of this, please. —C.P.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$28

AUSTRALIA WHITE WINES

91 Alkina 2024 Kin Semillon (Barossa Valley). A golden yellowy color, this modern Semillon is waxy and wild around the edge, raw and a bit rustic. Aromas call forth fields of dandelions, old-fashioned sealing wax, preserved lemons with their seeds and skins, and fennel fronds. A rush of high pitched citrusy acidity hits the roof of the mouth and flows outwards, making the lips smack and the tongue tingle amid a slippery texture. It's a characterful wine reflective of season, place, and variety. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$25

88 Alkina 2023 Kin Sémillon Gris (Barossa Valley). From first pour you're greeted with an intriguing orange hue the color of a flaming sunset. An initially reductive nose of onions and flint makes way, with aeration, for red apple skins, orange zest, and flower stems. It's intriguing if a little out there. Acidity shrieks along the tongue and makes the cheeks pucker. There's a rustic pithy texture with a lift of tart orchard fruit refreshment toward the finish. For fans of a funkier orange or skin contact wine style, it will hit the spot. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$NA

86 Sorby Adams 2024 Jellicoe Riesling (Eden Valley). While the nose of this South Aussie Riesling smells quite sweet (think: candied peach, lemon, and lavender air freshener with a characteristic lamp oil note), the palate is dry with more tempered acidity than is usual for the typical racy Aussie style. It lacks some verve and vibrancy because of it, with sweet and sour tones on the finish. Canopy Wine Selections. —C.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$22

SHIRAZ

98 Henschke 2022 Hill of Grace Shiraz (Eden Valley). An enticing, perfumed, open-knit vintage of Australia's most famous single-vineyard wine. The succulent blue and purple fruit is threaded with violets and a signature Chinese five spice aroma. But there are other savory notes in the folds, too: a whiff of celery salt here, bacon, and olive brine there. They add a moreishness, as the English would say—a gastronomic, salivating, give-me-more feel. A lovely tang amid the silky texture gives a freshness to the palate while the tannins weave a powerful spell of age-worthy enticement. This may not be the longest lived Grace—although it will hold up easily another 15 years—but it's a hauntingly beautiful drop right now. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$1250

97 Henschke 2022 Mount Edelstone Shiraz (Eden Valley). One of Australia's longest consecutively produced single-vineyard wines celebrated 70 years with the release of this vintage. And the site expression is stronger than ever. There's a classic sweet and sour combo of macerated cherries, chocolate, warm stones, iodine, beef broth, and thyme. It's open knit with a core of supple fruit creating the sensation of plush roundness, like sinking to your favorite armchair—not that kind that's so worn you can never emerge—this one is comfortable yet pliant, a place to rest but not to doze off. A splendidly complete wine of place and time now, it should age gracefully for decades. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$450

95 Alkina 2022 Birdsong Shiraz (Barossa Valley). There's a gastronomic feel to this distinctive Shiraz from an exciting new(ish) Barossa producer that gets the saliva flowing and the dinner bell ringing. It's ripe but not confected, the purple- and blue-fruit succulence buoyed by a bouquet of violets and marigolds, with a spicy, savory edge of black olives and celery salt. It's fresh, mouthwatering even, with a core of juicy, sun-kissed fruit and textured tannins that cry out for a slab of something crackling and fatty. An energy pulses throughout, increasingly apparent in the more restrained, mid-weight modern Barossa Shiraz style. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$35

95 Henschke 2022 The Wheelwright Shiraz (Eden Valley). Wheelwright may not enjoy the soaring fame of Hill of Grace or Mt. Edelstone, but with 68 years of vine age, it's still a seriously lovely wine. Intensely Henschke in style, there are sweet and sour aromas of cassis and black cherry, iodine, green peppercorn, tomato leaf, rock dust, and beef broth. There's an approachability here—the power hides in the wings—the distinctively textured tannins present but subtle amid the abundance of succulent fruit. They're ready and able to hold down the fort for another decade, but the reins are loose enough to enjoy the sum of its parts right now. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$240

