

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

MAY 2026



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

ZHANNIA DANILOVA/GETTY IMAGES

THIS MONTH

16	FRANCE	93	NEW MEXICO
37	ITALY	93	TEXAS
52	SPAIN	93	NEW YORK
61	PORTUGAL	93	PENNSYLVANIA
62	ENGLAND	93	AMERICA
62	HUNGARY	93	CANADA
62	CALIFORNIA	94	ARGENTINA
80	OREGON	97	CHILE
84	WASHINGTON	98	URUGUAY
92	IDAHO	99	SOUTH AFRICA
92	ARIZONA	100	SPIRITS

Set within ancient chalk quarries, the Taittinger cellars in Reims hold approximately 3 million bottles of Champagne.

WE ASKED OUR TASTERS:

What's an underappreciated bubbles-and-food pairing you love?



In the spirit of “what grows together goes together,” there’s nothing quite so deliciously classy as a hunk of aged English cheddar with a bottle of the nation’s distinctive and nearly always stellar Blanc de Blancs.

—**Christina Pickard**



Lambrusco paired with pizza and flatbread is such a winning combo because the off-dry Lambrusco flavors complement the cheese, sauce, and toasted bread. I first tried this pairing in Italy and was totally enamored.

—**Reggie Solomon**



Bubbles and bubble bath. Not enough people in this world dedicate their evenings to a hot soak with a cold glass of sparkling, and it shows.

—**Danielle Callegari**



Champagne and...tater tots. Simple, crispy, and salty is fine, but if you want to go next level, use the tots as the vehicle for caviar service. Crème fraîche, chives, and Osetra is a classic.

—**Tom R. Capo**



Much to my delight, I recently tried a dry sparkling Malbec with a Keebler Fudge Stripes cookie. I loved the surprising way the combination tasted like a chocolate-covered strawberry.

—**Michael Alberty**



The blanquettes and crémants from the Limoux region of southern France go wildly well with a lunch of chicken gizzard salad and roasted pork butt, finished with a custardy king’s cake.

—**Matt Kettmann**

STAFF EDITORS

Anna-Christina Cabrales:
Burgundy, Champagne, Rhône Valley

Cody Wexler:
Provence, Bandol, Méditerranée

WRITERS AT LARGE

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

Brandon Borcoman:
Northwest Spain

Elaine Chukan Brown:
Napa Valley

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

Jeff Porter:
Piedmont & Northern Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland

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

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

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



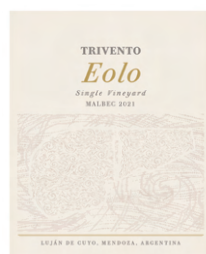
97 Champagne Laurent-Perrier MV Grand Siècle Iteration No. 24 (Champagne). This Champagne exudes refined opulence with its layers of nuance. Aromas of lemon curd, lime zest, almond patisserie, acacia honey, and chalk draw you in. The palate is sunny and effortless, with ripe citrus, wild florals, orchard fruit, and a soft chalky finish. Champagne Laurent-Perrier. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$700/1.5L



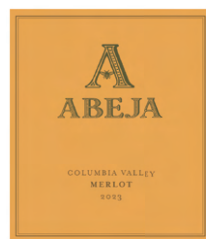
97 Champagne Laurent-Perrier MV Grand Siècle Iteration No. 27 (Champagne). The nose is fresh and alluring, with white peach, crisp apple, acacia flower, raw almond, and delicate saline-chalk notes that unfold gently with aeration. Ample bright acidity lifts pithy citrus and white peach, leading to an intense, chalky finish. Champagne Laurent-Perrier. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$325



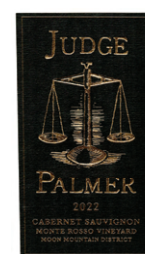
96 Abeja 2022 Heather Hill Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Boysenberries dominate an aromatic set that includes black licorice, worn leather, and a puff of cherry-flavored pipe tobacco. The wine feels big and round in the mouth, with flavors of black cherry, clove, and blackberry tea. Tannins are velvety, and the wine's acidity of the mouthwatering variety. Drink now, or enjoy this wine for another 15 years. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$95



96 Trivento 2021 Eolo Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). The dedication that goes into making this wine is evident year after year. This Malbec comes from a small vineyard in Luján de Cuyo near the Mendoza River. It reveals floral notes and sweet spices on the nose, leading to a palate that features tension and complexity. Flavors of clove, blackberries, and violets unfold beautifully. The wine has good acidity and a long, satisfying finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



95 Abeja 2023 Merlot (Columbia Valley). Aromas are a delicate mix of violets, ripe boysenberries, blueberries, and wet stones. Flavors of blackberries and bittersweet dark chocolate meld with accents of cedar and warm puffs of smoke from a clove cigarette. There is a nice symmetry here between tannins with a subtle grip, crisp acidity, and a texture as elegant as sliding into a set of cotton sheets with an extremely high thread count. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55



95 Judge Palmer 2022 Monte Rosso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). The nose of this complex and enticing wine gives aromas of dusty cherry, spiced plum compote, pencil shavings, cocoa, and flowers. The palate brings potent tannin balanced with mouthwatering acidity and flavors of blackberry gastrique, currants, cinnamon, and chopped mint along a compelling, minute-long finish. Give this time to unfold in the cellar and it will become a showstopper. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95



95 Kiler Canyon Vineyard 2022 Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This is a powerful Mourvèdre from a sun-soaked and hilly site, starting with roasted aromas of coffee bean and caramel that play against a brisker blackberry backdrop. The palate is laced in polished tannins that carve through the espresso, cocoa, and black fruit flavors. Quite complex and lavish. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$95

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE 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' Choices:** 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



95 Manzanos 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Spiced balsamic, cigar box and cedar, black figs, plums, and date entice the nose and fill the palate. Tannins are pleasingly integrated and supple with a balance of acidity carrying the wine into a satisfying finish. Becomes savory with further sipping with a fresh mineral, almost chalky accent. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.

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



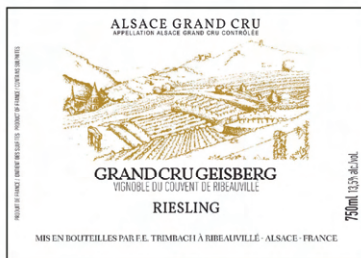
95 Otronia 2022 Pinot Noir (Patagonia). From one of the world's southernmost vineyards, this wine opens with delicate aromas of roses followed by subtle spices on the nose. The silky palate reveals berries alongside nice freshness that blends with hints of herbs and nutmeg. Fine tannins and focused acidity provide structure and keep the wine balanced and juicy. An elegant expression of cool-climate character. New Frontier Wine Co. —J.V.

abv: 13% **Price: \$80**



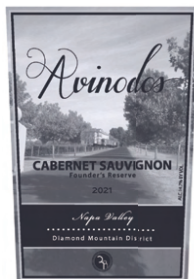
95 Saracco 2025 (Moscato d'Asti). White peaches kissed with fresh mint flow through jasmine petals and wild thyme, each aromatic layer floating like summer memories. The palate dances with perfect balance, where ripe nectarines and elegant sweetness ride waves of vibrant acidity. This is Moscato d'Asti showing its truest self, where delicate bubbles and pristine fruit linger. Pour it with spicy Vietnamese spring rolls now, save some for fresh peach tart later: This wine knows no boundaries. WinesU. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 6% **Price: \$19**



95 Trimbach 2019 Grand Cru Geisberg Riesling (Alsace). Built like a gymnast—supple, precise, and impeccably balanced. This Riesling moves effortlessly between orchard and stone fruit, layered with floral aromas and subtle spice that add dimension without excess. The structure is harmonious and finely tuned, with acidity fully integrated and carrying the wine with quiet authority. Long and inviting on the finish, it feels complete and expressive. Palm Bay International Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price: \$105**



94 AvinoDos 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). This wine shows violet in the glass and offers aromas of deep purple fruits, wild blossoms, spiced cocoa, toasted walnuts, and a light zest of pink grapefruit. Tannins are chewable while remaining supple, delivering the oomph of a mountain Cabernet and a lingering graphite and earthy finish. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.7% **Price: \$120**



94 Bodega Bideona 2020 Villabuena VIBN4 (Rioja). Fresh, vibrant, and distinctive with a cascade of spiced red and dark fruits spun through with dried flowers and a pleasing earthy, mineral tension. Refreshing, mouthwatering, and flavorful with a full palate of flavor delivered through powdery-fine tannins. Compelling, with impressive character. Vine Street Imports. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price: \$60**



94 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Laztana Gran Reserva (Rioja). Savory, structured, and layered, a Gran Reserva that is both full of intense flavor and yet lithe on the palate. Nose through finish, the wine has gained beautifully from the purposeful aging. Fruits are dark and almost sappy while fully integrated with wet tobacco, cracked pepper, baking spices, and a small piece of white chocolate. Tannins are abundant and firm while polished, lingering in the mouth. Enjoy now with rich foods, but this wine is also built to age and will have even more to share with more time in bottle. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.

abv: 14% **Price: \$60**



94 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Reciente Gran Reserva (Rioja). Opulent, succulent, and full bodied, this Gran Reserva Tempranillo blend from Olarra captures flavor intensity and upfront fruits while also delivering savory flavors through a long finish. Red berries, bramble, and mixed cherry catch a crack of pepper and a lift of flowering herbs. Cocoa powder tannins carry a dusting of oak spices with a smooth mouthfeel. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.

abv: 14% **Price: \$50**



94 Bodegas Olarra 2020 Cerro Añon Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass. Enticing dark fruit aromas join flavors of cedar and sweet tobacco with a savory, lightly earthy finish. Tannins are finely corded and lengthy, creating a smooth mouthfeel. Sophisticated, layered, and enjoyable with both the approachability to drink now and the chutzpah to hold years in cellar. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —E.C.B.

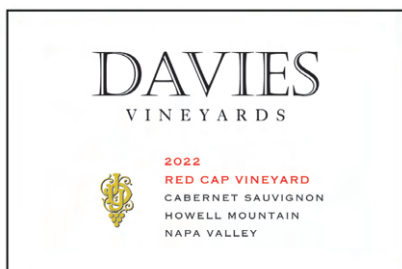
abv: 14% **Price: \$27**



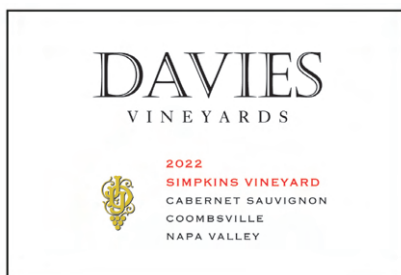
94 Cartograph 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This gently extracted and utterly enchanting Pinot delivers lively floral and zippy berry aromas on the nose. The palate serves up vibrant acid and polished tannin, with flavors of raspberry gastrique, black plum, pithy orange peel, and licorice resonating through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$68



94 Château Siran 2023 (Margaux). This sophisticated wine, with its ripe tannins and beautifully balanced texture, is rich and structured. With its spice aroma and fine layers of black-currant fruits, the wine will develop at a stately pace. Drink from 2029. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44



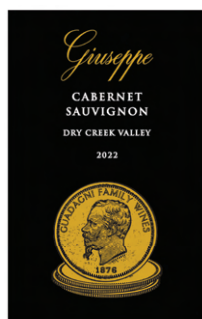
94 Davies 2022 Red Cap Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Black plums, cassis, pine sap, and a hint of cola spread across the palate, lifted by violets, forest blooms, and flowering herbs. Abundant tannins melt through the mouth, bringing intensity and length to this Cabernet that fills the mouth and begs for a meal. A rich, bold wine to enjoy now with food, or age for several years in cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$130



94 Davies 2022 Simpkins Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Brooding, bold and full bodied, this dark-fruited and savory wine showcases the structural character of Coombsville in southern Napa Valley. Black fruits, cacao nib, dried tobacco, cracked pine, and pencil shavings deliver a complete and satisfying wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$130



94 J. Davies 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). Luscious and full bodied, this wine opens with blue and black fruits that deliver the wild flavor and hewn tannins of their region. Blue and black berries, dark-chocolate velvet, cacao nibs, and a sweet waft of black birch fill the senses. A profound, upright structure nevertheless delivers polished tannins with density yet approachability. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$150



94 Guadagni Family Wines 2022 Giuseppe Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of blackberry jam, cinnamon, and violets swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate brings lavish tannic structure with balanced acidity and flavors of baked cherry tart, root beer spices, orange peel, and flowers that blossom on the finish. Tremendous value at this price point! *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$38



94 Iron Horse Vineyards 2021 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Lively aromas of candied ginger, citrus blossom, nectarine, and green apple jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate brings a wave of mouthwatering acidity, with flavors of pithy citrus, tart pineapple, marzipan, and toasty brioche along the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



94 Kiler Canyon Vineyard 2022 Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This powerful, attention-soaking Syrah shows dark in the glass and is potent on the nose with squid ink, elderberry extract, and concentrated lilac aromas. Undeniably rich and lavish, it pumps elderberry pie flavors that meet with hints of wild sagebrush. Serve with grilled lamb or pot-au-feu. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$95



94 ONX 2023 Brash Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Brash is the right name for this blend of 71% Zinfandel, 15% Grenache, 7% Touriga Nacional, and 7% Petite Sirah, but it's quite balanced as well. Bold aromas of black cherry, blackberry, soy, and roasted meat lead into a palate awash in flavors of charred nuts, roasted coffee bean, dark cherry, and peppery soy. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$56



94 Trimbach 2019 Frédéric Emile Riesling (Alsace). Precise and beautifully vertical, this wine shows a remarkable sense of control and harmony. There is just enough body to give breadth and pleasure, while the structure remains taut and focused. Aromatically, it moves among elderflower, d'Anjou pear, and bergamot, with subtle citrus oil and mineral nuances emerging as it opens. The acidity is perfectly integrated, providing tension without austerity, and guiding the wine toward a long, inviting finish that feels both effortless and deeply resonant. Palm Bay International Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.

abv: 13% Price: \$80



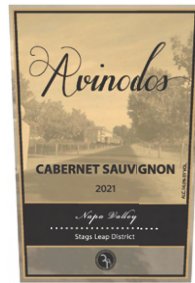
94 Voché 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Flowering herbs, red and black cherries, and mixed berries are well integrated with oak spices, picking up a sanguine and savory element through the finish. The Voché Gran Reserva feels classic while also mouthwatering, elegant, and layered, with firm while fine tannins that linger in the palate promising even more with aging. Manzanos Wines USA. *Editors' Choice.* —E.C.B.

abv: 14% Price: \$35



94 Voché 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby in color verging toward garnet. Nuanced complexity lifts from the glass pulling the senses in for a taste of full flavors with a velvety mouthfeel. Black fruits integrated with spices, lifted by fennel seed and a pinch of resinous herbs. Tannins are succulent and enticing, pulling impressive detail across the palate into a long, mineral finish. Manzanos Wines USA. *Editors' Choice.* —E.C.B.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$35



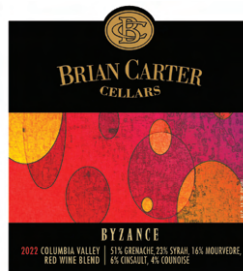
93 AvinoDos 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Assertive and structural with an inky red color in the glass, this wine wafts aromas of black cherries and sweet plums stirred with ginger powder, baking spice, and orange zest. Tannins remain pliable while filling the mouth into a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$72



93 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Rivallana Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby to violet in color. Black cherry and currant aromas pick up a kiss of sweet liqueur integrated with oregano, thyme, and flowering rosemary on the palate. Tannins are smooth and coat the mouth, offering a sense of structural intensity that is pleasing and bold. Brightening acidity emerges from the finish, keeping the palate ready for further sipping. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$50



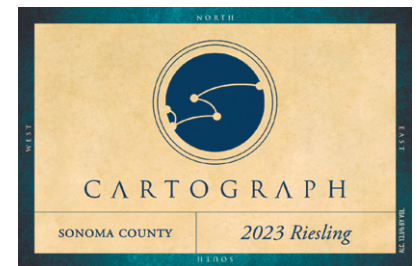
93 Brian Carter 2022 Byzance Rhône-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This modern-day, Rhône-inspired blend certainly made me smile. It feels lighter on the palate than I expected, with a nice bit of acidity uniting with tannins possessing a subtle grip. Aromas of blackcap raspberries, violets, and tangy orange zest lead to flavors like marionberry pie, sage, and a wee bit of spearmint. If you serve this wine with a pork loin stuffed with prosciutto, herbs, and vegetables, you too can find happiness. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$45



93 Carpineto 2020 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose opens with pencil shavings and a peppery spiciness, then adds the sweetness of vanilla and Bing cherry for balance. On the palate, cherries and strawberries are balanced by earth and more pepper. Tannins are smooth and polished. Opici Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

abv: 15% Price: \$138



93 Cartograph 2023 Riesling (Sonoma County). This Riesling delivers a nose full of fresh flower, pithy citrus, petrol, and flint aromas. The palate offers mouthwatering acidity with flavors of tart stone fruit, zesty lemon, shattered stone, and lifted florals throughout the finish. This is an excellent example of the dry style, perfect for Thai food. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$34



93 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Clone 7 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). This clonal selection has herbaceous notes, offering blackberry, cassia, tobacco, and cedar. A special barrel-toasting process was used. The wine is meant to age in the cellar, but you can drink it now with aeration. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$80



93 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Redwood Ridge Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). A swirl of raspberry, cinnamon, and fresh nectarine aromas lead the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a pop of vibrant acid and supple tannin, with flavors of raspberry coulis, spiced cherry pie filling, cola spice, and flowers through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75



93 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Walker Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). This vibrant wine balances aromas of spiced pear, nectarine, lemon balm, and orange blossom on the nose. The palate brings lively acid, firm textural grip, and flavors of apple skin, fresh pineapple, crème brûlée, and flowers all along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60



93 Fratelli Raguzzoni 2023 Campo dei Galli (Emilia). Meyer lemons and mandarin oranges meet toasted hazelnuts while sea salt makes everything pop. The palate bounces with crunchy freshness, where vibrant energy and salty tension prove tradition can still break new ground. HB Wine Merchants. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$50



93 Fun Mom Wines 2024 Park Wine Red Blend (Sonoma County). Aromas of dusty cherry, roasted meats, cinnamon, and purple flowers drive the nose of this blend. The palate is perhaps softer than expected, with supple tannin and flavors of baked plum, cocoa, chopped herbs, and floral potpourri lingering for a minute. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40



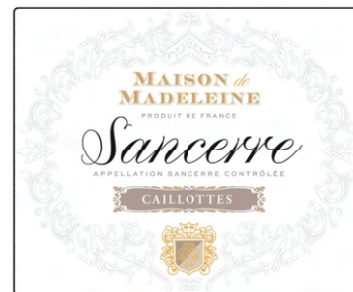
93 Iron Horse Vineyards 2022 Year of the Horse Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). The nose of this bright Blanc de Blancs delivers aromas of yeasty bread, spiced pecan, ginger, and pithy lemon. On the lacy-textured palate, flavors of green pear, lemon blossom, and tart pineapple lead to Opal apple on a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



93 King Estate 2021 Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). This traditional method blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay is aged sur lie en tirage for 48 months. Following riddling and disgorging, it is finished with a liqueur d'expédition. Elegant bubbles help deliver the wine's aromas, which are a baker's delight of yellow apple mixed with toasted filberts and almond scones. Golden Delicious apple appears again as a flavor, joined by notes of lime and nutmeg. Those rich flavors mingle with a crisp texture and lively acidity. Serve following snow and a viewing of *Gosford Park*. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40



93 King Estate 2023 Grand Oak Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). Grand Oak, appropriately enough, was fermented in oak and concrete before aging on its lees for 19 months in French oak puncheons and barrels, 28% of which were new. The aromatics are quite citrus driven, with lemon verbena tea and Meyer lemon flanked by a wet stone note. Slightly elevated acidity pushes the wine's Golden Delicious apple, tangerine, macadamia nut, and chamomile tea flavors to a gloriously long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$59



93 Maison de Madeleine 2024 Cailottes (Sancerre). White peach and green plum aromas sync in the glass accented by honeydew melon, forest floor, and honeysuckle petals. Flavors on the palate are well integrated, including crushed shells supported by tangy acidity that enliven the finish along with a fistful of freshly picked herbs. Tri-Vin Imports Inc. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50



93 Maison de Madeleine 2024 Terres Blanches (Sancerre). Wildflower and lilac aromas charm the nose joined by green-apple blossom and Comice pear. Tart, well-integrated acidity enlivens the palate, which has vigor and focused citrus that guides the finish along with wet river stone. Pair with goat-cheese-topped toast, salmon roe, and roasted eggplant. Tri-Vin Imports Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60



93 Manzanos 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Deep garnet in the glass. Aromas of incense, mixed berries, wild plums, and a crack of vanilla bean continue into a refined palate of polished tannins with a crack of mixed pepper. The acidity is fresh while integrated, keeping the palate fresh while allowing the wine to linger into a persistent finish. A nicely integrated Rioja Reserva. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28



93 Manzanos 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Deep and glittering red in the glass. A tempting display of juicy, dark fruits sprinkled with fresh spices, and fresh-cut fennel lift from the glass joining flavors of dried tobacco, fig, and prune. A light pour of balsamic emerges through the finish. Depth and concentration combine with balanced acidity and melting tannins for a Rioja red that somehow showcases developed flavors yet freshness in the glass. Manzanos Wines USA. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24



93 ONX 2023 Mad Crush Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). This blend of 77% Grenache, 14% Tempranillo, and 9% Mourvèdre takes a bit of breathing to level out, but once it does, expect aromas of baked strawberry and pastry spices to decorate the nose. The palate is ripe, rich, and comforting, with hearty and somewhat candied fruit flavors picking up chai-like spice on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$52



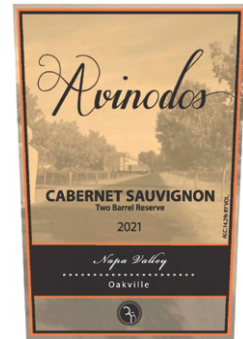
93 ONX 2024 L'Autre Femme Rhône-Style White Blend (Templeton Gap District). Coconut flesh, banana, and plumeria aromas work in harmony on the nose of this blend of 50% Picpoul Blanc, 31% Viognier, and 19% Grenache Gris. The palate pairs an opulent set of tropical fruits that are deftly balanced by sea salt and a firm textural grip. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



93 Pago de la Jaraba 2021 Viña Jaraba Selección Especial (La Jaraba). Enticing aromas and abundant flavor with a refined structure and impressive balance make this red blend a standout. Primarily Tempranillo, this gains structure and complexity from additions of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The result is a waft of flowering herbs followed by flavors of fresh-picked blackberries, cherry bark, oak spices, and mocha with a background note of incense and cedar. Tannins are pliable while also youthful, making this wine a good candidate for further aging in bottle. *Editors' Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



93 Vinuv 2022 Grand Reserve Malbec (Los Chacayes). Ripe blackberries dominate the nose with concentrated fruit character. The palate delivers dark fruit and oak spices in this flavorful red that shows depth. Layered with warming cinnamon notes, the wine is supported by good acidity and plush tannins providing balance and richness. Well structured and expressive from start to finish. Fly Guy Consulting LLC. —J.V.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$64



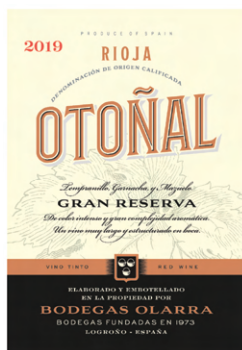
92 AvinoDos 2021 Two Barrel Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This single-vineyard Cabernet from the heart of Napa Valley shines deep ruby in the glass. Rich aromatics of blackberries, candied plums, and vanilla bean lead into woody flavors of tart cherry, cracked pine, and fresh mushroom. Oak spices are well integrated with lightly textural tannins through a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$68



92 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Cerro Añon Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass with a complex of dark berries and bramble, spiced caramel, and wet tobacco. A balanced and pleasing Tempranillo blend that offers generous aromatics, tension on the palate, and refined tannins through a lengthy finish. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



92 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Olarra Clásico Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark cherry in the glass. Dripping-ripe dark fruits mixed with baking spices lead into flavors of dried tobacco, cedar, and an earthy finish. Polished tannins are balanced with a bright and fresh finish and the ability to develop further in bottle. This Tempranillo blend offers classic Rioja flavor with a generous presentation. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70



92 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Otoñal Gran Reserva (Rioja). Savory and persistent, this Gran Reserva delivers a Tempranillo blend aged more than two years in barrel. Blackberry and plum form the backdrop for layered flavors of tobacco, leather, flint, and a mix of oak spices. Tannins are smooth, keeping the wine enjoyable now while providing good structure. A lengthy finish completes the experience. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.5%

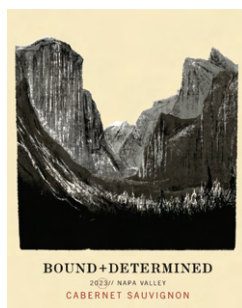
Price: \$42



92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2021 Sentido Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). A charming, open-knit bouquet flows into a palate that is smooth and well-poised. The wine carries a refreshing ease that makes it particularly easy to drink. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$36



92 Roots Run Deep Winery 2023 Bound and Determined Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Vivid, opulent, and structural, this wine delivers the modern generosity associated with the region, with an upright structure and dusty-earth tannins that give a nod to the classics. Black cherries, ripe berries, tobacco, and a mix of baking spices linger in the mouth. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$60



92 Campo Viejo 2017 Gran Reserva (Rioja). A Rioja red blend showing deep garnet in the glass, with layered aromas and flavors with polish and integration. Fresh tobacco, mixed berries, sour plum, and spiced coffee grounds offer depth while a waft of fresh herbs and silken tannins provide lift and length. Approachable and refined. A go-to choice. Vinarchy. —E.C.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25



92 Carpineto 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose has the textured feel of pencil shavings, burnt sage, and Mission figs, with salt and pepper sprinkled over it all. On the palate, the figs are accentuated by a pomegranate element, before a finish of milk chocolate and coffee. Chalky tannins balance lively acid. Opici Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$72



92 Carpineto 2024 (Rosso di Montalcino). The nose sprinkles salt and pepper over aromas of new leather, vanilla bean, and dried cranberry. On the palate, sweet and tart berries and cherries are drizzled with milk chocolate, then a lively stream of acid and heat cascades over the finish. An energetic wine. Opici Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$29



92 Castelli Martinozzi 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose has the savory, umami, spicy feel of cranberries, blood orange, pepper, and coffee. Tart and sweet berries make themselves known on the palate, but those savory, spicy elements continue to dominate. Tannins are firm and linear. Acnam LLC. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$60



92 DeLoach Vineyards 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Focused aromas of raspberry and pomegranate dominate the nose of this rich wine. The palate oozes flavors of black cherry coulis, licorice, cocoa powder, Darjeeling, and purple flowers all along the finish. Drink this with grilled pork and mushroom duxelles. —T.R.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$90



92 Fun Mom Wines 2021 Park Wine Grenache Blend (Dry Creek Valley). The nose of this Grenache blend delivers aromas of concentrated cherry, pithy citrus, dark chocolate, and sweet cinnamon. The palate comes with a pop of lively acidity and grippy tannin that frame flavors of black plum, spiced raspberry compote, and lemon verbena that echo over the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$40



92 J. Lohr 2024 Arroyo Vista Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). This is a somewhat opulent style of Chardonnay, but it retains a consistent freshness that best defines the region today. Aromas of honey, lemon syrup, and apple lead from the nose into a palate of rounded white flower and pear flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25



92 Maison de Madeleine 2024 (Sancerre). Orange-blossom-dusted honeydew melon and chamomile aromas ride up against Fuji apple and a faint suggestion of lychee on the nose. Tangy acidity flows into a chalky midpalate that is reserved and infused with subtle notes of lemon citrus. Pair with shellfish, fried clams, and Caesar salad for a delightful counterbalance of flavors. Tri-Vin Imports Inc. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40



92 Maison de Madeleine 2024 Siléx (Sancerre). This Sancerre will make you pucker in the most pleasing of ways. The nose opens with chamomile and white tea aromas that are infused with crushed red apple and dried white blossom. Freshly sliced lemon rolls around in a bed of chalk dust and sunbathes on wet river stone that refreshes and invigorates the finish. Tri-Vin Imports Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$55



92 ONX 2023 Reckoning Rhône-Style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Bold to the point of being overly powerful, this Syrah-based blend, which also includes 8% Grenache and 6% Petite Sirah, packs in aromas of cassis and plum pudding on the nose. The palate is dense and lavish with roasted fig and licorice-like spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$58



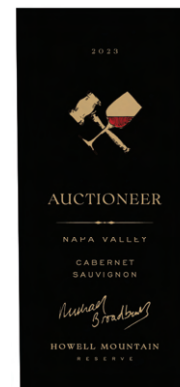
92 Ovis 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). From a high-elevation parcel, this wine offers aromas of dense boysenberry, huckleberry jam, coriander, maple, dried flowers, and toasty vanilla on the nose. The palate is rich and robust, with dried black currant, black plum, black licorice, molasses, bay leaf, and espresso beans layered throughout, with acidity and a smooth finish. Cellar until 2032 or aerate and enjoy. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$60



92 Timepiece 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Warmed black berries and plums robed in spices lift from the glass, joining woody flavors of dried tobacco, a bite of dark chocolate, and finish of pencil lead. Fine-grained tannins coat the mouth, creating structural length with a polished texture. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39



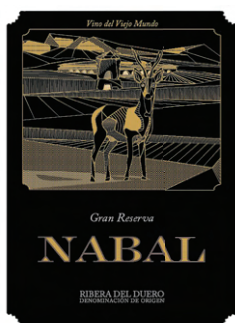
92 Vinafore 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Lush fruit, cedar, and cigar box lift from the glass and persist through a lengthy finish on this wine. Sweet plum and muddling spices emerge with further sipping. Tannins stick to the mouth, building flavor and persisting. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$45



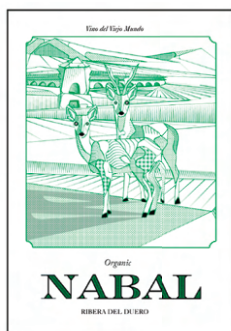
91 Auctioneer 2023 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Generous and bold, this wine delivers dark fruits rolled in oak spice and cocoa that pick up cassis and cocoa with further sipping. Powdery-fine tannins coat the mouth and continue with persistence and length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$59



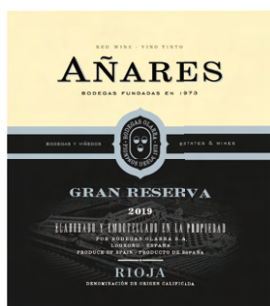
91 Bodega Garzón 2023 Reserva Tannat (Maldonado). Plums blend with touches of peppercorn and sweet spices on the nose. Full bodied with firm tannins and vibrant acidity, this Tannat offers a blend of spices, herbs, and fruit flavors alongside saline notes, delivering excellent value for its price. A good red to begin your journey into Uruguayan wines. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$22



91 Bodegas Nabal 2020 Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). A quiet nose is accented by eucalyptus and dark earth. Some fruit does emerge, though it remains difficult to fully register at this stage. The palate is certainly smooth, but it may require a bit of coaxing to draw the wine out. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$120**



91 Bodegas Nabal 2024 Organic (Ribera del Duero). Red and black fruits, overtly influenced by oak, are framed by elements of dark earth. The palate is quite ripe and though the tannins are well knit, the finish falls a little short. Still, a pleasant wine for the near term. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$90**



91 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Añares Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass. Impressive concentration remains juicy on the palate delivering rich flavors of mocha, tobacco, wet leather, and a cascade of mixed fruits. Supple, well-integrated tannins provide a succulent mouthfeel leading into a lengthy, balanced finish of licorice and light balsamic. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$40**



91 Buena Vista 2023 The Sheriff of Buena Vista Red Blend (Sonoma County). The nose of this Petite Sirah-dominated blend leads with aromas of roasted blueberry, black plum skin, and black pepper, giving way to a richly tannic palate with flavors of concentrated cherry, espresso, and violets across the finale. Some time in the cellar should soften this nicely. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$55**



91 Circumference 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of concentrated cherry, roasted berry, caramel, and cinnamon drive the nose of this Cabernet. The palate balances neatly between plush tannin and juicy acid, with flavors of blackberry pie, dark chocolate, and purple flowers along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$25**



91 Fun Mom Wines 2024 Everyday Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This vivacious wine delivers bright tropical energy and lively floral aromas on the nose. The palate displays flavors of pineapple, nectarine, lemon-lime candy, and fresh green herbs before a delicate, jasmine-scented finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.7% **Price: \$35**



91 Fun Mom Wines 2024 Fire Pit Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). On the nose, this light and bright Pinot delivers aromas of wild strawberries, flowers, and candied raspberry. The palate gives bright acidity, a touch of crunchy tannin, and flavors of roasted cherry, orange peel, and cola spice. Chill this lightly and drink it somewhere sunny with lo-fi breaks on the turntable. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$48**



91 Kiler Canyon Vineyard 2024 Roussanne (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Ripe honeydew, white melon, lemon curd, and plumeria aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense at first and then opens into tropical flavors of banana and toasted coconut, balanced by a persistent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price: \$80**



91 King Estate 2024 Four Nobles Cuvée Blanc Alsace White Blend (Willamette Valley). After fermentation in stainless steel and eight months on its lees, this Alsace-inspired blend of Gewürztraminer, Pinot Gris, Muscat, and Riesling is as aromatic as ever. A fresh perfume of gardenias and fresh-cut grass hits the nose first, followed by a rich pineapple note as well as a fleck of white pepper. The wine's lemon brûlée and toasted coconut flavors, along with a wisp of sweetness, glide alongside a texture that edges up to creamy. The acidity is as gentle as the texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$34**



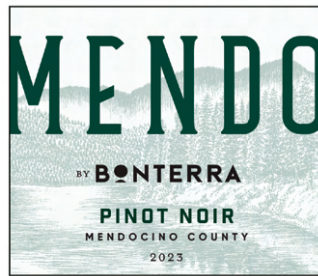
91 Orin Swift 2024 Blank Stare Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). This rounded and ripe wine shows robust aromas of grapefruit, gooseberry, ginger, and jalapeño on the nose. The palate is broad and textured, with flavors of pithy citrus mingling with flowers and spice through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price: \$40**



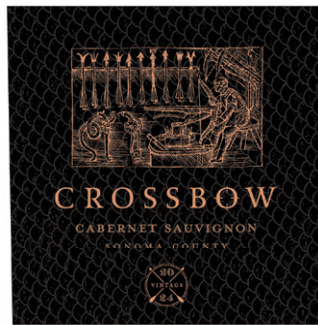
91 Sean Minor 2024 Signature Nicole Marie Red Blend (North Coast). This wine offers layered aromas of red fruit, baking spice, dried florals, and Tahitian vanilla on the nose. The flavors on the palate are concentrated red raspberry, red plum, and red currant, layered with cardamom, a hint of ripe blackberry, and a kiss of bittersweet chocolate, wrapping into a silky finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$28**



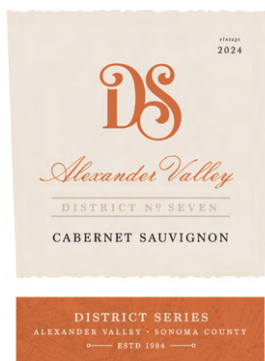
90 Bodegas Olarra 2020 Reciente Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of black cherry and cassis lifted by a waft of thyme and mint continue into the mouth, deepened by flavors of dark cocoa and brightening acidity. A pinch of cherry tobacco emerges with further sipping. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$27**



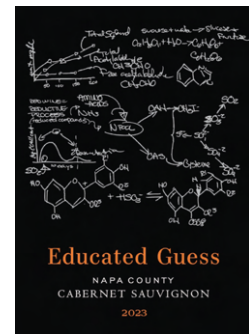
90 Bonterra Organic Estates 2023 MENDO Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). Aromas of cherry, red plum, mushroom, and dried sage on the nose let you know what's in the glass. The palate offers raspberry, pomegranate, and orange zest, layered with a kiss of vanilla bean and mineral on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$22**



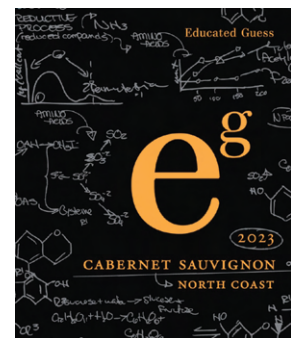
90 Crossbow 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). On the nose, this Cabernet leads with aromas of black cherry, plum skin, and tobacco. The middle-weight palate serves up soft tannins and berry-lemon acidity, with flavors of currant, baked cherry, minty herbs, and black pepper through the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$24**



90 District Series 2024 District No. Seven Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Sweet cinnamon, juicy raspberry, and black plum aromas swirl on the nose of this Cabernet. The palate is ripe, bright, and driven by acid, with flavors of cherry gastrique, raspberry liqueur, violets, and chocolate. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$24**



90 Educated Guess 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). Friendly, fruit forward, and full bodied, this wine retains its balance with supple tannins and length. Cocoa-spiced black fruits poured over with mocha, orange zest, and bitter herbs remain palate-filling through the finish of the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$35**



90 EG by Educated Guess 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). This lush wine offers rich aromatics of red berries, red currants, and toasty vanilla on the nose. Flavors on the palate evoke dark plum, youthful blackberry, nutmeg, and espresso, all wrapped in gritty tannins. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$25**



90 Elisa Christopher Wines 2023 Method Traditionnelle Ultra Brut Rosé-Pinot Noir (Texas High Plains). Lively aromas of citrus blossoms, pink grapefruit, ginger, and berries swirl on the nose of this traditionally produced ultrabrut-style sparkling rosé made from Pinot Noir. The palate brings waves of flowers, tart berries, lemony acidity, and nectarine flavors through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price: \$50**



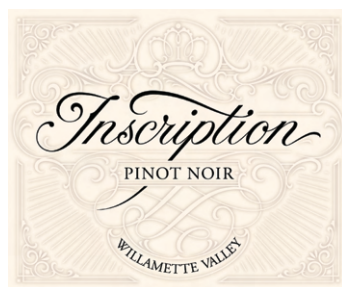
90 Four Seasons 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Deep aromas of blackberry, blueberry jam, allspice, and toasty oak arise on the nose of this wine. The palate is concentrated with black plum, boysenberry, orange slices, star anise, hoisin sauce, and silky tannins on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



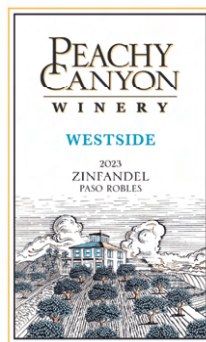
90 Fratelli Raguzzoni 2023 Filare di Mezzo (Italy). Wild plums and forest berries bring that fresh-from-the-hunt energy while dried herbs keep things untamed. The palate's got this juicy-meets-savage thing going where tart fruits make you want to fire up the duck breast. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40



90 Killer Drop 2023 Rhône-Style Red Blend (California). This wine is rich and opulent, with aromas of blackberries, dried herbs, toasty oak, and walnuts. The palate brings red berries, red currant, clove, and dark chocolate, with mouthwatering acidity on the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29



90 King Estate 2024 Inscription Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). At first, the only noticeable aroma involves ripe blackberries. With a few swirls of the glass, however, subtle notes of lavender and fresh hay emerge. With lemony acidity and a smooth, silky texture, this wine is quite easy to sip and enjoy the sweet blackberry and black tea flavors. The wine is built for instant gratification at a reasonable price. Who can say no to that promise? —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



90 Peachy Canyon 2023 Westside Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Toasty aromas of pencil shavings meet with oregano and cherry on the nose of this classic Zin bottling. The palate shows more herbal tones that pair well with the cranberry and sour cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28



90 Vinafore 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Chocolate-covered black cherries, fresh berries sprinkled with spiced cocoa, and a waft of earthiness drive this juicy wine that offers approachability, richness, and a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

BEST BUYS



93 Campo Viejo 2019 Reserva (Rioja). A classic Rioja red blend with unctuous dark fruits layered with light spice and pleasing depth from time in cellar. Black fruits layered with oak spices, sweet cherry, a zest of orange, crack of pepper, and the fresh snap of vanilla bean. Tannins melt through the palate, filling the mouth, well balanced by freshness into a long finish. Vinarchy. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16



92 Planeta 2024 La Segreta (Sicilia). The nose has a citrus, savory feel, with aromas of lemon, lime, orange, wild herbs, and crushed rocks. Green-apple slices and lime-candy notes headline the palate, which is incredibly lively with acid and tart, snappy fruit. Planeta's La Segreta line makes a strong case for the best deal out there right now. Palm Bay International Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20



92 The Introvert 2023 Reserve Red Blend (California). This wine is concentrated, with aromas of ripe red fruit, dried herbs, dry roses, and Tahitian vanilla on the nose. The palate offers rich, dark plum, black currant, and cassis, layered with bay leaf, bittersweet chocolate, and silky tannins on the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

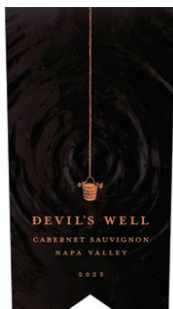
BEST BUYS



90 Bogle Family Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Focused fruit is present on the nose of this wine, with notes of black plum, black licorice, molasses, vanilla bean, and violets. These tones slide into youthful blackberry on the palate, along with dried herbs, bittersweet chocolate, espresso, and grippy tannins to finish. Aerate and enjoy midweek. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12



90 Cooper & Oak 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). The volcanic hills of Lake County are definitely in this bottling. Rich, aromatic notes convey dark plum, dark cherry, mineral, and red clay on the nose. Concentrated flavors on the palate deliver blackberry, bittersweet chocolate shavings, and sweet tannins on the finish. Aerate and enjoy with prime rib. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

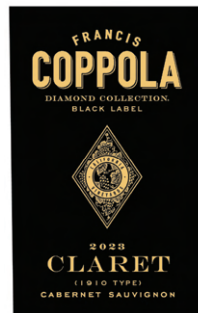


90 Devil's Well 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Brooding and deeply toned, this assertive wine from the Shannon Family fills the mouth with concentrated flavors of black fruits, espresso with cocoa, and layers of spice. Tannins are plush in this full-bodied wine, generating textural pleasure and a persistent finish. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



90 Fly By 2024 Chardonnay (North Coast). Rich aromatics of baked apple, baked pear, orange segments, toasty oak, and orange blossom honey arise on the nose of this wine. The flavors on the palate are crisp green apple, peach, white nectarine, pink grapefruit zest, and white tea, with supple mineral to finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16



90 Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Collection 2023 Claret 1910 Type Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This bottling is a nod to some of Bordeaux's finest regions for red wine. The fruits are lively, offering supple red berries intertwined with layers of taut blackberries, juniper berry, tobacco leaf, and mocha. Tannins are silky yet dry. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

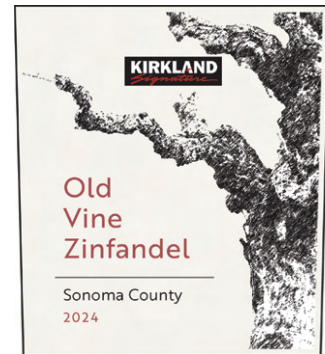


90 Freakshow 2023 Zinfandel (Lodi). This opulent wine offers concentrated aromas of black fruit, dried herbs, violets, and French vanilla. These set the tone for a complex palate with flavors of boysenberry, blueberry, grapefruit zest, mocha, cardamom, and a weighty finish. Aerate and enjoy with barbecue. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

BEST BUYS



90 Juggernaut Wines 2023 Chardonnay (North Coast). This producer always seems to find the best vineyard selections. Concentrated, crisp green apple, yellow pear, a kiss of oak, white tea, and sedimentary rock arise on the nose of this wine. The flavors on the palate are baked Golden Delicious apple, yellow plum, jasmine tea, and mineral to finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16



90 Kirkland Signature 2024 Old Vine Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Cherry cordial aromas are juicy but not overdone on the nose of this bottling, which is spiced in star anise and cardamom scents. The palate is plush and broad with cherry and strawberry flavors wrapped in delicate tannins. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$10

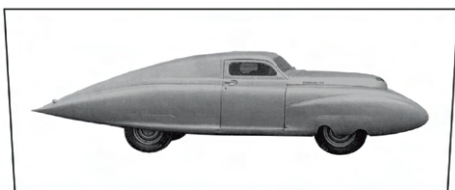


90 Matchbook 2023 Red Earth Estate Bottled Petite Sirah (Dunnigan Hills). From a single site, this wine is intense and concentrated, with aromas of blackberry, huckleberry, sage, toasted oak, and violet. The flavors on the palate layer ripe plum, boysenberry, savory herbs, and black pepper, leading to grippy tannins. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

BEST BUYS

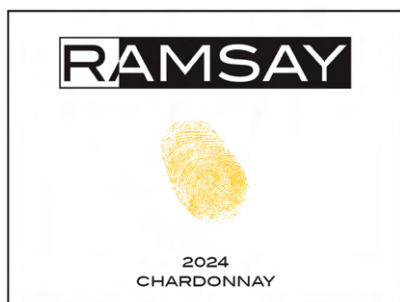


90 Matchbook 2023 Sheep Ranch Estate Bottled Malbec (Dunnigan Hills). A single-site selection from red rock soils, this wine is concentrated, with rich aromas of blueberry, blackberry, violet, and dried bay leaf on the nose. Flavors on the palate are ripe, with boysenberry, black olive, smoky vanilla cream, allspice, and supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17



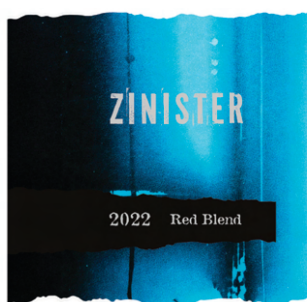
PROTOTYPE | CABERNET SAUVIGNON '24

90 Prototype 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). The name Prototype is appropriate for this label, since it reflects the art of blending the best from the vintage to create this delicious beverage. Aromas on the nose convey ripe red raspberry, red licorice, vanilla spice, and mocha. The palate boasts blueberry, candied orange, cinnamon, and silky tannins on the finish—no food needed with this one. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14



90 Ramsay 2024 Chardonnay (California). Aromas on the nose of this wine are crisp and bright, with layers of red apple skin, pear, citrus, toasted oak, and orange blossom. The flavors on the palate are well balanced and vibrant, with layers of yellow apple, plum, orange zest, butter, and minerals that build to a finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



90 Zinister 2022 Red Blend (California). This opulent wine offers aromas of ripe black fruit, layers of dried herbs and wildflowers, and integrated toasty oak. Flavors on the palate convey blackberry jam, hoisin sauce, orange marmalade, and cardamom spice, with a mouthwatering, juicy finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19



89 Freakshow 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This wine is vibrant with red fruit, dried rosemary, toasted vanilla, and dried potpourri on the nose. The palate boasts dark plum, boysenberry, coriander, and clove, with silky tannins. Aerate and enjoy. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

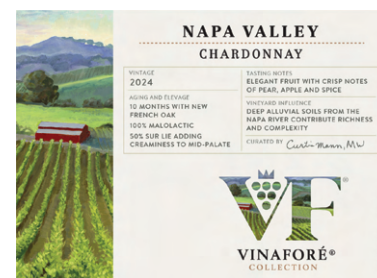


89 Noble Vines 2023 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). Lush, concentrated fruit delivers aromas of cherry, blackberry, dried cinnamon, wild florals, and toasty oak on the nose of this wine. The palate is layered with black plum, red currant, elderberry, green olive, and mocha cream, with supple tannins rounding out the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

BEST BUYS



88 Peachy Canyon 2023 Incredible Red Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Baked red cherry, strawberry, and licorice aromas converge on the nose of this Zinfandel that also includes 7% Petite Sirah, 4% Malbec, and 4% Petit Verdot. The palate shows a slightly sweet side of cherry compote, layered in anise and dill. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$18



88 Vinafore 2024 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Spiced quince, apple, honeysuckle, and flint fill this wine from nose through finish. These are carried by an unctuous, silken mouthfeel into a lengthy finish with a lightly bitter close. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15



88 Vinafore 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's Bing cherry and malted-milk-ball aromas actually kind of works. Things are a bit tangier on the palate, with flavors of tart red cherries and anise colliding with notes of dried sage and oaky cedar. The acidity here is pronounced, casting a brisk shadow over rather unobtrusive tannins. Pair with a picnic blanket, picnic basket, and a sunset. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

ALSACE RIESLING

95 **Domaine Kirrenbourg 2021 Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** Highly expressive and beautifully layered, opening with guava and Meyer lemon before unfolding into nuanced ginger spice. The texture is velvety and polished, yet driven by prominent, perfectly judged acidity that gives the wine tension and lift. Depth builds steadily across the palate, leading to a long, complex finish marked by precision, energy, and Grand Cru authority. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$50**

95 **Trimbach 2019 Grand Cru Geisberg Riesling (Alsace).** For full review see page 4. Palm Bay International Imports. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price: \$105**

94 **Trimbach 2019 Frédéric Emile Riesling (Alsace).** For full review see page 6. Palm Bay International Imports. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price: \$80**

93 **Domaine Kuentz-Bas 2022 Grand Cru Geisberg Riesling (Alsace).** Marked by excellent tension and precision, with flinty minerality framing notes of white raspberry. The texture is sleek and finely etched, carried by vibrant, well-integrated acidity. Long and focused on the finish, this Grand Cru Riesling combines energy, elegance, and mineral depth with confidence. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. *Editor's Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price: \$54**

93 **Domaine Muré 2023 Zinnkoefflé Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** Linear and precise, driven by vivid notes of bergamot and ginger spice layered over green apple and subtle citrus. The palate is taut and finely etched, with acidity providing both lift and definition. Mineral undertones add further clarity, leading to a long, focused, and quietly powerful finish. A strikingly refined Riesling. MISA Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price: \$60**

93 **Famille Ruhlmann Schutz 2023 Grand Cru Muenchberg Riesling (Alsace).** Flinty and refined on the nose, opening into layered guava and passion fruit. The acidity is seamlessly integrated, supporting the fruit without sharpness and lending the wine a poised, elegant profile. Silky and sleek across the palate, it carries into a long, alluring finish marked by mineral precision and subtle exotic lift. Cognac One, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price: \$32**

93 **Jean Baptiste Adam 2022 Letzenberg Riesling (Alsace).** Highly expressive and finely detailed, opening with white raspberry and guava layered with an array of exotic spices. The palate is crunchy and energetic, driven by vibrant acidity that gives the wine tension and lift. Flavors shift and evolve across the palate, leading to a kaleidoscopic, lingering finish that

feels both precise and exhilarating. The Sorting Table. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$55**

92 **Alsace Reyser 2024 Le Sentier de l'Aiguille White Riesling (Alsace).** Sleek and mouthwatering, led by a beautiful orange-blossom aroma that draws you into a layered mix of orchard and stone fruit. The palate is finely textured and precise, with vibrant acidity giving lift and clarity. Long and complex on the finish, showing both elegance and depth. Z Wine Gallery Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$16**

92 **Bott Frères 2022 Grand Cru Kirchberg de Ribeauvillé Riesling (Alsace).** Beautifully balanced and vividly expressive, showing tropical notes of papaya and quince lifted by ginger spice. The palate is energetic with a crunchy, tactile texture that adds real dimension. Layers of fruit and minerality unfold gradually, leading to a long, complex finish that highlights both precision and generosity. DB Wine Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price: \$55**

92 **Bott Frères 2020 Grand Trio Riesling (Alsace).** Fresh and vibrant, driven by lively acidity that energizes bright flavors of Meyer lemon, nectarine, elderflower, and wet stone. The texture is velvety and smooth, offering both polish and depth. Long and harmoniously composed, it balances precision with generosity, making for a compelling and beautifully executed Riesling. DB Wine Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$55**

92 **Domaine Celine Metz 2023 Collection 1728 Riesling (Alsace).** A beautiful flinty note sets the tone, opening into layers of papaya and Bosc pear. The palate is energized by vibrant acidity and a salty mineral streak that keeps the fruit fresh and precise. Long and complex, it combines generosity with tension, unfolding gracefully into a persistent, mouthwatering finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$15**

92 **Domaine François Schmitt 2022 Grand Cru Pfingsberg la Vallee des Cerfs Riesling (Alsace).** A light flinty note leads the way, opening into layers of passion fruit, goldenberry, and Meyer lemon. The palate is crunchy and energetic, driven by prominent, well-cut acidity that gives the wine precision and lift. Long and focused on the finish, it combines vibrancy with depth in a confident, expressive Grand Cru style. Sapere Originis. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$50**

92 **Domaine Kuentz-Bas 2022 Grand Cru Pfersigberg Riesling (Alsace).** Elegant and crunchy, driven by great acidity that seamlessly links exotic and tropical fruit notes of mangosteen, maracuja, and kiwi. Floral nuances add lift and refinement, while the texture remains taut and energetic. Long and poised on the finish, combining vibrancy with finesse and depth. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$54**

92 **Domaine le Freud 2023 Cuvée Prestige Riesling (Alsace).** White raspberry and flinty notes open the wine with clarity and lift, setting the stage for waves of orchard and stone fruit that unfold gradually across the palate. The structure is driven by great acidity, giving the wine energy, definition, and impressive cohesion. Complex and multilayered, it builds in intensity while remaining precise and mouthwatering through the long, resonant finish. Petit Vin LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price: \$7**

92 **Domaine Michel Fonne 2024 Riesling (Alsace).** Vibrant and sleek, showing a flinty edge that frames notes of peach, lemongrass, and subtle citrus zest. The palate is taut and finely balanced, with clean acidity giving the wine both energy and precision. Nicely textured and confidently executed, finishing invitingly long with a clear mineral echo. International Cellars. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price: \$16**

92 **Domaine Muré 2022 Clos Saint Landelin Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** Expressive and vibrant, showing tangerine and maracuja alongside apple and pear that add both brightness and depth. The palate is finely balanced, with clean, well-integrated acidity giving it lift. Meyer lemon carries through on the long, persistent finish, adding a final burst of citrus precision. MISA Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price: \$60**

92 **Domaine Saint Remy 2022 Grand Cru Schlossberg Riesling (Alsace).** Subtle and quietly expressive, with light beeswax notes setting a gentle, rounded tone. Hints of orchard and stone fruit emerge with air, adding finesse rather than weight. The palate is clean and balanced, guided by well-integrated acidity that keeps the finish focused and refined. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price: \$35**

92 **Domaine Sipp-Mack 2022 Grand Cru Rosacker Riesling (Alsace).** Distinctive and intense, marked by turmeric spice and vivid ruby grapefruit notes. The acidity is powerful and incisive, giving the wine real drive and tension. Structured and energetic, this is a Riesling that shines at the table, especially alongside richer, fatty dishes that can absorb its intensity. Franck's Signature Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$27**

92 **Famille Ruhlmann-Schutz 2022 Grand Cru Frankstein Riesling (Alsace).** Well balanced and finely etched, showing flint and wet stone alongside ripe peach. The palate is energized by crunchy, vibrant acidity, giving the wine lift and definition. It finishes with a mouthwatering, mineral-driven impression that reinforces both precision and charm. Cognac One, LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price: \$32**

92 **Famille Ruhlmann-Schutz 2021 Grand Cru Frankstein Riesling (Alsace).** An understated but finely balanced expression, offering subtle exotic notes woven through gentle orchard-fruit tones. The acidity is bright yet controlled, giving the palate

lift without sharpness. Clean, composed, and quietly complex, it finishes with poise and lingering freshness. Cognac One, LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

92 Henri Ehrhart 2024 Kaefferkopf Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). White raspberry stands out prominently, joined by delicate elderflower and rosewater notes that give the wine an immediately charming aromatic profile. The palate is fresh and finely balanced, with acidity providing lift and definition. Very pleasant to drink now, yet structured enough to develop further over the next decade, gaining additional depth and nuance with time. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Jean Baptiste Adam 2024 Pur Granite Riesling (Alsace). Bright and confidently made, with clementine, apple, and peach unfolding in a clean, expressive arc. Beautiful acidity holds everything together, giving the wine energy, precision, and a vibrant sense of lift. Focused yet generous, finishing crisp and mouthwatering with excellent clarity and balance. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Trimbach 2023 Hommage à Hubert Trimbach Riesling (Alsace). Elegant and finely poised, with well-integrated acidity creating excellent tension across the palate. Flavors of white raspberry, papaya, and elderflower unfold with clarity and restraint, giving the wine both lift and quiet depth. Long and inviting on the finish, combining precision, freshness, and graceful complexity. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$59

91 Cave du Roi Dagobert 2023 Racines et Terroirs Riesling (Alsace). Classic yet finely detailed, with a composed mix of orchard and stone-fruit layered with bergamot and a subtle touch of lavender. The acidity is vibrant and well integrated, giving the wine energy and cohesion. A salty, mouthwatering note carries through the inviting, persistent finish, adding both character and finesse. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Domaine Fernand Engel 2023 Grand Cru Altenberg Riesling (Alsace). Clean and well defined, showing a classic mix of orchard and stone fruit—apple, pear, and peach—layered with subtle ginger tea notes. The palate is focused and precise, carried by vibrant acidity that delivers a mouthwatering, persistent finish. Balanced, composed, and confidently executed. Mr. Wine and Spirits US. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Domaine Fernand Engel 2022 Grand Cru Praelatenberg Riesling (Alsace). Nuanced and restrained rather than showy, this Riesling is sleek and finely etched. Subtle orchard and citrus tones are carried by mouthwatering, well-integrated acidity that keeps everything taut and precise. The finish is especially zesty and refreshing, lingering with clarity and finesse. Mr. Wine and Spirits US. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

91 Domaine Muré 2024 Calcaires Jaunes Riesling (Alsace). Lightly reductive at first, soon revealing flinty tones alongside hints of guava and subtle orchard fruit. The palate is clean and refreshing, with enough acidity to keep it lively and food friendly. Pleasant, easy to drink, and well suited to aperitifs or lighter dishes, finishing crisp with a gentle mineral echo. MISA Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

91 Domaine Sipp-Mack 2021 Grand Cru Osterberg Riesling (Alsace). Showing early signs of development, with apple skin and singed lemon peel layered over delicate orchard blossom. The palate is silky and composed, with acidity smoothly integrated rather than assertive. Long and refined on the finish, offering both maturity and poise with quiet complexity. Franck's Signature Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

91 Famille Ruhlmann-Schutz 2024 Bio Riesling (Alsace). Laser-like acidity slices cleanly through a juicy core of stone fruit, creating a vividly mouthwatering palate impression. The wine feels taut and energetic, finishing with a zesty, citrus-driven aftertaste that lingers brightly. Clean, focused, and refreshing, with excellent balance. Cognac One, LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Gustave Lorentz 2021 Altenberg de Berghheim Riesling (Alsace). Developing gracefully, with acidity now well integrated and balancing a layered mix of orchard and stone fruit. Subtle baking spice elements add depth and nuance as the wine opens. Composed and harmonious, finishing with clarity and growing complexity that points to a promising evolution ahead. Quintessential Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Joseph Cattin 2019 Pur de Roche Riesling (Alsace). Developing beautifully, showing layered notes of bergamot, vanilla spice, and cardamom. The texture is smooth and polished, while mouthwatering acidity keeps the wine focused and vibrant. Long, precise, and finely balanced, with a refined interplay of spice, citrus, and mineral tension. Grape Expectations Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 SCVB 2023 Bestheim des Chasseurs de Lune Riesling (Alsace). Nuanced and quietly expressive, revealing lemongrass, cardamom, passion fruit, and kumquat that unfold in deliberate, layered waves. The acidity is bright and finely tuned, giving the wine precision and lift. Long, focused, and admirably detailed, with a graceful interplay of spice, citrus, and exotic fruit. LEA Trading LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Trimbach 2022 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Very vibrant and on the lighter side, this Riesling shows a linear, tightly wound opening before expanding midpalate. Notes of Meyer lemon and tarragon emerge with clarity, adding aromatic lift, before a firm, fresh apple note drives the finish. Energetic and precise, with

excellent balance and a long, focused close. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Wunsch & Mann 2023 Grand Cru Hengst Riesling (Alsace). Distinctive and expressive, with intriguing notes of durian, tangerine, and quince woven into a polished aromatic profile. The palate is silky and well integrated, balancing its exotic fruit character with clean acidity and a composed, seamless texture. An engaging and characterful Grand Cru with quiet depth and originality. SOMMSELECTION. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

90 Alsace Reyser 2023 Le Sentier de l'Aiguille White Riesling (Alsace). Apple and quince form the core of this fresh, lively Riesling, while gentle spice and a hint of tarragon glide along the edges. The palate is clean and energetic, supported by bright acidity that keeps everything focused. A solid, well-balanced finish rounds out this poised and expressive white. Z Wine Gallery Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

90 Cave de Turckheim 2024 Tradition Riesling (Alsace). Clean and expressive, showing a mix of orchard fruit lifted by lemon zest and subtle hints of ginger. The palate is well balanced, with lively acidity carrying the flavors through a solid, refreshing finish. A confident, well-executed Riesling with good clarity and length. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Domaine Fernand Engel 2023 Grand Cru Mandelberg Riesling (Alsace). Spice led and well composed, with ginger and hints of coriander seed gliding over a core of orchard fruit. The palate is clean and focused, finishing with bright lime accents that add lift and freshness. Balanced and precise, with a gently persistent, aromatic close. Mr. Wine and Spirits US. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Domaine François Schmitt 2021 Grand Cru Pfingstberg Paradis Riesling (Alsace). Maturing gracefully, with a notably sleek texture and beautifully integrated acidity. Notes of green peach and crisp apple are gently accented by a soft paraffin nuance that adds depth without heaviness. Composed and refined, finishing clean and harmonious with quiet persistence. Sapere Originis. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Domaine G. Metz 2022 Grand Cru Muenchberg Riesling (Alsace). Nuanced and restrained, offering subtle layers of apple, pear, and lemon rather than overt intensity. The palate is finely balanced, with integrated acidity giving the wine poise and clarity. Elegant and composed, finishing clean with quiet persistence. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$11

90 Domaine Sipp-Mack 2023 Tradition Riesling (Alsace). Sleek and vibrant, showing a lively mix of kiwi, apple, and kumquat. The palate combines

BUYINGGUIDE

bright acidity with a touch of light bitterness, giving the wine both freshness and definition. Energetic and well balanced, finishing long and mouthwatering. Franck's Signature Wines. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

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

90 Frey-Sohler 2023 Rittersberg 2023 Riesling (Alsace). Medium bodied yet strikingly precise, with laser-like acidity slicing cleanly through notes of lemongrass, lime, and crisp apple. The palate is linear and focused, driven by tension rather than weight. Long and incisive on the finish, this is a taut, energetic Riesling with excellent clarity. Hachiko Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Henri Ehrhart 2024 Harmonie Riesling (Alsace). Vibrant and fresh, with a savory mineral backbone that underlines notes of kiwi and elderflower. The palate is clean and energetic, driven by bright acidity that gives the wine lift and precision. Well balanced and refreshing, finishing with clarity and quiet persistence. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Jean Baptiste Adam 2022 Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Vieilles Vignes Riesling (Alsace). Focused and expressive, showing quince and bright citrus at the core, lifted by a gentle thread of ginger spice. The palate is clean and well balanced, with lively acidity giving the wine precision and flow. Finishes fresh and composed, with a quietly persistent, spice-tinged close. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Jean Baptiste Adam 2022 Grand Cru Wineck-Schlossberg Riesling (Alsace). A clean mix of orchard and stone fruit forms the core, underpinned by pronounced wet-rock minerality. The palate is focused and precise, carried by bright acidity that drives a linear, mineral-led finish. Well balanced and taut, with clarity and quiet persistence. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2023 Biologique Riesling (Alsace). Pleasingly aromatic, with bergamot and cardamom adding lift to the citrus and light orchard-fruit core. Fresh acidity keeps the palate lively, leading into a mouthwatering, well-balanced finish. Easy to drink yet characterful, with a touch of spice that sets it apart. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

90 SCVB 2022 Grand Cru Schlossberg Anne de K Riesling (Alsace). Well integrated and finely balanced, with vibrant acidity giving lift to nuanced flavors of apple, maracuja, and baby kiwi. The palate is sleek and precise, finishing with a fresh lemongrass note that adds definition and clarity. Elegant and composed, with good persistence. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

90 Sophie Schaal 2024 Riesling (Alsace). Bright and focused, with an herbal edge that adds lift to the core of apple and citrus flavors. The acidity is clean and well integrated, giving the wine clarity and drive.

Solid length on the finish underscores its balance and precision. Vineyard Road Inc. —A.Z.

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

90 Trimbach 2023 Riesling (Alsace). Light graphite notes glide beneath a crisp core of apple and lime, giving the wine a subtle mineral edge. The palate is clean and focused, offering moderate complexity supported by lively acidity. Well balanced and composed, finishing with good length and clarity. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Bott Frères 2024 Tradition Riesling (Alsace). Broad and approachable, offering yellow apple and blood orange in a ripe, inviting style. The palate is smooth and open knit, delivering immediate pleasure with balanced acidity and a clean, moderately long finish. A generous, easy-to-enjoy Riesling with quiet charm. DB Wine Selection. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Domaine Armand Gilg 2023 Stein Riesling (Alsace). Subtle and nuanced, showing a gentle mix of orchard and citrus fruit carried by a sleek, finely textured palate. The acidity is well integrated, giving the wine lift without sharpness. Clean, composed, and quietly expressive, finishing with understated persistence. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Domaine François Schmitt 2024 Un des Sept Riesling (Alsace). Modest in expression yet clean and energetic, showing bright lime and subtle kiwi notes. The palate is fresh and vibrant, carried by lively acidity that keeps the wine light on its feet. Straightforward, well balanced, and easy to enjoy. Sapere Originis. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

89 Domaine G. Metz 2023 Riesling (Alsace). Direct and firmly structured, showing Meyer lemon and passion fruit layered with subtle floral notes. The palate is taut and focused, driven by bright acidity that gives the wine definition and energy. Clean, well made, and finishing with good precision. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$6

89 Paul Bruckert 2024 Riesling (Alsace). Focused and expressive, showing a clean mix of orchard and stone-fruit flavors—apple, pear, and a touch of peach. Bright acidity keeps the palate taut and refreshing, while the finish is crisp and well balanced. Straightforward yet finely executed. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.

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

89 Wunsch & Mann 2023 Riesling (Alsace). Marked by blood orange and crisp apple flavors, this Riesling shows appealing brightness and energy. The palate is clean and moderately complex, with balanced acidity giving it lift and clarity. A focused, well-made wine with a refreshing finish. The Artisan Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

88 Cave de Turckheim 2023 Collection Terroirs Riesling (Alsace). Subtle and tightly wound, with bracing acidity giving the wine its backbone. Soft notes of passion fruit and blood orange emerge with air, adding gentle color without overwhelming the palate. Clean, focused, and refreshing, finishing crisp and composed. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Cave du Roi Dagobert 2023 Sélection Riesling (Alsace). Direct and pleasant, offering juicy citrus accented by ginger powder and faint peach notes. The palate is clean and refreshing, with balanced acidity carrying it through a moderately long finish. Straightforward, well made, and easy to enjoy. —A.Z.

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

88 Charles Sohler et ses Fils 2017 Riesling (Alsace). A shy nose gives little away. The palate, however, speaks of freshly cut, juicy, green apple and lots of lemon in a light, slender, fresh fashion. The finish is dry and refreshing. 2Fly, LLC. —A.K.

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

88 Domaine Jean Sipp 2022 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Sleek and refreshing, driven by clean citrus flavors and bright acidity. The palate is well balanced and composed, offering moderate complexity and a tidy, moderately long finish. Straightforward yet polished, with a crisp, easygoing profile. Alain Junguenet Selection. —A.Z.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$NA

88 Gustave Lorentz 2024 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Round and approachable, with softer acidity framing juicy peach and lemon sorbet flavors. The palate is smooth and easygoing, offering immediate pleasure rather than sharp definition. Clean and pleasant, finishing gently with a fresh, lightly citrusy note. Quintessential Wines. —A.Z.

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

88 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2024 Origine Riesling (Alsace). Direct and zesty, showing conventional citrus and orchard-fruit flavors that keep the palate bright and focused. Clean acidity provides lift, while the finish remains crisp and straightforward. A fresh, no-nonsense Riesling with good balance and clarity. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

GEWURZTRAMINER

94 Domaine Muré 2018 Vendanges Tardives Vorbourg Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Highly expressive from the outset, dominated by a vivid rose-candy perfume that sets the tone. At the core, a lush mix of exotic fruits—lychee, mangosteen, and hints of ripe papaya—brings depth and amplitude. A late lift of pomelo zest introduces welcome freshness, preventing the sweetness from feeling heavy and giving the wine precision. Rich, aromatic, and beautifully balanced, it finishes long and perfumed, with impressive clarity for a vendanges tardives. MISA Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

93 Famille Ruhlmann-Schutz 2023 Vendanges Tardives Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Perfumed and expressive, delivering sweet lychee, rambutan, and tropical florals in generous waves. Sleek acidity threads through the richness, while ginger spice and a gentle, palate-cleansing bitterness add definition and complexity. Lush yet balanced, with a long, characterful finish that keeps it engaging from start to end. Cognac One, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$46

92 Domaine Muré 2024 Orchidées Sauvages Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Elegant and finely detailed, offering mango and lime wrapped in a polished, aromatic profile. The balance is excellent, with acidity providing lift and definition without disrupting the wine's natural richness. Spice notes unfold on the finish, adding dimension and length. A graceful, well-composed Gewurztraminer. MISA Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

92 Domaine Saint Remy 2023 Grand Cru Hengst Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Expressive and finely shaped, offering a blend of rose apple and gentle grapefruit tones, with a light, palate-cleansing bitterness that adds welcome complexity. The off-dry sweetness is well judged, balanced by clean acidity that keeps the wine lifted and composed. Pleasantly harmonious, with a quietly persistent finish. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

92 Famille Ruhlmann-Schutz 2023 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Fresh, lifted acidity gives this Gewurztraminer real drive, allowing its blood-orange brightness to underscore layers of elderflower, mango-steen, and subtle herbal pine. The palate is concentrated yet composed, with savory mineral tones emerging as it unfolds. Long, complex, and finely textured, this is a strikingly well-balanced and characterful expression of the variety. Cognac One, LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

92 Frey-Sohler 2024 Orange Wine Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Dry and characterful, with a striking bronze hue from skin contact. Enticing notes of melon, chrysanthemum, and mangosteen unfold on the nose and palate. Light, finely grained tannins melt seamlessly, while well-judged acidity keeps the wine lively and balanced. Expressive yet poised, finishing long with aromatic nuance and gentle grip. Hachiko Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$34

92 Trimbach 2020 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Expressive and layered, combining stone and tropical fruit with peach and mango at the core, joined by blood orange and a hint of tamarind. Bright acidity and a touch of light bitterness add complexity and keep the wine finely balanced. Energetic and composed, it finishes long with freshness and aromatic depth. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

91 Cave de Turckheim 2024 Tradition Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Gently sweet yet well balanced,

with ripe orange-like acidity providing lift and a touch of bitterness adding welcome character. Guava and papaya give the wine its exotic core, while the structure keeps it focused and composed. Expressive, harmonious, and finishing with clarity and persistence. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

91 Domaine Fernand Engel 2021 Grand Cru Altenberg de Bergheim Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Aromatic and expressive, with a prominent mango perfume that carries seamlessly onto the palate. Baby kiwi and gentle baking spice add dimension, all neatly linked by bright acidity that gives lift and definition. The sweet finish is inviting rather than heavy, lingering with tropical fruit and spice in a well-balanced, polished close. Mr. Wine and Spirits US. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$55

91 Domaine le Freud 2023 Bergweigarten Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Sweet and expressive, offering peach marmalade, lychee, and elderflower syrup with a gentle hint of lavender. The richness is well supported by good acidity, which gives the wine structure, lift, and length. Lush yet balanced, this is a confident, well-built Gewurztraminer for fans of the opulent style. Petit Vin LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$10

91 Gustave Lorentz 2019 Altenberg de Bergheim Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Light golden in color, offering nuanced notes of white raisins, custard, and fennel seed. The palate is rounded yet poised, with a lightly bitter finish that adds depth, complexity, and balance. Harmonious and well developed, showing both richness and restraint with a lingering, composed close. Quintessential Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

91 Henri Ehrhart 2024 Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Sweet and aromatic, yet kept in balance by enough acidity to avoid any sense of heaviness. Lychee and rose water lead the profile, joined by blood orange and a soft chamomile note that adds nuance. Lush and expressive, this is a well-crafted Gewurztraminer for fans of the richer, more opulent style. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

91 Henri Ehrhart 2024 Harmonie Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Fuller bodied and expressive, led by beautiful mangosteen flavors lifted by bright, well-integrated acidity. A touch of saffron and subtle mineral hints add depth and intrigue. Long and complex on the finish, combining richness with precision and a poised, harmonious structure. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

91 Jean Baptiste Adam 2023 Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Vieilles Vignes Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Generous and expressive, with distinctive flavors of oat cookie and white raisin. Lime-like acidity cuts cleanly through the sweetness, giving the wine tension and balance. Long and complex on the finish, it combines richness with precision and a polished, lingering close. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$60

91 Joseph Cattin 2024 Grand Cru Hatschbourg Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Exotic and expressive, with langsat and papaya defining the aromatic core. The off-dry palate is well balanced by bright, citrusy acidity, keeping the wine lively and precise. Spice notes unfold on the finish, which carries good length and a polished, harmonious close. Grape Expectations Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

90 Cave du Roi Dagobert 2023 Sélection Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Vibrant and expressive, marked by lychee, daisy, and yellow-apple aromas. The palate is lively and well balanced, with enough acidity to keep the fruit fresh and defined. Clean and aromatic, finishing with good length and an inviting, floral lift. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

90 Domaine le Freud 2023 Vieilles Vignes Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Sweet yet well balanced, showing inviting notes of apple sauce, lavender honey, and melon sorbet. The palate is rounded and expressive, with enough acidity to keep the sweetness in check. Long and smooth on the finish, offering both generosity and poise. Petit Vin LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$8

90 Domaine Sipp-Mack 2022 Tradition Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Fruit forward and expressive, with blood orange and ripe peach leading the profile. A light touch of sweetness is neatly balanced by prominent acidity, keeping the palate fresh and energetic. Well composed and approachable, finishing clean with good persistence. Franck's Signature Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

90 Famille Ruhlmann-Schutz 2024 Grand Cru Frankstein Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Silky and juicy, offering light sweetness that carries notes of tropical fruit, gentle spice, and a touch of floral lift. The acidity is well judged, giving the wine balance and preventing any heaviness. Long, bright, and delightful on the finish, with a graceful interplay of richness and freshness. Cognac One, LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

90 Frey-Sohler 2020 Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Expressive and inviting, filled with rose Turkish delight, cardamom spice, and creamy vanilla custard notes. The palate is rounded and aromatic, with sweetness kept in check by sufficient freshness to avoid heaviness. A versatile Gewurztraminer, well suited to lightly sweet desserts or as an aperitif alongside spiced nuts, finishing smooth and gently persistent. Hachiko Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$33

90 Gustave Lorentz 2024 Réserve Gewurztraminer (Alsace). More restrained in style, showing subtle notes of grapefruit and nectarine rather than overt aromatics. Bright acidity underscores the fruit, giving the wine lift and freshness. Refreshing and juicy on the finish, with a clean, well-balanced pro-

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file that favors precision over opulence. Quintessential Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2024 Origine Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Slightly off dry and appealingly bittersweet, combining quince paste with exotic floral notes and a touch of ginger. The palate is rounded but balanced, with enough acidity to keep the richness in check. Flavorful, aromatic, and well composed, finishing with gentle spice and good length. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

90 Paul Bruckert 2024 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Off dry and aromatic, offering classic notes of lychee and rose water. The sweetness is well judged, supported by good acidity that keeps the palate balanced and lively. Expressive, clean, and neatly composed, with a fresh, appealing finish. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 SCVB 2020 Grand Cru Zinnkoepflé Anne de K Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Expressive and well balanced, showing rich notes of quince paste lifted by crisp, apple-like acidity. Layers of floral and spice notes add aromatic complexity and depth. The palate is rounded yet focused, finishing clean and harmonious with good persistence. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

90 Sophie Schaal 2023 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Round and gently sweet, with soft acidity that keeps the wine smooth and approachable. A well-balanced mix of orchard and tropical fruits such as pear, lychee, and a touch of mango, create a generous, aromatic profile. The finish is surprisingly long, carrying its sweetness with elegance and poise. Vineyard Road Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Wunsch & Mann 2023 Gewurz N°3 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Direct and expressive, showing grapefruit zest and yellow plum at the forefront. The palate is clean and focused, with enough acidity to keep the fruit lively and defined. Moderately long on the finish, it offers a bright, well-balanced take on Gewurztraminer with a touch of modern precision. BBR Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Domaine Fernand Engel 2022 Kugelberg de Rorschwihr Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Off-dry and smoothly textured, showing elderflower syrup layered over baked pear and ripe cantaloupe. The palate is rounded and expressive, with medium acidity providing balance and preventing any heaviness. Harmonious and gently aromatic, finishing clean and pleasantly persistent. Mr. Wine and Spirits US. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

89 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2022 Biologique Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Fresh and lively, showing nectarine and yellow apple in a bright, easy-going style. The palate is balanced and smooth, with gentle sweetness and clean acidity working in tan-

dem. Moderately long on the finish, offering a pleasant, approachable Gewurztraminer with good everyday charm. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Wunsch & Mann 2023 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Delicate and lightly sweet-toned, with faint notes of rose Turkish delight and a subtle touch of blanched almond. The palate is smooth and gently rounded, supported by soft acidity that keeps the wine balanced. Straightforward yet appealing, with a calm, floral finish. The Artisan Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Jean Baptiste Adam 2023 Pur Granite Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Light and subtle in expression, with gentle white chocolate notes layered over soft peach and apple. The palate is smooth and understated, offering quiet charm rather than overt intensity. Balanced and easy to drink, finishing clean with moderate persistence. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

87 Domaine Ansen 2020 Dry Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Dry and floral in style, showing grapefruit and nectarine notes that keep the profile bright and fresh. The palate is clean and balanced, with moderate complexity and a tidy, moderately long finish. A restrained, well-made Gewurztraminer with clarity and lift. Bon Vivant Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$18

PINOT GRIS

93 Trimbach 2018 Réserve Pinot Gris (Alsace). Refined and expressive, opening with singed lemon peel and aromas of orange-blossom honey. The palate unfolds into yellow apple and persimmon, accented by subtle baking spice that adds depth without weight. Acidity is finely tuned, carrying the wine into a clear, mouthwatering finish that lingers with poise and precision. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 ALSACE REYSER 2024 Les Pierres Chaudes Pinot Gris (Alsace). Rich yet polished, opening with vanilla cream and condensed milk before moving into apple sauce and gentle spice. Despite the creamy profile, the palate remains fresh and well balanced, carried by clean acidity. Long on the finish, combining generosity with clarity and poise. Z Wine Gallery Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

92 Domaine Armand Gilg 2024 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Gris (Alsace). Beautifully aromatic, opening with baking spice, custard, and apple pie. The palate is rounded yet poised, carrying its richness with ease and clarity. Elegant and seamless, it finishes long with lingering spice and gentle warmth, showing both generosity and finesse. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

92 Gustave Lorentz 2018 Altenberg de Bergheim Pinot Gris (Alsace). Complex and expressive, opening with anise cookie and brioche before unfolding

into lavender, beeswax, and baked apple. The palate is richly layered yet poised, with nicely judged acidity providing balance and lift. Harmonious and well developed, finishing long with savory-sweet nuance and finesse. Quintessential Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Jean Baptiste Adam 2023 Empreinte Pinot Gris (Alsace). Copper tinged in color, clearly shaped by skin contact, with melting, finely grained tannins that give the wine gentle structure. Red apple and pomegranate lead the profile, framed by just enough fresh, well-integrated acidity to keep everything lively and precise. Expressive, tactile, and beautifully balanced, finishing long with clarity and finesse. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Trimbach 2018 Réserve Personnelle Pinot Gris (Alsace). Showing appealing maturity and complexity, with layered notes of gingerbread, star anise, quince paste, and baked apple. The palate is suave and rounded, yet lifted by vibrant acidity that keeps the wine energetic and precise. Mouthwatering on the finish, balancing richness and freshness with impressive harmony. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Domaine le Freud 2022 Tendance Sec Pinot Gris (Alsace). Flinty and subtly off dry in feel, opening with lovely white raspberry and elderflower, followed by notes of cardamom and ripe apricot. The texture is velvety and polished, yet the wine remains lively thanks to well-judged acidity. Long and mouthwatering on the finish, combining finesse, aromatic detail, and depth. Petit Vin LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$7

91 Henri Ehrhart 2024 Grand Cru Vorbourg Pinot Gris (Alsace). More restrained in expression, with an off-dry feel and softly layered notes of baked apple, gentle spice, and rosewater. The palate is rounded yet composed, with enough acidity to keep the sweetness in check. Subtle, harmonious, and quietly persistent on the finish. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2023 Biologique Pinot Gris (Alsace). Round and softly textured, with nutmeg and vanilla bean adding warm accents to a core of peach and persimmon. The palate is generous yet balanced, carrying its richness with ease. Smooth, flavorful, and neatly composed, finishing with gentle spice and good persistence. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

91 Sophie Schaal 2024 Pinot Gris (Alsace). Generous and aromatic, offering gingerbread, candied orange peel, and a touch of nutmeg. The palate is supple yet poised, carrying these warm spice notes with refined balance. Long, elegant, and quietly complex, it leaves a polished, gently spiced impression on the finish. Vineyard Road Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Wunsch & Mann 2023 Pinot Gris (Alsace). A notably zesty, high-acid take on Pinot Gris,

bursting with freshness and definition. White raspberry and flinty minerality shape the nose, while kumquat and bright citrus drive the mouthwatering finish. Energetic, precise, and impressively lifted for the variety, showing both character and finesse. BBR Imports. —A.Z.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

91 Wunsch & Mann 2023 Reine Clotilde Pinot Gris (Alsace). Fruit driven and generous, with juicy peach and andarin orange leading the profile. The palate is rounded yet balanced, showing enough acidity and nuance to keep the sweetness in check. Quiet complexity unfolds with air, and the finish is pleasantly long, making this an inviting and well-composed Pinot Gris. The Artisan Collection. —A.Z.