93 Fowles Wine 2021 Ladies Who Shoot Their Lunch Wild Ferment Shiraz (Victoria). This is a lovely, characterful bottling from the craggy Strathbogie Ranges of central Victoria. Heady cracked pepper, violet, cassis, and cherry aromas are a far cry from the riper, plusher characters typical to South Aussie Shiraz. There's lovely tang of freshness to the palate and the pepper-seasoned purple fruit and floral flavors flow to the end. A harmonious and modern expression of this famed Aussie grape variety. Fowles Wine Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$35

93 Yalumba 2022 The Steeple Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Peppercorn, bay, crushed herb, and violet aromas add an earthiness that grounds the cherry and blackberry fruit on this Barossa red, from 100-year-old-plus vines. It's a ripe, plush wine but one that shows harmony at every step, with finesse

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and polish. Classic in style, it should pair with similarly classic dishes calling for a big red wine. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$85

91 Bec Hardy Wines 2024 Pertaringa Undercover Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Black olives, hoisin, and ground pepper perch above a dense core of blackberry and cherry fruit. It's not a bombastic wine, screaming its name to the world, but it is a fairly rich one. There's a pop of acidity amid otherwise ripe fruit and sandpary tannins. Whip this out whenever your steak-loving uncle is around. Non-U.S. imported. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$24

90 Bec Hardy 2024 Pertaringa Belonging to The Hills Shiraz (McLaren Vale). A lifted nose of ripe plum and dark cherry is underpinned by graphite, licorice, bay leaf, and warm stony nuances. Warm and mouthfilling, but with just enough acidity to keep it fresh, it's a sturdy, harmonious bottling that ticks the classic Aussie Shiraz boxes. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

88 Barossa Valley Estate 2024 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). A nose full of plum, cherry, and beet root open, with a vanilla-oak sweetness and ground pepper tucked into the folds. There's a tangy red-berry lift of acidity on the palate that brings welcome freshness to the oodles of fruit. Tannins are prevalent, adding a dusty, drying feel. An old-school Aussie red that will delight the steak eaters among us. Deleat USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$13

88 Sorby Adams 2021 Tristan Shiraz (Barossa). Summer veg garden vibes of fresh green beans and purple flower stems—along with plump dark-berry fruit and black pepper—add interest to this Barossa Shiraz. It's midweight with juicy fruit flavor, punchy acidity and powerful tannins. Canopy Wine Selections. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$31

87 Gudilly 2022 Single Vineyard Shiraz (Adelaide). Plums, violets, black pepper, and dried green-herb aromas make for a classic start to this fruity, plump Shiraz. It's a rich, somewhat warm (alcohol-wise) bottling that ticks the protein and barbecue-friendly boxes of this famed style. Canopy Wine Selections. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

86 Sorby Adams 2021 Le Verrier Shiraz (Barossa). Red and black-fruit aromas are coated in cherry cola and cedar-vanilla barrel characters, with a more savory spiced underbelly. On the palate it's ripe and mouthcoating with raspy tannins, falling somewhat flat at the finish. Canopy Wine Selections. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

96 Henschke 2022 Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon (Eden Valley). It's hard to stop

smelling this vintage of Cyril. A heady combo of ripe black currant and black cherry woven with cracked pepper, violets, and a hint of graphite. There's lovely freshness and silkiness to the palate. That juicy mouthwatering appeal nicely counters the tug of fine, savory tannins, a core of herb-flecked red, and black fruit flowing to a long finish. This is an elegant and beautifully balanced bottling from one of Australia's most treasured historic wineries. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$275