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

90 Domaine Kuentz-Bas 2022 Grand Cru Eichberg Pinot Gris (Alsace). Understated yet expressive, with elderflower and nectarine layered over gentle notes of vanilla custard. The palate is smooth and balanced, offering quiet richness without excess weight. Clean and composed, finishing with soft persistence and refined charm. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Domaine Sipp-Mack 2022 Tradition Pinot Gris (Alsace). Suave and aromatic, combining rose, bittersweet almond, and quince blossom in a finely layered profile. The palate is smooth and well balanced, unfolding into a long, complex finish that brings floral, nutty, and gently bitter nuances together with poise. Franck's Signature Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

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

90 Henri Ehrhart 2024 Harmonie Pinot Gris (Alsace). Aromatic and finely poised, led by rose water with gentle notes of guava and lavender adding an exotic, floral lift. The palate is smooth and well balanced, carrying its perfume with ease and finishing clean and composed. Elegant and expressive, with a refined, lingering close. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

90 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2024 Origine Pinot Gris (Alsace). Expressive and gently rounded, with pear, quince paste, and bergamot giving both richness and lift. The palate remains fresh and inviting, finishing clean with a subtle floral-spice nuance. Balanced and appealing, with quietly persistent charm. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

90 SCVB 2023 Chasseur de Lune Bestheim Pinot Gris (Alsace). Warm notes of ginger cookie introduce the wine, but it quickly lifts into fresher territory with nectarine and Meyer lemon. The palate is bright and balanced, carrying both the spice and fruit with clarity. Fresh, expressive, and well composed, finishing with notable length and poise. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Gustave Lorentz 2024 Réserve Pinot Gris (Alsace). Bright and vertical in profile, showing ripe nectarine accented by light spice and subtle floral notes. The palate is focused and well balanced, with

enough acidity to keep the fruit lively. It carries through with good length, finishing clean and composed. Quintessential Wines. —A.Z.

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

89 Paul Bruckert 2024 Pinot Gris (Alsace). Round and velvety, offering gentle ginger spice and cinnamon wrapped around apricot and soft stone-fruit flavors. Smooth and easy to drink, with balanced sweetness and a welcoming texture, it makes for an ideal and highly pleasant aperitif. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.

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

PINOT BLANC

91 Domaine Michel Fonne 2024 Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Vertical and vibrant, leading with flinty aromas and brisk lime. Subtle notes of kiwi add lift, while a savory mineral streak drives through the palate and into the long, focused finish. Precise, energetic, and impressively sustained for the variety. International Cellars. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

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

90 Bott Frères 2024 Tradition Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Clean and vibrant, driven by bright acidity and a savory mineral edge that gives the wine focus and lift. Orchard blossom and subtle stone-fruit notes provide balance and softness, rounding out the profile. Precise, refreshing, and well composed, with a quietly persistent finish. DB Wine Selection. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

90 Domaine Sipp-Mack 2023 Tradition Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Subtle and elegant, built around a juicy core of passion fruit and papaya that adds a gentle exotic lift. The palate is clean and well balanced, with fresh acidity carrying the flavors through a solid, mouthwatering finish. Refined, expressive, and quietly compelling. Franck's Signature Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2023 Biologique Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Fresh and quietly alluring, with subtle peach and lime flavors that glide across the palate. The acidity is clean and well judged, giving the wine lift without sharpness. Easy, inviting, and perfectly suited as an aperitif, with enough charm and balance to keep it engaging from start to finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

90 Paul Bruckert 2024 Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Clean and precise, showing bright notes of apple and orange blossom carried by vibrant, well-cut acidity. The palate is refreshing and finely balanced, finishing mouthwatering and lifted. A polished, lively Pinot Blanc with real clarity and charm. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.

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

90 SCVB 2024 Bestheim Chasseurs de Lune Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Classic and expressive, offering a clean mix of peach and lime supported by

vibrant, well-cut acidity that ties everything together. The palate is bright and poised, with a subtle thread of spice emerging on the long, refreshing finish. Balanced, inviting, and quietly complex. LEA Trading LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

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

89 Cave du Roi Dagobert 2022 Sélection Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Direct and lively, with crunchy acidity giving lift to notes of orchard blossom and fresh citrus. The palate is clean and focused, carrying through with good length and a refreshing, well-balanced finish. Simple in approach, but confidently executed. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Domaine Muré 2023 Les Iris Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Singed lemon peel and fresh pear lead the profile, energized by vivacious, well-cut acidity. The palate is bright and clean, with a subtle mineral edge that keeps the finish crisp and refreshing. Balanced, lively, and neatly executed. MISA Imports. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 Trimbach 2023 Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Classic and cleanly expressed, showing a crisp mix of apple and Meyer lemon with subtle floral accents. The palate is fresh and well balanced, supported by bright acidity that keeps the wine lively. Straightforward yet polished, finishing with good clarity and poise. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.Z.

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

88 Domaine Jean Sipp 2023 les Trois Terroirs Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Clean and clear in expression, showing subtle apple and citrus notes carried by fresh, well-balanced acidity. The palate is direct and straightforward, finishing with moderate length. A precise, no-frills Pinot Blanc that delivers clarity and easy appeal. Alain Junguenet Selection. —A.Z.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$NA

88 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2024 Origine Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Floral and mineral driven, showing chamomile, lime, and wet-rock notes that mingle with quiet freshness. The palate is clean and gently textured, offering good lift and balance. A focused, understated Pinot Blanc with a pleasantly crisp finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8

SYLVANER

93 Domaine Kuentz-Bas 2022 Trois Châteaux Cuvée E Sylvaner (Alsace). Beautifully made and finely detailed, opening with a flinty note that leads into layered orchard and citrus fruit. A subtle, slightly bitter edge emerges midpalate, adding tension and a distinctly gastronomic character. The finish is crunchy and precise, carried by vibrant acidity and mineral drive, giving the wine both energy and impressive length. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

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92 **Domaine Armand Gilg 2023 Grand Cru Zotzenberg Sylvaner (Alsace).** A generous and expressive take on Sylvaner, offering layers of orchard and stone fruit framed by floral and gentle spice notes. The palate is broad yet well balanced, with acidity providing lift and clarity. Very long and enticing on the finish, showing both depth and elegance in equal measure.

Best Buy. —A.Z.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

91 **Domaine G. Metz 2023 Sylvaner (Alsace).** Elegant and finely tuned, with vibrant acidity and a crunchy, energetic texture. Orchard fruit sits at the core, lifted by notes of baking spice and lemongrass that add aromatic nuance. Well made and balanced, finishing long and precise with a fresh, mineral-driven close. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$5

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 **Domaine Fernand Engel 2024 Réserve Muscat Blanc (Alsace).** Bright and aromatic, with prominent notes of grapefruit and sour apple giving the wine a lively, energetic profile. The palate is crisp and refreshing, driven by clean acidity that carries through to a solid, well-defined finish. Focused, expressive, and nicely executed. Mr. Wine and Spirits US. —A.Z.

abv: 11%

Price: \$25

88 **Cave de Turckheim NV Cuvée le Veilleur de nuit Edelzwicker (Alsace).** Lightly sweet yet well balanced, with vibrant acidity providing lift and definition. Notes of saffron, pear, and peach mingle on the palate, giving the wine both warmth and freshness. Clean, approachable, and neatly composed, finishing with gentle spice and moderate length. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

WHITE BLENDS

90 **Domaine Ansen 2022 Edelzwicker Alsace white blend (Alsace).** Lighter in style yet nicely composed, with orchard and stone fruit taking center stage. The palate is clean and well balanced, supported by fresh acidity that gives the wine lift and clarity. Approachable and harmonious, finishing with good definition and easy charm. Bon Vivant Imports. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$16/100ml

89 **La Cave du Vieil Armand 2024 Apéro Alsace white blend (Alsace).** Well made and pleasantly bittersweet, combining orchard and stone-fruit notes with subtle herbal and floral tones reminiscent of green and chamomile teas. The palate is balanced and refreshing, showing enough lift and nuance to keep it engaging. A solid, neatly composed aperitif with a clean, satisfying finish. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$8

87 **Bott Frères NV Edelzwicker Pinot Blanc-Sylvaner (Alsace).** Direct and easygoing, with clear notes of apple and chamomile leading the profile. Light citrus nuances sit in the background, adding freshness. Straightforward, balanced, and

pleasant, with a clean, uncomplicated finish. DB Wine Selection. —A.Z.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$20

CRÉMANT D'ALSACE

92 **Domaine François Schmitt NV Blanc de Noirs (Crémant d'Alsace).** Charming and finely detailed, with candied ginger and white raspberry forming a vivid core of flavor. Fine, persistent bubbles and vibrant acidity give the wine lift and precision, while subtle mineral notes emerge on the finish. Elegant and energetic, with excellent balance and a long, polished close. Sapere Originis. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

92 **Domaine le Freud 2020 Grande Réserve (Crémant d'Alsace).** Lightly reductive at first, revealing flinty tones and white raspberry as it opens. Elderflower and hints of guava add an intriguing aromatic edge, giving the wine both freshness and character. The palate is precise and energetic, finishing long and mouthwatering with a clean mineral drive. Petit Vin LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$9

92 **Wunsch & Mann NV Brut Tradition (Crémant d'Alsace).** Slightly reductive at first, then opening into delicate notes of white raspberry and shaved ginger. The palate is lively and expressive, marked by a generous, vivid apple character that carries through with impressive persistence. Free-flowing, delicious, and brightly textured, it finishes long and confidently, showing both charm and precision. The Artisan Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

91 **Domaine Jean Sipp NV Cuvée Evidence (Crémant d'Alsace).** Nicely complex and persistent, with shaved ginger and clementine adding aromatic lift to a core of crisp apple. The mousse is fine and energetic, giving the wine drive and polish. Well balanced and expressive, finishing long with freshness and subtle spice. Alain Junguenet Selection. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

91 **Domaine Zinck NV Brut (Crémant d'Alsace).** Notes of ripe yellow apple play enticingly on the nose. They expand to full force on the palate and fill the mouth with their mellow goodness, supported in this by rich notes of shortbread and wonderful lemon freshness. The bubbles are creamy and disperse the lovely flavors to great effect. This is classy and delicious. 2Fly, LLC. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

91 **Henri Ehrhart 2021 Passion Brut (Crémant d'Alsace).** Rich and expansive in style, with brioche, apple custard, and cardamom forming a generous aromatic core. The mousse caresses the palate, allowing the flavors to broaden and unfold with ease. Well balanced despite its richness, it finishes long and polished, showing both depth and finesse. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$75

91 **SCVB NV Bestheim Extra Brut (Crémant d'Alsace).** Vertical in its precision yet rounded on the palate, showing a fine, creamy mousse that adds polish and texture. Subtle citrus and pale stone-fruit tones are layered with gentle brioche hints, giving the wine quiet depth. Long, focused, and composed, with enough complexity to keep you engaged from start to finish. LEA Trading LLC. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$22

90 **Bott Frères NV Cuvée Nicole (Crémant d'Alsace).** Classic and finely balanced, offering pleasant notes of orchard fruit supported by a bright lemon twist. A subtle hint of graphite adds definition and a touch of complexity. The palate is clean and focused, with solid length and a crisp, composed finish befitting an extra-brut style. DB Wine Selection. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$28

90 **Bott Frères NV QV Paul (Crémant d'Alsace).** Light and brisk, yet showing an impressively refined flavor profile. A subtle hazelnut note glides beneath crisp apple and pear, adding quiet depth without weighing down the palate. The mousse is clean and focused, and a gentle thread of spice emerges on the finish, giving this zero-dosage crémant both definition and charm. DB Wine Selection. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$26

90 **Cave du Roi Dagobert NV Jardin de Trebogad Organic (Crémant d'Alsace).** Gentle and elegant, offering light apple flavors lifted by tangerine-like acidity. Subtle hints of ginger spice add nuance without weight. The mousse is fine and restrained, carrying the wine into a long, clean finish that feels both pleasant and refined. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$28

90 **Domaine Le Freud 2020 (Crémant d'Alsace).** Inviting and generously flavored, with candied citrus and orchard fruit layered alongside baking spice and subtle hints of burnt butter. The palate shows balanced sweetness, giving roundness without heaviness, while the mousse carries the flavors smoothly across the tongue. Long and welcoming on the finish, with a warm, polished profile. Petit Vin LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$7

90 **Domaine Michel Fonne NV (Crémant d'Alsace).** Fruity and approachable, showing apple and white raspberry framed by soft, persistent bubbles. The palate is fresh and balanced, offering just enough lift and definition to keep it lively. A charming, well-made crémant with easy appeal and a clean finish. International Cellars. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

90 **Domaine Muré NV Prestige (Crémant d'Alsace).** Easy and refreshing, with soft, steady bubbles carrying light notes of apple and clementine. The palate is clean and balanced, showing just enough lift and energy to stay engaging. Solid length on the finish rounds out this well-made, approachable crémant. MISA Imports. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

90 **Domaine Saint Remy NV Brut Prestige (Crémant d'Alsace).** Well made and quietly expressive, offering a balanced mix of peach and lime supported by a fine, gentle mousse. The palate is easy and approachable yet shows good definition, carrying into a clean, persistent finish. A polished, satisfying crémant with both charm and length. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

90 **Famille Ruhlmann-Schutz MV Héritage Reserve Perpétuelle (Crémant d'Alsace).** Well crafted and quietly complex, with toast notes gliding beneath a clean mix of orchard and citrus fruit. The extra-brut style keeps the palate taut and focused, while the mousse remains fine and persistent. A delightful, balanced sparkler with clarity and finesse. Cognac One, LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Gustave Lorentz 2022 Zéro Dosage (Crémant d'Alsace).** Nicely frothy, with bubbles that expand across the palate and lift aromas and flavors of orchard fruit and gentle spice. The zero-dosage style gives the wine clarity and vivacity, while the acidity keeps it energetic and precise. Well balanced, finishing with good length and freshness. Quintessential Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Joseph Cattin 2023 Grande Cuvée Blanc de Noirs (Crémant d'Alsace).** Classic and well composed, offering a balanced mix of orchard and stone fruit supported by bright, citrus-driven acidity. The palate is clean and focused, with a fine mousse and good energy throughout. Nicely structured and persistent, finishing with clarity and satisfying length. Grape Expectations Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

90 **La Cave du Vieil Armand NV Extra Brut Biologique (Crémant d'Alsace).** Classic in style and confidently executed, showing brioche and fresh apple notes in a clean, balanced profile. The mousse is fine and steady, giving the wine poise, while the finish is long, persistent, and quietly refined. A well-made, traditional crémant with satisfying depth and length. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

90 **La Cave du Vieil Armand NV Extra Brut Rosé Biologique (Crémant d'Alsace).** Elegant and finely poised, offering citrus and red apple accented by hints of crushed strawberry. The mousse is gentle, and the vertical acidity gives lift and definition. Moderate length, clean lines, and a refined profile make this a well-crafted, highly drinkable rosé crémant. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

90 **SCVB NV Bestheim Brut Premium (Crémant d'Alsace).** Salty and finely balanced, with vibrant acidity that keeps the palate lively. Soft, caressing bubbles create a refined texture, while subtle ginger notes emerge on the finish, adding warmth and nuance.

Fresh, polished, and quietly complex for a crémant. LEA Trading LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

90 **SCVB NV Brut Premium Stellaire Bestheim (Crémant d'Alsace).** Mineral and subtly salty, showing a clean mix of citrus and orchard fruit that keeps the palate bright. A faint flinty note adds character and precision, giving the wine a sleek, focused profile. Fresh, balanced, and highly effective as an aperitif sparkler. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

89 **Alsace Reyser 2023 (Crémant d'Alsace).** Prominent apple flavor sits at the core of this approachable crémant, supported by gentle, fine bubbles. The palate is clean and balanced, offering straightforward freshness and a moderate finish. Easy to enjoy and well made, with a classic, unfussy profile. Z Wine Gallery Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

89 **Bott Frères NV Rosé (Crémant d'Alsace).** Lively and gastronomic, showing pomegranate at the forefront with appealing bitter-sweet nuances that add depth and versatility. Red apple notes extend across the palate, carried by a fine, persistent mousse. Fresh, balanced, and quietly complex, with a lingering, food-friendly finish. DB Wine Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 **Cave de Turckheim NV Monochrome (Crémant d'Alsace).** Classic and well defined, showing crisp green apple and citrus layered with light savory mineral notes. The palate is clean and focused, with lively acidity and a fine mousse carrying it through a solid, well-balanced finish. A reliably well-made Extra Brut with good length and clarity. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

89 **Cave du Roi Dagobert NV Rosé Jardin de Trebogad Organic (Crémant d'Alsace).** Straightforward and classic in profile, showing crisp apple framed by hints of graphite and light smoke. The mousse is clean and supportive, giving the wine structure without excess weight. Moderate length and solid balance make it a reliable, if conventional, crémant rosé. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 **Domaine Fernand Engel 2022 Blanc de Noir Dosage Zéro (Crémant d'Alsace).** Lightly oaked in style, showing vanilla and coconut notes that frame the core of apple and lime. The fruit brings freshness and lift, balancing the richer elements. Polished and clean, with a moderate finish. This one is for fans of a gently wood-influenced blanc de noirs. Mr. Wine and Spirits US. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

89 **Domaine Fernand Engel NV Tradition (Crémant d'Alsace).** Vertical and lively, with a frothy mousse carrying an inviting mix of Bosc pear and Meyer lemon. Subtle hints of cardamom add aromatic lift and nuance. Bright acidity keeps the palate focused,

finishing clean, and refreshing with good persistence. Mr. Wine and Spirits US. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Domaine G. Metz NV Rosé (Crémant d'Alsace).** A subtle spice note leads the way, opening into light citrus and orchard-blossom aromas. The palate is fresh and gently textured, with a clean, lively feel and moderate length. Easygoing and well balanced, this makes for a very nice, refreshing aperitif sparkler. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$7

89 **Famille Ruhlmann-Schutz NV Brut (Crémant d'Alsace).** An intriguing crémant with notes of persimmon and goldenberry lending subtle exotic flair. The mousse is fine and energetic, while a gentle thread of spice develops toward the moderate finish. Balanced, bright, and distinctive, offering a refreshing twist on the classic style. Cognac One, LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

89 **Frey-Sohler NV (Crémant d'Alsace).** Flavorful and expressive, showing orange zest layered with light brioche and gentle spice. The mousse is lively and supportive, giving the wine good presence on the palate. It tapers slightly on the moderate finish, but remains balanced, engaging, and well made. Hachiko Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

89 **Jean-Baptiste Adam NV Brut Rosé (Crémant d'Alsace).** Gentle and elegant, offering pleasant cranberry notes layered with subtle spice and floral accents. The mousse is fine and restrained, giving the wine a delicate, poised feel. A touch of bitterness on the finish adds character and definition, rounding out this refined, food-friendly crémant rosé. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$33

89 **Jean-Baptiste Adam NV Pur Granite (Crémant d'Alsace).** Very classic and vertical in profile, driven by prominent citrus and crisp apple flavors. The palate is taut and focused, with clean acidity and a fine, steady mousse. Straightforward and well made, finishing with moderate length and refreshing precision. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

89 **Joseph Cattin NV Emotion (Crémant d'Alsace).** Classic and well balanced, with gentle bubbles carrying notes of orchard and stone fruit. The acidity provides good support and freshness, keeping the palate clean and focused. Approachable and polished, with a smooth, quietly persistent finish. Grape Expectations Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

89 **Paul Bruckert NV (Crémant d'Alsace).** Classic in style and briskly refreshing, with prominent acidity lifting notes of apple, nectarine, and subtle stone fruit. The mousse is energetic yet fine, carrying the wine into a clean, citrus-driven finish. Well bal-

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anced, lively, and straightforwardly enjoyable. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

89 Pierre Sparr NV Brut Réserve (Crémant d'Alsace). Light and clean, showing subtle notes of graphite layered over fresh apple. The mousse is soft and approachable, giving the wine an easy, delicate feel. Moderate length, balanced, and straightforward, making for a pleasant, quietly refreshing crémant. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Pierre Sparr NV Brut Rosé (Crémant d'Alsace). Frothy and charming, with candied cherry and rose leading the aromatic profile. Light citrus notes add lift and freshness, balancing the wine's gently sweet-toned fruit. Approachable, lively, and well-made, with a clean, appealing finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 SCVB NV Bestheim Brut Heritage (Crémant d'Alsace). Very refreshing and lively, driven by crisp acidity that lifts notes of apple and lime. The mousse is bright and energetic, giving the wine a clean, zesty feel. Moderate length, well balanced, and highly drinkable. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

89 Sophie Schaal NV (Crémant d'Alsace). Light, bright, and effortlessly quaffable, with a gentle mousse and crisp acidity that keeps the palate fresh. Subtle citrus and orchard notes lend just enough flavor, while the clean, dry finish makes it an ideal aperitif sparkler. Easy, inviting, and well-poised. Vineyard Road Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

88 Cave de Turckheim NV M (Crémant d'Alsace). Direct and refreshing, with clean notes of apple and lemon leading the profile. The acidity is prominent and keeps the palate lively, while the overall complexity remains moderate. Straightforward, crisp, and well balanced, making for an easy, enjoyable crémant. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

88 Domaine Ansen 2020 lieu-dit Struch (Crémant d'Alsace). A smoky, graphite-tinged note leads the profile, lending an austere, mineral edge at first. Softer apple notes emerge underneath, adding balance and approachability. The mousse is gentle and the palate clean, finishing in a restrained, understated manner. Bon Vivant Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Heim NV Impérial Brut (Crémant d'Alsace). Bright and pleasantly lifted, showing higher-pitched notes of Meyer lemon and green apple. The mousse is gentle and the acidity soft but supportive, giving the wine an easy, balanced feel. Clean, refreshing, and straightforward, making for an enjoyable everyday crémant. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

PINOT NOIR

93 Domaine Muré 2023 Clos Saint Landelin Pinot Noir (Alsace). Classic and refined, showing a beautifully composed mix of cherry, violet, light licorice root, and subtle sandalwood. The palate is ripe and poised, medium to full in body yet never heavy, with polished tannins and well-integrated acidity providing lift. Elegant, balanced, and quietly powerful, it unfurls with grace into a long, harmonious finish. MISA Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

93 Jean-Baptiste Adam 2023 Sonnenberg Pinot Noir (Alsace). Beautifully made and precise, showing impressive purity and clarity. Cherry fruit sits at the core, lifted by rose petals and violet, while plush, finely textured tannins gently caress the palate. Fresh, cranberry-like acidity brings energy and lift, carrying the wine into a long, vibrant finish. Elegant yet expressive, with excellent balance and finesse. The Sorting Table. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Pépin NV Pépin Pinot Noir (Alsace). A beautiful Pinot Noir with a touch of rustic charm, yet plenty of purity and soul. Gorgeous cherry and violet notes sit at the core, wrapped in a raw, tactile texture that feels honest and expressive. Light, melting tannins give gentle structure, while a subtle stem-like, herbaceous quality adds complexity and lift. Long and characterful on the finish, this balances elegance with a compelling, earthy edge. Sans Honneur Wine. *Editor's Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 Domaine Kirrenbourg 2023 Pinot Noir (Alsace). Pure and aromatic, led by cherry and hibiscus tea notes that give the wine a vivid, expressive profile. The palate is finely structured, with well-judged tannins and mouthwatering acidity providing shape and lift. Balanced and precise, it carries through to a long, energetic finish with clarity and poise. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Domaine Sipp-Mack 2023 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir (Alsace). Very pure and finely detailed, offering a beautiful aromatic mix of rosehip, hibiscus tea, and subtle rooibos. The palate is poised and graceful, with tannins that provide structure yet settle gently, never intruding on the fruit. Balanced and precise, this is a beautifully made Pinot Noir that combines delicacy with quiet depth and polish. Franck's Signature Wines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

92 Wunsch & Mann 2023 Equus Grand Cru Hengst Pinot Noir (Alsace). Beautifully perfumed, offering red berry and violet supported by subtle notes of forest brush and a cooling touch of eucalyptus. The palate is polished and refined, with soft, well-integrated tannins that frame the fruit without overwhelming it. There is both lift and quiet depth here, and the wine carries itself with poise through a long, gently layered finish. BBR Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Domaine Jean Sipp 2023 Réserve Pinot Noir (Alsace). Pure and fruit-driven, with clear, focused red fruit at the core. The structure is finely tuned, built on bright acidity and light, well-integrated tannins that give the wine shape without weight. Balanced, precise, and very well made, finishing clean and confidently with understated elegance. Alain Junguenet Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine Muré 2023 V Pinot Noir (Alsace). Wood driven at first, with subtle toast and spice framing the cherry and violet core. As it opens, the fruit becomes more expressive, carried by clean, linear acidity that guides the wine toward a focused, elongated finish. Poised and structured, with clear potential to gain further nuance with air or short-term cellaring. MISA Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

91 Trimbach 2023 Réserve Pinot Noir (Alsace). Pure and finely detailed, showing violet, pomegranate, and rose with admirable clarity. The palate is supple and precise, with melting tannins that provide gentle support before fading seamlessly away. Fresh acidity keeps everything lifted, leaving a mouthwatering, elegant finish that underscores the wine's poise and balance. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Domaine Michel Fonne 2024 Pinot Noir (Alsace). Slight reduction shows at first, but the palate opens into ripe strawberry and cherry layered with subtle tar. The acidity comes in a vivid wave, giving the wine freshness and drive. Lively, balanced, and expressive once it hits its stride, finishing clean and energetic. International Cellars. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 La Cave du Vieil Armand 2023 Rendez-vous Pinot Noir (Alsace). Cedar and nutmeg set the tone here, lending a warm, spicy frame to the core of cherry and violet. Dusty tannins and fresh acidity give the wine firm, upright structure, while the finish shows good length and clarity. A well-crafted Pinot Noir, particularly appealing for those who enjoy a more wood-inflected, structured style. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Bott Frères 2024 Tradition Pinot Noir (Alsace). Classic in style and finely textured, offering a silky palate layered with cranberry, plum, and a hint of soft spice. The tannins are polished and well integrated, giving the wine gentle structure without firmness. Balanced, smooth, and quietly refined, it finishes with poise and subtle length. DB Wine Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

89 SCVB 2022 Exception Pinot Noir (Alsace). Shaved pencil and dusty tannins give this Pinot Noir a firm, savory frame, while red currant and mulberry provide bright, precise fruit at the core. The balance is well handled, with enough lift and freshness to keep the wine focused through a moderately long, structured finish. LEA Trading LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Sophie Schaal 2024 Pinot Noir (Alsace). Marked by noticeable oak and grainy tannins, yet the underlying fruit—damson plum and cherry—add welcome lift and juiciness. The structure is solid and the wine is competently made, but the wood influence slightly overshadows the purity of the fruit. Still, it offers good balance and an engaging profile. Vineyard Road Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

88 SCVB 2023 Anne de K Pinot Noir (Alsace). Light to medium bodied, with a touch of chew from the tannins giving the wine some grip. Red berry fruit sits at the core, fresh and direct, supported by balanced acidity. Straightforward and well made, finishing with moderate length and an easy, drinkable profile. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$21

CHAMPAGNE VINTAGE

93 Champagne Lenoble 2013 Blanc de Noirs Premier Cru (Champagne). A refined nose with baked apple, candied lemon peel and flaky salt, alongside plum, red berry skin, brioche and acacia honey. Generous on the palate with a touch of gingerbread spice that adds warmth. It finishes with almond, white rose, and chalky limestone. Vineyard Road. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$105

NONVINTAGE

97 Champagne Laurent-Perrier MV Grand Siècle Iteration No. 24 (Champagne). For full review see page 3. Champagne Laurent-Perrier. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12% Price: \$700/1.5L

97 Champagne Laurent-Perrier MV Grand Siècle Iteration No. 27 (Champagne). For full review see page 3. Champagne Laurent-Perrier. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12% Price: \$325

96 Champagne Lenoble MV (2008, 2009, 2012) Les Aventures Grand Cru Blanc de Blancs (Champagne). The nose is intense and energetic, with peach blossom, bergamot, acacia honey, and dried apricot set against a doughy almond backdrop. Nervy on the palate, it exudes salty hazelnut up front, followed by a stroke of orange marmalade, wildflowers, and white tea, finishing on stony notes. Best with a savory element and richness such as creamy lobster sauce. Vineyard Road. *Editor's Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$200

93 Billecart-Salmon NV Le Rosé Extra Brut (Champagne). The nose is delicate and ripe, showing sweet raspberry, lemon-curd patisserie, and orange blossom. The palate mirrors that delicacy with wild strawberry, raspberry, grapefruit, citrus zest, tangerine oil, wildflowers, and soft clay-chalky minerality

lingering on the finish. Enjoy now with rich sashimi and keep a few in cellar and wait for more nuance to emerge. T. Edward Wines. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% Price: \$106

93 Jean Josselin NV Audace R.21 Rosé (Champagne). This expression shows a deep rose hue with a nose of white strawberry, rhubarb, white tea, and violet florality. The palate is delicately structured, with pomegranate, rhubarb, dark cherry, and white tea, finishing on wild strawberry. Driven by soft red berries, it shows excellent balance and precision. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$86

93 Léon Launois NV Cuvée Réserve Brut (Champagne). The high-toned nose shows lemon tart, quince paste, green pear, and a light bergamot florality. The palate is elegant and nearly weightless, with fine chalky-saline minerality set against a soft layer of orchard fruit. A delight to enjoy now. W. Direct Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

92 Champagne Lallier MV (2020, 2021) Réflexion R.021 Brut (Champagne). The nose is refined with orchard and citrus fruits intertwined with salty brioche. Effortless on the palate, it offers a lingering palate of patisserie, a touch of lemon curd and soft berries, finishing on a salt and stone. Elegant and approachable, it is delightful on its own right now. Campari Group. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

92 Champagne Pol Roger NV Brut Reserve (Champagne). The nose shows precise, chalk-driven minerality layered with apple flesh, white peach, and fleshy tangerine. The palate is creamy yet bright, focusing on pear, white peach, and delicate florals, and finishes with a clay-chalky note. A classic and reliable selection. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% Price: \$85

91 Champagne Devaux NV Coeur des Bar Rosé (Champagne). The bouquet is delicate and precise, showing blood orange, green pear, white tea, and fresh chalky powder. The palate adds white peach, soft rose, and a delicate, creamy mousse. A polished, well-balanced expression that is approachable now. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% Price: \$65

90 Champagne Charles Collin NV Rosé (Champagne). This expression opens with an elegant nose of wild strawberry, quince, fresh thyme stems, and light patisserie notes. The palate is driven by acidity, carrying very light berry fruit through the finish. Approachable and easy to pair with savory appetizers. Ventura Selections LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% Price: \$60

89 Baron-Fuenté NV Grande Réserve Brut (Champagne). The nose is delicate with bergamot, peach, and apricot blossom, with an edge of light cream patisserie. The palate is driven by saline minerality and wildflowers, framing a soft core of pear and white

tea, and finishes long and chalky. Light on its feet and easy to drink. AHD Vintners. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

89 Champagne Minard et Filles NV Éléonor Rosé de Signée (Champagne). This expression shows plush candied cherry, blood orange, rhubarb, fresh thyme stems, violets, and white pepper, leaning savory and floral. The palate carries that richness with a savory edge. A natural match for duck in cherry sauce. HB Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$77

89 Vollereaux NV Brut Reserve (Champagne). The nose shows pear with flaky salt, soft clay-like saline minerality, and gentle white florality. Brisk acidity drives the palate, leaving flavors of fresh pear and wet river rock minerality. Easy to enjoy with vegetable crudité. Palm Bay International Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% Price: \$46

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES BOURGOGNE

91 Bader-Mimeur 2023 Dessous les Mues (Bourgogne). Aromatics open with peach blossom, bergamot, fresh pear, and white rose. The palate is textured and balanced by bright acidity, giving a smooth, rounded feel, with florals and ripe pear lingering on the finish. Easy to enjoy on its own or with seared scallops. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$48

90 Edouard Delaunay 2022 Septembre Chardonnay (Bourgogne). The nose is fresh and direct, with white peach, acacia, and a lift of ocean spray. Salty and clean on the palate, it offers a straightforward, refreshing expression that is easy to enjoy. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

90 Robert Gouley 2024 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). Aromatics open with Bosc pear, white peach, wildflowers, and wet stone, feeling fresh and bright. The palate brings citrus oil and white tea through the midpalate, finishing on wet alluvial stones with clean acidity. Easygoing and made for fresh oysters and clams. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

89 Joseph de Loy 2024 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). Aromatics open with floral lift, followed by white peach and Meyer lemon. The palate starts pithy and mineral driven, moving through to a leesy midpalate of citrus oil and wildflowers before finishing with saline, stone-driven minerality. Medium bodied with good texture and lively acidity, it is refreshing and approachable now. Regal Wines Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

89 Philippe Milan & Fils 2022 (Bourgogne). The nose is bright with white peach, acacia, and a lift of ocean spray. Sunny fresh citrus carries through with

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wild floral notes. The palate shows citrus oils, a touch of vanilla, and saline freshness. Textbook in style, delicately floral, and ready to drink now. —A.C.C.

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

88 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). The nose is clean and classic, with citrus oil, lemon pith, and a touch of wild flowers. The palate follows in the same bright, straightforward vein, offering a textbook expression of freshness. Simple, precise, and ready to drink now. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.

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

CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Clos Saint-Jean Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet).

A striking nose of freshly cut citrus, ocean spray, white rose, and wild flowers. The palate is refreshing with light citrus pith, honey, and vanilla pod carried into a soft stony finish. Graceful and versatile, this is lovely on its own or alongside squash in brown butter and sage. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$167

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Les Macherelles Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet).

Fresh and steely on the nose, with freshly squeezed citrus, Bosc pear, white peach, and lilac. The palate is driven by mouthwatering acidity, pulling out its saline edge and delicate orchard fruit. An easy win with scallop risotto. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$167

94 Xavier Monnot 2022 En Remilly Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet).

An energetic nose of citrus oil, white peach, and lemongrass framed by acacia and wet stone. The palate is refined with ample acidity and a rich midpalate of almond, and a lingering finish of acacia honey and flaky salt. Delicious on its own and a natural match for 24-month-aged Comté cheese. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$173

93 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 En Pimont (Chassagne-Montrachet).

A refined nose of ripe Meyer lemon, pear, and white peach is layered with acacia and wet stone. Bright acidity drives a lean, focused palate of citrus oil, light leesy notes, almond, finishing with a clean stony minerality. Drinking beautiful now, this should also pair well with sole meunière. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$117

93 Bader-Mimeur 2022 En Journoblot Chardonnay (Chassagne-Montrachet).

Freshly cut Bosc pear, bergamot, light almond, and straw quickly lift right out of the glass. Bright acidity keeps the palate nimble, dancing between raw almond, wet river rock, and salinity across the palate. Crisp, refreshing and a perfect way to kick off a hearty meal. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

CHABLIS

93 William Fèvre 2021 (Chablis). Aromas of wild field grass, smoky flint, and dew-dusted forest floor open on the nose along with hints of white-button mushroom and golden apple. The palate is tart and mineral driven with stony acidity propelling dried-lemon-peel shavings on the finish. Pair with savory dishes, chicken noodle soup and Parmesan-dusted French fries. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Alain Geoffroy 2022 (Chablis). Freshly baked bread, apple tart, caramel, and yellow-apple compote aromas open on the nose that swims in white peach and honeysuckle. The palate is beyond well integrated: It presents as a richly textured whole with complexity showing at every step along the length of the taste. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Domaine Besson 2023 (Chablis). Alluring aromas of brioche, dried field grass, Bosc pear, and ripe golden apple open on the nose that also leans into forest floor at moments. The palate is rich, soothing, and laden with bright citrus and chalky acidity that provides welcome counterbalance. Subtle hints of bread dough heighten and propel orchard fruit on the finish. New Last Bottle Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$46

92 Joseph de Loy 2024 (Chablis). Fragrant aromas of white-peach blossom, field grass, muddled golden apple, and lemon-curd-topped brioche open on the nose. The palate is supple and elegant with well-integrated acidity that punctuates the finish and lifts in the background. Serve by the glass on its own or pair with a lobster roll. Regal Wines Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

90 Famille Gueguen 2024 (Chablis). Lemon in color, the wine begins with muddled green apple and baby's breath, and eventually moves into lightly-browned toast and nectarine puree. The mineral-driven palate sings with citrus and early-harvest orchard fruit that chalk-dusted acidity accentuates. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

SAINT BRIS

91 Bailly-Lapierre 2024 (Saint Bris). Earthy aromas of dried herbs and muddled red apple open on the nose punctuated by hints of white-button mushroom and orange peel. The palate is round in texture with green apple and a wet, stony acidity that is lemon-citrus tinged. Pair with savory and herb-infused dishes. MHW. —A.C.C.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

91 La Chablisienne 2023 (Saint Bris). The nose opens with enticing aromas of brioche, nectarine, honeydew melon, and quince that draw you in and keep you there. Rich in texture, the wine brings confident, well-integrated fruit unapologetically to the fore with a

subtle, honey-suckle-infused acidity that evens out the finish. Pair with more complex dishes such as quiche, goat-cheese tart, and rosemary chicken. —A.C.C.

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

88 Famille Gueguen 2024 Curiosité de Bourgogne Sauvignon Blanc (Saint Bris). Aromas of lilac, wildflower, and wisps of dried herbs, open on a nose that is dusted with white blossom. The mineral driven palate leans into wet river stone that washes up on a shore of dried lemon peel. Pair with lighter, delicate dishes such as grilled shrimp, oysters, and goat-cheese toasts. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.

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

BURGUNDY RED WINES

BOURGOGNE

92 Domaine Voarick 2020 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). The nose is lively with ripe strawberry layered with dark bramble, fresh earth, and white mushroom. The palate is balanced, with fine coating tannins supporting fresh cherry, rose, and limestone minerality. Drinking well on its own or paired with roasted beets with whipped goat cheese, pistachio, and orange zest. David Milligan Selections. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Olivier Morin 2021 Constance (Bourgogne). The nose opens with sour cherry, wild strawberry, ripe stems, rose petals, and white pepper, coming across bright and inviting. The palate is balanced, with fruit and spice gliding over round tannins. Persistent acidity gives it a long mineral finish. A solid showing from a tough vintage. Drinking well now and worth keeping a few on hand. *Editor's Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

90 Joseph de Loy 2024 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). The nose offers bright red berries, cranberry, fresh rose petals, and white pepper, coming across fresh and fruit-driven. The palate brings a tart cherry lift into a lightly spicy midpalate, finishing with fresh earth and soft clove. Easy and straightforward, this will pair well with mild to spicy salumi. Regal Wines Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Laurent Delaunay 2023 Les Grapillages (Bourgogne). The nose is driven by spice and violet, layered with delicate touch of pressed Amarena cherry and pulverized stone. The palate is juicy with mouthwatering acidity, medium bodied, and leaning herbal and earthy. A natural match for braised beef. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

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

90 Moillard 2023 (Bourgogne). The nose shows sour cherry, black raspberry, peppercorn, violet, and a light strawberry edge. Medium bodied, textured with silty tannins, the palate is well balanced. Aerate to allow more dense fruit to emerge. An easy win

for any cheese and charcuterie night. Advantage International Distributors, Inc.—A.C.C.

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

90 Régnard 2023 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). The nose is both tart and ripe, showing Morello cherry, pomegranate, and rhubarb, framed by heady rose aromatics. The palate has pleasing texture, opening with white pepper, moving through floral tones at the midpalate, and finishes on a lingering light cherry note. A charming choice for charcuterie night. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc.—A.C.C.

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

90 Vincent De La Remondière 2024 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). The nose shows just-ripe cherry skins, white pepper, and rose petal. Medium bodied with round, coating tannins, the palate moves through clove and black tea before a limestone-driven finish. A natural match for seared duck breast with a cherry and thyme pan sauce. W. Direct Imports.—A.C.C.

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

89 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Brown mushroom and thyme lead over a core of black cherry, giving the nose a dark-fruited, savory edge. The palate leans into white pepper and clove, finishing with dried rose. A strong match for lentils and sausage. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits.—A.C.C.

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

89 Maison Champy 2023 Cuvée Edme Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). The nose shows deep black cherry with fresh thyme, rose, and earthy notes. Medium bodied, the palate leans savory through the midpalate, shaped by thyme and earth, and framed by youthful tannins, finishing with a light peppery note. A seamless match for braised pork dishes.—A.C.C.

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

88 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2023 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). The nose exudes pure red cherry skin, pomegranate seed, a dusting of white pepper, and picked rose petal. The palate is earthy, with light baking spice up front, followed by cherry skin, and finishes stony. A textbook expression that is ready to enjoy now. J & J Winery.—A.C.C.

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

GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

95 Louis Jadot 2021 Clos Saint Jacques Premier Cru (Gevey-Chambertin). The nose is energetic and generous, brimming with ripe cherry and strawberry, framed with with rose petal and white pepper. The palate is classic and elegant, lifted by the fresh energy of 2021 that provides a gentle tart edge. Polished tannins carry spice and tea leaf through a seamless, inviting finish. Cellar with ease through 2031. Kobrand.—A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$225

92 Domaine Thierry Mortet 2023 (Gevey-Chambertin). The nose is fresh and inviting,

with cherry, blackberry, clove, thyme, and an alluring touch of rose. The palate is beautifully balanced, where dark red berries, gentle spice, and earthy tones are threaded with a clear mineral drive. A classic expression that drinks beautifully now.—A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

92 Paul Aegerter 2023 Réserve Personnelle (Gevey-Chambertin). The nose is layered with pressed red cherry, white peppercorn, light liquorice, cedar, violets and thyme stem. The palate is fresh and textured, leaning into rose florality with an intense thread of spice that lingers long through the finish. Clean, persistent and enjoyable in its youth. Lanval Wine Import LLC.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$118

91 Edouard Delaunay 2022 Vieilles Vignes (Gevey-Chambertin). The nose is bright yet concentrated, with red bramble compote, fresh thyme, white peppercorn, and rose petal. The palate turns earthy and savoury, showing hints of beef bouillon, clove, and tea leaf before a finish of dark cherry and fresh soil. Enjoy now.—A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2023 Closierie des Alisiers Vieilles Vignes (Gevey-Chambertin). The nose is rich and expressive, with concentrated dark cherry, strawberry compote, rose petal, violet, and a touch of black tea. The palate stays fresh and lively, balancing ripe fruit with gentle spice. An earthy, clean finish adds depth and keeps you reaching for another sip. Enjoy now. J & J Winery.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$105

NUITS-ST.-GEORGES

92 Claude Leblanc 2022 Vieilles Vignes (Nuits-St.-Georges). The nose is dark and compact, packed with black cherry, wild flowers, violet, thyme, mint, black peppercorn, rose, and fresh potting soil. The palate is equally opulent, with black plum, orange peel, white pepper, and herbal lift. A gentle finish of earthiness adds depth. Spicy, exotic, and compelling. Ventura Selections LLC.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$130

92 Moillard 2022 Éclat de Nuits (Nuits-St.-Georges). The nose shows deep black cherry, rose petal, and violet, all wrapped in intense oak spice. Rich and textured, the palate leans into dark roasted fruit and white pepper, with earthy mushroom notes lingering through the finish. It finishes with a trail of rose, alluvial stone, and soft tea. Age with confidence through 2030+. Advantage International Distributors, Inc.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

91 Claude Leblanc 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Nuits-St.-Georges). The nose is high toned and spicy, with Morello cherry, rhubarb, saffron, green peppercorn, beef bouillon, and limestone. The palate is deeply savory, showing brown mushroom up front, followed by plum and bouquet garni that flows into a seamlessly

long finish. Revisit after 2028. Ventura Selections LLC.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$130

91 Labouré-Roi 2022 Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). The nose is layered with sappy Morello cherry, dense plum, violets, wild thyme, and elegant oak spice. Bright acidity lifts the palate, giving levity to dark-cherry fruit with touches of spice and white pepper. Savory earthy mushroom notes carry in its long finish. Drink through 2030. Winebow Imports.—A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$86

SANTENAY

94 Domaine Roger Belland 2022 Beauregard Premier Cru (Santenay). The nose is dense and ripe, lifted by florals and spice. The palate opens with a compelling mineral attack, giving the wine real presence in the glass and it gains depth with air. Already showing well and built to age. Cellar confidently through 2036+. Ansonia Wines.—A.C.C.

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

94 Maison André Goichot 2022 La Maladière Premier Cru (Santenay). The nose is deep and concentrated, led by dark cherry with rose petal, white pepper, and limestone minerality. The palate is silky and spice driven, with clove and baking spice wrapped around black cherry and lingering limestone through a soft, stony finish. Balanced and persistent, it is approachable now but worth revisiting after 2028 for added nuance.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

93 Albert Bichot 2022 Clos Rousseau Premier Cru (Santenay). The nose shows baking spice and white tea framing a compact core of fresh cherry. With air, the spice settles into the fruit. The palate is structured with grippy, youthful tannins carrying white pepper and tea through the finish. Approachable now, though time in the cellar should be rewarding.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$74

93 Romuald Valot 2020 La Maladière Premier Cru (Santenay). The nose is deeply umami, led by shiitake mushroom layered with pressed dark red cherry, white pepper, thyme, and underbrush. The palate is savory and intense, with beef bouillon, white strawberry, rhubarb, and tea-like drying tannins that rein in the spice-floral finish. Cellar through 2035+.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

93 Roux Père et Fils 2022 Les Terrons Premier Cru (Santenay). Oak spice leads the nose, framing dense ripe red cherry and fresh rose petal, with notes of white pepper, wild thyme, and fresh earth. The palate is rich, showing dark red cherry, clove, rose, firm oak spice, and black pepper. Revisit after 2028+ to allow the oak tannins to integrate.—A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

BEAUNE

94 Moillard 2023 Premier Cru Champ Pimont (Beaune). This expression opens with white pepper, a touch of smoke, and rose petal framing a dense, fresh core of pressed red cherry and pomegranate. The palate is velvety with polished tannins and headiness that adds allure. Cellar through 2028 before revisiting. Advantage International Distributors, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$90

94 Xavier Monnot 2023 Les Cent-Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune). The nose is led by Amarena cherry, flint, thyme stem, violets, and firm limestone minerality. The palate is beautifully balanced, with pure red fruit framed by just enough oak spice. With its depth and structure, revisit it after 2028+ or cellar comfortably through 2036+. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$125

93 Domaine Jean Féry & Fils 2023 Les Cents Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune). This expression offers intense dark cherry concentration with ripe stems, rose petal, white mushroom, and refined oak spice on the nose. The palate exudes tart cherry, clove, and tea-like tannins framed by violets and soft earth. Nice persistence and structure, it should age well through 2036+. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$53

OTHER RED WINES

94 Charton et Trébuchet 2022 (Morey-Saint-Denis). The nose is bright with layers, mixing red berry compote, cooked rhubarb, white pepper, rose and crushed stone. Medium bodied with fine tannins, the palate bursts with cherry juice, clove, thyme stem and a soft clay-earth note. An easy crowd-pleaser now, with finesse to age through 2035+. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

94 Manuel Olivier 2022 (Morey-Saint-Denis). The nose is lush with fresh black cherry, wild strawberry, white pepper, rose, and a twist of blood orange peel. The palate is buoyant with pure red fruit and oak spice still integrating. It is enjoyable now, but it will reward time in the cellar. Revisit after 2028. Total Wine & More. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$89

94 Roux Père et Fils 2022 Les Frionnes Premier Cru (Saint-Aubin). The nose is powerful and deep, packed with dark cherry, sanguine iodine notes, beef bouillon, and a firm salt-and-pepper edge. Precise yet approachable, bright acidity carries silky black cherry, and black tea into a stony finish where the fruit still pops. Revisit after 2029 and cellar through 2035+. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$47

93 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 (Chassagne-Montrachet). This wine announces itself with a brooding rush of stewed black cherry, plum compote, sanguine notes, white pepper, rose petal, violet, and beef bouillon. The palate is generous and savory, finishing

long on tea leaf and stone. Drink now or cellar through 2035+. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$77

93 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Le Charmois Premier Cru (Saint-Aubin). The nose is layered with deep cherry skin, plum, baking spice, white tea, and fresh earth. Round and structured, it shows polished tannins with rose petal and a limestone-driven stony finish. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

93 Bader-Mimeur 2022 Château de Chassagne-Montrachet (Chassagne-Montrachet). This wine feels like the moment after a lover's quarrel, powerful, seductive and impossible to ignore. The nose is heady with rose petal, iodine, charred meat, black peppercorn, violet, white pepper, and fine herbs. Silky on the palate, it carries floral spice and white tea through a long finish. Delicious now, or cellar through 2035. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$66

92 Albert Bichot 2022 (Fixin). Oak spice leads the nose, layering into dense Morello cherry with violet, white tea, and green peppercorn adding depth. Bright acidity brings a touch of citrus bitterness at first, before fresh cherry gently coats the midpalate. Give this wine time to aerate, as it is still coming together. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$69

92 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2023 Bio (Chambolle-Musigny). Deep black cherry leads the nose, heady with violet, rose, fresh thyme and a limestone-like freshness. The palate is mineral-laden and linear and focused before leaving a soft trail of ripe red fruit and white pepper over tea. Long and deliciously approachable now. J & J Winery. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$150

91 Albert Bichot 2021 (Fixin). The nose is generous with ripe red strawberry and blood orange peel, framed by rose and peony. The palate leans into white pepper spice and fresh florals, with baked rhubarb and wild strawberry carrying through a long finish. Charming, classic and very easy to enjoy now. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Domaine Thierry Mortet 2023 (Bourgogne Passe-Tout-Grains). The nose opens with plump red berries and rose petal aromas. On the palate, pressed cherry, rhubarb, white pepper, and a touch of clove create a fresh, classic wine that pairs beautifully with a hearty beef stew. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES

SANCERRE

94 Domaine Girault 2023 Chêne Marchand (Sancerre). This is an attractive Sancerre, with aromas of bread dough, muddled Bosc pear, and golden apple charming the nose along with orange zest and

baby's breath. The palate is well-integrated with orchard fruit shining through supported by crushed stones and chalk-dusted acidity that refreshes. HB Wine Merchants. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$63

93 Domaine Girault 2023 Le Grand Chemarin (Sancerre). Enticing aromas of bread dough, freshly cut herbs, pear skin, forest floor, and green apple open on the nose. The wine kicks off with a subtle salinity that lifts orchard fruit and gives the midpalate more depth. The finish is delightfully extended with the lightest touch of lime citrus peel. HB Wine Merchants. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$70

93 Maison de Madeleine 2024 Cailottes (Sancerre). For full review see page 7. Tri Vin Imports Inc.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

93 Maison de Madeleine 2024 Terres Blanches (Sancerre). For full review see page 7. Tri Vin Imports Inc. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

92 Domaine Girault 2024 Les Grandes Genevrières (Sancerre). This attractive Sancerre is perfumed with aromas of orange zest, white peach, and Asian pear opening on the nose accented by white nectarine and lilac. Crushed stone and lemon peel open on a palate that is chalky in texture with pleasing minerality that flatters the finish. HB Wine Merchants. —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$56

92 Maison de Madeleine 2024 (Sancerre). For full review see page 10. Tri Vin Imports Inc.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

92 Maison de Madeleine 2024 Silex (Sancerre). For full review see page 10. Tri Vin Imports Inc.
abv: 13% Price: \$55

91 Grand Fossil 2024 (Sancerre). This wine combines floral and mineral elements into an elegant, seamless whole. Meadow breeze and white-peach aromas lift from the glass bolstered by a handful of freshly cut herbs and lilac. The palate is stony in texture with a rounded salinity that propels the finish along with dried lemon shavings. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$32

90 Barton & Guestier 2024 Les Terres Blanches (Sancerre). This is a classically made Sancerre. The wine opens with invigorating aromas of orange marmalade, papaya, and freshly sliced peach that are accented by a twist of tangerine. Flavors of green apple and chalk-dusted river stone infuse the palate that is sedate, restrained, and bright on the finish. BGPL USA. —R.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$50

OTHER WHITE WINE

92 **Domaine Delaunay 2024 Clos du Paradis (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine).** Lemon-gold in color, the wine opens with aromas of candied apple and chamomile along with subtle notes of pear tart and brioché. Supple in texture, the palate washes across wet river stone and dried lemon peel that provides uplift on the finish. Pair with schnitzel, ramen noodles, and focaccia. Wine Wine Situation LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

LOIRE VALLEY RED WINES

93 **Domaine Frédéric Mabileau 2022 Eclipse N°15 (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** This wine opens with fragrant aromas of mixed raspberries, black plum, graphite, and dried mushroom skin. On the palate, sanguine-infused flavors confidently bump up against black fruit, black olive, and rosehip. This wine is still youthful. Decant and enjoy now, or wait until 2029 to experience it at its best. Authentique Vin Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$64

92 **Domaine Frédéric Mabileau 2022 Les Couleurs (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** Aromas of blackberry, black plum, and pencil shavings swirl in the glass with forward momentum that flirts with dark chocolate. Sinewy tannins emerge against a backdrop of tart red fruit that energizes the palate and focuses the finish. Authentique Vin Selections. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Domaine De l'Abbaye 2019 Gloria Vieilles Vignes (Chinon).** This is the bottle you open when you're about to make dinner and still trying to figure out what you're going to make. The wine opens with fragrant aromas of black plum, cherry cola, and red cherry that charm the nose. The palate is chalky with dusty tannins that revolve around ripe fruit. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Domaine des Ormes 2019 (Saumur).** This wine is comfortable in its own skin. Perfumed aromas of pencil shavings, cedar and dried cherry flakes open on the nose joined by black plum. Somewhat steely in texture, the palate reveals grippy, youthful tannins and completes with a finish that goes on and on. FRUIT OF THE VINES. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

RHÔNE VALLEY WHITE WINES

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

95 **Brotte 2025 Les Hauts de Barville (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** The nose is fresh and pure, with white peach, freshly cut apple, acacia and soft

stone. Salinic mouthwatering acidity keeps the palate light, revealing clear Bosc pear and peach fruit. Delicious, refreshing and though it has capacity to age, it is very approachable now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

95 **Famille Lançon 2023 Domaine de la Solitude Blanc (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** The nose is brilliant, with bergamot, acacia, honeysuckle, fennel seed and a soft stone-clay earthiness. Fresh and mouthwatering, the palate has a gentle oily texture and real complexity, offering citrus and orange blossom, then hazelnut and wild florals. A lingering stony, spiced finish makes it perfect alone or with scallops in beurre blanc. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

94 **Brotte 2024 Secret Barville (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** The nose is delicate yet lifted, with orange and peach blossom, acacia, light herbaceous notes and wet river rock. Fresh and precise on the palate, stony midpalate tones lead into fleshy peach and white tea. Refreshing now, and lovely with herb-roasted turkey. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 **Domaine de Beurenard 2022 Le Boisrenard (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** The nose is fresh and refreshing, filled with white peach, Bosc pear, soft yellow flowers and wet river rock. Medium-bodied with a light silty texture, it opens with citrus oils, then orange pith and bergamot, finishing on stone and gentle almond. Perfect with garlic-grilled prawns. —A.C.C.

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

COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

94 **Domaine Gassier 2023 Lou Coucardié (Costières de Nîmes).** The nose is stately yet elegant, with fine vanilla, Meyer lemon, a gentle lactic touch and peach blossom. The palate is vibrant with a rush of acidity and salinity, building into hazelnut, soft stone and vanilla layers that weave effortlessly through the finish. Utterly captivating. WD Direct. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Château de Nages 2023 JT (Costières de Nîmes).** The nose is elegant with lemon verbena, bergamot, acacia flower and toasted hazelnut. Fresh pear and citrus florals shine on the palate, trailing into a gentle toasted macadamia richness. Rounded yet lifted by bright acidity, it pairs beautifully with vegetable bruschetta or tuna tartare. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.

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

89 **Château de Nages 2023 ButiNages (Costières de Nîmes).** Under screwcap, the nose is delicate and floral, with Meyer lemon, white peach, acacia and wet alluvial stone. The palate is lean but saline, showing citrus pith through the midpalate before finishing on a leesy-floral note. Perfect as an aperitif or with briny oysters. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

OTHER WHITE WINES

97 **E. Guigal 2018 Ex Voto (Ermitage).** The nose is complex and luxurious, with white peach, toasted almond, honeyed pastry, honeycomb, white pepper spice and delicate florals. The palate is richly layered, where ripe peach is wrapped in fine vanilla. A natural match for Comté, or roast chicken with buttery aligot. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$450

95 **Jean-Claude et Nicolas Fayolle 2019 Les Dionnières (Hermitage).** The nose is powerful and citrus-driven, with Meyer lemon, green pear, orange blossom and ocean spray. More intense on the palate, it layers citrus oils, a touch of smoke and acacia honey before a firm, stony finish. Ideal with complex dishes such as bouillabaisse or creamy lobster with caviar. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$93

94 **M. Chapoutier 2019 Chante-Alouette (Hermitage).** This is a beautifully poised wine, opening with fresh citrus, white peach, white tea and acacia honey over a stony freshness. The palate has a graceful spicy lift, showing white pepper and orange pith alongside a gentle crush of stone. Elegant, pure and captivating. —A.C.C.

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

90 **Famille Arnaud 2024 Château Courac (Côtes du Rhône Villages).** Enticing aromas of white peach, banana peel and apricot skin open on the nose followed by chamomile and orange blossom. The palate is rich in texture with acidity that lifts the midpalate toward the white-blossom-dusted finish. —A.C.C.

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

90 **Jean Luc Colombo 2024 La Redonne (Côtes du Rhône).** Aromas of lilac, SweetTARTS candy and peony open on the nose along with forest floor and white nectarine. The palate is textured with flavors of pencil shavings, crushed shells, and dried hay. This wine was meant to be paired with food including grilled cheese toast and Italian wedding soup. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.C.C.

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

ROSÉS

92 **Château La Verrerie 2023 Grand Deffand (Luberon).** Pink-orange in color, this wine has lively aromas of black plum, red-cherry purée, rose petal, and huckleberry. Red currant unfolds in 3D on the palate that is filled out with field herbs, sage brush, and dried hay that enhances the finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Château de Mille 2024 Rosé (Luberon).** This wine has a nose of red cherry, pomegranate, and white-peach skin accented by strawberry blossom. Slightly rounded and soft in texture, the palate unites red-fruit concentration suggested on the nose with a

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more subdued, graphite-dusted finish. The House of Burgundy. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$28

89 **Château La Verrerie 2024 (Luberon)**. Strawberry-infused cranberry aromas lift from the glass followed by rosehip and pink rose petal. The palate brings along hints of graphite, black-tea leaf, and pencil shavings followed by tart, mouthpuckering red cherry on the finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

RHÔNE VALLEY RED WINES

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

92 **Maison Sinnae 2024 Argentières (Côtes du Rhône)**. This Cotes du Rhône impresses. Deep purple in color, the wine has a nose of strawberry, forest floor, leather, and rosehip. Rich, dark, wiry fruit infuses the palate that is relaxed, generous, and bathed in graphite. Serve with beef stew, roasted eggplant and grilled steak. W. Direct Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$43

91 **Maison Sinnae 2024 Réserve de Roqueplane (Côtes du Rhône)**. This wine is whimsy in a glass. Black raspberry and fig aromas waft from the first swirl along with rhubarb and flakes of red-currant skin. The palate is fresh and bright with blackberry tart flavors that are pillowy-soft in texture. W. Direct Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$46

91 **Maison Sinnae 2024 Réserve du Grand Chemin (Côtes du Rhône)**. This wine is cheerful and playful. Violet blossom and black plum fruit converge on the nose along with sun-warmed red cherry and black olive. Soft, velvety tannins line the palate along with black plum and apricot skin that propel the finish. W. Direct Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$45

90 **Vidal-Fleury 2022 (Côtes du Rhône)**. Relaxed aromas of cranberry, rosehip, and red cherry flakes open on the nose. The palate is velvety in texture with grippy tannins that persist on the finish. Open now and let it breathe, or wait until 2027 to enjoy. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

89 **Cité desANGES 2023 (Côtes du Rhône)**. Cherry cola, black cherry, and papaya-dusted aromas open on the nose alongside cranberry and dried violet blossom. The palate is filled with concentrated red-and-black fruit that is buttressed by flavors of dark chocolate and boysenberry. Regal Wines Imports. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$15

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES

94 **Domaine de L'Amandine 2022 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret)**. Captivating from the first sniff, the nose is high toned with wild strawberry, raspberry, and kirsch, all about pure, vibrant fruit. Silky and finely textured, integrated tannins bring a terroir-driven edge, layering elegant red and plummy fruits with a powdery gravel note that lingers through the finish. The Wine Trust. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

93 **La Bastide Saint Dominique 2022 (Côtes du Rhône Villages)**. The nose is deep and layered, with cherry, wild strawberry, licorice, smoke, wild thyme, bay leaf, violet, and stone. Full bodied and powerful, a glycerol richness supports fresh cherry fruit, white pepper, and a gentle rosy lift. Approachable now, but built to cellar beautifully through 2040+. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$21

92 **Château Goudray 2022 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret)**. The nose is deep with black cherry set against oak spice, underbrush, and white peppercorn. More integrated on the palate, dark fruit is supported by cocoa-powder tannins and a soft thread of licorice through the finish. A superb match for braised venison with bitter greens. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$16

92 **Château La Couraçonne 2022 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret)**. The nose is heady and concentrated, rich with red cherry, rhubarb, licorice, and rose. Fresh and inviting in tone, it draws you straight in. The palate is velvety, with refreshing acidity teasing out darker licorice, tea leaf, and fine herbs before a soft, stony finish. Approachable now with a proper decant. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$16

90 **Château Goudray 2022 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu)**. The nose opens with cranberry, rhubarb, and plum, lifted by violet and a hint of spice. Compact and rich, the palate layers dense plum and garrigue with a firm midpalate presence. A soft granitic note carries through the finish. Give it a quick decant before enjoying. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$17

GIGONDAS

93 **Brotte 2024 La Marasque (Gigondas)**. High-toned florals lead the nose with iris, wild strawberry, thyme, lavender, white pepper, and crushed stone. The palate is nimble, flowing through black plum, red licorice, herbal, and floral layers, finishing dry with earth and a touch of cocoa powder. Delicious with lamb tagine. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$26

93 **Domaine Bruneley 2023 (Gigondas)**. Cedar leads the nose, overlaying compact cherry skin, white pepper, violet, and a hint of mushroom. The palate is deep with plum, black licorice, white pepper, and white tea. Tannins carry sour cherry and rosemary into a long,

stony finish. Decant and pair with duck breast in cherry sauce. Grape Expectations. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$26

93 **Victor Berard 2023 (Gigondas)**. The nose is compact and pure, with plum, cherry skin, violet, licorice, and fresh earth. Silky on the palate, fine tannins fold into juicy layers of deep plum and berry fruit, lifted by picked thyme. Approachable now, with cellar potential through 2035. —A.C.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$39

92 **Baron de Monte-Carlo 2023 (Gigondas)**. The nose is elegant and pure, with raspberry, blackberry, and fresh violets dusted with white pepper. Juicy and lifted by bright acidity, the palate balances ripe red and black fruits with a subtle compote richness. Vibrant and ready to enjoy now. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

92 **La Grivelière 2022 (Gigondas)**. The nose is deep and expressive, with cherry, black cherry, clove, white pepper, violet, and scorched earth. Velvety in texture, fine tannins support a generous palate where earthy tones build into an herbaceous finish. Approachable now with a proper decant. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$36

VACQUEYRAS

93 **Baron de Monte-Carlo 2023 (Vacqueyras)**. The nose is deep and dark, with jammy blackberry, white pepper, clove, wild thyme, iris, and forest floor. Well structured, round tannins draw out dried herbs and a savoriness through the midpalate, while fresh acidity carries a stony, mineral finish. Revisit after 2028 and hold confidently through 2035+. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$60

93 **Brotte 2024 Bouvencourt (Vacqueyras)**. The nose is fresh and layered, with plum, strawberry, rose, cinnamon, and wild thyme. Serious and expressive, the palate builds from bright red licorice into an herbaceous core shaped by firm tannins. Light berry fruit trails into a long, stony finish dusted with cocoa powder. Perfect with duck confit and lentils. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$22

93 **Domaine de la Verde 2023 Villa Verde (Vacqueyras)**. The nose is generous and richly layered, with fig compote, blackberry, blood orange, anise, mushroom, iris, and forest floor. Structured and refreshed by bright acidity, the palate delivers dense black cherry, tea, clove, and black licorice through the finish. Cellar until 2028 before revisiting. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$27

93 **Famille Ravoire 2022 Olivier Ravoire (Vacqueyras)**. The nose is intense, with Morello cherry, blackberry, sanguine iodine notes, violet, and struck granite minerality. Very dry and firm, mouthpuckering tannins grip deep dark fruit, olive, and peppercorn.

A powerful granitic edge drives the finish. Revisit after 2028. Fruit of the Vines. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Guillaume Gonnet 2022 Le Sauvage (Vacqueyras). The nose is deep and dark, with black plum and cherry wrapped in violet, bay leaf, and scorched earth. Full bodied and structured, the palate layers deep cherry, beef bouillon, fine herbs, and rosemary, finishing on granite. Intense and powerful, it calls for a bold pairing like steak au poivre. MISA Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Halos de Jupiter 2022 (Vacqueyras). The nose is juicy and complex, with ripe plum, cranberry, anise, dried herbs, cinnamon, rosemary, cured meat, and forest floor, all carrying a savory edge. Serious and focused on the palate, it layers black cherry, licorice, fennel, and Provençal herbs, finishing with bitter chocolate. Perfect with sausage over lentils. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

93 Kirkland Signature 2023 (Vacqueyras). The nose is energetic and focused, with ripe blackberry, wild strawberry, rose, thyme, and stony freshness. Mouthwatering acidity lifts the palate, highlighting layers of fresh plum, olive tapenade, and dried rose petal. Rustic tannins carry tea and herbal notes through the finish. Ideal with game, such as venison with blackberry gastrique. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

93 Ogier 2024 La Pourpre (Vacqueyras). The nose is deep and warm, with cherry and plum layered with sanguine notes, licorice, white tea, heady rose, and wild thyme. Juicy and delightful on the palate, it offers kirsch, blackberry, and peppercorn before finishing on stone and cocoa. Fresh acidity and polished tannins give length. Enjoy now with proper aeration. Cannon Wines Limited. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

93 Romain Duvernay 2022 (Vacqueyras). The nose is deep and brooding, with plum skin, fennel, umami, sanguine notes, underbrush, cedar, and dark chocolate. The palate is powerful and savory, layering black cherry, cured meat, cocoa powder, and crushed stone. This is a meaty wine that demands a bold pairing, such as venison or bison. DHI Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

93 Victor Berard 2022 (Vacqueyras). The nose shows plum skin, blackberry, violet, wild thyme, and cracked white pepper, framed by rose petal. Despite its structure, bright acidity brings freshness, while the palate remains deeply savory with dark plum, black olive, and iris. Crushed granite marks the finish. This wine needs time. Cellar until 2028 before revisiting. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

CAIRANNE

92 Domaine A. Berthet-Rayne 2022 Castel Mireio (Cairanne). The nose is wild and energetic, with plum and wild strawberry lifted by rose, white pepper, and white tea. Fresh and perfectly ripe, it leads into a velvety palate of black olive, wild thyme, bay leaf, and crushed stone. Fine tea-like tannins give poise. Pair with a flatbread topped with olives, tomatoes, and anchovies. Elite Wine Imports, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Boutinot 2021 La Cote Sauvage (Cairanne). The nose is layered with dark plum compote, violet, dried lavender, white pepper, and granite. Structured yet approachable, the palate carries deep dark fruit lifted by bay leaf, pepper, freshly turned earth, and cypress notes. Perfect with spicy salami or pata negra with peppers. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Brotte 2022 Domaine Grosset (Cairanne). The nose is heady with violets and lavender over juicy red cherry and raspberry, framed by wild thyme. The palate brings rich plum fruit, plenty of white pepper, and a grounding layer of soft clay and crushed stone. Delicious with Asian beef noodle dishes or soups. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$21

91 Vignobles et Compagnie 2022 Les Terrasses de L'Aygues (Cairanne). The nose is high-toned and exuberantly juicy, with raspberry, wild strawberry, thyme, and white pepper. Velvety in texture, silky tannins support fresh black plum, red liquorice, bay leaf, and lavender, finishing with a soft black-tea note. Delicious to enjoy now. Aftermath Wine & Spirits LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Domaine de Galuval 2021 La Montagne (Cairanne). The nose is rich and layered, with plum compote, blackberry, and fig, edged by thyme, leather, and savory meaty undertones. The palate turns deeply savory, showing roasted meat, cocoa dust, fennel seed, black licorice, and crushed stone. Dark, textured and ideal with dishes featuring olive tapenade. Monsieur Touton Selection LTD. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

96 Crous Saint Martin 2022 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). The nose is dark yet high toned, loaded with black plum, cassis, orange peel, wild thyme, violet, truffle, and dried earth. The palate is impressive, layering fresh red berries with rose petal and firm stony minerals, finishing with a saline edge. Stunning now with any steak and built to cellar through 2035+. Tri Vin Imports Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Château Malijay 2022 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). The nose is hedonistic and juicy, packed with plum and strawberry compote, threaded with fresh

rose petal. Striking and immediately inviting, it follows with layered complexity on the palate, driven by mouth-watering acidity. White pepper and garrigue sit over red fruit, with mushroom and cocoa through the finish. Delicious now, yet built to cellar through 2040. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

94 Clos de L'Oratoire des Papes 2022 Les Chorégies (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). High toned and sun soaked on the nose, bursting with berry compote, kirsch, rose, peppercorn, olive, and fresh earth. The palate is opulent yet balanced, layered with exotic spice over a core of cherry skin, licorice, and white tea. Already a pleasure to drink, but built to cellar well through 2035+. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$150

94 Domaine St Patrice 2019 Clos St Patrice (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This wine opens with deep black cherry and cranberry framed by white pepper, spice, and heady violet. The palate is full bodied and juicy, revealing savory notes of sanguine, iodine, exotic spice, dried flowers, clove, and tea. A natural match for braised lamb with fresh herbs and garlic. Ventura Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$163

94 Domaine St Patrice 2018 Clos St Patrice (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This is an energetic, expressive wine with rhubarb, licorice, and cranberry on the nose, lifted by rose and white pepper. The palate is elegant, with a polished mouthfeel and bright acidity that draws out dried herbs and spice through the midpalate, finishing long with rosy tones and stone. A natural fit for rabbit braised with fresh herbs. Ventura Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$163

94 Famille Quiot 2019 Domaine du Vieux Lazarret Cuvée Exeptionnelle (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). The nose is spice driven, with fennel seed and potpourri layered over pressed cherry and plum, edged by cinnamon stick. The palate follows with kirsch, white pepper, violet, and black plum through the finish. Approachable now, but built to cellar confidently through 2038+. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Clos de L'Oratoire des Papes 2020 Les Chorégies (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This wine opens with a deep, savory nose of cherry skin, rose, licorice, leather, black olive, warm earth, and garrigue. The palate is rustic and powerful, with youthful tannins driving flavors of fig, black tea, white pepper, and cured meat. Structured and built to age, it should cellar well through 2035+. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

93 Domaine de Beurenard 2021 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Deep aromas of fig, black licorice, fennel, rose petal, cocoa powder and forest floor meld into a brooding nose. The palate is rich and savory, with rustic tannins that draw in notes of blood orange, sanguine and cured meat before a long, bitter-chocolate

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finish. Built for meaty pairings especially Provençal sausages. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

93 **Domaine Le Prieuré des Papes 2020 La Bessade (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** The nose is vibrant with raspberry, pomegranate, cherry skin, wild strawberry, wild thyme, rose petal, and white pepper. Fresh and expressive, the palate layers licorice and herbal flavor with clove and white tea through the finish. Approachable now, but built to age gracefully through 2040. Non-U.S. imported. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$109

93 **Domaine St Patrice 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Pretty and expressive on the nose, showing Pinot-like characteristics with a heady core of rose and roasted earth. It's an appealing mix of juicy and savory. The palate is open and inviting, delivering strawberry compote, orange peel, licorice, and mushroom. Easy to enjoy now with a short decant or easily pair with fougasse and anchovies. Ventura Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

93 **Guillaume Gonnet 2017 La Muse (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** This wine opens with Morello cherry, sanguine, iodine, sage, mushroom, rose petal, and stone on the nose. The palate is velvety, with fine tannins that grip the front of the mouth and draws out delicate ripe red fruit that grows more intriguing with air. Approachable with a proper decant or revisit after 2028. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

93 **Saint Cosme 2021 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Layered aromas of black plum, fennel, anise, rose, and dusty earth immediately draw you in. The palate is driven by bright acidity, highlighting juicy licorice and berry notes over a deep core of fig and blackberry with an edge of white pepper, dried flowers, and herbs. Built for the long haul and should be best after a few more years in bottle. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

93 **Vidal-Fleury 2020 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** This wine shows a high-toned, expressive nose of red cherry, rhubarb, and wild berries layered with rose and underbrush. The palate is juicy and well-balanced, framed by polished tannins that carry red fruit and a hint of red licorice into a finish of sage and warm earth. Approachable with a proper decant or cellar confidently through 2035. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

93 **Vignobles & Compagnie 2022 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** The nose is firm and focused, with a mineral edge framing black cherry, anise, dried orange peel, saddle leather, and peppercorn. Structured and linear, the palate shows polished tannins supporting fresh blackberry, garrigue, and scorched earth. Cocoa powder and warm stone mark the finish. Revisit after 2028. Tri Vin Imports Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 **Clos du Calvaire 2021 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Juicy and seductive on the nose, with lay-

ers of raspberry, stewed fruit, white pepper, wild thyme, and warm stone. The palate is more savory, offering licorice, anise, bay leaf, and white pepper. Velvety in texture, this is easy to enjoy now yet built to cellar gracefully through 2035+. Great Blue Sea Wines. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$54

92 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2021 La Dame Voyageuse (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** A wild, expressive nose of stewed fruit, anise, fennel, dried flowers, and cedar leaps from the glass. Mouthwatering acidity lifts a firmly structured palate with plum, bacon fat, lavender, and forest floor, finishing with black tea. Built to cellar confidently through 2040+. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

93 **Bellecoste 2022 (Costières de Nîmes).** Black cherry skin, iron, rose, wild thyme, and broken granite shape a sun-drenched, expressive nose. Spicy and energetic on the palate, it delivers white pepper, pressed cherry, rhubarb, and white tea, finishing with a touch of licorice. A perfect match for sausage with lentils. WD Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 **Château de Nages 2022 Héritage (Costières de Nîmes).** Fresh strawberry and cranberry fill the glass, with an edge of white pepper and dried earthy notes. Silky and supple, it shows a herbaceous midpalate with light clove spice over pressed cherry fruit. Warm and rustic in character, it will shine alongside lightly charred roast chicken. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 **Château de Valcombe 2021 Garance Syrah (Costières de Nîmes).** The nose already exudes silkiness, with dark cherry, cranberry, violet, wild thyme, and soft stone aromas. Pressed cherry skin drives the palate, layered with white tea and a gentle saline edge. Fine tannins cling on lightly, drawing out a stony finish. Perfect with a pork banh mi sandwich. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

93 **Coste Arena 2023 (Costières de Nîmes).** The nose is juicy and inviting, with wild strawberry, rhubarb, white pepper, rose, and fresh stone. The palate is delicious and focused, layering fresh cherry fruit with clove and spice. Silky, versatile and beautifully approachable, it is a wine that Pinot Noir lovers will instantly appreciate. WD Direct. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

93 **Domaine Gassier 2019 Lou Coucardié (Costières de Nîmes).** The nose is deep and intense, opening with cedar and dried herbs before unfolding into violet, black cherry, and leather. The palate is dark and savory, with truffle, black tea, and cocoa powder through the midpalate. Decant now, or cellar until 2028. Pair with garlic-roasted lamb or sheep's cheese. WD Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 **Halos de Jupiter 2022 (Costières de Nîmes).** Made from 85% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre,

and 5% Syrah, this wine opens with dark-red bramble fruit wrapped in rose and violet aromatics. The palate is fresh and finely balanced, with ripe berries and mineral lift trailing softly through the finish. Lovely to enjoy by itself or with Gruyère. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

92 **Château d'Or et de Gueules 2022 Les Cimels (Costières de Nîmes).** Made from 60% Syrah, 30% Carignan, and 10% Grenache, this is a voluminous wine with dark cherry, sanguine iron, black peppercorn, rose, and dried earth on the nose. Full bodied and rich, it layers baking spice, black plum, and firm granite tannins, finishing on clove, cocoa and black cherry. Pair with herb-crusted pork tenderloin. Global Spirits and Wine. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Château d'Or et de Gueules 2021 Trassegum (Costières de Nîmes).** Made from 50% Syrah, 30% Mourvèdre, and 20% Carignan, this wine has a deep cherry core framed by wild thyme, green olive, and violet. Full bodied, it opens with baking spice and stewed fruit, supported by fresh earth and round tannins that carry clove through its long finish. Approachable now. Global Spirits and Wine. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 **Château d'Or et de Gueules 2020 Quesaquo (Costières de Nîmes).** A blend of Carignan and Syrah, this wine opens with generous aromas of ripe Morello cherry, rose, white pepper, wild thyme, smoke, and black peppercorn. The palate turns more herbaceous, with bay leaf and fine herbs over pressed black-cherry skin. Fresh acidity gives balance. Give it air, then enjoy with rosemary-grilled lamb chops. Global Spirits and Wine. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 **Château de Nages 2021 JT (Costières de Nîmes).** Composed of 95% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, this wine opens with blackberry and kirsch compote, dried thyme, violets, black peppercorn, and earthy depth on the nose. Energetic and juicy, it delivers ample blackberry fruit with an edge of white pepper. Silky yet powerful, it finishes long making it a good companion for layered dishes such as moussaka. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 **Château de Valcombe 2023 Les Sentiers de Septembre (Costières de Nîmes).** Made from 60% Syrah, 30% Grenache, and 10% Mourvèdre, this wine opens with ripe red cherry, pomegranate, menthol, violet, rose, and warm earthy tones. Full bodied with rustic tannins, the palate layers dried cherry, cranberry, blood orange, lavender, saffron, and clove. Ideal with herb-crusted grilled lamb. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

92 **Domaine Gassier 2023 Fleur de Syrah (Costières de Nîmes).** The nose is ripe and jammy with red bramble fruit, lifted by rose and wild thyme. The palate is beautifully balanced, showing cherry skin, pomegranate, white pepper, and tea leaf, with a fine-salt minerality. It finishes long and stony,

edged with a touch of milk chocolate. W Direct. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 **Château de Nages 2019 VOX (Costières de Nîmes).** The nose is high toned, with raspberry and cherry skin woven through baking spice, green olive, and fresh underbrush. Structured and mouthfilling, round tannins cling gently, drawing out white peppercorn and licorice through a persistent finish. Give it ample aeration, then enjoy alongside a juicy beef burger. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