96 Yalumba 2022 The Menzies Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). Distinctive sun-kissed Aussie bush scrub (aka wild native herb) aromas are, to Euro-centric palates, reminiscent of thyme, rosemary, and roadside violets; a sprinkle of white pepper here, a squeeze of fresh cherry juice there. There's a lovely juicy approachability, with ripe, fine sandpary tannins that makes you able to sip this solo. But it'd be next level beside all matter of succulent roast meats. There are more premium Cabs in Yalumba's stable, but this beautiful expression of the grape that put Coonawarra on the map comes out tops in this reviewer's book. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$78

94 Xanadu 2023 Circa 77 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). All the sweet and sour goodness of Margaret River Cab is on display here—in fact this makes for an excellent, affordable intro to this unique style. There's cassia, cranberry, iodine, seaweed, dark chocolate, and a few turns of the pencil sharpener. It's juicy and silky, yet true to variety—powerful with a core of fruit and a punch of supple tannins that make it an effortless pairing for barbecue fare while also succulent enough to sip solo. RWG USA. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$19

89 Sorby Adams 2021 Isolde Cabernet Sauvignon (Barossa). Ripe purple and blue fruit are out in full force here, like diving into a pool of grape jelly, with a bar of pepper-infused chocolate for a flotation device. It's full figured, fruity, and fairly tannic. A supple, straightforward expression of this famed variety. Canopy Wine Selections. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$33

85 Gudilly 2022 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaide). Keeping its cards close to the chest, this is a tightly wound Cab with notes of cassia, cedar, and mint. There's a sweet and sour combo on the palate and raspy tannins. In the end, the sour wins out. Canopy Wine Selections. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

RED BLENDS

95 Yalumba 2023 The Signature Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Barossa). The ancient parched soils and sturdy perseverance that harkens from these classic Aussie varieties are all wound up in this dusky bottling that keeps its cards close to its chest, ripeness and power in the shadows waiting to

be unleashed. Great swaths of blackberry and cassia, mint, black pepper, and toasted cocoa bean. It's warm and mouthfilling; a great big ball of Barossa sunshine, but with lovely freshness. Still young and primary, it's best kept in the shadows. When a new decade advances, it'll emerge all the more complex, ready for the spotlight. Drink 2030-2045. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$76

95 Yalumba 2021 The Caley Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Coonawarra-Barossa). A glass full of old-school Barossa right here: currant and blood plum, mint chocolate, and the turn of a pencil sharpener. High-toned tangy acidity pings like an old-fashioned telephone ring while the gauzy tannins close in, blanketing the tongue and taking it captive. The fruit keeps vigil, a juicy welcome in a sea of power and richness. Drink beside a slab of rare steak or stash away until at least 2035. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$385

NEW ZEALAND

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Palliser Estate 2025 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Martinborough). All the Sauv B players are invited to the match: lime, passionfruit, lemongrass, green bean, and fresh asparagus—something waxy, like melted candle, is on the bench. There's a lick of residual sugar on the palate that's only somewhat countered by the bright, citrusy acidity. Some textural weight gives an element of food friendliness and the finish is long and fruity. Chill right down to highlight the freshness over the sweetness. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

89 McBride Sisters Collection 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Honey-drizzled passionfruit and citrus abound, with dried basil, green pepper, and flinty notes flickering below. There's a touch of sweetness on the palate but it's overshadowed by crisp, vibrant acidity. A little time in bottle has tempered the acidity and given the fruit a honey-kissed feel. Chill right down and enjoy with warm weather fare. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

88 Ant Moore 2025 Estate Series Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). An aromatic pop of ripe grapefruit, lemon-lime sorbet, and passionfruit is fringed by greener notes reminiscent of bell pepper and tomato leaf. There's some sweetness to the palate and a crisp acidity to balance it, riding a slippery wave to a fruity finish. Ant Moore Wines / USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

88 Palliser Estate 2025 Pencarrow Sauvignon Blanc (Martinborough). Quite reductive in style, the gun smoke and struck-match aromas are out in full force but quickly settle with time in glass. Vegetal aromas—green bean and bell pepper—perch along-

side passionfruit and citrus. The palate is round, even a little creamy, with a little sweetness, plenty of fruit and dried garden herb flavors. Easy to like, once it gets some air. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$22

87 Koha 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).

The lemon-lime popsicle aspect is bright if a bit confected, with vegetal, green herb notes behind. They flow to a palate that shows a touch of sweetness and a rush of crunchy acidity to counter and freshen. Drink not too cold with seafood and warm weather cuisine. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy*. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

86 Harbor Town 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).

An appealing lemon-lime-grapefruit combo first meets the nose, with a signature dried green herb note tucked well beneath. It's fresh and fruity with the easy-drinking summer appeal this style is so famed for. M.S. Walker Brands. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

86 King Maui 2025 Cellar Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).

Bright lime, passionfruit, and bell pepper aromas start, tinged with a damp leafy note, like cut flowers left in vase water too long (this does blow off with time aerating in glass). It's fresh and fruity on the palate, with some textural weight and a fair amount of sweetness showing, especially as it warms in glass. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

85 Echo Bay 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).

Some pungent oniony aromas sit atop the citrus and green herbal ones. Acidity is shrill, never quite gelling with the bit of residual sugar, but the citrus fruit holds it own, ended on a refreshing grapefruit note. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

83 King Maui 2025 Lighter Sauvignon (Marlborough).

Pungent and on the underripe side, the reductive onion and Band-Aid aromas wrestle with the passionfruit, citrus and green veg notes. Acidity is shrill, attempting, it seems, to mask the sugar (or maybe it's the other way around). There's some carbonation here too that sticks out amid sour fruit flavors. —C.P.

abv: 9%

Price: \$15

SPIRITS



96 Castle Freke Elemental Irish Gin (Ireland; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). With ties to a castle in Ireland's West Cork, this feather-light spirit is intended as a sipping gin. The aroma mixes bright lemon zest and juniper. On the palate, star anise, coriander, and juniper lead into a long fade with tongue-tingling fresh ginger and white pepper. Grain based.
abv: 44% **Price: \$245**



96 Lost Lantern United States of Bourbon Cask Strength (USA; Lost Lantern Spirits, Vergennes, VT). In honor of America's 250th birthday, this is a blend of straight bourbons from all 50 states, bottled at cask strength. It's big and bold; balanced with plenty of water, it's a relatively dry sipper, showing leather and orange peel, and finishing with concentrated vanilla plus lively clove, cinnamon, and black-pepper heat.
abv: 61.5% **Price: \$100**



96 Oban 15 Port Cask Finish (Scotland; Diageo, New York, NY). Vanilla and apricot aromas lead into a rich, velvety caramel palate. The lightly smoky exhale includes black pepper and cayenne sparks, finishing with a pleasing stone-fruit note.
abv: 52.1% **Price: \$130**

SCOTCH

More reasonable prices are on the horizon.

For those who followed the World Cup in this past summer, Scotland's delightfully exuberant Tartan Army might still be top of mind. And while Scotland didn't get far in the tournament, another important victory recently came through: the removal of the 10% U.S. tariff on Scotch whisky.

No doubt, this is a welcome development for Scotch fans. In July 2026, the levy on Scotch imports to the U.S. was lifted. The current deal also allows bourbon and empty casks from the U.S. to arrive in Scotland and the rest of the U.K. tariff free—an important development, as Scotch often is aged or finished in barrels that previously held bourbon.

Both sides of the Atlantic heaved a sigh of relief, as Scotland traditionally exports more whisky to the U.S. than to any other country. Since the 2025 implementation of the 10% tariff, export volume to the U.S. had fallen a whopping 15%, as measured by the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).

No doubt, it's been a challenging time for U.S.-based Scotch drinkers, as tariffs inflated prices. The SWA estimated the fallout as close to £20 million (about \$27 million) a month in lost exports.