91 **Domaine de Poulvarel 2022 Le Domaine Rouge (Costières de Nîmes).** The nose is bright and lifted, filled with wild strawberry, dark cherry, and an edge of garrigue and crushed stone. The palate is beautifully balanced, with mouthwatering acidity and polished tannins carrying a core of dark cherry fruit that lingers gracefully through the finish. New Last Bottle Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$8

90 **Joseph Castan 2023 Secret des Galets (Costières de Nîmes).** Iris florals lead the nose, followed by fresh dark cherry with stem, rhubarb, and a lift of white pepper. The palate is driven by dark cherry and green pepper, finishing on a graceful return of floral and herbal notes. Pair with seared pork tenderloin medallions in a crushed peppercorn cream sauce. W Direct. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

88 **Château Cailleteau Bergeron 2025 Tradition (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Mainly Sauvignon Blanc with a touch of perfumed Sauvignon Gris, this is a light, fresh wine with a jasmine aroma. Its crisp texture and lively acidity will be ready to drink later this year. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Zephyr NV Signature (Bordeaux Blanc).** An intensely green, herbal wine, this is laden with acidity and citrus crispness. The aroma emphasizes the wine's grassy character. Drink now. Bonnete Consulting Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

SPARKLING WINES

90 **Louis Vallon NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Bordeaux).** Taking advantage of the creaminess of Sémillon, this sparkling wine has a smooth texture lifted by a ripe tropical fruit richness. With its nutty aroma and brightness from the sparkle, the wine is rich and ready to drink. Bonnete Consulting Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

90 **Louis Vallon NV Blanc de Noirs (Bordeaux).** A blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot has created a lightly textured wine with balanced acidity and red fruits. It is fruity, its smoky aroma adding to the complexity of this fine wine. Drink now. Bonnete Consulting Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

88 **Louis Vallon NV Brut (Bordeaux).** Mainly Sémillon, this wine is rounded with a smooth, creamy texture lifted acidity, and an almond aroma. It's an attractive wine, full of white fruit. Drink now. Bonnete Consulting Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 **Louis Vallon NV Rosé Brut (Bordeaux).** Ripe strawberries and a touch of spice have created a crisp wine with a yeasty aroma and fresh acidity. Drink now. Bonnete Consulting Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

ROSÉ

87 **Château Cailleteau Bergeron 2025 Villa Cailleteau (Bordeaux Rosé).** This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon rosé is fresh with a peppery aroma, spice, and red berry crispness. The wine's texture suggests some tannins in the background, giving it shape. Suitable for vegans. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

BORDEAUX RED WINES BORDEAUX

91 **Château Rauzan-Gassies 2023 L'Orme de Rauzan-Gassies (Bordeaux).** A portion of the Rauzan-Gassies vineyard outside Margaux has produced a structured wine with some solid tannins and layers of black fruits. Its licorice aroma and succulent blackberry fruits are enticing and promising. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

88 **Château Jalousie Beaulieu 2024 Réserve (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine is soft, young but already showing signs of rapid development. With a cinnamon aroma, black currant, licorice flavors, and gentle tannins, the wine should be ready from 2027. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Chateau l'Heyrisson 2022 Frank's Reserve (Bordeaux).** A juicy, black-currant-dominated wine with a core of tannins that demand some aging. It is a ripe wine, dominated by coffee aroma and jammy Merlot ripeness. Drink from later this year. Solstars Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château Sainte-Marie 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A spicy, ripe and

vibrant wine with a blueberry aroma and layers of smooth black fruits with acidity. It is developing fast. Drink the wine from later this year. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

86 **Zephyr NV Signature (Bordeaux).** A straightforward wine with black fruits and soft tannins, this is a multi-year red blend. It has a red berry aroma and a light texture. Drink now. Bonnete Consulting Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

FRONSAC

92 **Château de Carles 2022 (Fronsac).** The wine, with its licorice aroma, has spicy black currant fruits and ripe tannins. The fruit is succulent and full. Fining with egg whites. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Château de Carles 2022 Haut Carles (Fronsac).** A firm wine with ripe tannins and a solid structure, this shows the potential for rich Merlot as it develops. The wine should be ready from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Château la Valade 2022 L'intime (Fronsac).** The wine's black-currant aroma is enticing, with ripe berry flavors and some solid tannins. It is a ripe, attractive wine, full of fruits as well as tannins. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Château Castagnac 2022 (Fronsac).** The wine's texture is firm and dense with ripe tannins that are still prominent. It is young, its ripe black fruits sit beneath the structure. The wine is promising. Drink from 2027. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

91 **Château Mayne-Vieil 2023 (Fronsac).** This rich wine, with spice and black-currant fruits to the fore, is deliciously fresh. It has a background core of ripe tannins as well as juicy acidity. With its blackberry aroma, drink from 2028. Prime Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

91 **Chateau Tessendey 2023 (Fronsac).** A juicy wine with ripe tannins and layers of black fruits. With its black-pepper aroma, the wine is juicy, full of fruit and energy. Drink from 2028. Boutique Beverage Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 **Château Tour Bel Air 2023 (Fronsac).** The tannins of this fine wine are well balanced with the black-currant fruits. With its cinnamon aroma and its succulent character, the wine should develop well. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

BUYINGGUIDE

90 **Château Dalem 2023 (Fronsac).** A juicy wine, with ripe tannins and plenty of spice from 18 months wood aging, this is well balanced. The wine, with its black-fruit aroma and its dry core has plenty of aging potential. Drink from 2027. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château de Carles 2023 (Fronsac).** A ripe, balanced wine, this has plenty of layers of fine berry flavors under a core of smoky tannins. The wine has the freshness and spice of the vintage. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château La Rose Garnier 2022 (Fronsac).** The core of this wine, with its firm tannins, is promising. It has weight and structure to go with the fresh fruits. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château La Vieille Croix 2023 La Belle Endormie (Fronsac).** The wine's juicy black currant fruits are full of promise. With a core of tannins, it is balanced and fresh, with a fine, ripe aftertaste. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château Vrai Canon Bouché 2023 (Fronsac).** This wine has depth and ripe black fruits. It is full bodied, its rich tannins supporting blackberry flavors and a succulent texture. The wine, with its black-coffee aroma, is likely to be ready from 2028. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château de Carles 2023 Haut Carles (Fronsac).** The structure of this wine is very present, giving a dry character to set against the black currant fruits. It is, though, a wine with a future, full and with a fine licorice aroma. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château de la Dauphine 2023 (Fronsac).** A buoyant wine, this has bright spice and acidity. The bramble aroma and firm tannins are in harmony with the juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2028. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château du Fort Pontus 2022 (Fronsac).** Juicy with a ripe texture, this wine has coffee flavors, a ripe dark-chocolate aroma and cinnamon spice. It is likely to be ready from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Jeandeman 2022 La Chêne raie (Fronsac).** The wine is juicy, spicy and with attractive black fruits. Set against this are firm tannins that suggest long-term aging. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château l'Escarderie 2023 Amphora (Fronsac).** This is a fruity wine with soft tannins cushioning the blackberry flavors. A spicy aroma comes from wood aging, lifting the wine's freshness and a juicy aftertaste. Dionysos Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château l'Escarderie 2023 Passion (Fronsac).** A ripe wine, this is full of fresh black currant fruits. Soft tannins mean it is developing well, giving spice and a ripe texture. Drink this aromatic wine from 2028. Dionysos Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

89 **Château la Valade 2023 (Fronsac).** Full bodied, the wine has ripe tannins and a juicy black-currant character. Its texture is still firm but beginning to soften. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Renard 2022 Mondésir (Fronsac).** A lean wine, still developing, showing blackberry fruits and a core of tannins. The wine, with a black-pepper aroma, has a fine, juicy aftertaste. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Castagnac 2023 (Fronsac).** A balanced wine, this has blackberry fruits and ripe tannins. There is a black-currant aroma and a fine freshness. Drink from 2028. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 **Château de la Dauphine 2022 (Fronsac).** This is a firm wine, its tannins still prominent. With ripe blackberry fruits developing and a dry edge, the wine has a way to go. Drink from 2028. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château George 7 2023 (Fronsac).** The wine has a gamy aroma followed by black pepper and spice flavors. It is still firmly textured, needing time to prove its potential. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château l'Escarderie 2023 (Fronsac).** The wine is juicy and fresh, with its tannins showing well against the black-currant flavors. The wine is developing quickly. Drink from 2027. Dionysos Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château Lalande Mousse 2022 (Fronsac).** Full of black plum flavors accented with black chocolate, the wine is ripe and textured. Solid tannins work in its favor. Drink the wine from 2027. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

88 **Château Mayne-Vieil 2023 Aliénor (Fronsac).** The wine is firm with dry tannins and a licorice aroma. Its weight promises balance and a fine development. Drink from 2028. Prime Wine & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

87 **Château Plain Point 2023 (Fronsac).** A strong aroma of new wood that translates on to the palate, masks the fruit of this wine. It has a spicy character that should open up. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

CANON-FRONSAC

92 **Château Canon Péresse 2022 (Canon-Fronsac).** A core of solid tannins shows the promise of this wine. It will develop into a powerful wine as it matures, with ripe black fruits and a balance of tannic texture. Drink the wine from 2028. Millésima USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Château Vrai Canon Bouché 2022 (Canon-Fronsac).** This chocolate-flavored wine, with its licorice aroma is still developing. It has spice, ripe tannins and the beginning of succulent black currant fruits. Drink from 2028. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Canon Péresse 2023 (Canon-Fronsac).** This is a dry wine, its fruit still buried under the firm tannins. But it has weight and layers of black-currant fruits, and a fine future. Drink from 2028. Millésima USA. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Coustolle 2023 (Canon-Fronsac).** This is a young, juicy wine with ripe tannins and open blackberry flavors. It is rich with a black-plum skin aroma and spicy texture. Drink from 2028. European Wine Imports of Ohio. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 **Château Canon La Valade 2023 (Canon-Fronsac).** The wine's structure is still very firm. Set against blackberry fruits and a licorice aroma, the wine is solid and full of tannins. Wait to drink until 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château la Valade 2022 (Canon-Fronsac).** The wine's red-fruit flavors and spice and black pepper are rounded and lifted. It is a warm style with open fruitiness. It will be ready from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château Lamarche Canon 2022 (Canon-Fronsac).** The wine has a meaty aroma and a dry core. The blend, Cabernet Franc-Malbec-Merlot, seems to lack its fruit at this stage. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

LALANDE DE POMEROL

90 **Château Haut-Chaigneau 2023 (Lalande de Pomerol).** A ripe and juicy wine, with dense Merlot and a touch of spice from Cabernet Franc, this is balanced and developing well. Its texture and its blackberry aroma are in harmony. Drink from 2027. Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 **Château Grand Ormeau 2023 (Lalande de Pomerol).** The wine's ripeness contrasts with brightness and layers of attractive acidity. It is a full-

bodied wine, dense and with juicy acidity and a truffle aroma. Drink from 2027. —R.V.

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

89 Vignobles Chatonnet 2023 La Sergue (Lalande de Pomerol). This juicy wine, with its ripe tannins and spicy acidity is structured with a core of ripeness and black-currant flavors. It is a terroir plot blend of Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Merlot. The wine will be ready from 2027. Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

MARGAUX

95 Château Cantenac Brown 2023 Château Cantenac Brown (Margaux). A smooth, ripe wine, this has a core of serious tannins for aging. Its density, black-currant fruits and richness are promising. This is a serious wine, with licorice aroma and spice from wood aging. Drink this fine wine from 2029. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Château Giscours 2023 (Margaux). An impressive wine led by Cabernet Sauvignon, this has ripe tannins and a spice and black-currant flavor. The wine's structure shows well with a firm core and a black-pepper aroma. The wine is developing in a stately fashion, ready to drink from 2029. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$62

94 Château Siran 2023 (Margaux). For full review see page 5. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

93 Château Giscours 2023 La Sirène de Giscours (Margaux). Bold and ripe, this is the second wine of classed growth Château Giscours. It is balanced with juicy black-currant flavors and a blackberry aroma, with tannins to match. The wine will be ready from 2028. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

93 Château Mille Roses 2023 (Margaux). This ripe, creamy wine, with fully integrated tannins, fine spice and black-currant fruit flavors, is generous. It is developing with promising richness. Drink the wine from 2028. EU Family Estates. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Marojallia 2023 (Margaux). This small estate, created with the advice of famed consultant Michel Rolland, has produced a dense wine. With its firm core, black-coffee aroma and juicy black-currant flavor, the wine is finely tempered with a fresh, juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2029. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château le Coteau 2023 (Margaux). This is a ripe, finely textured wine that has soft, balanced tannins and spicy blackberry fruits. A black-currant aroma and a fresh touch complete an attractive, juicy wine. Drink from 2027. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Château Rauzan-Gassies 2023 (Margaux). This ripe, chocolatey wine with its rich tannins is finely structured with a ripe texture and layers of blackberry fruits. Its density is well balanced with acidity and a succulent aftertaste. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Château des Graviers 2023 (Margaux). A firm wine, showing solid tannins balanced by juicy acidity. Its buoyant blackberry flavors and spicy aroma are developing in parallel. Drink the wine from 2028. Organic. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Clos Dufourg 2023 (Margaux). The wine, from one of the inland villages of the Margaux appellation, is structured and balanced. It has a fine black-coffee aroma and ripe tannins, underpinning black-currant fruit flavors. Drink from 2028. Organic. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

SAINT-ÉMILION

93 Château Roylland 2023 (Saint-Émilion). This balanced wine is brightly lit with black-currant flavors and acidity. Its blueberry aroma and crushed spice flavors are full of promise. The wine should be ready from 2028. Votto Vines. —R.V.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

92 Château Montlabert 2023 (Saint-Émilion). This wine, with its ripe tannins and black fruits is juicy while also textured. The wine's black-currant fruit and firm core are finely balanced, showing a structure for aging. Drink from 2028. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Vignobles Chatonnet 2023 L'Archange (Saint-Émilion). The wine's spice and acidity come together with blackberry fruits and a core of tannins. A fine wine from a single plot, smooth and with a black-coffee aroma, this has plenty of potential. Drink from 2028. Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

91 Château l'Annonciation 2023 (Saint-Émilion). The wine's black-coffee aroma and its ripe blueberry fruits are already rich and full. It is powerful, packed with tannins and structure. Drink from 2028. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

90 Château Lalande de Gravet 2023 Réserve (Saint-Émilion). Fine black-currant aromas and ripe tannins have produced a wine that is well balanced and full of juicy fruits. The blackberry flavor, laced with acidity and spice show a wine that will be ready from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Château Monlot 2023 (Saint-Émilion). A smooth wine after 14 months in barrels, with the black-currant fruits masking the core of solid tan-

nins, this is rich and full. Drink this wine, with its blueberry aroma, from 2027. —R.V.

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

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

96 Château Cos d'Estournel 2023 (Saint-Estèphe). An impressive wine, its black-chocolate aroma and rich, firm texture promising considerable potential. With layers of black currant and spice flavors, this powerful young wine has great intensity. Drink the wine from 2029. Duclot La Vinicole. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$158

95 Château Lafon-Rochet 2023 (Saint-Estèphe). With tannins powering through black plum fruits and firm texture, there is plenty of aging potential. With new wood still showing in this fine wine, it should be ready to drink from 2029. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$47

95 Château Phélan-Ségur 2023 (Saint-Estèphe). This is a dense wine, powered with tannins that are balanced by black-currant fruits and a generous texture. It is a fine wine in need of aging to reveal its best. Drink from 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Lilian Ladouys 2023 (Saint-Estèphe). This impressive wine is at the top of its form. Balancing tannins, black-currant fruits, and a firm texture, the wine is ripe and concentrated. The dark chocolate just emphasizes the wine's potential. Drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

93 Château Clauzet 2023 (Saint-Estèphe). The wine's spice and black-plum aroma leads to a firm texture and a wine that boasts a good quota of tannins. Its richness comes from the structure and the concentrated black-currant aromas. Drink from 2028. V. Suárez & Company, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Château la Haye 2023 (Saint-Estèphe). This former trysting place of King Henry III and Diane de Poitiers is now a seven-acre property dedicated mostly to Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The latest release is dense with concentrated blackberry fruits and ripe tannins. The wine's dark-chocolate aroma and its texture hang well together. Drink from 2028. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Château Lafon-Rochet 2023 Les Pèlerins de Lafon-Rochet (Saint-Estèphe). The second wine of Lafon-Rochet is a balanced blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. The result is wine with ripe tannins partnering with the spicy black-currant fruits. It has structure that will begin to soften shortly, so that the wine will be ready from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

93 **Château Bourgneuf 2023 (Pomerol).** Rich Merlot dominates this dense wine. It is concentrated with sweet black-plum fruits and a solid core of tannins. The wine's dark-coffee aroma and its structure are developing, but will take time. Drink from 2028. Maison Marques et Domaines. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

92 **Château Giscours 2023 (Haut-Médoc).** The wine, with its black-currant aroma and smooth, velvet texture, is a classic focus on Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It comes from portion of the Giscours vineyard that is outside the Margaux appellation. Ripe and wood-aged, the wine will be ready from 2027. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$30

92 **Château Haut Bacalan 2023 (Pessac-Léognan).** An attractive blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot aged in new wood. This is spicy with firm black fruits, and a black-pepper aroma and tannins. It is a dense wine with the light of acidity shining through. Drink from 2028. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 **Château Langlais 2022 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** From a top vintage, this wine shows bold black tannins and rich black fruits. It is structured, and succulent, with a black-pepper aroma and a firm aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Organic. T. Edward Wines. —R.V.

abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 **Château Croizet-Bages 2023 Alias Croizet-Bages (Pauillac).** This is a smooth, ripe wine, based on Cabernet Sauvignon, with black-currant fruits and generous tannins. Its truffle aroma and pepper aftertaste do show the high alcohol. Drink from 2028. —R.V.

abv: 15% Price: \$NA

90 **Château Réaut 2023 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Ripe blackberry flavors and layers of acidity present a dense and concentrated wine yet an already smooth taste. Its black-chocolate aroma and soft texture are attractive and the wine will be ready from 2027. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

90 **Vieux Château Palon 2023 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** A smoky wine, full of ripe tannins and black-plum fruits, this has spice and a fine, tangy texture. The wine has a rich core, a pepper aroma and good potential. Drink from 2027. Total Wine & More. —R.V.

abv: 15% Price: \$30

89 **Château de Haut Coulon 2023 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** A firm wine, with solid tannins, this is dense, packed with black-currant and spice flavors. The wine's dry core and black pepper aroma need aging. Drink from 2027. Organic. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 14% Price: \$20

89 **Château Peyredon Lagravette 2023 (Haut-Médoc).** The wine's smoky aroma and ripe black fruits lead to richness and a succulent texture. The wine is balanced, lightly toasty, and will be ready from 2027. Polaner Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$25

88 **Château Haut-Bernat 2023 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** A fine, ripe wine, softly lit with generous tannins and blackberry fruits. Matured in barrels, amphorae, and vats, the wine's licorice aroma and its juicy acidity are already fine. Drink the wine from 2027. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 **Château Faizeau 2023 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** The wine is structured and dense. With a woody aroma and firm tannins, it misses some of the fruitiness of the year. Drink from 2027. Advantage International. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

86 **Château Lesparre 2023 Grand Vin (Graves de Vayres).** A youthful, ripe wine with soft tannins and a juicy aftertaste. There is a barnyard quality to this wine that is less attractive. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

SOUTHWEST FRANCE

WHITE WINES

JURANÇON

94 **Domaine Cauhapé 2022 Symphonie De Novembre (Jurançon).** A beautifully rich wine with concentrated honey and ripe mango flavors, this was fermented and aged in wood. It is rounded, ripe, and worth aging. Drink the wine from 2027. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$41

92 **Domaine Cauhapé 2022 Boléro (Jurançon).** There is a touch of honey to the apricot aroma of this ripe, lighthearted wine. Made from pure Petit Manseng, the wine brings out mango flavors and just a touch of spice. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$34

91 **Domaine Cauhapé 2024 Ballet d'Octobre (Jurançon).** A ripe, full wine that has layers of rich tropical fruits and tangy acidity in balance. It shows sweet oranges lifted by lemon zest and a perfumed aroma. Drink the wine now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$26

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

WHITE WINES

91 **SARL Select Vins 2025 Ambrine (Languedoc).** Hints of banana flower and coconut are edged by a sandstone minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate sizzles with acidity and holds a firm texture

through the light coconut and guava flavors. Wine Wine Situation LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$19

90 **SARL Select Vins 2025 Ambrine (La Clape).** Tightly woven aromas of jasmine, plumeria and guava are cut by a stony, steel minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate is lightly bodied and somewhat delicate with honeydew flavors. Wine Wine Situation LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$19

ROSÉS

91 **Gérard Bertrand 2025 Cote des Roses (Languedoc).** This is a lovely afternoon sipper, starting with lean, brisk, and clear aromas of watermelon rind and restrained bubblegum. The palate picks up banana flower and lightly tropical flavors, though stays delicate and refreshing. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$18

90 **Carayon la Rose 2025 (Languedoc).** Flavors of cherry Smarties candy and cotton candy meet with a hint of chalk on the nose of this bottling. The palate holds tight at first and then releases in pink rose and more cotton-candy flavors. Advantage International. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$7

90 **La Baume 2025 (Languedoc).** Bubblegum sorbet and banana flower aromas work together on the nose of this bottling. The palate is firmly textured and more brisk with watermelon and lime-pith flavors. Advantage International. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

89 **Fleurs de Prairie 2025 (Languedoc).** Strawberry guava and tuberose flavors make for a bold nose on this pink wine. The palate is soft in texture and full of bubblegum flavors. Advantage International. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

RED WINES

94 **Gérard Bertrand 2022 Clos d'Ora (Minervois La Livinière).** Bold black cherry and blackberry aromas are dusted in a peppery spice that builds in intensity on the nose of this bottling. Rich and voluptuous with bold baked fruit flavors, the palate is balanced by firm tannins and potent baking spices. USA Wine West. —M.K.

abv: 15% Price: \$250

93 **SARL Select Vins 2025 Ambrine (La Clape).** Intriguing lines of toasted fennel, dark and rustic plum fruit, hints of lavender, and rich spicecake introduce the nose to this bottling. The palate's licorice and garrigue flavors decorate a charred fruit core, with

flashes of rosemary on the finish. Wine Wine Situation LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

92 Gérard Bertrand 2022 Hérésie (Corbières). This is a bold, powerful bottling, starting with rounded aromas of dark cherry, cola cream, and ginger snaps on the nose. The palate shows a fresher side of candied cherry before richer lines of molasses and chai take hold. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

88 SARL Select Vins 2025 Ambrine (Corbières). This is a more rustic style, starting with aromas of marjoram, black plum, and charred meat on the nose. The palate is quite herbal with thyme, sage, and wild mint flavors against a tart red fruit. Wine Wine Situation LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

VIN DE FRANCE WHITE WINE

91 Gérard Bertrand 2023 Genora (Vin de France). This is one of the better orange wines on the market, pairing complexity with a refreshing energy. The nose offers aromas of honey, mango, and gardenia, leading into a palate that's wrapped in leathery tannins and full of orange peel and preserved lemon flavors. USA Wine West. **Editor's Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

NORTHEAST ITALY SPARKLING WINES

91 Cesarini Sforza NV Metodo Classico Brut Rosé (Trento). Fresh berries and rose petals bring alpine brightness while mountain herbs keep it interesting. The palate rides with crisp energy, where fine bubbles and tart fruit turn aperitivo hour into social hour. This is how you welcome guests. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

88 Cesarini Sforza NV Metodo Classico Brut (Trento). Anjou pears and Honeycrisp apples meet fresh bread while lemon zest brings lift. The palate flows with casual confidence, where bright fruit and gentle bubbles prove sometimes easy drinking is exactly what we need. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

84 La Cantina Pizzolato NV Italian Sparkling Spumante Brut Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). Ripe pears and golden apples tumble through soft bubbles, setting the mood. The palate glides with simple grace, where gentle fizz and easygoing fruit turn Tuesday into a mini weekend. Amass Brands Group. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$19

VENETO SPARKLING WINES

PROSECCO

90 Acinum NV Rosé Extra Dry (Prosecco). Fresh raspberry and wild strawberry notes keep it light and lifted without overdoing the sugar. The palate stays in that sweet spot between easy and elegant, everything crisp and bright, while bubbles keep the good times rolling. Vias Imports Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$12

89 Lo Secco NV Brut Nature (Prosecco). Green apple and citrus zest meet wet stone while sea spray keeps it razor sharp. The palate rides with crisp precision, along with fine bubbles and mineral drive. Pair with seafood crudo to feel like coastal living. Canopy Wine Selections. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$24

88 Avissi NV (Prosecco). Fresh berries bring an easy-drinking summer energy, everything bright and uncomplicated. The palate keeps that same breezy vibe, red fruits and bubbles flowing like your playlist's feel-good hits while staying fresh enough to pour all afternoon. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$14

88 Bellenda NV Fratelli Cosmo Extra Dry (Prosecco). Ripe pears and honeysuckle weave through candied lemon while creamy bubbles add texture. The palate flows with generous spirit, where fruit and subtle sweetness make spicy a friendship. Specialty Cellars. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$17

88 Ca' Bolani 2024 Brut (Prosecco). Fresh pears and green apples zip through like summer rain while citrus blossoms dance on the breeze. The palate sparkles with playful energy, where crisp bubbles and bright fruit make aperitivo hour feel like a Venetian holiday. Perfect with prosciutto and melon. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$18

88 Don Luchi 2023 Rosé Brut (Prosecco). Like finding cotton candy made from fresh berries, everything light and airy with just enough sugar to make you smile. The palate keeps that playful vibe, bubbles lifting delicate fruits into a finish that stays crisp and refreshing. Dope and Rare Bev. Co. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$27

87 Covalli NV Brut (Prosecco). Crisp apples and citrus peel show their fresh side while white flowers keep it light. The palate sparkles with simple pleasure, where bright bubbles and clean fruit make porch sitting better. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$18

87 La Cantina Pizzolato NV Brut (Prosecco). Fresh pears and apple blossom bring that aperitif energy while lemon drops add lift. The palate bubbles

with easy charm, where bright fruit and clean finish turn any evening into social hour. Amass Brands Group. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$19

87 Le Contesse NV Single Fermentation Brut (Prosecco). Fresh pears and yellow apples drift through subtle herbs as light bubbles add lift. The palate keeps things uncomplicated and bright, where clean fruit and gentle fizz show sometimes simple is exactly what you need. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$19

86 Acinum NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Yellow apples and sweet citrus bring an easygoing charm as white flowers add freshness. The palate plays with gentle sweetness, where soft bubbles make Sunday brunch more festive. Vias Imports Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$13

86 Castello del Poggio NV (Prosecco). Yellow apples and honeysuckle surf those tiny bubbles while lemon zest keeps it zippy. The palate bounces with easy charm, where light fizz and juicy fruit remind you why some wines are made for Sunday brunch. Zonin USA d.b.a. 1821 Fine Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$14

86 Spasso NV (Prosecco). Bartlett pears and lemon candies show their sweet side while jasmine keeps it bright. The palate delivers with simple pleasure, where gentle bubbles turn afternoon sips into mini celebrations. M.S. Walker Brands. —J.P.
abv: 10.5% Price: \$17

85 Fazio NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Sweet apples and ripe pears float through basic blossoms while soft bubbles do their thing. The palate brings familiar sweetness and easy fruit, where gentle fizz and straightforward charm work for "spritz o'clock." —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$13

85 Josh Cellars NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Yellow apples and ripe pears drift through basic blossoms while zippy bubbles add pep. The palate stays uncomplicated and fruit forward, where gentle fizz and simple pleasure prove some wines just want to have fun. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$16

85 Spellbound NV Incantato Brut (Prosecco). Green apples and canned pears meet simple citrus while basic bubbles do their job. The palate stays light and easy, where soft fizz and sweet fruit keep the mood casual enough for mimosa duty. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$14

84 Ciao Bella NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Green pears and citrus spritz pop like pool-party bubbles while white flowers keep it simple. The palate's light and breezy, where gentle fizz and fresh fruit show why Prosecco is so easy to enjoy. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$15

84 Josh Cellars NV Extra Dry Rosé (Prosecco). Fresh strawberries and summer fruits float

BUYINGGUIDE

through light petals while simple bubbles keep it casual. The palate brings gentle sweetness and easy fruit, where soft fizz and straightforward charm keep brunch plans nice and easy. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

VALDOBBIADENE PROSECCO SUPERIORE

90 Borgoluce 2023 Rive di Collalto Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Crisp apples and spring blossoms meet fresh lemon while river rocks and flint add mountain nerve. The palate flows with electric energy, where refined bubbles and a vibrant citrus and orchard fruits pop, ending this wine to be paired with raw scallops, lemon zest and new vintage olive oil. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Don Luchi NV Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Golden apples and fresh citrus weave through white flowers as river stones lift out of the glass with ease. The palate flows with refined energy, where fine bubbles and bright fruit make shrimp cocktail and good company feel like proper living. Dope and Rare Bev. Co. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$27

87 Bellenda 2024 San Fermo Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Aromas of golden apples and acacia flowers meeting wet slate fill the glass. The palate glides with easy precision, where fine bubbles and crisp fruit turn casual gatherings into celebrations. Specialty Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Borgoluce NV (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Crisp apples and mountain herbs race down those steep slopes while flint and river rocks keep it classical. The palate dances with precise energy, where fine bubbles and mineral grip prove elevation matters. The Sorting Table LLC. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

OTHER SPARKLING WINES

94 Marcazzan Fabio 2019 Pas Dosé (Lessini Durello). Ripe orchard fruits and toasted almonds soar through ancient volcanic depths while crystalline minerals echo off weathered rock. The palate unfolds with profound complexity, where laser acidity and layered texture tell stories of deep roots and patient winemaking. A masterclass in terroir. Drink now–2040 FWS Distribution Corp. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Ca' dei Zago 2022 Metodo Classico Dosaggio Zero (Prosecco di Valdobbiadene). Golden apples and Meyer lemon peel weave through crushed chalk and alpine herbs, while tiny bubbles reveal Glera's hidden depths. The palate dances with razor-sharp precision, where sea salt, Asian pear, and quince build layer upon layer. This bottle proves Prosecco can speak in

paragraphs, not just sound bites. Ethica Wines. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$48

92 Ca' dei Zago 2024 Glera (Prosecco di Valdobbiadene). Honeycrisp apples and Bartlett pears sail through chalk dust and mountain wildflowers, capturing Valdobbiadene's soul in a glass. The palate brings delicate bubbles and sea-salt freshness, where pristine fruit and stony minerals show why some hills were meant for greatness. Ethica Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$32

92 Marcazzan Fabio 2022 Extra Brut (Monti Lessini). White peaches and green apples dance through volcanic stones while sea spray rises from the glass. The palate commands with mineral precision, where vibrant acidity and saline tension prove why volcanic soils speak their own sparkling language. Will evolve beautifully. FWS Distribution Corp. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Marcazzan Fabio 2022 (Lessini Durello). Crisp pears and apple blossoms race through playful bubbles while jasmine and lime zest keep the energy high. The palate dances with pure joy, where bright fruit and lively fizz show how some wines just nail the fresh-and-fun vibe without sacrificing character. FWS Distribution Corp. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Bellenda 2021 Sei Uno Rive di Carpesica Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Fresh apples and spring flowers mingle with lemon blossoms while crushed stone notes shift the gears of this wine in the right direction. The palate flows with precise energy, where fine bubbles and bright acidity make the raw bar feel like vacation. Specialty Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Borgoluce NV Lampo Brut (Prosecco Treviso). Fresh apples and Meyer lemon meet white peach as spring flowers add complexity. The palate dances with precise bubbles, where bright fruit and clean finish make tempura and light bites feel like the right move. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

88 La Marca NV Luminore Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Ripe Anjou and crisp green pears dance through white flower petals while tiny bubbles tickle the glass. The palate sparkles with perky freshness, where orchard fruit and gentle fizz put the "happy" in happy hour. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

87 Rubus NV (Prosecco Treviso). Crisp pears and citrus blossoms bring that weekend vibe while green apple keeps it fresh. The palate sparkles with casual confidence and lively bubbles that remind us why Prosecco makes friends easily. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

86 La Gioiosa NV Brut (Prosecco Treviso). Golden delicious apples and simple citrus meet

basic florals while soft bubbles keep pace. The palate stays straightforward and fresh, bringing gentle fruit and easy bubbles. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$22

85 La Gioiosa 2023 Extra Dry (Asolo Prosecco Superiore). Yellow apples and ripe pears float through basic blossoms while gentle bubbles keep it moving. The palate brings expected sweetness and simple fruit, for soft fizz and easy sipping. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

PIEDMONT SPARKLING WINES

ALTA LANGA

94 Pecchenino 2021 Psea Pas Dosé (Alta Langa). Fresh lemon oils and orchard fruits are wrapped in buttery pastry, while crushed chalk and yeast notes float through. The palate brings textural richness held in perfect tension, where tart cream and bright fruit meet razor-sharp acidity. This is a wine that knows how to bring power and finesse at the same time. Winebow Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Fontanabianca 2022 Classe 91 (Alta Langa). Pink Lady apples and chalk dust weave through flaky pastry and toasted hazelnut notes. The palate stays sharp and focused, where gravel road minerals and green-apple skin ride waves of zippy acidity. This one's got both brains and backbone. Ethica Wines. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

93 Podere Gagliassi 2021 (Alta Langa). Lemon-spritzed apple peel and cooling pie crust drift up from the glass. The palate brings crunchy brightness and chalky grip, where waves of acidity and crushed stone texture capture that feeling of the wind in your hair on a country road. This wine knows how to make freshness feel like freedom. Hootananny Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 Abrigo Fratelli 2019 Sivà Riserva 60 Mesi (Alta Langa). Baked orchard fruits and fresh pastry meld with crushed hazelnuts and heavy cream, showing those 60 months of patient aging. The palate brings weight and power, where rich textures and buttery layers call for drawn butter and shellfish rather than delicate conversation. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$120

92 Paolo Manzone NV Blanc de Noirs Metodo Classico (Alta Langa). This wine shows cherry and strawberry notes with fresh toast, like warm jam on morning bread. The palate spreads that fruit-forward charm through every sip, while crisp acidity keeps everything in check. This is a sparkler that's comfortable in its own skin. HB Wine Merchants Import. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Tenuta Rocca 2021 Extra Brut (Alta Langa). Fresh-baked brioche and golden apples soar through mountain air while chalky minerals echo off limestone cliffs. The palate sparkles with serious intention, where crunchy fruit and saline tension show why elevation matters. This one's built for the cellar, but good luck waiting. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$50

91 Borgo Maragliano 2021 Giovanni Galliano Brut Rosé (Alta Langa). Fresh strawberries and morning roses ride that alpine energy while rocky soils add backbone. The palate flows with poised elegance, where fine bubbles and mountain acidity in this high-altitude rosé grab our attention. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$59

91 Nada Giuseppe 2022 Su Altezza (Alta Langa). Roasted citrus and yellow flowers lift softly, while fresh bread notes add depth. The palate brings mineral precision and gentle power, where toasted nuts and crushed stones show pretty can also mean serious. Vintage '59 Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

89 Borgo Maragliano 2022 Francesco Galliano Blanc de Blancs Brut (Alta Langa). Crisp apples and lime zest meet white flowers while limestone keeps it fresh. The palate rides with bright energy, where fine bubbles and clean fruit make you understand why Chardonnay works in these hills. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$52

87 Duchessa Lia 2022 Metodo Classico Brut (Alta Langa). Honeycrisp apples and candied lemon weave through toasted almonds while limestone soils bring focus. The palate rides with zippy citrus and ripe pear, where fine bubbles and bright acidity lift the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$46

OTHER SPARKLING WINES

95 Saracco 2025 (Moscato d'Asti). For full review see page 4. WinesU. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 6% Price: \$19

93 Cantina del Nebbiolo 2020 Capije Metodo Classico Pas Dose Rosé (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Almost-ripe strawberries with their leafy tops mingle with fresh mint and summer flowers, creating a bouquet that demands patience. The palate races with purpose, where tart red fruits and savory herbs ride waves of electric acidity. This is confidence without pretense, ready for everything from first sip to final course. Monsieur Touton Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

91 G.D. VAJRA 2025 (Moscato d'Asti). Jasmine and lime blossoms mingle with fresh-cut Fuji apples, while delicate florals keep things elegant. The palate brings gentle curves and soft fruit, where crisp

apples and ripe peaches remind us some wines prefer to whisper their charms. MHW, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 5% Price: \$19

90 Taverna 2021 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Piemonte). Roasted apples and lemons mingle with vanilla cream and toasted nuts alongside dried fruit and warm caramel. The palate brings generous curves and warm spice, where clove-kissed oak and rich fruit create plush comfort. This is Chardonnay showing its cozy side. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

89 Quila 2020 Sybbo (Piemonte). Wild orchard fruit and warm honey mixes with mint and untamed herbs, while baked apples and cashew brittle create beautiful chaos. The palate stays rich and unbound, where burnt honey sweetness proves sometimes wild is exactly right. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

86 Duchessa Lia NV Dolce (Brachetto d'Acqui). Bright raspberries and red currants bring a classic Brachetto charm while rose petals add lift. The palate flows with gentle bubbles, where sweet red fruits and light fizz turn this simple pleasure into more fun. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 6.5% Price: \$18

LOMBARDY SPARKLING WINES FRANCIACORTA

95 Ca' del Bosco MV Cuvée Prestige Edizione 47 Rosé Extra Brut (Franciacorta). Fresh strawberry jam spread on buttery brioche sets the stage, while Pinot Noir and Chardonnay create their perfect blend. The palate brings that same luxe energy, deep cherry, and blood orange cutting through rich texture with electric precision, while candied lemon adds brightness. Everything bold and beautiful but balanced like a greatest hits album where every track deserves its spot. Certified organic. Herita USA. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

93 Bellavista 2020 Brut (Franciacorta). Fresh Mandarin and lemon pith mingle with warm croissant while white flowers and crushed stones show 2020's generosity. The palate brings that perfect balance of richness and precision, where bright citrus and refined bubbles promise years of pleasure. Drink now–2040. Liber USA. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

93 Castello Bonomi 2020 Cru Perdu Brut (Franciacorta). Tangerine oils and jasmine get bolder with fresh cream and wild herbs, while toasted brioche shows the vintage's generous side. The palate flexes that perfect rich-meets-bright balance, where macerated citrus and yellow apples meet precise bubbles and mountain herbs. This has the kind of swagger that

makes you want to build a cellar. Drink now–2040. Serendipity Wines TX. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

93 Contadi Castaldi 2021 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta). Granny Smith apples and citrus oils show their refined edge while brioche notes wait in the wings. The palate has a cut-from-marble precision, where tight bubbles and crystalline fruit suggest your best bottles should hide for a few years. Liber USA. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

92 Castello Bonomi 2021 Satèn (Franciacorta). White peaches and fresh herbs bring a limestone hillside energy while lemon pith adds snap. The palate's got this killer texture thing happening, where soft bubbles and ripe fruit remind you why Satèn owns the luxury-meets-chill game. Serendipity Wines TX. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

92 Monzio Compagnoni 2020 Satèn (Franciacorta). Warm spices and fresh pastry do their own interpretation of the Satèn game while sweet herbs add complexity. The palate's rocking a generous-yet-balanced vibe, where succulent fruit and bright acids remind you Satèn doesn't always play by the rules. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$46

91 Bellavista 2020 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta). Golden apples and fresh pastry create pure Satèn elegance while white flowers and crushed almonds show 2020's brilliance. The palate brings that perfect silk-meets-structure balance, where creamy mousse and bright fruit remind you why this style stands alone. Liber USA. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

91 Bellavista NV Alma Assemblage 1 Extra Brut (Franciacorta). Fresh-sliced Honeycrisp and Meyer lemon zest share space with warm brioche, while subtle hints of crushed chalk keep it interesting. The palate's got a quiet confidence thing happening, where delicate bubbles and refined fruit remind you why Franciacorta matters. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

91 Contadi Castaldi 2020 Blanc (Franciacorta). Fresh citrus oils and spring flowers are doing their thing while crushed almonds and acacia blossoms add layers. The palate's rocking a vertical energy, where crisp bubbles and focused fruit make you crave the biggest seafood plateau that there is. Liber USA. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