With American-Scotland trade relations back on track, hopefully this restored "zero-for-zero" tariff regime means scotch prices will soon deflate. Though this wasn't Prohibition, just a price

bump, the evaporation of tariffs still offers a sense of reprieve, including for those planning holiday gifts.

And not a moment too soon, as an exciting cascade of new bottlings are on offer. Look to options such as Talisker Magma, an uber-aged Scotch finished in casks toasted by the heat of volcanic rocks; a return of Tullibardine, with sweetly spiced liquid produced shortly after the distillery's historic reopening; or a flavorful

cigar blend from the rugged Isle of Skye. These are not just spirits; they are stories.

—Kara Newman

With American-Scotland trade relations back on track, hopefully this restored "zero-for-zero" tariff regime means Scotch prices will soon deflate.



96 ZIZ Hugo Spritz (USA; ZIZ, Napa, CA). Bring this RTD to a party: the Champagne-style pop makes it especially festive and gift worthy. It pours with a generously frothy mousse, fading to lots of fine bubbles. The flavor is lightly floral, with tinges of fresh pear and bittersweet herbs, and a honeyed exhale. The base is a fortified grape wine.
abv: 9% **Price: \$25/750ml**



95 Lost Lantern United States of Bourbon 100 Proof (USA; Lost Lantern Spirits, Vergennes, VT). This is a blend of straight bourbons from all 50 states, bottled at 100 proof, to honor America's 250th birthday. Vanilla and toasted grain lead into a relatively dry palate marked by savory spices, including ginger, cinnamon, cumin and a waft of mesquite.
abv: 50% **Price: \$80**



95 The Dalmore Aged 17 Years (Scotland; Whyte and Mackay, New York, NY). Expect a deep amber hue, and caramel and vanilla aromas. The notably plush palate offers toffee and espresso, plus a fleeting savory tone. The long cocoa finish is warmed by nuanced cinnamon and cayenne. **abv: 42% Price: \$250**



95 Tullibardine Aged 18 Years (Scotland; Prestige Beverage Group, Mendota Heights, MN). Tullibardine was closed from 1994-2003, and this was distilled after its reopening. This single malt has a copper hue and dry aromas of tea, tobacco leaf, and cigar wrapper. The palate opens with rootsy sarsaparilla and allspice, winding into a long, gentle, sweetly spiced finish marked by anise and gingerbread. **abv: 43% Price: \$120**



94 Don Q Rum Gran Reserva Anejo XO (Puerto Rico; Serralles). A blend of rums aged a minimum of nine years, this chestnut-hued sipper shows plenty of caramel and brown sugar on nose and palate. A splash of water coaxes a dark, fudgy note, flanked by drier hints of char, espresso, and clove, plus leather and sassy black pepper on the exhale. **abv: 40% Price: \$50**



94 Lagavulin Sweet Peat Aged 11 Years (Scotland; Diageo, New York, NY). The “sweet peat” name says it all for this tawny single malt. Look for a bracing sea breeze scent mingled with faint peat smoke. The palate shows cigar wrapper, almond, and sweet smoke wrapped around mild baked apple. The exhale brings touches of iodine, mellow peat, and a crack of black pepper. **abv: 43% Price: \$70**



93 Don Q Rum Reserva (Puerto Rico; Serralles). Expect a honey hue and allspice scent. Soft, comforting brown sugar and crème brûlée flavors lead into ginger tingle and a gentle, lip-smacking vanilla finish. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40% Price: \$22**

BLENDED SCOTCH

97 Isle of Skye PX Sherry Cigar Reserve (Scotland; Silver Lake Imports, Miami, FL). Created to pair with cigars, this blended Scotch has a chestnut hue and rich dried-fruit aroma. The PX Sherry cask finish shows up as dried cherry, raisin, and lip-smacking molasses. A splash of water layers on dark chocolate and tobacco leaf, finishing with licorice and black-pepper sizzle. A faint wisp of smoke unfurls on the exhale. Limited edition. **Best Buy.** **abv: 46% Price: \$48/700ml**

93 Isle of Skye Double Smoke (Scotland; Silver Lake Imports, Miami, FL). With a copper hue and vanilla scent, this 12-year-old blended Scotch offers crumbly southern biscuits and dark chocolate edged with peat smoke. An anise accent is joined by gentle white pepper and ginger glow. Limited release. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40% Price: \$30/700ml**

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

98 The Dalmore Regalis (Scotland; Whyte and Mackay, New York, NY). This non-age-state-ment single malt has a deep amber hue. Deep, moody toffee, espresso, and molasses show on nose and palate. Adding water brings dark chocolate and charred oak, winding into a long, cayenne-spicy finish. **abv: 43% Price: \$90**

97 Craighouse 15 Years Old (Scotland; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT). This feather-soft single malt has an amber hue and creamy caramel scent. The silky palate mixes sweet smoke and vanilla, winding into along finish tinged with dark chocolate. **abv: 43% Price: \$75/700ml**

95 Craighouse 12 Years Old (Scotland; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT). Chestnut cream entwines with peat smoke on nose and palate. Adding water releases nuanced anise, gingerbread, and molasses. The long finish is enlivened by menthol and black pepper. **Best Buy.** **abv: 43% Price: \$45/700ml**

95 Talisker Magma Aged 47 Years (Scotland; Diageo, New York, NY). Finished in casks toasted by the heat of volcanic rocks, this single malt has a honey hue and deeply spiced aroma exuding tons of clove, cinnamon, and allspice. The palate opens with a billow of peat smoke, flanked by drying oak, toasted coconut, and toasted almond. Ginger and cayenne warm the long finish, wrapped in gossamer-like peat smoke. Limited edition. **abv: 48.8% Price: \$5,250**

GLOBAL SINGLE MALTS/ AMERICAN SINGLE MALTS

95 Indri Agneya Single Malt Indian Whisky (India; Impex Beverages, South San Francisco, CA). Peat smoke and sea-breeze scents mingle. The palate opens lightly smoky, while distinct salinity sets the mouth watering. Add to that hints of green olive, roasted nuts, and polished oak, finishing with sweet spices amid the lightly smoky exhale. **abv: 46% Price: \$80**

94 ABK6 Single Malt Whisky (France; Spirits Direct). Golden in the glass, the aroma suggests baked pear enveloped in a light smoky haze. The light and silky palate echoes orchard fruit, plus delicate apricot and toasted almond. The gentle finish is accented with ginger and cinnamon sparks. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40% Price: \$29/700ml**

94 Indri Trini Single Malt Indian Whisky (India; Impex Beverages, South San Francisco, CA). A swirl of sweet spices such as cardamom, clove, cinnamon, anise, caraway introduce this single malt, finishing with a vanilla fade. A splash of water brings

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toasted coconut forward and amps up the baking spice glow.

abv: 46%

Price: \$60

94 Indri Dru Cask Strength Single Malt Indian Whisky (India; Impex Beverages, South San Francisco, CA). The enticing aroma of this deep-amber single malt suggests spice cake: cinnamon, clove, cardamom, but also toasted coconut, sherry, dried cherry, and a splash of vanilla, all echoed on the palate. A judicious dose of water tames the heat of this cask-strength whisky and allows cocoa and dried apricot to emerge. The finish is long and tannic, winding into plentiful baking spice.

abv: 57.2%

Price: \$90

89 Stillman's Sonder American Single Malt Whiskey Aged 10 Years (USA; Dancing Goat Distillery, Cambridge, WI). Oak and allspice lead on nose and palate. A splash of water brings out a hint of baked apple. The warming finish shows cedar, clove, and strong-brewed black tea. Distilled in Indiana, aged in Wisconsin.