91 Contadi Castaldi NV Brut Rosé (Franciacorta). Fresh raspberries and garden roses bring a elegant Franciacorta vibe while guava and lychee add complexity. The palate's showing off this perfect balance of structure and lift, where crisp bubbles and juicy fruit create aperitivo hour magic. Liber USA. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

BONARDA

DELL'OLTREPÒ PAVESE

91 **Castello di Luzzano 2024 Sommosa (Bonarda dell'Oltrepò Pavese).** Wild blackberries and fresh violets race through playful bubbles while crushed herbs echo off ancient castle walls. The palate dances with brilliant energy, where bright fruit and gentle fizz turn northern Italian tradition into something deliciously rebellious. Perfect with prosciutto and gossip. Vias Imports Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

EMILIA

93 **Fratelli Raguzzoni 2023 Campo dei Galli (Emilia).** For full review see page 7. HB Wine Merchants. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 11% **Price:** \$50

91 **Saint Enzo 2024 L'Originale (Emilia-Romagna).** Dark cherries and wild berries bring that new-school Lambrusco energy while fresh herbs keep it real. The palate's got this perfectly dry thing happening, where bright fruit and crisp bubbles make your breakfast sandwich jealous. Saint Enzo. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$80

88 **Evvai NV (Emilia).** Mixed berries and cherry juice are doing their casual fizzy thing while earthy notes keep it real. The palate's got this easy-drinking energy happening, where juicy fruit and soft tannins remind you why Lambrusco owns the Tuesday night game. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$16

LAMBRUSCO

92 **Cantina Ventiventi 2023 Happy Selvaggio Ancestrale (Italy).** Purple plum jellies and wild violets doing their thing while spring flowers join the jam session. The palate's living up to the "happy" in the name, where tart fruit and fresh blooms make you wonder why more bubbles can't be this delicious. Wineberry America. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Cantina Ventiventi 2020 Metodo Classico Brut Rosé (Lambrusco di Modena).** Fresh raspberries and lime zest party together like the adult slushy you never knew you needed. The palate's all about that crisp summer energy, where red fruits and citrus create the kind of zip that makes you wonder why you don't drink more Sorbara. Wineberry America. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Fratelli Raguzzoni 2023 Ouverture Rosé (Italy).** Watermelon straight from the beach

cooler with that perfect hit of sea salt, makes you wonder why all rosé can't be this refreshing. The palate's rocking that crunchy summer vibe where fruit and salt create the kind of zip that makes you crave another glass. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$50

90 **Cantina Ventiventi 2024 La Vie Brut (Lambrusco di Modena).** Just-picked plums and violet candies do their thing while fresh garden herbs keep it real. The palate's got this crunchy, thirst-crushing energy that'll make you want to order another round of mortadella and parm. Wineberry America. —J.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Cantina Ventiventi 2020 Rouge de Noirs Metodo Classico Brut (Lambrusco Salamino di Santa Croce).** Wild berries and forest flowers bring the energy on the nose while delicate violet notes keep things elegant. The palate's showing that perfect balance of fresh bubbles and ruby fruit that makes you want to break out the gnocco fritto. Wineberry America. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Fratelli Raguzzoni 2023 Filare di Mezzo (Italy).** For full review see page 13. HB Wine Merchants.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

89 **Venturini Baldini NV Metodo Classico Rosso Extra Brut (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** Wild blackberries dusted with fresh cracked peppercorns, their purple depth catching that untamed energy. The palate brings that same adventurous spirit, dark fruits and gamy notes creating the kind of complexity that makes you lean in for another sip. Massanois Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

COLLINE PESCARESI

90 **Podere Castorani 2023 Cadetto Orange (Colline Pescaresi).** This tart, fresh wine is a burnished gold color, with a nose of iced tea garnished with lemon and a hint of fresh herbs, and a palate that opens with cantaloupe and Cara Cara orange, then adds the mineral pop of salt and coins. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

ROSÉ

90 **Masciarelli 2022 Rosato (Colline Teatine).** On the nose, aromas of wild strawberry, white peach and watermelon are balanced by undertones of savory herbs. On the palate flavors of blood orange and pink lemonade joined by more wild thyme, fennel and sage. A slick, mouthfilling wine, but with plenty of acid and savory tones for balance. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

ABRUZZO

90 **Talamonti 2021 Kudos (Abruzzo).** On the nose, cola, and wild cherry notes pop above a foundation of peppery earth. The palate brings bitter citrus and tart, tangy berries, plus more of that peppery earthiness, fortified by firm but polished tannins. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 **Novaripa 2017 Rocky Marciano (Abruzzo).** On the nose, aromas of wild fennel, orange peel, old leather, warm bricks, and wild strawberry gust from the glass. Cherries and more strawberries star on the palate alongside a milk-chocolate element, while savory, umami notes linger underneath for balance. M Imports LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 **Paride d'Angelo 2024 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose shines with floral, saline aromas of peonies, salt, wild strawberry, and wild cherry. Raspberry and orange peel flavors define the palate, while austere tannins look on. Wine Twist Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 **Pietrame 2024 Primitivo (Terre d'Abruzzo).** The nose is savory and sanguine with wild herbs, damp earth, old leather, and tart berries. The palate balances things out with sweet black cherries and blackberries, plus milk chocolate, before a hot, chili pepper finish. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

TUSCANY WHITE WINES

TOSCANA

94 **Tua Rita 2024 Keir (Toscana).** Tannic, thick-skinned, and generously productive, Ansonica is a grape that was long loved by people who worked the land because it made winemaking easy, even if the wine that resulted from it wasn't always very impressive. When it gets the expert touch, as in this case, it reveals itself to be nothing short of magic. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$47

94 **Tua Rita 2024 Lodano (Toscana).** A wild mix of dried herbs, preserved lemon, pineapple, and green apple meet a hint of petrol and white pepper on the nose. More pineapple and star fruit on the palate, then savory, salty elements take over. The finish lingers—not clinging, just relaxing. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$47

93 **Podere La Regola 2022 (Costa Toscana).** Toasted hazelnuts, pineapple, coconut, lemon on the nose, then savory notes of rubber and crushed

rocks emerge. Grapefruit and Meyer lemon meet sweet tones of almond paste, a hint of honey, and ripe stone fruit on the palate. Creamy and rich, but with searing acid and loads of salinity for balance. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

93 **Tua Rita 2024 Perlato del Bosco (Vermentino di Toscana).** Lemon, lime, grapefruit, fresh cut grass and wild flowers on the nose open up for yellow apple, honey, and nuts on the palate. These notes plus the full mouthfeel make for an incredible richness, but a vein of saline cuts through and citrus lifts up the palate. This is Vermentino living its best life right now. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

92 **Podere La Regola 2024 Steccaia (Costa Toscana).** Pineapple, yellow apple, lime zest, and new leather on the nose open up for a palate with grapefruit and honey dew, then more citrus and flower petals. Bouncy with acid, and recognizably coastal thanks to its salinity. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

92 **Tenuta di Capezzana 2024 Trebbiano (Toscana).** The nose is savory and herbaceous, with aromas of preserved lemon, white pepper and wild fennel. Flavors of ripe melon and tree fruit swell on the palate, while undertones of pink grapefruit and toasted almonds provide balance, creating a rich mouthfeel. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$39

91 **Usiglian del Vescovo 2024 Il Ginestraio (Toscana).** Aromas of citrus, herbs, crushed rocks and preserved lemon on the nose segue into a palate of lemon, lime, salt and crushed rocks. Just a hint of stone fruit emerges on the back, but the overall feel is savory and saline. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$25

SPARKLING WINE

94 **Podere La Regola NV L'Eccezione Rosé (Toscana).** Barely pink in the glass with a persistent perlage that lifts blood oranges, pennies, salt, and Pink Lady apples up to your nose. Warm citrus with stone fruit underneath anchor a savory and salty palate that's alive with acid. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

DESSERT WINE

94 **Tenuta di Capezzana 2017 Riserva (Vin Santo di Carmignano).** Chocolate brown in the glass, with aromas of milk chocolate, candied chestnuts, and orange peel. The cohesive palate unveils a chestnut cake covered in melted milk chocolate, accompanied by just slightly burnt espresso, creating a comforting, warm, indulgent feel. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$129/375ml

TUSCANY RED WINES

TOSCANA

99 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2019 Poggio Ferro (Toscana).** Seductive on the nose and explosive on the palate—absolutely seething with energy. I am rarely without words, and this wine left me speechless. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$375

98 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2020 Maceone (Toscana).** Spicy, savory, and salty on the nose, with tart wild berries, and a hint of bitter citrus peel. The palate walks the same tightrope between dark chocolate and dark fruit on one side, and then tart berries, bitter citrus, and flaky salt on the other. Warm and rich, but with rigorous structure and a clarity of vision. The 2019 is a masterpiece that's hard to follow up, but 2020 holds its own. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$375

98 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2019 Fontecanese (Toscana).** Cool, damp earth and mixed wild herbs rest quietly under tart and sweet black fruit and dark chocolate with flaky salt on the nose. The ripe, rich dark fruit on the palate sits in easy company once again with those flinty, saline earth tones. Beautiful, silken tannins glide weightlessly over the tongue. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$375

98 **Tenuta Sette Ponti 2023 Oreno (Toscana).** Sanguine, earthy on the nose, with hot tar, pepper, crushed rocks, pencil shavings, and black plum. Ripe black fruit and warm citrus light up the palate before a spicy, peppery finish rounded by polished tannins and energized by insistent acid. Beautifully constructed—I am already on record as being a big fan of the new blend, and I think the 2023 shows things continue to head in a promising direction. Kobrand. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$145

98 **Tua Rita 2022 Redigaffi (Toscana).** Like when in a dream you keep finding new rooms in your house that you didn't know were there, Redigaffi, no matter how many times I taste it, reveals new depth and breadth I didn't realize it had. The 2022 is revelatory. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$375

97 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2022 Fontecanese (Toscana).** Cherry blossoms, citrus, and saline on the nose at first, then pivots to dark chocolate and figs anchored in damp but flinty earth. Cool earth and crushed rocks ground the palate, lifted by tart wild cherries and fresh figs that burst over more chocolate. A balancing act between fresh floral sweetness, and salty, earthy, density. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$375

97 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2022 Maceone (Toscana).** A profound earthiness marked by topsoil, wild herbs, and Mediterranean brush is softened by the smoky sweetness of tobacco leaf and rum-soaked raisins on the nose. The palate is dense with figs and pomegranates, given an edge by notes of salt and pepper, herbs, and earth. A mosaic of tannins sit together as a harmonious whole. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$375

97 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2021 Fontecanese (Toscana).** A gentle back-and-forth motion between raspberries and black cherries, damp earth, and crushed rocks, salt, and pepper defines the nose. Black cherry and dark chocolate conquer the palate, with more salt and pepper, soil, and herbs. Acid positively soars, but is held back from flying too high by tightly stitched tannins. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$375

97 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2021 Maceone (Toscana).** Dark chocolate, black cherry, tobacco, espresso bean, and a dusting of cinnamon on the nose make the 2021 Maceone feel a bit more luxurious than other vintages, and the palate confirms this with Luxardo cherries and dried figs over the smoky, savory aromas of the nose, all enriched by a deep earthiness and dense, textured tannins. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$375

97 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2020 Fontecanese (Toscana).** A whisper of vanilla bean and sweet tobacco leaf, then black cherries, blackberries, and black plums on the nose all stay anchored in damp forest floor and crushed rocks. Tart and sweet dark berries pop on the palate, lifted yet higher by bergamot zest and flakes of Maldon salt, but get pulled back down by earth tones and bitter chocolate. I think the keyword for the Fontecanese cru is, for me, measured. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$375

97 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2020 Poggio Ferro (Toscana).** Savory and herbaceous on the nose, with fennel, sage, wild oregano, salt, and pepper, then the refreshing aromas of tomato leaf and a burst of tart berries. Berries ripen and flood the palate on top of earth and herbs, and more salt and pepper. Silken but strong tannins slide around insistent acid. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$375

97 **Tua Rita 2022 Keir (Toscana).** Syrah is a grape that can be finessed to excel in both hot and cold vintages, but it's hard to make it show the best of both. The 2022 Keir has the expansive fruit, density of structure, and rich mouthfeel of a warm year, but the linearity and focus of a chillier one. A best of all worlds. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$112

96 **Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2022 Poggio Ferro (Toscana).** Saltwater,

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crushed shells, violets, and pepper, then tart, wild blackberries and blueberries pop on the nose. The palate has a similar arc, with a savory salinity segueing into a finish of dark fruit and heat. Tiled tannins and linear acid create a directed, intentional feel. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$375

96 Castello di Montepò di Jacopo Biondi Santi 2021 Poggio Ferro (Toscana). On the nose, wild blueberries and black plums are joined by salted dark chocolate, then a vein of savory, sanguine spice pulses. The palate brings more sweet, ripe dark berries, chocolate, and pepper, while poised tannins restrain explosive acid. Viteoak Wine Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$375

96 Tua Rita 2022 Giusto di Notri (Toscana). Cracked black pepper and tart black fruit make for a nose that's fresh and cool. Blackberry preserves and dark chocolate enrich the palate that nonetheless stays incredibly fresh with wild mint, wild fennel, crushed rocks, saline, and minerals. Beautifully executed. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$86

95 Pietroso 2021 Berni Domenico (Toscana). The nose is primarily savory, earthy, and leathery, with leading aromas of pepper and coffee grounds, but also has undertones of dark fruit for balance. The cool, fresh palate leans into the dark fruit with black plums and blackberries, before more coffee and earth notes make themselves known. Polished tannins create a satiny, sophisticated mouthfeel. North Berkeley Imports. —D.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$170

95 Tua Rita 2023 Perlato del Bosco (Toscana). Like a marine forest on the nose, with underbrush and low tide, but then sweet cherries and warm citrus float over the woody and saline elements on the palate. A Sangiovese unlike any other I know, in the best way. Vias Imports Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

94 Podere La Regola 2022 (Costa Toscana). Juicy, earthy, and spicy on the nose, with candied violets, wet slate, blackberries, and blueberries squished underfoot, and black pepper. Tangy blackberries and black plum skin on the palate, then more crushed rocks and pepper lead into a sanguine and savory finish. Textured and substantial—very satisfying. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$67

94 Querceto di Castellina 2021 Venti (Toscana). The nose brings the focused vibrancy of black plums, blackberries, and bergamot, plus subtler aromas of tea leaf and pepper for balance. High-toned, tart black fruit notes continue to strut on the palate, but the earthiness of dirt and brambles also fortifies the savory undertones, before salt and citrus lift the finish. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

94 Tua Rita 2024 Rosso dei Notri (Toscana). In my dreams everyone would get to drink wines as special and spectacularly delicious as the ones made

at Tua Rita, and Rosso dei Notri makes that possible. Buy it by the case, make it your everyday red, improve your life dramatically. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

94 Tua Rita 2023 Lodano (Rosso di Toscana). Vegetal at first on the nose, then nutty, then sweet, like the green mallow that hardens into a walnut that then gets sugared and caramelized. The texture is what stands out on the palate, like silk crepe, wrinkled and substantial but then sleek and satiny. All of Tua Rita's wines are unique but Lodano stands out even in that rarefied pack. Vias Imports Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

93 Michele Satta 2023 Cavaliere (Costa Toscana). The nose opens savory, with damp earth, salt and pepper, then notes of tart berries and citrus emerge. Those tangy fruit notes swell on the palate, which features bergamot, bitter orange, cranberries and sour cherries. Taut tannins and bright acid create a dynamic feel. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.

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

92 Podere La Regola 2024 Ligustro (Costa Toscana). Fresh, crunchy blackberries, blueberries, and orange peel on the nose sit on top of topsoil and pepper. Ripe blackberries join lots of pepper and earth on the palate, before more citrus pops on the finish, with a final sprinkle of salt. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

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

92 Podere La Regola 2021 Strido (Costa Toscana). Spicy and sweet on the nose, with blueberries and cinnamon, cloves, and figs, then vanilla bean and pepper. Blueberries and blood orange push up against pepper and earth on the palate. Warm and full but with a flinty edge. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

92 Querceto di Castellina 2022 Jac (Toscana). The nose energizes with aromas of new leather, pepper, blackberries, and fresh Mission figs. The energy stays high on the palate with tart blackberries, pomegranate seeds and a sprinkle of salt and pepper, as electric acid crackles around tightly coiled tannins. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

92 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2022 Crognolo (Toscana). The nose opens umami and sanguine, with aromas of wild fennel, burnt sage, pepper, and hot tar, then balancing notes of pomegranate and fig emerge. Those fruit elements pop on the palate, before a finish that starts with that peppery heat, then settles into a cool, earthy salinity. —D.C.

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

92 Usiglian del Vescovo 2023 Il Grullaio (Costa Toscana). The nose is a springy mix of macerated blackberries and raspberries, tea leaves, a squeeze of orange, and a wild-mint garnish. On the palate, tart and sweet berries and cherries are lifted by bright citrus, before a saline finish of fresh, cool herbs. Chalky, chewy tannins provide an anchor. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 La Casaccia Di Franceschi 2022 San Leopoldo (Toscana). Enlivening aromas of new leather, warm tar, pepper, and cherry cola on the nose segue into a sweeter, denser palate of sweet, ripe wild cherry, wild strawberry, and orange slices, while firm tannins and insistent acid keep you on your toes. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

91 La Casaccia Di Franceschi 2022 San Leopoldo (Toscana). On the nose, spearmint pokes through asphalt, creating an overall sensation of cool earth and herbs, then spices and dark fruit make themselves known. Blackberries and cherries star on the palate, alongside more herbs and earth, before a finish sparking with chili pepper heat. Tannins provide structure throughout. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

91 Podere La Regola 2023 Vallino (Costa Toscana). Earthy and tangy on the nose, with graphite, wild fennel, black plum, and black cherry. The fruit ripens and bursts on the palate, but stays rooted in dirt and brambles underneath. Firm but flexible tannins emphasize notes of bitter citrus on the finish. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Querceto di Castellina 2022 Podalirio (Toscana). The savory, earthy nose unfurls with aromas of wild fennel, damp soil, pepper, and black cherry. On the palate, blackberries and black plums fortify the black-cherry note, while grippy tannins and punchy acid add energy. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Usiglian del Vescovo 2023 Mora del Roveto (Toscana). The nose features deeply savory aromas of damp earth, pepper, cumin, coffee grinds and black cherry. The palate brings tangy, tart fruit, citrus and berries, but the overall feel remains savory and spicy. Tannins are polished, but powerful. —D.C.

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

90 San Gregorio 2022 (Toscana). On the nose, cherries and raspberries pop above subtler aromas of Mandarin blossom, topsoil, and burnt sage. The palate has a similar feel, layering cherries, strawberries, and raspberries with dark chocolate and orange peel, as polished tannins create a slick mouthfeel. T. Edward Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

ROSSO DI MONTALCINO

96 Il Marroneto 2022 Iacopo (Rosso di Montalcino). The nose is a wild, layered, dense riot of herbs and flowers, and the palate is fresh and alive with just barely ripe fruit. Everything is elevated by toned, powerful tannins and electric acid. This is a very fine example of the Rosso category, one that can hold its own against many Brunellos. Rare Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

95 Biondi-Santi 2022 Tenuta Greppo (Rosso di Montalcino). The Biondi Santi Rosso di Mon-

talcino does everything the category should, overdelivering in terms of sophistication, depth, and simple pleasure. What a stellar way to get a taste of the magic that comes from the historic Tenuta Greppo. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$145

94 Pietroso 2024 (Rosso di Montalcino). The nose opens with a hint of vanilla and toasted coconut, then pivots to new leather, then Bing cherries, then herbs, and earth. Ripe, fresh cherries and raspberries star on the plate, before more earth and medicinal herbs make themselves known. On the finish, a pop of pepper peaks over smooth but grippy tannins. North Berkeley Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Il Marroneto 2022 Ignaccio (Rosso di Montalcino). A bright, floral salinity wafts over dense fruit on the nose, then notes of pepper and herbs poke through. Rich ripe fruit preens on the palate alongside flavors of bitter dark chocolate and bergamot, all sitting on a foundation of cool, solid earth. Rare Wine Company. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Carpineto 2024 (Rosso di Montalcino). For full review see page 9. Opici Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

87 Lorenzo Melani 2023 (Rosso di Montalcino). The nose invigorates with aromas of raspberry jam, wild fennel, bergamot, and gun metal. Sweet and sour cherry notes are joined by sweet and bitter citrus elements on a lively palate, lifted by acid and heat. Votto Vines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

CHIANTI CLASSICO

94 Castello La Leccia 2021 Bruciagna Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The cool, earthy nose first swirls with aromas of blackberries, black plums, damp soil, and pepper, then floral and sweet notes emerge to provide balance. Ripe, sweet blackberries and pomegranate seeds cascade over the palate, before the cool, fresh, herbaceous finish brings espresso corrected with sambuca. Tannins are sleek, but powerful like a well-crafted blade. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

94 Lamole di Lamole 2021 Vigneto di Campolungo Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose leads off with damp earth, underbrush, peonies, and new leather, then adds a handful of wild berries. On the palate, notes of blackberry, black plum, dark chocolate, espresso, and licorice bounce over an earthy foundation, creating a rich and complex texture, but maintaining that ethereal lightness specific to Lamole. Herita USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Ruffino 2022 Romitorio di Santedame Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of cola, licorice, orange peel, and black cherry play on the nose.

That sweet black-cherry note is strong on the palate, but balanced by intense salinity, vigorous acid, and earthy, herbaceous undertones that are fortified by chewy tannins. Constellation Brands. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Colombaio di Cencio 2021 Cornia Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). A heady nose swirls with aromas of damp earth, underbrush, new leather, pepper, coffee grinds, and black cherry. That black-cherry note is accentuated by blackberries on the palate, creating an overall feel that is simultaneously sweet, spicy, and earthy. Tannins are slick, but substantial. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Colombaio di Cencio 2021 Montelodoli Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose opens with the spicy sanguinity of damp earth, wild fennel, sage, and pepper, then adds black cherries and blackberries. Sweet, ripe berries and cherries define the palate, beneath a generous sprinkle of salt and pepper. Citrus and acid lift you through the finish, but the overall mouthfeel is full and expansive. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Colombaio di Cencio 2021 Vinci Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose opens peppery and earthy, then presents aromas of cherries and orange peel. On the palate, sweet, ripe wild cherries, and strawberries lead the way, while warm, peppery, earthy undertones and dense but polished tannins provide balance. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Antinori 2024 Pèppoli (Chianti Classico). The nose brings aromas of vanilla bean, freshly brewed coffee, Bing cherry, and wild strawberry. Raspberries join more strawberries and cherries on the palate, but earthy undertones and chalky tannins ground things and create a substantial mouthfeel. Vinattieri 1385. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Querceto di Castellina 2022 Sei Chianti Classico Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The sanguine, spicy nose crackles with aromas of pepper, black plum skin, clove, graphite, and blackberry. On the palate, a bolt of bergamot accentuates the fresh blackberry note, all beneath a sprinkle of salt and pepper, while slick, polished tannins provide structure. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

91 Cafaggio 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the salty, tangy, umami feel of blackberry tea, togarashi or tahini, and the palate is cohesive as blackberries mingle with tons more salty and savory notes. Firm tannins provide an anchor on this energetic wine. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Castello La Leccia 2022 (Chianti Classico). The nose has a whimsical feel, with aromas of vanilla, toasted coconut, cloves, black cherries, and Mission figs. The palate offers Bing and black cherries, spiced

earth and a crack of pepper, which brings heat through a lingering finish, while rigid tannins provide an anchor. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

91 Il Colombaio di Cencio 2020 Massi del Colombaio Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is energetic yet balanced, with aromas of new leather, pepper, hot tar, violets, blackberries, and plums. On the palate, bergamot flexes alongside more blackberries, while undertones of pepper and bitter citrus refuse to be ignored. Fierce tannins bring warmth through the finish. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Cafaggio 2022 (Chianti Classico). An earthy, sanguine nose has aromas of topsoil, tea leaf, pencil shavings, pepper, and blackberries. The palate is cohesive, with more blackberries sparkling over a foundation that remains tangy and sanguine, but the finish offers chocolate and a sprig of fresh mint. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Il Colombaio di Cencio 2022 Monticello (Chianti Classico). The nose has a sanguine, saline feel, with aromas of car tire, wild herbs, salt, and violets. Flavors of blackberries and bergamot flex on the palate, even as more herb and salt notes are fortified by textured, chalky tannins. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

90 Ruffino 2021 Riserva Ducale Oro Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose opens savory, with aromas of old leather, hot tar, wild herbs, and pepper, then adds the sweetness of dark berries and cherries. Gleaming flavors of blackberries, bergamot, and wild mint define the palate, before that bitter citrus element ignites into a peppery heat on the finish. Constellation Brands. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

90 Tesoro della Regina 2021 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose has the springtime feel of topsoil, herbs, crushed flower petals, and wild berries. A cohesive palate brings ripe blackberries and black cherries, plus more herbs and earth, before the finish heats things up with a spicy, peppery warmth. Total Wine & More. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Casalino 2024 (Chianti Classico). The nose has the sanguine, earthy feel of damp soil, underbrush, black plum, and blood orange. The palate brings more warm citrus and salinity, with notes of snappy black-plum skin and tart but ripe blackberries and black cherries, all accentuated by polished, taut tannins. Total Wine & More. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Tesoro della Regina 2024 (Chianti Classico). Dark fruit and medicinal herbs headline the nose, while undertones of bergamot and licorice add a flintiness. The juicy, fresh palate presents blackberries

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and black cherries, while chewy, chalky tannins provide an anchor. Total Wine & More. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA

92 Castello La Leccia 2022 (Chianti Classico Riserva). The nose is sanguine, spicy, savory, and very peppery, with tangy sweet and sour cherries, and bitter citrus providing a bolt of freshness. Raspberries and oranges lead the way on the palate, before a finish of cool mint and herbs, while textured tannins keep lively acid in check. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Lamole di Lamole 2022 Lareale (Chianti Classico Riserva). Aromas of milk chocolate, Bing cherry and orange peel lead off the nose, followed by earth and herbs. On the palate, those cherries swim through a strong current of citrus and salt, creating a lively, energetic feel that washes into a warm finish. Herita USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Ruffino 2022 Ducale (Chianti Classico Riserva). The earthy, spicy nose pops with aromas of damp soil, pepper, graphite, and black cherry. Tangy, tart berries define the palate, while a squeeze of citrus and abundant salinity create a bouncy texture. Acid sings overhead. Constellation Brands. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Casalino 2021 (Chianti Classico Riserva). Floral and saline on the nose, with aromas of new leather, peonies, salt, wild fennel, and wild cherry. On the palate, wild strawberries join the cherries, with undertones of licorice candy and espresso bean over structured tannins. Total Wine & More. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

98 Biondi-Santi 2018 Tenuta Greppo Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). When we talk about the high arts and great artists, we don't usually say we "like" them. We say we are impressed by them, we revere them, we are moved by them. The Biondi-Santi 2018 Brunello Riserva brings that distinction to my mind. It's not important that I like this wine (even though I do); it's that I feel I learn from it. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$932

98 Poggio di Sotto 2018 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). An umami nose is subtle at first with damp soil and underbrush, then unfolds to reveal sour cherry and orange peel, then balsamic vinegar drizzled over wild strawberries. Sweet wild cherries and wild strawberries roll over the palate, with a squeeze of Cara Cara orange, then that depth that the umami delivers comes out, adding an abyss of complexity. Intense, pure fruit tamed by grippy, forceful tannins and bright acid. There's a lot of time left on this wine. **Cellar Selection.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$650

98 Sesti 2018 Phenomena (Brunello di Montalcino). Saline and floral on the nose with cherry blossom, mandarin, and vanilla, before something ancient and brooding emerges from underneath. Sweet cherries and berries, and more citrus on the palate, then earth, herbs, and a profound cool, earthiness. Acid absolutely sings, catapulting everything skyward at the end. Mercury's wings. Utterly moving. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

97 Pietroso 2020 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The tart and earthy tang of blackberry tea and bergamot lift up aromas of pomegranate syrup and dried fig on the nose, which expand onto the palate rich with more ripe figs and pomegranate set in dark chocolate buoyed by more bitter, tart citrus over earth and pepper underneath. Firm tannins, decisive acid—a self-assured wine, a quiet luxury. North Berkeley Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$220

96 Biondi-Santi 2019 Tenuta Greppo (Brunello di Montalcino). Expansive, even exuberant, this is a Brunello that pushes back against expectations in a graceful and most welcome way. A satisfying density anchors the soaring acid and ripe but still tart fruit. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$315

96 Pietroso 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). The spicy, peppery, lively nose pops with citrus, salt, and just barely ripe blackberries. On the palate, that blackberry element is framed by blood orange, salt, and mocha, but the foundation is crafted of damp earth. Towering tannins stand strong in the face of electric acid, like trees in a thunderstorm, for a remarkably athletic, lively expression of Brunello. North Berkeley Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$120

94 Molino di Sant'Antimo 2020 Paolus Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). On the nose, aromas of wild cherries, wild strawberries, and peonies pop above a foundation of peppery earth. The cherries and strawberries headline the palate, before that hot, earthy element returns on the finish. Textured tannins complement bright acid. Vinifera Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

93 Carpineto 2020 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 6. Opici Wines & Spirits.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$138

92 Adagio 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose opens with the sweet spiciness of dried cranberries, cinnamon, and cloves, then adds aromas of flowers and topsoil. On the palate, flavors of raspberry jam and orange peel are balanced by abundant earth and herbs, grounded by chalky tannins. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Carpineto 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 9. Opici Wines & Spirits.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$72

92 Castelli Martinozzi 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 9. Acnam LLC.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 Castello Finoto 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). Pepper, crushed rocks, spices, and herbs kick off the nose, then sweet vanilla and cherry aromas emerge. The palate pops with tart and sweet wild berries, citrus, salt, and acid, to create a punchy, lively sensation. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Molino di Sant'Antimo 2021 Paolus (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose has the saline, floral feel of new leather, peonies, wild herbs, and pencil shavings. Raspberries and strawberries lead off the nose, before flavors of earth and more herbs emerge for balance. Solid tannins are complemented by lively acid. Vinifera Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Palazzo Rivolo 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose offers aromas of warm pavement, pepper, pencil shavings, licorice, and wild cherry. Strawberries, raspberries, and more cherries tumble over the palate, with salted dark chocolate and chili pepper on the finish. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Canneta 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). On the nose, aromas of hot tar, wild fennel, sage, graphite, pepper, and black cherry swirl from the glass. On the palate, blackberries accentuate the black-cherry element, while undertones of dark chocolate and espresso provide balance. Bright acid shines past linear tannins. Atlantic Importing. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

90 Canneta 2021 Le Bruciate (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose has an earthy, sanguine feel, with aromas of pepper, crushed stones, wild herbs, and tart berries. Ripe blackberries, bitter citrus and more herbs lead the way on the palate, where tannins are satiny, but still have a firm grip. Orvino Imports & Distributing Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 Casalino 2020 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose energizes with aromas of tart blackberries, black plums, topsoil, and bergamot. Raspberry jam and oranges headline the palate, while that earthy note turns peppery and brings balance. Tannins are structured. Total Wine & More. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 Rio del Cipresso 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose pops with aromas of new leather, crushed rocks, wild fennel, bergamot, and cherry. On the palate, that cherry note is accentuated by cranberries and a powerful kick of freshly squeezed orange juice, then a peppery earthiness and weighty tannins emerge for balance. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Santa Giulia 2021 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is floral and herbaceous with peonies.

Mandarin blossoms, rhubarb, and sarsparilla, and the palate is sweet with ripe berries and milk chocolate, followed by more soil, herbs, and flower petals. Textured, substantial tannins provide an anchor. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$65

CARMIGNANO

96 Tenuta di Capezzana 2015 Villa di Capezzana 10 Years (Carmignano). The nose features intensely savory, sanguine aromas of underbrush, old leather, and freshly cracked black pepper, plus undertones of dark fruit for balance. The palate layers plums and figs with dark chocolate, licorice, and espresso bean, creating a wine that carries its age gracefully. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$87

95 Tenuta di Capezzana 2021 Trefiano Riserva (Carmignano). On a refreshing nose, black cherries and blackberries pop above a foundation of new leather, crushed rocks, and herbs. The palate is bright and lively, with salt flakes strewn over wild strawberries, cherries, and blood-orange notes, before the crushed rocks, herbs, and earth return. Tannins are coiled and ready to pounce. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$89

94 Tenuta di Capezzana 2021 Villa di Capezzana (Carmignano). An intensely sanguine, mineral nose unfolds with aromas of cracked pepper, chili, topsoil, wild fennel, burnt sage, and bergamot. On the palate, dark fruit notes brood over more earth and herbs, creating a savory, sanguine density that persists through a lasting finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$39

92 Tenuta di Capezzana 2023 (Barco Reale di Carmignano). The nose shines with aromas of cranberries, raspberries, hibiscus, and blood orange. The palate stays bright, with crunchy, fresh, just ripened berries riding a wave of warm citrus, before a herbal, fresh finish balances things out. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25/700ml

BOLGHERI

96 Ornellaia 2021 (Bolgheri Superiore). An evocative, savory, earthy nose, with blackberries, balsamic, black olives, and wild oregano. All the herbs bloom and berries burst on the palate, with indulgent notes of black licorice candy and mint-chocolate chip ice cream on the finish, that glides over the tongue with polished but toothsome tannins. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$310

95 Michele Satta 2023 Marianova (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose is herbaceous, savory and sanguine, with aromas of pepper, earth, herbs, and tart berries. Those berries ripen and burst on the juicy, fresh, lively palate, before a citrus, saline finish framed

by delicate, satiny tannins. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$180

94 Michele Satta 2023 Piastraia (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose opens floral and sweet, with aromas of rose petals, hibiscus, mandarin blossoms, ripe blackberries, and black cherries, then pepper and graphite come in for balance. The palate sprinkles flaky Maldon salt over blackberries and orange slices before the salinity takes over on a bright finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

90 Ceralti 2023 Scirè (Bolgheri). The nose has a smoky, savory feel, with aromas of graphite, gunmetal, tobacco leaf, black sesame, balsamic, and black cherry. Flavors of salted black licorice and tangy, tart blackberries shine on the palate, while more earth and herbs provide balance. A very savory wine overall. HB Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

OTHER RED WINES

95 Il Borro 2018 Alessandro dal Borro Syrah (Val d'Arno di Sopra). The nose is powerfully savory and sanguine, with aromas of hot tar, wild herbs, balsamic vinegar, black sesame, togarashi, and tart blackberries. Ripe, sweet blackberries and black cherries lead the way on the palate, then those salty, savory components return, and finally heat and acid bring energy to a dark chocolate finish. A layered, complex vintage that inspires confidence in what Syrah might become here. —D.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$210/1.5L

93 Castelprile 2021 Castelprile Rosso Riserva (Maremma Toscana). The nose has a tangy, fresh feel, with aromas of dried cranberry, raspberry, blood orange, wild herbs, and graphite. Sweet, ripe berries and cherries pop on the palate alongside milk chocolate, then more salty, metallic notes of earth and herbs emerge. Polished tannins and lively acid. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

92 Usiglian del Vescovo 2021 Il Barbiglione (Terre di Pisa). On the nose, the sweetness of vanilla and macerated cherries is balanced by savory espresso bean, wild fennel, and lots of pepper. The palate brings earth and more pepper, plus dark berries floating in a saline current, with a hint of mocha. Tannins are still fierce, and acid carries the finish alongside that peppery heat. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

90 Podere Forte 2023 Villaggio (Orcia). The earthy, savory nose swirls with aromas of damp soil, pepper, cloves, cinnamon, black cherries, and blackberries. The blackberries star on a palate that is bouncy with salt and citrus, while firm but flexible tannins provide just enough structure. Winebow. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$45

90 San Gregorio 2022 San Gregorio (Chianti Colli Senesi). Earthy and sanguine on the nose with savory aromas of topsoil, new leather, crushed rocks, wild fennel, bitter citrus, and tart blackberries. On the palate, black plums accentuate the blackberry note, but the overall feel remains savory and salty. Powerful tannins hold their own against vigorous acid. T. Edward Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 9%

Price: \$12

SICILY WHITE WINES

SICILIA

95 Tenuta Regaleali 2023 Vigna San Francesco Chardonnay (Sicilia). The nose has a savory, nutty, layered feel, with aromas of toasted hazelnuts, dried pineapple, and Meyer lemon. Lemons, limes and grapefruits tumble over the palate, while undertones of more toasted nuts, crushed shells, and herbs add nuance. An incredibly textured, toothsome wine, with a tensile strength that ripples across the palate. Trinchero Family Estates. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$65

94 Planeta 2022 Eruzione 1614 (Sicilia). The nose refreshes with aromas of lemon, lime, salt, new leather, and fresh wild herbs. The palate stays clean, with more tart and sweet citrus notes and crushed rocks, before nutty, savory elements emerge as acid soars through the finish. This is a wine that's greater than the sum of its parts, and it's getting only better. Palm Bay International Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$49

94 Serra Ferdinandea 2024 (Sicilia). The nose unfurls with aromas of pineapple, Bosc pear, toasted hazelnut, and jasmine. On the palate, tart lemon-curd flavors join more ripe pineapple and toasted hazelnut elements, before saline and herbaceous notes make themselves known. A wine that is expansive while maintaining linearity and focus, daring you not to be impressed. Panebianco Wines. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

94 Tenuta Gorgi Tondi 2024 Kheirè Grillo Riserva (Sicilia). Yellow apples, pineapples, Meyer lemons, and toasted almonds tumble over the nose, and those notes all reappear, but sweeter, on a palate of sweet, ripe pineapple topped with whipped cream, almond shavings, and lemon zest. The texture is full and satiny. Vivino Selections. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$38

93 Feudo Montoni 2024 Timpa Grillo (Sicilia). Apricots and white peaches define the nose, while undertones of melon, honey, and raw almonds add nuance. Ripe stone fruits and juicy melons tumble over the palate, while more of that slightly bitter, savory, nutty element provides an anchor on a finish of buoyant acid and citrus. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

BUYINGGUIDE

92 **Colomba Bianca 2024 Resilience Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose sprinkles salt over lemons, limes, white peaches and white flowers, and a cohesive palate is defined by bright, tart citrus, and stone fruit that is ripe but still crunchy, creating an alive, dynamic overall sensation. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

92 **CVA Canicatti 2024 Fileno Grillo (Sicilia).** On the nose, lemons, limes, green apples, and white peaches tumble across a foundation of crushed rocks. The palate opens intensely tart and citrusy, then rich, nutty undertones emerge, before things finish off salty and umami. St. Augustine Investments LLC. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$24

92 **del grillo 2024 Catarratto (Sicilia).** The nose wakes you up with aromas of lime zest, crushed shells, cumin seeds, and raw almonds. Lemons, limes, melons, herbs, and more nuts tumble over the palate, before a finish which is nutty and honeyed, but not sweet. A textured, substantial wine. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

92 **Fondo Antico 2024 Lumière Chardonnay (Sicilia).** The nose is a glass of iced tea with a slice of lemon and a drizzle of acacia honey, while the palate brings denser summery notes of ripe white peach, honeydew, lemon curd, and hazelnuts. A salty, bright wine, even with the rich, luxurious fruit. Golden Ram Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

92 **Funaro 2022 Collezione di Famiglia Grillo Riserva (Sicilia).** On the nose, aromas of new leather, tulips, yellow apples, and toasted almonds peek over the edge of the glass. Flavors of almond, hazelnut, pineapple, and tree fruit tumble over the palate, all beneath a squeeze of fresh lemon, creating a warm, salty, substantial sensation. Transparent Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

92 **Gambino 2023 Feu d'o Grillo (Sicilia).** On the nose, fresh lemon, lime, and citrus aromas waft above a savory, herbaceous, nutty foundation. Intense, almost desiccated citrus and tree-fruit flavors carry the palate, walking the line created by a rigid backbone of acid. Wonderlust Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

92 **Masseria del Feudo 2024 Voce di Lago (Sicilia).** The nose is a basket laden with pears, lemons, bananas, and pineapples. On the palate, Bosc pears and just barely ripe bananas are joined by tahini and Makrut limes, creating a rich, full sensation. Lyra, LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

92 **Planeta 2024 La Segreta (Sicilia).** For full review see page 13. Palm Bay International Imports. *Best Buy.*

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

92 **Planeta 2024 La Segreta (Sicilia).** Aromas of white peach, honey dew, green apple, and white flowers play on the nose. The green apple and melon

notes define the palate, while undertones of toasted almonds and lemon provide balance and create a substantial, textured mouthfeel. An incredible deal. Palm Bay International Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

92 **Tenuta Stoccatello 2024 Ànimi Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose has the springtime feel of white flowers, lime zest, and salt, while on the palate, more citrus is joined by ripe tree fruit blooming above an herbaceous, earthy, saline foundation, as vibrant acid shines overhead. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$8

92 **Tenuta Stoccatello 2024 Carboj Catarratto (Sicilia).** The nose has a creamy, nutty feel, with aromas of toasted almonds and hazelnuts, ripe pineapple, yellow apple, and brown butter. The palate is lifted by salt and citrus at first, then leans back into those toasted nut and ripe fruit elements, but acid refuses to let a creamy texture take over. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$8

92 **Tenute Orestiadi 2022 Il Bianco di Ludovico Riserva (Sicilia).** The nose refreshes with aromas of lime zest, lemongrass, fresh ginger, crushed shells, and a hint of pineapple. That pineapple note pops on the palate, alongside flavors of Meyer lemon, star fruit, spicy ginger and more salt. A wine which is both linear and electric. Ventura Selections LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

92 **Terra Dives 2024 Evia Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose features summery aromas of white peach, honey, iced tea, and lemon slices, and the palate has a similar feel, with peaches and apricots tumbling across the tongue and citrus and salt providing lift. A juicy, warm, exuberant wine. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

92 **Vigneti Zabu 2025 Sensuale Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose is a mix of crushed wild herbs, salted nuts, fresh lemon, and green and yellow apples. Those tart and sweet apple notes are joined by star fruit to headline the palate, while nuance comes from a slice of very fresh, juicy but not overripe pineapple and more salted nuts, plus piercing acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$27

91 **Alessandro di Camporeale 2024 Benedè Catarratto (Sicilia).** Yellow peaches, honeydew melons, and Meyer lemons headline the nose, and the palate is cohesive, with sweet but still tart lemons, ripe peaches, melons, and Anjou pears tumbling over the tongue. A salty, bouncy wine. Panebianco Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

91 **Alessandro di Camporeale 2024 Mandranova Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose is a whimsical mix of grapefruit, raw almond, wild thyme, and oregano. Grapefruit and orange flavors headline the palate, creating a very savory, tangy feel that has a lot of warm, citrus

depth, before the finish sprinkles flakes of salt over the tongue. Panebianco Wines. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

91 **Bagliesi 2024 Terre di Totò Grillo (Sicilia).** Aromas of green apple, lime, and white flowers pop from the glass, ushering in a tangy, mineral palate which leads with more citrus, then introduces notes of raw almonds and salt. A bright, fierce wine. Select Sellers. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

91 **Baglio Aimone 2024 Doralice (Sicilia).** The savory, stony, smoky nose unveils aromas of bitter citrus, crushed rocks, and herbs. Raw almonds and more herbs kick off the palate, followed by very fresh slices of lemon that walk the line between tart and sweet, before a high-toned, crunchy finish ties everything together. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

91 **Baglio Oro 2024 Lagunare Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose is primarily nutty and herbaceous, but also has the sweetness of ripe white peach and honeydew for balance. The palate is similarly balanced, with juicy stone fruit and ripe melon underpinned by nutty, savory earth tones, before a sweeping wave of citrus pulls you out to sea. Kindred Vines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

91 **Cantina Cellaro 2025 Luma Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose has the fresh feel of lime zest, green apple, raw almond, and freshly cut grass. The palate stays upbeat with grapefruit, pineapple, and toasted almond notes, which lead into a finish of fresh lemon and more nutty, umami flavors. Retaggio Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$27

91 **Cantine Amato 2024 Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose is floral, sweet, and delicate, with aromas of lemon curd, vanilla bean, toasted coconut, and hazelnut. The palate opens much more savory, tangy and tart, then pivots to flavors of pineapple and star fruit to create a bright, warm, fresh overall sensation. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

91 **Cantine Birgi 2023 Feudo Stagnone Grillo Riserva (Sicilia).** The nose is both citrus and savory, with aromas of preserved lemon, grapefruit, and lime. The palate brings more citrus, then some tree fruit and melon, creating a clinging, substantial texture that lingers on the finish. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

91 **Cantine De Gregorio 2024 Bianco di San Lorenzo (Sicilia).** An herbaceous savoriness opens the nose, and is eventually joined by developing aromas of citrus and tree fruit. The palate is electric with lemon, lime, tart green-apple slices, and salt, and waves of acid that roll through the finish. Fantasy Fine Wines Corp.. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$15

91 **Cantine Fina 2024 Kebrilla Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose mixes citrus and savory elements to create a bright, fresh, lively feel. That ultrafresh, ultrabright citrus stays dominant on the palate, lit up with currents

of acid and salt, before finally relaxing a bit to let subtle notes of green melon and green apple breathe, but the overall feel is decisively vibrant and intense. Solstars Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Cantine Mothia 2024 Mosaikon Grillo (Sicilia). The nose is bright with aromas of raw almonds, white flowers, wild thyme, and lemon. The palate stays lively with notes of lemon-lime candy and green apples, which are supercharged by electric acid, plus more almonds and salty, savory elements for balance. Villa Italia. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Caruso & Minini 2024 Naturalmente Bio Catarratto (Sicilia). The nose unfurls with earthy, floral and herbaceous aromas of tulips, citrus blossoms, crushed stones, and wild thyme. The spicy palate has a strong white-pepper element, alongside more very fresh herbs and a gingery heat, before a wave of warm citrus crashes over the finish. Massanois Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

91 del grillo 2024 Grillo (Sicilia). The nose is both floral and herbaceous, with aromas of jasmine, citrus blossom, wild thyme, and oregano. Savory notes dominate the palate of tomato leaf, thyme, cumin, and preserved lemon before a salty, nutty finish. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

91 Tenuta del Vallone Rosso 2024 TDVR CS (Sicilia). Pineapples, yellow apples, grapefruits and raw almonds tumble from the glass on the nose. On the palate, the citrus opens tart and bitter, then turns warm and juicy, while more tree fruit and nuts provide depth, and the pineapple stays fresh and crunchy. Full and rich, but still with an edge. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Tonnino 2024 Terre di Mariù Selezione di Grillo (Sicilia). The nose is simultaneously saline, floral, and citrus, with aromas of lemon-lime soda, honeysuckle, and crushed shells. Ripe melon and peaches tumble over a palate that has a rich mouthfeel, before the finish introduces grapefruit and lots more salt. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

91 Vigneti Zabu 2025 Grillo (Sicilia). The nose opens with green apple, limeade, white peach, and jasmine, then turns grassy and earthy. The palate has a similar feel, with tart apple and ripe melon flavors creating a juicy, full feel, but with that grassiness lingering as an undertone. A fiercely tart, salty current rips down the middle to keep you on your toes. Empson USA Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Assuli 2024 Fiordiligi Grillo (Sicilia). The nose is fresh, citrus and salty, with aromas of lemon, lime, and white flowers. The palate balances things out with a nutty density, then returns to the tart

minerality of citrus and salinity. A bright, light wine. Tavolo Vigneto. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Bagliesi 2024 Masi Catarratto (Sicilia). The nose shimmers with aromas of yellow apple, banana, dried pineapple, and toasted almonds, and the palate brings more tree fruit, pineapple, and nuts, but also a riot of citrus, to create an overall feel that is sunny, but fresh. Select Sellars. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Baglio Aimone 2024 Ferrau (Sicilia). Aromas of lemongrass, lime zest, and pine needles are strewn across the nose, and the palate has the same feel of a very fresh forest floor: herbaceous, but floral and clean. Gentle acid slowly pushes through that slick mouthfeel. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Baglio del Cristo di Campobello 2024 Adenzia Bianco (Sicilia). The nose gleams with aromas of wet slate, crushed rocks, mixed herbs, new leather, and lime. The palate is both saline and nutty, and also brings more citrus and savory elements as undertones, while fierce acid keeps you guessing. Lyra Wine LCC. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

90 Baglio di Pianetto 2023 Viafrancia Bianco (Sicilia). The nose is cool, fresh and floral, with aromas of crushed shells, white flowers, lime zest, and raw almonds. On the palate, notes of melon, apple, and white peach come out, as the lime element is spotlighted by lots more citrus and vibrant acid. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Cantina di Prima 2024 Grillo del Lago (Sicilia). A deeply savory nose gusts with aromas of new leather, preserved lemon, wild herbs, raw nuts, and sourdough bread. On the palate, flavors of lemon, lime, and grapefruit join more nuts and herbs to create a sensation that is still savory, but more tangy and salty. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$6

90 Cantine Amato 2024 Catarratto (Sicilia). The nose has a fresh, herbaceous, saline feel, with aromas of crushed rocks, saltwater, lemongrass, ginger, cumin seed, and lime. The similarly tangy and savory palate unveils flavors of lemon and crushed shells to join more lime, crushed rocks, salt, and herbs, and the overall mouthfeel is full without being excessive. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Cantine de Gregorio 2024 Rahana Grillo (Sicilia). The nose is both cool and floral, with aromas of honeysuckle, Meyer lemon, and wet slate. Nutty, savory notes emerge on the palate, while richer lemon and honey elements provide balance and acid keeps things saline and bright, until the nuttiness takes over on the finish. Fantasy Fine Wines Corp. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Cantine Fina 2023 Firma del Tempo Riserva (Sicilia). On the nose, aromas of jasmine, citrus blossom, and key lime bloom over a foundation of crushed stones. Warm citrus and tree fruit flavors define the palate, before a finish which is salty, nutty, floral and expansive all at once. solstars inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Curatolo Arini 1875 2024 Grillo (Sicilia). Aromas of lemon, lime, green apple, and white flowers pop from the glass on the nose. White peaches spotlight more green apple and citrus notes on the palate, before the finish introduces the bitter bite of raw almond skin. PSP Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Di Giovanna Winery 2024 Helios Grillo 830 Metri (Sicilia). Green apples, pears, white peaches, and melons tumble over the nose, and the cohesive palate brings more ripe, sweet melon, and tree fruit before the finish adds nuance with toasted almonds, a drizzle of honey and a squeeze of warm citrus. Regal Wines Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Ferreri 2021 Catarratto (Sicilia). On the nose, aromas of new leather, lime zest, salt, and white flowers zip from the glass. Lemon-lime candy and green-apple slices strut on the palate, which is bubbly with acid and warm with citrus. Dandelion Wines Distributor LLC. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Feudo di Santa Teresa 2023 Insieme Orange (Terre Siciliane). A coppery gold color sets up a gleaming nose of lemongrass, honey, iced tea, and orange peel. The palate brings slightly denser notes of lemon, apricot, and melon, but the overall feel is decidedly bouncy and lively. Vias Imports Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$1

90 Funaro 2024 Pinzeri (Sicilia). Aromas of lime zest, crushed seashells, and green apple make for an invigorating nose. On the palate, the green apple note is lifted by Anjou pears, melons, lemons, and limes, before a finish of almonds and salt. A fresh, linear wine. Transparent Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Giovinco 2024 Sgarretta (Sicilia). The nose blooms with aromas of lemon, lime, white flowers, and white peach. The palate first pivots toward flavors of salty citrus and raw almonds, then hints of melon and stone fruit emerge to create a slick mouthfeel. K&L Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Luna Sicana 2023 Fiano (Sicilia). The nose is nutty, herbaceous, umami, and even a bit smoky, with aromas of crushed rocks, mixed wild herbs, and salty seawater. On the palate, those notes all reappear and are joined by limes and almonds, while fierce acid keeps you on your toes. Tuttilili. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Mandrarossa 2023 Bertolino Soprano (Sicilia). The nose gleams with aromas of new leather, tulips, wild herbs, lemon, and grapefruit. The palate dusts grapefruit slices with sugar and adds a hint of toasted nuts, creating a mouthfeel that is slick and full, but with lively citrus and salt to keep you guessing. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

90 Porta del Vento 2024 Catarratto (Sicilia). The nose is a playful mix of lime zest, white flowers, cumin seed, and mixed wild herbs. A lemon-lime swirl defines the palate, while denser undertones of ripe white peach and melon provide an anchor, and salt and acid add a zesty energy. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

90 Salvatore Tamburello Azienda Agricola Biologica 2024 204 N Grillo (Sicilia). An unfiltered, ultrafresh, tangy wine, with aromas of banana leaf, green almond, and gooseberry, then a palate of yellow tomato and Meyer lemon. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

90 Terre di Entella 2024 Catarratto (Sicilia). The nose zests limes over slices of orange and cantaloupe. An evolving palate first brings more citrus notes, of grapefruit and lemon, then undertones of honey, nuts, and tree fruit make themselves known, before a nutty salinity stamps its name on the finish. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

90 Terre di Entella 2024 Grillo (Sicilia). On the nose, aromas of sourdough bread, grapefruit, and crushed rocks drift from the glass. The palate stays salty, savory, toasty, and nutty, but lots of citrus and bright acid provide a bolt of energy. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

90 Totònavarra 2024 Allucià Grillo (Sicilia). Aromas of lemon curd, toasted almond, jasmine, and wild thyme shimmer on the nose, and the palate stays bright with flavors of Meyer lemon, lime, honeydew, and Anjou pear. The overall mouthfeel is salty, but slick. Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: LA Price: \$13

89 Luna Sicana 2023 Catarratto (Sicilia). The nose invigorates with aromas of new leather, lime, salt, and crushed rocks, and the palate keeps the energy up with flavors of raw almond, grapefruit, white peach, and more salinity. Bouncy acid breaks up an expansive, oily overall feel. Tuttilili. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

ETNA

94 Carranco 2022 Contrada Carranco (Etna). Flinty and fresh on the nose, then alive with piercing salinity and fierce acid that wrestle with ripe exotic fruit and freshly bloomed flowers on the palate. High toned and dynamic. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$92

93 Planeta 2023 Contrada Taccione (Etna). The savory, herbaceous nose brings aromas of wild herbs, preserved lemons, and new leather, plus hints of flowers and nuts. On the palate, the citrus sweetens and the nuttiness expands, before fierce acid pops on the finish. Palm Bay International Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$43

93 Terra Costantino 2021 Contrada Blandano (Etna). Aromas of new leather, tulips, green apples, lemons, and limes pop on the nose, and the palate is cohesive, with green and yellow apples, moe lemons and limes, plus hints of toasted nuts and spice on the back, before the finish brings a spicy, peppery kick. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

92 Carranco 2024 Villa dei Baroni (Etna). Salty and floral on the nose, with ripe melon and warm citrus that expand onto a palate with firm stone fruit and more salinity from crushed shells. Fresh and linear but substantial. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

92 Terra Costantino 2024 deAetna (Etna). The nose is bright and fresh with aromas of lemon, lime, crushed shells, white flowers, and wild herbs. On the palate, flavors of warm citrus and ripe Anjou pear are joined by a slice of green melon to keep things fresh, creating a structured mouthfeel. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$31

90 Tenuta Etna Nord 2024 (Etna Bianco). The warm, sunny nose glimmers with aromas of white flowers, lemon, orange, and yellow and green apple. Flavors of sweet lemon and ripe tree fruit define the palate, as acid zips past overhead. Ilaria Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Planeta 2024 Chardonnay (Menfi). The nose opens with saline, herbaceous aromas of crushed seashells, and wild oregano, then turns toasty and umami with notes of sourdough bread and cultured butter. Lemon, toasted nuts, and pineapple headline the palate, where the mouthfeel seems buttery and rich at first, but then gets cut through with a current of acid. Palmbay International. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$54

ROSÉS

91 Feudo Maccari 2024 Rosé di Neré (Terre Siciliane). A salmon-pink hue aligns well with a floral, sweet nose of rose petals, lavender, fresh laundry, and pink grapefruit. On the palate, honey dew and more grapefruit expand under the floral notes creating an overall sensation that is textured and substantial, but still bright and easygoing. A great deal! Kobrand. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

90 Tenuta Etna Nord 2024 Rosato (Etna). A rose-pink color sets up a playful nose of wild herbs, wild cherry and pink grapefruit. The palate brings more tart and sweet cherries, and citrus, plus a hint of wild herbs, creating an overall sensation that is simultaneously salty, tangy, floral and sweet. Ilaria Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

SICILY RED WINES

SICILIA

94 Planeta 2021 Eruzione 1614 (Sicilia). The savory, umami nose both calms and refreshes, with aromas of saltwater, crushed shells, rocks, sea-grass, bitter citrus, and tart berries. A vibrating energy comes into being on the palate, doing justice to this wine's name with an eruption of life. Palm Bay International Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$49

94 Tasca d'Almerita 2021 Vigna San Francesco Cabernet Sauvignon (Sicilia). The nose offers sophisticated, vibrant aromas of wild oregano, thyme and fennel, artemisia, bitter Sicilian citrus, pomegranate seeds, and ripe dark figs. The palate is a dense bar of dark chocolate dotted with spicy wild ginger and tiny blueberries, while acid soars alongside silken tannins. Trinchero Family Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$65

93 Feudo Maccari 2023 Mahâris Syrah (Sicilia). The nose is savory, herbaceous, earthy, and spicy all at once, with aromas of macerated blackberries, mulberries, and figs. Ripe black plums and more figs tumble across the palate, alongside salted dark chocolate and licorice, all beneath a sprinkle of cinnamon and cloves. I hate to give a seasonally specific note, but this wine does feel like Christmas. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$61/75ml

93 Feudo Maccari 2022 Mahâris Syrah (Sicilia). The nose is dense and rich with dark fruit and wild herbs, bringing the lush decadence of a hanging garden with damp soil and heady blossoms. The palate contrasts with a lifted, spirited feel, as the tart skin of the fruit and the flinty edge of topsoil is buoyed by salinity and citrus. Polished tannins round out the finish. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$68

93 Serra Ferdinanda 2022 (Sicilia). The nose is primarily floral and saline, but with pops of wild cherry and orange zest. Ripe cherries, berries, and orange slices headline the palate, before a chili pepper heat ignites on a finish structured by grippy, taut tannins. Panebianco Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

92 Azienda Vitivinicola Lombardo 2023 Falco Syrah (Sicilia). Aromas of pomegranate, blackberry, tea leaf, and bergamot play on the nose, before a palate which presents notes of bitter citrus, tart fruit,

dark chocolate, toasted walnuts and coffee grinds. A sophisticated, intense wine. EDV International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

92 Cambria 2021 Mastronicola Nocera Gran Cru of the Furnari Hills (Sicilia).

The nose energizes with aromas of blackberry, black plum, damp earth, tea leaf, and bergamot. The palate presents a mix of tangy and sweet dark-fruit notes, alongside more warm but bitter citrus elements, while acid zips around athletic tannins. WineMakers Import. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 Feudo Solaria 2023 Moro Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

The nose opens with the savory sanguinity of petrol, crushed rocks, topsoil, and old leather, then turns sweet with ripe black cherries, blackberries, and chocolate. Wild cherries and dark chocolate headline the palate, while undertones of roasted nuts and freshly brewed coffee glide through a warm finish. Cuvée Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

92 Firriato 2020 Harmonium Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

The nose opens with warm earth, crushed rocks, toasted nuts, and leather, then turns sweet with ripe blackberries and black cherries. The palate is ripe and rich with berries, nuts, and chocolate, but then bitter citrus and pepper spice things up, en route to a hot, fiery finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.

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

92 Firriato 2020 Santagostino Baglio Soria (Sicilia).

The nose opens tangy and tart, with tea leaves and cranberries, then delicate aromas of citrus blossom and vanilla bean make themselves known. Blood oranges and cherries define the palate, while taut tannins provide structure. Soilair Selection. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

92 Fondo Antico 2023 Le Clay Syrah (Sicilia).

Cranberries, raspberries, hibiscus, tea leaves, and vanilla play on the nose. The tang of citrus and more tea leaves keeps the palate bright and bouncy, through a finish that is lifted by crunchy fruit, salt, and pepper. Golden Ram Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

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

92 Tenuta Gorgi Tondi 2024 Coste a Preola (Sicilia).

The nose has the cool, earthy salinity of new leather, crushed rocks, topsoil, tart berries, and plum skin. Blackberries and black plums star on the palate, while undertones of dark chocolate and pepper provide balance and firm, toothy tannins, and fiery acid keep you on your toes. Vivino Selections. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Zisola 2022 Doppiozeta (Sicilia).

The nose invigorates with aromas of freshly brewed coffee, topsoil, chili pepper, wild cherry, and red plum. Cherries and strawberries star on the palate, before that chili pepper heat rises on the finish. Tannins are structured and substantial. Demeine Estate. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$59

91 Assuli 2022 Lorlando Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

The nose opens with earthy, savory, umami aromas of hot tar, petrol, crushed rocks, and cracked pepper, then pivots to tart, tangy fruit notes of black plum and blackberries. The blackberries sweeten on the palate, but bitter orange flavors and a chili pepper heat push back, drawing strength from tannins that are lithe and flexible, but powerful. Tavolo Vigneto. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Baglio di Pianetto 2022 Viafrancia Rosso (Sicilia).

The nose opens earthy, peppery, and citrusy, then turns floral and ripe with a strong blackberry aroma. The palate sprinkles pepper over more blackberries, while an overall brightness and lift comes from citrus undertones, before the finish brings a lingering, peppery heat. —D.C.

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

91 Cambria 2017 Rosso del Levriero Syrah Nocera (Sicilia).

The nose opens savory, with hot tar and crushed rocks, then turns sweet with aromas of black cherry, milk chocolate, and toasted coconut. Crunchy fruit, citrus, and salinity define a bright, fresh palate, while substantial acid cascades over structured tannins. WineMakers Import. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Cantine Grasso 2023 Sette Aje Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

The nose opens floral and saline, then aromas of dark fruit and chocolate emerge. The palate is ripe and rich with berries, but also brings high-toned, warm citrus and resurgent salinity. Taut tannins and lively acid create an energetic overall feel. Cuvée Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

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

91 Cantine Mothia 2023 Mosaikon Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

Mission figs and pomegranates tumble over the nose, while hints of tea leaf and vanilla add nuance. The palate swells with ripe, fresh figs, above undertones of dark chocolate and orange peel, before firm, substantial tannins usher in a lingering, warm finish. Villa Italia. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

91 Caruso & Minini 2023 Naturalmente Bio Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

Raspberries, figs, and pomegranates lead the way on the nose, followed by cool earth, herbs, and spearmint. On the palate, raspberry jam and dried cherries are lifted by salt and citrus zest before a lively, warm, salty finish closes things out. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Cassarà 2023 Perricone (Sicilia).

The nose is earthy and savory, with aromas of damp soil, underbrush, wild oregano, and black plum. The plums pop on the palate, with ripe flesh and tangy skin, above a current of mocha. Bright acid flashes around sturdy tannins. Vini Buoni LLC. —D.C.

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

91 Cassarà 2022 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

A smoky, peppery, sanguine nose billows with aromas of hot tar, black olive, and wild oregano. Blackberries and

blueberries pop on the palate above more herbs and earth, before a bitter chocolate note emerges. The finish is very saline and lively, but with a slick mouthfeel. Vini Buoni LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Colomba Bianca 2024 Resilience Perricone (Sicilia).

Ripe blackberries, vanilla bean, and orange peel kick off the nose, then wild herbs and earth emerge for balance. The palate is tart and tangy with metallic earth tones, bitter citrus, more herbs, and pepper, while austere tannins provide structure. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

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

91 Di Giovanna Winery 2022 Vurria Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

The nose opens with black cherries, blackberries, damp earth, and crushed rocks, then a hint of vanilla emerges. The palate scatters cool, fresh, ripe berries over more damp earth, then sprinkles salt and pepper over structured, insistent tannins. Regal Wines Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

91 Ferreri 2023 Frappato (Sicilia).

Black plums, blackberries and tea leaves kick off the nose, followed by sweet cherries, vanilla, and citrus blossoms. The palate opens with tart, tangy fruit that then sweetens and ripens, before a warm, citrus, peppery heat ignites on the finish. Dandelion Wines Distributor LLC. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Giovinco 2023 Sgarretta Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

The fresh, tangy, bright nose pops with aromas of tea leaf, cranberry, blood orange, and topsoil. The palate stays lively, with raspberries joining more cranberries, citrus, and peppery earth. Tannins are polished and sleek, but substantial. K&L Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

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

91 Pellegrino 2023 Passimora (Sicilia).

A fresh, earthy, saline nose gusts with aromas of new leather, damp earth, crushed herbs, and blackberries. On the palate, more blackberries and black cherries that are sweet and ripe, but still tangy, pop above focused tannins, while bright acid streaks past overhead. Caput Mundi Wine Import. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

91 Tenute Orestiadi 2021 Il Rosso di Ludovico Riserva (Sicilia).

The nose is both floral and saline, with aromas of new leather, wild cherry, and candied orange peel. The palate adds strawberry jam to more cherry and citrus notes, creating a sweet but tangy feel, while biting tannins keep you honest. Ventura Selections LLC. —D.C.

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

91 Terra Dives 2022 Riah Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

Aromas of black cherries, vanilla, cola, and wild mint pop on the nose, alongside hints of salinity and citrus. The palate mixes cherries and orange peel with a swirl of vanilla and chocolate, creating a sensation which is warm and comforting, but also delightfully

BUYINGGUIDE

lively, tangy and zippy. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Tonnino 2020 Ceuso (Sicilia). Chocolate, coffee, and nuts lead the way on the nose, while hints of salinity and herbs keep you guessing. The palate brings blackberries and black plums, plus earth and more herbs, before the nutty mocha element returns on the finish with a salty kick. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

91 Zisola 2021 Effe Emme (Sicilia). The nose brings adventurous aromas of damp earth, underbrush, black olive, oregano, and blackberries. On the palate, black cherries underscore the blackberry note, alongside more earth and herbs, before polished, slippery tannins guide you to a peppery finish. Demeine Estate. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

90 Azienda Vitivinicola Lombardo 2022 Kalyroon (Sicilia). The nose has the savory feel of a new car, hot tires on pavement, saline, rose water, and orange blossoms. Wild strawberries and cherries star on the palate, above a backbone of bitter citrus and earth, while razor sharp acid cuts through it all. EDV International. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$579

90 Azienda Vitivinicola Tola 2021 Lavinàro Riserva (Sicilia). The nose opens sanguine, with aromas of blood orange and soil, then adds dark fruit notes of blackberries and black cherries. Those berries are grounded in earth on the palate, then salt, pepper, and more citrus zing emerge. Dusty tannins structure a salt and pepper finish. Bravo Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Azienda Vitivinicola Tola 2019 Granduca Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Dark-fruit aromas of figs, blackberries, and pomegranate gleam on the nose, while the savory, warm, peppery palate provides balance, with notes of herbs and a citrus lift. Tannins are dense and firm. Bravo Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Baglio del Cristo di Campobello 2021 Lu Patri Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose shines with aromas of vanilla, toasted coconut, black cherry, and leather, and the palate stays sophisticated with Luxardo cherries and milk chocolate preening above a savory, nutty foundation. Tannins grip at the tongue. Lyra Wine LCC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

90 Baglio Oro 2023 Rassal Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose unveils aromas of malted chocolate, toasted walnuts, old leather, and sugar plums, then the palate offers up a chocolate chestnut cake, accompanied by a bowl of figs and plums. Tannins are sleek, but substantial. Kindred Vines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Cantina Cellaro 2023 Due Lune Nero d'Avola-Nerello Mascalese (Sicilia). Aromas of hot tar, coffee, crushed rocks, blackberries, and black plum pop from the glass. The palate brings blackberries, black cherries, and dark chocolate garnished with espresso bean, plus tightly coiled tannins and vibrant acid. Retaggio Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Cantina di Prima 2019 Villamaura (Sicilia). The savory, sanguine nose presents aromas of coffee grinds, bitter chocolate, pepper, and new leather. The palate is saline but still savory, and adds tart blackberry and plum-skin elements, before the coffee returns on the finish. Toothsome, chewy tannins anchor vibrant acid. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

90 Cantine Birgi 2023 Feudo Stagnone Perricone Riserva (Sicilia). The nose opens saline, floral and herbal, then raspberries and wild strawberries make themselves known. The palate accentuates those fruit notes with a dusting of orange zest and salt, as acid soars over dusty tannins, before warm citrus washes over the finish. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Cantine Ermes 2024 Vento di Mare Nero d'Avola-Cabernet Sauvignon (Sicilia). The nose is an invigorating blend of pepper, earth, pencil shavings, black olives, wild oregano, blackberries, and black plums. Blueberries join more blackberries on the palate, alongside flavors of graphite, tea leaves, and more pepper, while fierce tannins keep you paying attention. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

90 Curatolo Arini 1875 2024 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose opens floral and saline, with crushed rocks and rose petals, then denser aromas of raspberry, cranberry, and blood orange emerge. On the palate, ripe berries, citrus and earth star, and polished tannins keep their grip through the finish. PSP Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 CVA Canicattì 2021 Aynat Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). A savory, umami nose swirls with aromas of seaweed, crushed rocks, drip coffee, black olive, and pencil eraser. The palate presents a sweeter salinity, but the savory elements persist as undertones, creating a chewy, dense mouthfeel. St. Augustine Investments LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Mandrarossa 2022 Terre del Sommacco (Sicilia). Mixed sweet and tart blackberries, and black cherries pop on the nose over a swirl of milk chocolate and wild mint. The palate brings ripe, juicy berries, and more chocolate, but a rising chili pepper heat pushes back, fortified by dusty but powerful tannins. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

90 Musità 2020 Passocalcara Rosso Riserva (Sicilia). The textured nose brings damp earth, mixed herbs, crushed rocks, salt, and tart black plums.

The palate offers sweet wild berries and vanilla bean for balance, then more herb and earth elements that are underscored by grippy, grainy tannins. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

90 Porta del Vento 2023 Ishac (Sicilia). The nose invigorates with aromas of topsoil, gun metal, black olive, and sour cherry. Those cherries ripen and sweeten on the palate, alongside wild strawberries, lots of fresh orange notes and warm earth. Textured tannins balance buoyant acid. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Salvatore Tamburello Azienda Agricola Biologica 2024 306 N Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose opens floral and saline, then unveils tart blackberries layered with milk chocolate. On the palate, black cherries join sweet, ripe blackberries and more chocolate, while hints of blueberry waft past dusty tannins. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Totònavarra 2024 Disiato Frappato (Sicilia). The nose is sweet with hibiscus, raspberry jam, vanilla bean, and orange blossom. On the palate, mixed ripe and tart berries pop over a backbone of orange peel and topsoil, while fierce acid and a latent fiery heat add further liveliness. Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: LA **Price:** \$13

89 Cantine Ermes 2025 Vento di Mare Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose sprinkles cinnamon, nutmeg, and other spices over cranberries, pomegranates and blood oranges. The palate is cohesive, with more warm fruit, citrus, and mixed spices and herbs, and grippy tannins to complement relaxed acid. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Gambino 2021 Duvanera Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose is herbaceous and earthy, with aromas of underbrush, black olive, wild oregano, and black cherry. Bing and black cherries pop on the palate above more earth, but strong notes of dark chocolate and espresso bean also assert themselves on the backs of grippy tannins. Wonderlust Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Masseria del Feudo 2023 Rosso delle Rose (Sicilia). The nose is earthy, but also sweet and floral, with aromas of topsoil, vanilla, cherry blossom, and cinnamon. The palate opens with tangy, tart cherries that then sweeten and ripen, alongside a smear of bitter orange jam and a hint of ripe peach. Tannins are solid and grippy. Lyra, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Musità 2023 Organicus Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose is a playful mix of wild strawberry, raspberry, orange peel, and milk chocolate. On the palate, the fruit is tangy and tart, with the milk chocolate underneath and orange zest on top. Tannins are firm but flexible. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

ETNA

96 Carranco 2021 Contrada Carranco RV (Etna Rosso). The scent of the sea dominates the nose at first, like looking over the edge of the boat and getting splashed in the face with water, and then suddenly you're hit by an explosion of berries that roll onto the palate, warmed by citrus and sunshine and electrified with acid. Complex but also just really delicious and hard to put down. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price: \$234**

94 Carranco 2020 Contrada Carranco (Etna Rosso). On the nose, fruit aromas of wild strawberry, raspberry, and passion fruit are balanced by savory graphite and topsoil. The palate remains balanced, with flavors of strawberry jam, orange blossom, warm soil, and herbs, and the overall mouthfeel is textured and substantial. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$120**

93 Planeta 2023 Contrada Feudo di Mezzo (Etna). The nose is sanguine and savory with wild oregano, sun-dried tomato, balsamic vinegar, pepper, and crushed rocks. Wild strawberries and cherries tumble across the palate beneath a squeeze of citrus, while the salt, pepper, and herbs linger through a warm, peppery finish. Palm Bay International Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price: \$43**

92 Carranco 2020 Villa dei Baroni (Etna Rosso). Aromas of Bing and Rainier cherries, tart raspberries, hibiscus, bricks, and blood orange swirl on the nose, and more juicy, sweet, and tart berries tumble over the palate, lifted by savory herbs and warm citrus. Substantial, taut tannins are accentuated by a saline edge. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$50**

91 Terra Costantino 2023 deAetna (Etna). The nose is floral and peppery, with aromas of lavender, white pepper, blackberry, and Mandarin blossom. The palate layers blackberries and black plums with damp earth and herbs, all beneath a sprinkle of pepper, before a tangy, fresh finish invigorated by toothsome tannins. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$31**

90 Tenuta Etna Nord 2022 (Etna Rosso). The nose shines with floral, saline aromas of crushed rocks, peonies, and wild cherries. Flavors of strawberry, raspberry, and orange peel define the palate, until a crack of pepper ignites the finish and ushers forth a note of hot tar. Ilaria Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price: \$30**

NOTO

94 Planeta 2022 Santa Cecilia (Noto). Aromas of toasted coconut, vanilla bean, and Bing cherry kick off the nose, followed by savory, umami notes of black sesame, black olive, and wild herbs. On the palate, figs, plums, and pomegranates float in a current

of warm citrus, while acid tingles your teeth. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price: \$50**

91 Ramaddini 2023 Note Nere Nero d'Avola (Noto). The nose has the sanguine, linear feel of bergamot, iron filings, cracked pepper, and black plum skin. The palate is cohesive, with more tart, tangy dark fruit, metallic earth, and pepper, all fortified by solid but sleek tannins. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$18**

91 Ramaddini 2020 Patrono Nero d'Avola Riserva (Noto). The nose opens sweet, with Bing cherry, milk chocolate and toasted coconut, then adds graphite for a savory balance. The palate brings more milk chocolate and cherries, above nutty, earthy undertones, before a rising heat and warmth from currents of citrus and pepper crescendos on the finish. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price: \$31**

OTHER RED WINES

96 Tenuta Regaleali 2020 Rosso del Conte (Contea di Sclafani). The nose opens earthy and herbaceous with damp soil, wild mint, fennel, and blood orange, then adds wild strawberries for balance. Cherries lift the strawberry element on the palate, but lots more herbs and earth create an almost spicy sensation with how fresh and fierce they are. The overall feel is strikingly full and polished in the mouth. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$75**

94 Planeta 2021 Maroccoli (Menfi). On the nose, aromas of tart blackberries, wild blueberries, graphite, and pepper pop from the glass. The palate leads with flavors of blueberry tart and blackberry compote, then adds bergamot to the mix, then pepper and licorice. Sleek but fierce tannins and fiery acid light up a finish sprinkled with flaky salt. Palm Bay International Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price: \$50**

92 Planeta 2023 (Cerasuolo di Vittoria). The pour is fuchsia and the nose is fittingly enlivening, with aromas of raspberry, pomegranate, topsoil, and pencil shavings. Sweet berries and cherries headline the palate, while more graphite and pepper provide balance. A wine that is lively and energetic, but with a cool stoniness. Fun and serious at the same time. Palm Bay International Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price: \$29**

SARDINIA WHITE WINES

VERMENTINO DI GALLURA

92 Tenute Gregu di Raffaele Gregu 2022 Pitraia (Vermentino di Gallura). The nose shines with aromas of lime, grapefruit, pineapple, lilies, minerals, and salt. The palate offers a tart but creamy key lime pie

garnished with toasted almond shavings and joined by dehydrated pineapple slices, creating an integrated wine that is intriguing in its depth. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$130**

91 Tenute Gregu di Raffaele Gregu 2024 Rias (Vermentino di Gallura). The nose gleams with mineral, tart aromas of salt, wet rocks, lime zest, and lemongrass, and the palate stays clean and bright with green-apple candy, Anjou pear and lime juice. A honed, nutty, sweet finish is lifted by more salt and citrus. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price: \$20**

91 Tenute Gregu di Raffaele Gregu 2023 Selenu (Vermentino di Gallura). A refreshing nose sprinkles salt and pepper over raw almonds, tulips, and lemongrass, while a denser palate offers green apples, Anjou pears and almond paste, plus overtones of lemon, lime and salt. The mouthfeel is slick, with quiet but powerful acid sliding around. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$30**

SARDINIA RED WINES

CANNONAU DI SARDEGNA

91 Antichi Poderi Jerzu 2020 Baccu Is Baus Riserva (Cannonau di Sardegna). On the nose, the sweetness of wild strawberries and milk chocolate is balanced by the texture of pepper, topsoil, and warm citrus. Wild cherries accentuate the strawberry note on the palate, while more earth and pepper preserve balance, before polished tannins ferry you to a finish of cooling mint. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price: \$32**

91 Antichi Poderi Jerzu 2020 Baccu S'Alinu Riserva (Cannonau di Sardegna). The nose is both balanced and textured, with the sweetness of freeze-dried strawberries and malted chocolate, but also savory aromas of white pepper and crushed rocks. On the palate, cherries and raspberries lift the strawberry note, before earth and more pepper emerge. A slick mouthfeel comes from polished tannins. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price: \$40**

90 Antichi Poderi Jerzu 2021 Cinquesse (Cannonau di Sardegna). The nose energizes with pepper, earth, hot tar, crushed rocks, and the snappiness of just-ripe black cherries and black-plum skin. Sweet, dense, dark-fruit flavors swell on the palate beneath a drizzle of chocolate and a dusting of flaky salt, before balance comes on a finish of earth, herbs and pepper. Tannins are carefully stitched. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price: \$27**

90 Antichi Poderi Jerzu 2021 Josto Miglior (Cannonau di Sardegna). The nose wakes you up with aromas of drip coffee, cola, vanilla, white pepper, and Bing cherry. The palate coats cherries in chocolate and sprinkles salt over citrus as acid bounces around

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fine-grained tannins, creating an overall feel that is sweet, but with an edgy energy. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

ITALIAN SPARKLING WINES

92 Borgo Maragliano 2019 Dogma Blanc de Noirs (Italy). White cherries and wild berry hints meet fresh brioche while yeasty notes build texture. The palate expands with balanced power, where refined bubbles and bright acidity show how Piedmont's heights handle Pinot Noir. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$72

91 Cantina Ventiventi 2020 Metodo Classico Brut (Italy). Orchard fruits and lemon blossoms dance with wild berries while toasted bread bridges two worlds. The palate rides with textured precision, where Chardonnay's grace meets Sorbara's wild side, proving sometimes "why not?" leads to delicious ideas. Wineberry America. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Taverna 2023 Nebolla Metodo Classico Brut (Vino Spumante). White cherries and chalk meets fresh flowers and green herbs. The palate stays taut and focused, where crunchy red fruits and zippy acidity create pure refreshment. Some bubbles just want to keep things crisp and cool. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Borgo Maragliano 2019 Giuseppe Galliano Brut Nature (Italy). Toasted almonds and fresh bread meets lemon peel as chalky soil adds tension. The palate rides with precise energy, where brisk bubbles and bright acids prove Piedmont's hills know how when it comes to handling bone-dry sparklers. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$57

90 Cascina Chicco 2022 Cuvée Zero Extra Brut Metodo Classico (Vino Spumante). Subtle cranberry and bay leaf notes open slowly, while wet stones ground everything. The palate brings savory herbs and quiet focus, where each sip calls for another piece of crispy tempura. Sometimes the soft-spoken wines know best. Vinifera Imports Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Ciao Bella 2023 Rosé Brut (Italy). Fresh strawberries and wild rose petals floating up with the kind of gentle charm that makes everyone feel welcome. The palate brings that same soft touch, raspberry blossoms and delicate red fruits creating the perfect backdrop for good conversations. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

88 Mazarini NV Extra Dry (Italy). Fresh pears and apple blossoms keep it simple and sparkling like Tuesday night meets weekend energy. The palate brings that same easy charm, soft fruits, and lively bubbles doing exactly what they should without trying to steal the show. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