abv: 48.2%

Price: \$70/700ml

BOURBON

95 Barrell Bourbon New Year 2027 (USA; Barrell Craft Spirits, Louisville, KY). An explosion of cinnamon fireworks introduces this limited-edition celebratory whiskey, a blend of straight bourbons from seven states bottled at cask strength. Add plenty of water to release lively spearmint, toasted coconut, and almond, winding into a tingly clove finish.

abv: 57.67%

Price: \$85

94 Lost Lantern United States of Bourbon 1776 (USA; Lost Lantern Spirits, Vergennes, VT). Dried cherry and warm caramel show on nose and palate. Bottled at sky-high strength, the palate is predictably fiery; water tempers it to bring out mocha, toasted grain, and leather, winding into a long clove-warmed finish. To commemorate America's 250th, this is a blend of straight bourbon whiskeys from the first 13 states. Limited edition of 1,776 bottles.

abv: 60.7%

Price: \$199

93 Stillman's Sonder Bourbon Aged 10 Years (USA; Dancing Goat Distillery, Cambridge, WI). Espresso and caramel aromas lead into a palate tinged with mocha, dark chocolate, and oak. Sarsaparilla and menthol enliven the midpalate, fading into gentle nutmeg and clove. Distilled in Indiana.

abv: 47%

Price: \$70

GIN

94 Unlikely Companions Sea Salt + Kelp Gin (New Zealand; Smith Wine & Spirits, Irvine, CA). Distilled from whey, the botanicals include giant kelp, dill, saline, lemon, and licorice. The result is a mild anise scent and distinctly salty sip, which mingles with verdant freshness and sets the mouth water-

ing, finishing with a salt-and-pepper note. Nice option for savory martinis without the vinegary brine.

abv: 40%

Price: \$59/700ml

93 Unlikely Companions Rose + Szechuan Gin (New Zealand; Smith Wine & Spirits, Irvine, CA). Subtle fruity-floral notes tease nose and palate, suggesting hibiscus and a hint of raspberry, finishing with a faint savory touch and pink peppercorn zing. Distilled from whey, with botanicals including rose petal, rose water, and Szechuan pepper.

abv: 40%

Price: \$59/700ml

RUMS

98 Probitas Green Label Blended Rum (Barbados and Jamaica; Altamar Brands, Corona del Mar, CA). This plush, lush, richly spiced sipper is a mix of rums from Jamaica and Barbados, blended and bottled at Foursquare Distillery in Barbados. It has a deep amber hue, and rich caramel and red-fruit aromas. The complex, velvety palate opens with tons of cinnamon and clove brushed with cocoa, plus touches of dried cherry, orange peel, and ginger root. A wisp of caramelized banana funk enlivens the exhale. *Best Buy.*

abv: 57%

Price: \$35

96 Mount Gay Rum Exceptionally Aged 15 Years (Barbados; Remy Cointreau USA, New York, NY). Expect a russet hue and vanilla and toasted-oak scents. The silky palate offers heaps of soft brown sugar, woven with bits of cocoa and hazelnut. The long exhale is lightly spiced with cayenne and cinnamon sparks.

abv: 43%

Price: \$90

95 Mount Gay Rum Exceptionally Aged 25 Years (Barbados; Remy Cointreau USA, New York, NY). This deep-amber rum exudes rich caramel and oak aromas. The first sips show dark-chocolate-covered cherry glazed with brown sugar. Adding water brings forward hints of char and prune. Cinnamon and allspice warm the long finish.

abv: 47%

Price: \$199

95 Crossfire Hurricane Rum Gold (Jamaica; Crossfire Hurricane, Jacksonville, FL). This bold and bright rum—a blend from four well-known Jamaican distilleries—has a burnished gold hue and lots of caramelized pineapple and toasted coconut blessed with a bit of tropical funk. A splash of water coaxes pecan pie and banana cream. The final funky exhale is warmed by abundant nutmeg and clove. Celebrates the Rolling Stones' 1972 Jamaica sessions. Sip or mix. *Best Buy.*

abv: 40%

Price: \$35/700

94 Crossfire Hurricane Rum Reserve (Jamaica; Crossfire Hurricane, Jacksonville, FL). Amber and bright in the glass, this soft rum has a warm caramel scent tinged with barrel char. The flavor is relatively restrained, showing vanilla and cream soda, accented with orange peel, clove, and black pepper. Intended as a sipping rum, but would make a nice rum

old fashioned or Kingston Negroni. Celebrates the Rolling Stones' 1972 Jamaica sessions.

abv: 40%

Price: \$45/700ml

RTDS

95 Flyback Cocktails Appletini (USA; Klocke Estate, Hudson, NY). Here's an RTD to slow down and savor. Made with Klocke Estate apple brandy, white vermouth, and Honeycrisp apple juice, this sipper is pure apple-pie filling, showing lip-smacking baked apple, brown sugar, waxy honey, and baking spice.

abv: 25%

Price: \$39/375ml

93 Flyback Cocktails Claverack Old-Fashioned (USA; Klocke Estate, Hudson, NY). The base of this enjoyable old fashioned is Calvados (a French apple brandy), not whiskey. Expect an amber hue, and plentiful clove and cinnamon aromas. The velvety palate offers maple-sugar sweetness, oak, and baking spice. Adding ice brings a bit more fruit forward, including a bit of dried cherry.

abv: 30%

Price: \$39/375ml

92 Dosi Dosi Greek Mastiha Cocktail (USA; Dosi Dosi, Sacramento, CA). The base of this canned RTD is mastiha, a liqueur flavored with the resin of the mastic tree, which is cultivated in Greece's Chios island. It pours lightly bubbly, with a distinct minty scent. The relatively sweet palate spotlights spearmint, finishing lightly herbaceous with touches of lime acidity and lime peel. Think: a Southside with a Greek accent.

abv: 18%

Price: \$8/200ml

92 Flyback Cocktails Brandy Manhattan (USA; Klocke Estate, Hudson, NY). Made with brandy, red vermouth, and bitters, this RTD has an amber hue, and sarsaparilla and allspice aromas. The bittersweet palate intertwines vanilla and clove. Adding ice brings out dried dates and figs, plus light espresso and oak on the exhale.

abv: 38%

Price: \$39/375ml

91 Dogfish Head Passionfruit Citrus Vodka Mule (USA; Dogfish Head Distilling, Milton, DE). This cocktail pours clear, with just enough bubbles to tickle the nose. The palate is lightly citrusy and coconuty, with a pleasing, lightly ginger-y exhale. Made with passionfruit and lime juices from concentrate. *Best Buy.*

abv: 7% abv:

Price: \$20/8-pack 355ml

90 Dogfish Head Passionfruit Citrus Vodka Mule (USA; Dogfish Head Distilling, Milton, DE). This cocktail pours clear, with just enough bubbles to tickle the nose. The palate is lightly citrusy and coconuty, with a pleasing, lightly gingery exhale. Made with passion fruit and lime juices from concentrate. *Best Buy.*

abv: 7% abv:

Price: \$20/8-pack 355ml

89 Dogfish Head Blueberry Citrus Vodka Lemon Drop (USA; Dogfish Head Distilling, Milton,

DE). Envisioned as a classic Lemon Drop enhanced with blueberry, this has a deep-pink hue and crisp effervescence. A faux-berry note is evident on nose and palate, translating as mouthwatering grapefruit peel acidity and light bitterness. Made with fruit juice from concentrate. *Best Buy.*
abv: 7% abv: **Price:** \$20/8-pack 355ml

87 Dogfish Head Blood Orange Mango Vodka
Crush (USA; Dogfish Head Distilling, Milton,
DE). Neither too sweet nor too strong, this canned cocktail has a pale-yellow hue, lively bubbles, and mild, citrusy aroma and flavor. Ingredients include blood orange and mango juices, though only the barest essence of either comes through.
abv: 7% abv: **Price:** \$20/8-pack 355ml