88 La Cantina Pizzolato NV Rosé Brut (Vino Spumante). Fresh strawberries and raspberries bring that everyday pop of joy. The palate keeps it bright and bubbly, red fruits dancing through like your favorite playlist on repeat, nothing complicated, just pure feel-good fizz that makes Monday feel like Friday. Amass Brands Group. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

87 Cantina Ventiventi 2022 Pas Dosè (Vino Spumante). Ripe apples and yellow pears lead the dance while Sorbara's tart red berries spin through those precise bubbles. The palate sparkles with nervous energy, where crisp acidity and that orchard-meets-wild-berry play proves Italian fizz knows how to surprise. Wineberry America. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Duchessa Lia NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Vino Spumante). Fresh citrus and white flowers mingling with just a hint of toast while crisp acidity keeps it direct. The palate flows with gentle energy, where clean fruit and fine bubbles make weeknight aperitivo feel uncomplicated. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

SPAIN WHITE WINES

RÍAS BAIXAS

92 Bodegas Lagar de Pintos 2022 3000 Cepas Albariño (Rías Baixas). A mineral-forward nose marked by earthy precision leads into a palate that follows suit. Fruit remains firmly in the background, and when it does surface, it skews green and slightly underripe. Saline nuances add interest, while the acidity crackles with near-electric energy. Ole & Obrigado. —B.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Pazo De Villarei 2023 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Ripe tropical tones intertwine with a vegetal greenness, all carried by an unmistakably oceanic thread. The briny edge is particularly appealing and a bright line of acidity lends welcome precision. An easy, well-suited choice for the beach. Tri-Vin Imports, Inc. —B.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Terras Gauda 2024 O Rosal (Rías Baixas). Ripe yet tangy watermelon notes lead the nose and carry through seamlessly on the palate. The acidity is particularly pronounced and those seeking an especially brisk edge will likely find enjoyment. —B.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

RIOJA

94 Bodegas Valdemar 2023 Conde Valdemar Finca Alto Cantabria Viñedo Singular (Rioja). Quince, white peach, and blanched almonds carried by a juicy wash of sea fresh acidity make for an aromatic and

flavorful Viura that remains refreshing and distinctive. A lightly textural mouthfeel brings additional pleasure leading into an almost chalky, poised and lengthy finish. An impressive combination of intensity and richness with tension and refinement. Cordelina Wine Company. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

92 Voché NV Blanco Barrica (Rioja). An aromatic pleasure with a delightful palate of flavor. The enthusiasm of Viura meets the rounding influence of Chardonnay for a distinctive white Rioja. Mixed white blossoms and cracked-vanilla aromas lead into a mouthful of spiced, still-warm crème brûlée topped with slices of quince and mixed citrus. Opulent while refined, generous and elegant while keeping the mouth refreshed by vibrant acidity. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Bodegas Ugalde 2023 Señorial Blanco (Rioja). A mix of fruits lift from the glass and continue into a crisp palate. Melon, quince, and white stone fruits are lifted by citrus blossoms leading into a long finish. Fruit forward, effusive, and refreshing. 4 Front Imports. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Bodegas Valdemar 2024 Conde Valdemar Blanco (Rioja). Citrus blossoms, nectarines, and a touch of guava are carried by firm acidity through a moderate finish. Aromatic and charming. Enjoy now. Cordelina Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

89 Finca Vidales 2024 Blanco (Rioja). Enticing aromas of citrus blossoms, fresh nectarine, and a bite of crisp quince reveal a charming white wine with a firm finish. Versatile throughout the meal. Enjoy now. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Gonzalo De Berceo NV Tempranillo Blanco (Rioja). Aromatic, crisp, and persistent Tempranillo Blanco with pert green apple, and a wash of lemon provide refreshment and an approachable, straightforward while enjoyable white wine. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

GETARIAKO TXAKOLINA

92 Inazio Urruzola 2023 Inazio Urruzola Txakolina White (Getariako Txakolina). Fresh, vibrant, with layers of aroma and flavor, this is a crisp, lightly effervescent white wine from the Basque region of Spain. A delightful example of Txakolina with firm quince squeezed over with lightly salted lemon picking up white herbs and light pith through the finish. Mouth-watering, a start for any meal. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

90 Inazio Urruzola 2022 Inazio Urruzola Hernio Txakolina Natural (Getariako Txakolina). Aromatics of citrus blossoms, sweet apple, and a waft of papaya and mango spin into an almost spritzy pal-

ate. A distinct mineral element like wet rocks emerges through the finish. Keep well chilled for a fresher, crisp experience, or allow to warm slowly in the glass where texture and an almost cider-like flavor appear. Winesellers, Ltd., —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Txakoli Ulacia 2024 Ulacia Blanco (Getariako Txakolina). Wonderfully spritzzy and vibrant with a punch of mixed citrus, crisp apple, a kiss of nectarine, and a sprinkle of sea salt. Zesty and firm through the finish with a playful, jovial character. Enjoy! Europvin USA. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Clos Mogador 2022 Nelin (Priorat). Glittering gold in the glass, with aromas of honeysuckle, chamomile, white sage, and firm peaches, lead into a lush palate that combines generous flavor with an almost chalky mineral freshness and succulent acidity. A blend of Garnacha Blanca and Macabeo provides texture and drive. The complexity is impressive while the wine remains charming and poised. Europvin USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$77

94 Bodegas Virtus 2022 El Sueco (Ribera del Duero). Alluring grassy and green-apple notes open onto a finely woven, mineral-driven palate. The tension is genuinely impressive, with an energy that remains consistent throughout. Sophisticated and regal—a fine effort! *Hidden Gem.* —B.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

94 Ramón Bilbao 2023 Verdejo (Rueda). Green and yellow fruit is framed nicely against well-integrated oak. Mineral tones drive the palate, with subtle but pleasing touches of almond and white flowers in support. Still quite tightly wound at the moment, this feels like a wine with a lot more to give down the road. Zamora Company USA. *Cellar Selection.* —B.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

92 Bodegas López Cristóbal 2023 (Ribera del Duero). Fresh herbal notes of chamomile and lemon honeysuckle greet the nose, followed by a lingering florality. The palate is well structured, with judicious oak helping to balance the tannins, though ripeness does assert itself with extended aeration. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 Castell del Remei 2024 Gotim Blanc (Costers del Segre). Glittering yellow-green verging toward gold in the glass. This highly aromatic blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Macabeo proves fresh and stimulating with a pleasingly textural palate and lots of length. Citrus blossoms, quince, and white nectarine make for a white wine that balances richness and verve. Ventura Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

91 Celler Piñol 2023 Raig de Raim Blanc (Terra Alta). An inviting nose of lemon, smoke, and

oceanic notes is accented by a faint touch of tropical fruit. The palate drops a bit of momentum, yet the overall impression remains alluring. Olé & Obrigado Imports. *Best Buy.* —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Familia Fernández Rivera 2020 El Vínculo Alejairén (La Mancha). Distinctive and perfumed, with spiced aromas and flavors of fresh citrus, bruised apple, ripe nectarine, and saffron. Crushed almonds and fennel appear with further sipping. A polished mouthfeel keeps the palate interested through a long finish. Enjoy alongside starters like Jamón Iberico and goat cheese, or brighten mushroom risotto or truffle pasta. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Tomàs Cusiné 2024 Auzells (Costers del Segre). Layered aromas of citrus blossoms and juice, white nectarine and peaches, gain flavors of wet stones and a sprinkle of sea salt with a crisp bite of quince. A surprising blend of highly aromatic whites, Macabeo, Sauvignon Blanc, Muscat, and a rounding base of Müller Turgau, make for a intriguing wine. Ventura Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Bolle Drinks NV (La Mancha). Fresh and light on the palate while still offering flavors of classic Chardonnay. Crisp apple and grapefruit pith, white nectarine and ripe peach fill the mouth with flavor while keeping the afternoon or evening easy. A solid no-alcohol option. Bolle Drinks Corp. —E.C.B.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

90 Cara Nord Celler 2024 Cara Nord Blanc (Conca de Barberà). Floral, tropical, and also mineral, this blend of Macabeo and Chardonnay makes for a highly aromatic white wine with an almost unctuous, succulent mouthfeel. Sweet fruits are quickly washed clean by refreshing citrus sprinkled with sea salt while a lush texture persists. Mouthwatering acidity makes for a lengthy finish. Ventura Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Celler Piñol 2022 Ànima de l'Avi Arruffi (Terra Alta). Unctuous aromas of mixed stone fruits layered through with creamy oak spices lift from the glass and fill the mouth with flavor. A silken texture joins persistent acidity for a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

90 Pago de la Jaraba 2023 Pago de la Jaraba Sauvignon Blanc (La Jaraba). Crisp and poised, this Sauvignon Blanc is expressive, refreshing and mouthwatering with aromas of lemongrass, lime zest, and a pinch of fresh basil and mint. A pleasure. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

90 Sacramento Wines 2023 Sacra Skin Contact (Castilla La Mancha). Concentrated aromas of ripe apricot, fresh tea leaf, crisp pear, and an almost minty-resinous herb surprise and then continue into flavors of quince and crushed almonds with a zest of sweet

orange. Textural, palate cleansing, and persistent. An intriguing addition to a meal. W. Direct. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Sacramento Wines 2023 Sacra White (Castilla La Mancha). An intriguing blend of highly aromatic Sauvignon Blanc with palate-illing Chardonnay, this white blend from La Mancha combines lemongrass and hay, pert lemon, sweet lime, and an accent of candied apple with elevated acidity. Lightly textural with firm acidity, the finish is lengthy, mouthwatering, and bright. W. Direct. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Viñas Murillo 2021 Chapiro Fermentado en barrica (Rueda). Ripe tropical fruit is accented by a touch of cilantro on the nose, leading into a palate built more on texture and viscosity than sharpness. While acidity isn't the main focus, the wine remains balanced and cohesive throughout. —B.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Bodegas Vilano 2023 Full Flap (Tierra de León). Intense gooseberry notes lead the nose, which leans toward a distinctly green, underripe profile. The palate echoes these impressions, driven by a firm, incisive line of acidity. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 MED 2024 MED Mediterranean Wine (Spain). Firm, vibrant, and mouthwatering, this white wine offers a blend primarily of Xarel-lo with a portion of Macabeo that brings additional aromatics and mouthfeel. Orchard fruits, fresh celery, citrus with a sprinkle of sea salt are refreshing and lengthy. W. Direct Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$27

CAVA

90 Castell d'Or 2022 Brut Reserva Imperial (Cava). There's an elegant interplay between its apple, citrus, toast points, and hazelnut flavors. A centering of wet-rock minerality is layered with fine, energetic bubbles. Nicely composed, with a classic profile. Drink now with simply grilled whitefish or just a buttered scone. Vinaio Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Castell d'Or 2022 Cossetània Brut Nature Gran Reserva (Cava). Shows quality character on the nose, as the energetic mousse projects aromas of green apple, white peach, hazelnut, and bread dough. It's more citrus-leaning in flavor and white the fruit is assertively expressive, some centering minerality and fresh acidity on the finish makes for a well-balanced package. Great for pan-seared crab cakes. Drink over the next two to three years. Vinaio Imports. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Campo Viejo NV Brut (Cava). Vivacious fruits and a crisp finish with zippy bubbles make for an affable Cava made from the classic three-grape blend of Macabeo, Xarel-lo, and Parellada. Green apple, a squeeze of pink grapefruit, and a thin slice of firm nec-

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tarine wash through the mouth, leading into a chalky, fresh finish. Vinarchy. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$13

89 Campo Viejo NV Brut Rosé (Cava). Expressive fruit and elegant textural character define this tasty bubbly, as fresh strawberry, apple, and orange pith come into play. A bit of river stone minerality and sufficient balancing acidity keep things perky. A charming evening opener that'd also be a delight with a Denver omelette. Vinarchy. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$13

88 Castell d'Or 2022 Cossetània Brut Reserva (Cava). Impactful flavors of kumquat, lime zest, and golden apple burst out of the gate, followed by macadamia nut and brioche. Has an overtly frothy texture, and the savory pith notes help balance the relatively rich fruit. A nice companion for Spanish tortilla with onion. Drink now. Vinaio Imports. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

88 Castell d'Or NV Cossetània Brut Rosat (Cava). Lively effervescence carries flavors of red apple and cranberry overlaid by aromas of toasted almond, river stone, and white pepper. Though the bubbles fade more rapidly than hoped, there's a nicely open-knit, flavorful, and well-balanced profile. A lox bagel is calling. Drink now. Vinaio Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$17

PENEDÈS

92 Segura Viudas NV Reserva Heredad (Penedès). Aromatic, while simultaneously fresh and savory and persistent. A mix of citrus zest, juice, and pith with warm apple and a biscuit finish lift from the glass and carry through the palate on a creamy mousse. Flavors impress through a persistent, crisp finish. Nicely integrated and energetic. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% Price: \$35

89 Segura Viudas 2022 Brut Vintage (Penedès). Fresh and vibrant aromas of firm quince, fresh pineapple, and white cherry open this crisp, lengthy sparkling wine. A classic Cava blend gains addition depth and texture with accents of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir making a distinctive and pleasurable, crisp wine. Fine bubbles carry into a long finish. Freixenet Mionetto USA. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

84 Covides NV Casteller Rosé (Penedès). Somewhat rough-and-tumble, as charred sage dominates the nose over a background of red apple and watermelon. A soft effervescence gives the palate a rounded texture, though lacking in drive and focus. Cranberry skin and unbuttered popcorn linger. Decent enough for soft cheeses or herb-marinated olives. Drink now. Olé & Obrigado. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$16

SPARKLING WINE

94 Bodegas Valdemar 2020 Conde Valdemar Finca Alto Cantabria Gran Añada Brut Nature Viñedo Singular (Rioja). Built from one of Valdemar's iconic vineyards, this sparkling Viura is made as a celebration of its longevity and the history of the estate. Elegant with effusive aromas, unctuous flavors of white blossoms, mixed citrus, chalk, and mountain herbs. The palate is racy with mouthwatering length and pleasing texture. Impressive and unique. Cordelina Wine Company. *Hidden Gem*. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% Price: \$90

ROSÉS

95 Clos Mogador 2022 Rosato (Priorat). Copper pink in the glass, this Rosato relies on a regional blend of Garnatxa Blanca, Cariñena, and the aromatic Macabeo to deliver a vinous, sophisticated, enticing wine. Surprisingly refined and yet robust and persistent. A waft of mixed blossoms, lemongrass, dried herbs, and muddled spice lifts from the glass. Flavors of cranberry skin and wild fruits, orange zest and pith, a pinch of Mediterranean herbs and sprinkle of sea salt are carried by lush texture. An unexpected pleasure and versatile at the table. Enjoy alongside a meal and with loved ones. Europvin USA. *Editor's Choice*. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$64

92 Bodegas Muga 2024 Flor de Muga Rosé (Rioja). Cherry blossoms, nectarine, and fresh spices lift from the glass leading to a refreshing, layered palate of flavor. Crisp acidity proves refreshing, while a lightly textural palate brings depth. Refined and compelling, a serious rosé of Garnacha that is also a pleasure. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

91 Bodegas Valdemar 2024 Conde Valdemar Rosé (Rioja). Salmon pink in the glass. Aromas of alpine strawberry, red cherry fruit, and blossom lead into a juicy palate with a sprinkle of salt. A mouthwatering, crisp accompaniment to a range of seafoods, pasta salads, and vegetable risotto. Cordelina Wine Company. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

90 Marqués de Riscal 2024 Riscal Rosado (Rioja). Salmon pink in the glass. Lush aromas of ripe berries carry into the palate lifted by cherry blossom and a savory finish. This is a hearty Rosato with fruit-forward verve that avoids heaviness or sweetness. Refreshing and full of flavor. Vintus Imports. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

91 Valdecuevas 2024 Rosé (Rueda). The fluorescent red-gold hue is initially surprising, yet the nose reveals restrained melon notes rather than overt exuberance. The palate follows with fleshy watermelon flavors, and while the acidity is in a good place, the wine may benefit from a bit more time to fully open. *Best Buy*. —B.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$9

SPAIN RED WINES TERRA ALTA

94 Celler Piñol 2020 Mather Teresina (Terra Alta). Lavish and sophisticated with complex aromas and layers of flavor, this red blend delivers. Rich, while also palate stimulating, there's a good balance of dark fruits and savory character for a full-bodied wine that enjoys pliable tannins worthy of aging. Enjoy now alongside a savory meal, hold. Nicely done. Olé & Obrigado Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

92 Celler Piñol 2021 Portal Tinto (Terra Alta). Vivacious aromas lead into a complex of flavors and a stack of polished tannins. The wine is palate filling without heaviness, medium bodied, and persistent. Red and black fruits, sandalwood and incense, oak spices, and wet tobacco gain pencil shavings and cracked pepper through the finish. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

92 Celler Piñol 2020 L'Avi Arrufí (Terra Alta). Assertive, complex and satiny. This Terra Alta red blend brings together layers of fresh and baked dark fruits, bramble, dried tobacco, wet leather, and a balsamic pepper finish. Tannins are polished and almost powdery fine while palate coating and lengthy. Pleasingly balanced and satisfying. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

90 Celler Piñol 2022 Raig de Raïm Tinto (Terra Alta). Ruby in the glass with an almost inky core. This red blend brings together the saturated fruits and spice of Garnacha with the lengthy acidity and depth of Cariñena for a friendly, straightforward and pleasing wine. A mix of dark berries integrated with oak spice and a waft of gun smoke leads into a finish of balsamic and fresh tobacco. Olé & Obrigado Imports. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

COSTERS DEL SEGRE

92 Castell del Remei 2019 1780 (Costers del Segre). Deep ruby in the glass. Aromas of dripping ripe black fruits layered with oak spice and a waft of citrus zest and pith continue into flavors of wet tobacco, light cocoa, and a balsamic finish. Full of intensity with layered flavor, opulence, and a balanced frame of ample but supple tannins and persistent, mouthwatering acidity. A deft blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Tempranillo. Ventura Selections. *Cellar Selection*. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

90 Castell del Remei 2022 Gotim Bru (Costers del Segre). Primarily Garnacha and Tempranillo with dollops of Cabernet and Syrah for oomph, this red blend from northeast Spain proves energetic, flavorful, and charming. Concentrated red fruits layered with oak spices and a sprinkle of Mediterranean herbs join

toasted croissant and a mineral finish. Fruit forward, youthful, and fun. Ventura Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

90 Tomàs Cusiné 2022 Llebre (Costers del Segre). Deep cherry red in the glass. Aromas of red and black plums and berries, a sprinkle of baking spice, and a scoop of caramel creme brûlée open the palate and continue through the finish. Supple tannins and a succulent mouthfeel are balanced, making the wine versatile alongside a creative range of dishes from a flavorful smash burger to wild game, truffle risotto, and grilled mushrooms. Ventura Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Tomàs Cusiné 2022 Vilosell (Costers del Segre). Aromatic depth featuring black berries and plums continue onto the palate, picking up flavors of crunchy seed spice, wet stones, and a balsamic finish. Melting tannins and a fresh, juicy, mouthwatering finish enliven the wine. Will do well alongside grilled meats, mushrooms, and stew. Ventura Selections. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

RIOJA

95 Bodegas Valdemar 2020 Edición Limitada (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass. A blend of Rioja signature varieties, primarily Tempranillo accented by Maturana and Graciano. The result is refined and complex with layers of dark fruits, dried tobacco, and aromatic lift of fennel, and additional depth from a dollop of spiced molasses. Tannins are polished and fine while still firm, allowing for further pleasure as it opens in the glass, as well as good aging potential. Enjoy with a range of savory dishes. Cordelina Wine Company. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

95 Manzanos 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 4. Manzanos Wines USA.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

95 Marqués de Riscal 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Beautifully aged, picking up spiced and savory depth from time in cellar. Dried tobacco, a pleasing waft of smoke, anise seed, and orange zest layer into bramble and wild berries, wet tobacco, and an earthy mineral finish. Tannins are youthful with great promise, balancing acidity. Enjoy with a meal and decanting or allow to develop further in cellar. Lovely Gran Reserva. Vintus Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$29

94 Bodegas Olarra 2020 Cerro Añon Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 4. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

94 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Laztana Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 4. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Reciente Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 4. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Manzanos 2015 125 Aniversario Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass, with a depth of aroma leading into layers of flavor, concentration, and refinement. Fresh and dried mixed fruits join chocolate, espresso, forest floor, and a pinch of fresh herbs with a sprinkle of oak spices and light balsamic emerging through the finish. The palate is mouthwatering and tannins are built for aging, while also smooth enough to remain approachable when paired alongside beans or mushrooms or a range of dishes such as root vegetable stews, hearty soups, or rack of lamb. Manzanos Wines USA. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

94 Voché 2019 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 6. Manzanos Wines USA. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Voché 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 6. Manzanos Wines USA. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Beronia 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass, with aromatic intensity and complexity in the glass. A mix of fresh and dried fruits join wet tobacco, Mediterranean herbs, baking spices, and mocha nose through finish. Tannins are well integrated, providing a polished, almost silky mouthfeel on this full-bodied Rioja. Pleasing complexity joins a structure built to age and with lots of length. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

93 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Rivallana Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 6. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Bodegas Valdemar 2022 Balcón de Pilatos Maturana (Rioja). Deep cherry in the glass. A complex blend of aromas and flavors impresses the senses with dark fruits swirled with spice, aniseed, and dried Mediterranean herbs—a pleasing waft of smoke and sweet tobacco. Fine-grained tannins remain firm, encouraging more time in cellar and years more to enjoy. Cordelina Wine Company. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Campo Viejo 2019 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 13. Vinarchy. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

93 Castillo de Logroño 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Bold and refined, this lightly aged blend of Tempranillo and Garnacha provides intensity, silkiness, and a complex blend of red and black fruits layered with oak spices and a drop of vanilla. Tannins are almost powdery fine while coating the mouth, washed through with a

balance of palate stimulation and acidity. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

93 Gonzalo De Berceo 2016 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Taking full advantage of the additional time provided to aging, this blend of Tempranillo, Graciano, and Garnacha delivers refined aromas, sophisticated flavor, and an almost velvety wash of structure and texture through an elongated finish. Aromas of blackberry and sweet plum compote zested with spiced Mandarin and pink grapefruit gain a dollop of sweet cream and satisfying balsamic flavors in the mouth. Tannins are enticing and fully integrated into the body of the wine for an alluring red wine. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Manzanos 2022 Crianza (Rioja). For full review see page 8. Manzanos Wines USA. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

93 Manzanos 2019 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 8. Manzanos Wines USA.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Marqués de Cáceres 2020 Gaudium (Rioja). Intensity of aromatics joins palate-coating flavors in a velvety mouthfeel for a satisfying, generous while refined Tempranillo. Dark ruby in the glass, followed by dark fruits robed in spices followed by leather and wet tobacco. Aging in cellar has integrated and polished the wine with smooth tannins, mineral lines, and a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$51

93 Marqués de Riscal 2021 XR Reserva (Rioja). Classic and focused with dark, layered flavors, this XR Reserva captures a deeper tone of Tempranillo with a body of black fruits, wet tobacco, spiced cocoa, and a drop of pine resin. Flavor fills the mouth while the wine maintains restraint with a medium body and plenty of length. Melting tannins bring persistence and the potential to enjoy after several more years in cellar. Vintus Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

93 Marqués de Riscal 2020 Baron de Chirel (Rioja). Commanding intensity and palate-coating tannins lead the charge with this full-bodied Tempranillo. Aromatics of crushed fennel seed, wet tobacco, and cocoa linger through flavors of dark fruits robed in spiced chocolate. A kiss of balsamic appears through the finish. Lavish, structured, and delicious. Vintus Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$148

93 Siglo 2016 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Sophisticated aromas and flavors join supple tannins and a lingering finish for this medium-bodied and well-balanced Rioja Gran Reserva. Fig, blackberry, tobacco, and spiced coffee grounds flavors are a pleasure. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Villota 2021 Las Anchas (Rioja). A cascade of dark fruits rolled in chocolate and spice and sprinkled with Mediterranean herbs lift from the glass and fill the mouth with flavor. Juicy acidity carries almost powdery-fine tannins that show enough abundance for aging, while supple enough to enjoy now. Layered, refined, and lengthy. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$150**

93 Viñedos Sierra Cantabria 2020 Sierra Cantabria Reserva Única (Rioja). Fruit forward and full bodied with alluring complexity. This blend of Tempranillo and Graciano offers fresh dark fruits with integrated oak spices and licorice. Polished tannins and balanced acidity carry into a long finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$50**

93 Voché 2021 Selección (Rioja). Exuberant aromatics lead to a concentrated, unctuous palate filled with flavor, complexity, and palate-coating structure. Figs, dates, black plums, dark chocolate deliver density with layers of integrated spice, a touch of caramel, and a balsamic finish. And yet, the wine remains fresh, mouthwatering, and bright. Intriguing and a pleasure. Manzanos Wines USA. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$35**

92 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Cerro Añon Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 8. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits.
abv: 14% **Price: \$45**

92 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Olarra Clásico Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 8. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$70**

92 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Otoñal Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 9. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$42**

92 Bodegas Valdemar 2021 La Gargantilla Garnacha (Rioja). Hibiscus and cherry blossom, crushed berries with a scoop of lightly spiced crème brûlée lift from the glass and fill the palate with flavor. Mouthwatering and fruit forward while medium bodied, this Garnacha celebrates melting tannins and energetic acidity that makes the variety so pleasing. Cordelina Wine Company. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$60**

92 Campo Viejo 2017 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 9. Vinarchy.
abv: 14% **Price: \$25**

92 Gonzalo De Berceo 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Aromas and flavors offer refinement with juiciness. Ripe, dark stone fruits, both fresh and baked, enjoy a sprinkle of spice. Medium bodied and lengthy with mouthwatering character and palate filling flavor. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$28**

92 La Rioja Alta 2020 Viña Alberdi Reserva (Rioja). Glittering garnet in the glass with aromatic intensity and a succulent palate. Red currants and berries, caramel nougat, and mocha lift from the glass and carry into the palate with just a touch of molasses through the finish. Silky tannins carry into a fresh, lightly mineral finish. A classic. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$25**

92 Marqués de Cáceres 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Polished, detailed, and deeply toned in the glass with intensity of aroma and flavor, this Tempranillo offers layers of dark fruits, spiced dark chocolate, fennel seed, and a touch of zest through the finish. Both refined and plush, sophisticated and generous. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$30**

92 Marqués de Cáceres 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Sophisticated, layered, classic Rioja. Mixed fruits are sprinkled with cocoa, and a waft of cedar and toasted spices gain savory flavors and a balsamic finish with further sipping. Polished tannins create an enveloping mouthfeel carrying into a long finish. Oak is well integrated into the fruit with layers of interest. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$40**

92 Marqués de Riscal 2021 Reserva (Rioja). Poised, classic, and linear, this Reserva Tempranillo delivers detail and length in a approachable wine. Spiced blackberry and dark cherry pick up baking spices and a drop of molasses. Tannins melt across the palate maintaining friendly poise for a highly drinkable Rioja. Vintus Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$29**

92 Marqués de Vargas 2017 (Rioja). Generous aromatics lead to a full body of flavor on this classic Rioja. Black fruits layered with tobacco and spice, forest floor and earth, and a dollop of crème brûlée are carried by well-integrated tannins into a lengthy finish. Can enjoy now or hold for development in cellar. Vinaio Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 22% **Price: \$35**

92 Marqués del Silvo 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). An intriguing bouquet and satisfying flavors join a refined and juicy palate in this Gran Reserva. Garnacha and Tempranillo form lush counterparts, bringing bright fruits and lifted aromatics together with depth of flavor and silken tannins. A zest of citrus and drop of vanilla cream emerge in the midpalate, stretching into a long finish. Classic. Enjoy with aged cheeses, roast mushrooms, lamb, and winter stews. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$35**

92 Primi Luis Gurpegui 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Bright cherry in the glass, with proud, expressive aromas and a medium-bodied, supple palate. Red and black fruits join with almost minty, woody aromas and flavors leading into sweet oak spices through the finish. Tannins are round and well integrated providing structure with approachability and a very long finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$24**

92 Primi Luis Gurpegui 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep garnet in the glass with a complex of black fruits, baking spices, wet tobacco, and fresh-cut fennel nose through palate. Hearty, savory, and satisfying while maintaining medium weight and a long finish make for a versatile and enjoyable classically aged Rioja. Balsamic notes appear through the finish, while polished tannins stimulate the palate. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$35**

92 Voché 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass. This refined Rioja blend delivers elevated aromas followed by spiced and juicy flavors. A cascade of fresh fruits gain cloves, nutmeg, and a hint of cardamom with a graphite mineral finish. The tannins are poised and succulent while palate filling. Even so, the wine keeps its focus on mouthwatering flavor through a lingering finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$28**

91 1890 Finca Manzanos 2019 Reserva (Rioja). A classic, beautifully developed Rioja Reserva showcasing integration with a combination of dark fruits, layered spices, and savory flavors. Refined tannins offer lift as well as poise, balanced by an underlying mineral element and a balsamic finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$28**

91 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Añares Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 11. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits.
abv: 14% **Price: \$40**

91 Bodegas Ramirez de la Piscina 2020 Crianza (Rioja). Richly aromatic and flavorful, this generous Tempranillo combines succulent dark fruits, dried herbs and savory notes for a satisfying, full-bodied red wine. Abundant fruit is well integrated with oak spice and layers of fine while firm tannins. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$19**

91 Gonzalo De Berceo 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Opulent aromas and flavors are carried by supple tannins through this medium-bodied Reserva red blend. A mix of dark fruits including fresh berries, fig, plum, are spun through with sandalwood, sweet oak spices, and crushed vanilla bean. Well integrated with pleasing age and a balsamic finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$28**

91 La Maldita 2023 La Maldita Garnacha (Rioja). Deeply red in the glass, showing concentration of color, exuberant aromatics and a fruit forward, driving palate of flavor. Cherry blossoms and bramble join mixed red berries, picking up a pinch of dried Mediterranean herbs and a kiss of fig through the finish. Melted tannins and energizing acidity keep the palate fresh. Pop open and enjoy with pizza or a night at the grill. Wine-sellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$15**

91 Luis Gurpegui 2022 Crianza 147 Aniversario (Rioja). Juicy black fruits lightly layered with oak spices lift from the glass, joined by savory flavors for

an affable, pleasing Crianza blend. Medium bodied and mouthwatering with persistent mouthwatering length. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 **Marqués de Cáceres 2020 Excellens Cuvée Especial Red (Rioja).** Pleasing and polished, this Tempranillo offers a fruit forward, richly flavored, while also mouthwatering, palate of pleasure. Dark chocolate wrapped cherries rolled in spices, juicy dark berries, and a refreshing woody lift join melting tannins and good overall balance. Enjoy a glass on its own or pair with a range of hearty dishes. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **1890 Finca Manzanos 2022 Crianza (Rioja).** Deep ruby in the glass with glittering edges. Aromas of red fruits, bramble, and a waft of incense carry into silken palate with flavors of black fruits, integrated spices, and a crack of vanilla bean. Juicy acidity keeps the palate fresh through a balanced finish. A friendly, satisfying Crianza. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 **Berceo 2019 Reserva (Rioja).** Black currants and berries carry woody aromas and a juicy while the creamy palate welcomes cocoa with a muddle of fennel seed. A blend of Tempranillo, Garnacha, and Graciano with the refinement of time in barrel. Tannins are pliable, lightly tactile and persistent long into the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 **Bodegas Olarra 2020 Olarra Clásico Reserva (Rioja).** Intensity, nose through finish, delivers dark fruits and spiced mocha joining savory flavors in the midpalate and finish. Melting tannins make for an approachable and persistent blend of Tempranillo. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

90 **Bodegas Olarra 2020 Otoñal Reserva Selección Especial (Rioja).** Approachable, fruit forward, and pleasing, this Tempranillo blend brings together aromas and flavors of fresh and dried red fruits with a dusting of baking spices and crushed vanilla bean. The tannins and structured are balanced and friendly through the lingering finish. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Bodegas Olarra 2020 Reciente Reserva (Rioja).** For full review see page 12. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

90 **Bodegas Ramirez de la Piscina 2021 Ramirez de la Piscina Crianza (Rioja).** Rich aromatics and a fruit-forward palate make for a succulent Tempranillo. Blue and black fruits, spices, and chocolate swirl nose through a finish carried on a frame of sinewy tannins. Classic while crowd pleasing, Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

90 **Bodegas Ramirez de la Piscina 2020 Ramirez de la Piscina Selección Reserva (Rioja).** This Tempranillo Reserva starts tightly focused, opening with time in the glass to reveal layers of violet, aniseed, dark fruits, mocha, and tobacco. Chalky tannins join a juicy palate of flavor for a generous and lengthy red wine. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Bodegas Ugalde 2021 Señorial Crianza (Rioja).** Fresh aromas of red currants and cranberries join flavors of black fruits and Mediterranean herbs. The tannins are refined and lengthy. A charming and attractive Tempranillo. 4 Front Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 **Bodegas Valdemar 2021 Inspiración (Rioja).** Aromas of mixed dark fruits and toasted sesame lead into a full-bodied and polished red wine. Refined tannins carry a juicy mouthful of mixed cherries, muddled spices and mocha. This Tempranillo blend captures pleasurable fruits through a long watering finish. Cordelina Wine Company. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 **Bodegas Valdemar 2018 Conde Valdemar Reserva (Rioja).** Rich aromas of dark fruits, cocoa, black walnut, and a zest of citrus lead into integrated spices and a savory finish. Tannins are tight while fine grained and will benefit from decanting and a meal. A classic. Cordelina Wine Company. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Campo Viejo 2024 (Rioja).** Bright-ruby color in the glass opens the wine to aromas of freshly picked summer berries and raspberry leaf joining juicy fruit flavors with cherry blossom and well-integrated oak spices. Tannins are fine and pliable, creating a smooth mouthfeel with a balanced and lengthy finish. Approachable, polished, and mouthwatering. Vinarchy. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

90 **Castillo de Logroño 2023 Tempranillo (Rioja).** Medium bodied, jovial, and fruit forward, this Tempranillo captures the refreshing while also flavorful charm of the variety in its youth. Aromas of red fruits hint at spices and dried tobacco while remaining juicy, nose through finish. Tannins melt and linger across the palate. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 **Finca Vidales 2021 Reserva (Rioja).** Aromas and flavors of dark fruits mixed with spices, cocoa powder, and a balsamic, earthy finish are carried by fine tannins and polished length. A classic style of Tempranillo for Rioja, and worth enjoying now. Votto Vines Importing. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Marqués de Cáceres 2021 Crianza (Rioja).** An absolute go-to for juicy Crianza Rioja. Dripping-ripe red fruits gain a crack of pepper, wet tobacco, and a light pour of spiced, sweet cream. Just enough oak

to enliven a fruit-forward, mouthwatering red wine that celebrates versatility at the table. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 **Marqués de Riscal 2022 Arienzo Crianza (Rioja).** Enticing and approachable with great versatility, this Tempranillo Crianza leads with red fruits sweetened by vanilla bean and integrated spice. Melting tannins provide succulent texture carrying into a juicy long finish. Vintus Imports. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 **Bodegas Olarra 2020 Añares Reserva (Rioja).** Dark aromas and a generous palate offer dark fruits, licorice, and layers of spices. Melting tannins while lightly palate-cleansing tannins carry the wine into a long finish with persistent flavor and a wash of freshness at the close. Enjoy with a range of savory foods. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 **Bodegas Olarra 2020 Rivallana Reserva (Rioja).** Mixed plums, ripe nectarine, and spiced date pick up cigar box and polished tannins upon further sipping. A balance of fresh and savory flavors persist into a lingering finish. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 **Era Costana 2019 Reserva (Rioja).** Aromas of wet and dried tobacco, savory spices, and black plum gain earthiness in the mouth. Tannins coat the palate moving between almost sinewy texture and suppleness while benefiting from a meal. Pop this open and enjoy with roast portobello, a juicy smash burger, or your favorite wild game. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 **Finca Vidales 2023 Tinto (Rioja).** Aromas of fresh-cracked pepper and aniseed lead into flavors of cherry and plum with an earthy, savory finish. Palate-filling flavor remains lifted and mouthwatering with a lush mouthfeel. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

89 **Siglo 2023 Tinto (Rioja).** Bright cherry-red in the glass. Aromas and flavors of baked cherry galette with a pinch of fresh herbs make for a juicy Tempranillo Garnacha blend lingering through a lengthy finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 **Siglo 2022 Crianza Selección (Rioja).** An appearance of red with garnet edges leads into concentrated aromatics of juicy ripe stone fruits layered in oak spice and a crack of vanilla bean that persist into the palate joined by dried tobacco and polished tannins. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 **Siglo 2019 Reserva (Rioja).** Spiced red fruits lift from the glass gaining flavors of dried tobacco and dusty earth. Palate-coating tannins build a sense of concentration with each sip, while retain-

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ing balance in a medium body. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Viña Marichalar 2023 Tempranillo (Rioja). Glittering ruby in the glass. This youthful Tempranillo offers red and black berries rolled in spiced cocoa with a fresh cut of fennel. Medium bodied, palate filling, and fruit forward, this is an enjoyable wine to pop over and enjoy with a casual family meal or friends. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Viña Marichalar 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Approachable and enjoyable, delivering juicy cherries and plums and a sprinkle of Mediterranean herbs. Medium bodied, straightforward, and palate coating. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Bodegas Ugalde 2023 Señorial Tempranillo (Rioja). Juicy and dried red and black fruits sprinkled with Mediterranean herbs mix with warming spices. Tannins are soft and melt across the palate leading to a waft of aniseed through the finish. 4 Front Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Campo Viejo 2022 (Rioja). Friendly, fruit forward, and also poised, this Tempranillo delivers on approachable, mouthwatering, and balanced flavor. Black cherries and berries swirl through with spice and a lightly herbal, palate cleansing finish. Tannins are moderate and supple with just enough grip to offer versatility at the table. Enjoy! Vinarchy. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Era Costana 2021 Crianza (Rioja). Aromatic intensity continues into dense fruits and a firm palate. This Crianza remains youthful with punchy fruits, light spice, and a crunch of white chocolate. Chewable tannins will continue to soften after opening, especially with a meal. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Finca Vidales 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Spiced dark fruits swirled with a light pour of sweet cream and a waft of potpourri lift from the glass and continue through a lengthy finish. Tannins melt across the palate creating a supple mouthfeel. Pop open and enjoy with a lamb burger, Jamón Iberico, or your favorite pasta. Votto Vines Importing. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Kirkland Signature 2020 Reserva (Rioja). Youthful Tempranillo generously flavored with baked blackberries and plum, vanilla bean, and spices with a finish of wet tobacco. Tannins coat the palate and will benefit from drinking alongside hearty dishes. Quintessential. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$7

88 Siglo 2022 Crianza (Rioja). A go-to Rioja red blend with moderate aging showcases black fruits and a sprinkle of oak spices. The palate fills with juicy ripe fruits and a dollop of blackberry jam with

crushed walnut and a finish of dried tobacco. Juicy, persistent, and reliable. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Siglo NV Saco Tempranillo (Rioja). Reliable and easy drinking with the hallmarks of Rioja, this lightly aged Tempranillo provides incense, spice and cigar box on a backdrop of fresh and dried dark fruits. A polished texture persists through the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

RIBERA DEL DUERO

95 Señorío de Nava 2018 Vega Cubillas Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Red and black fruit meet a subtle, brothy undercurrent accented by alluring wild and funky tones. The palate is beautifully composed, revealing a transparent clarity that is genuinely beguiling. Delicious today, with a very bright future ahead. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

94 Bodegas López Cristóbal 2022 Parcela Uno (Ribera del Duero). A lively berry-forward and herbaceous nose is framed by a precise minerality. The palate is bold and exuberant, suggesting an exciting future in store. While a decant is a smart move today, this is certainly one for the cellar. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$77

94 Bodegas Valduero 2019 6 Años Premium Reserva (Ribera del Duero). The nose is immediately marked by maturity, yet there is no shortage of fruit. An unexpected freshness runs through the wine, binding flavor and structure with ease. The resulting delicacy is striking. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

93 Bodegas Izquierdo 2023 Ninín (Ribera del Duero). Raspberry fruit is joined by tawny, brothy, and mushroom-driven undertones. Despite the eclectic mix, the palate retains a delightful freshness, with a well-knit structure holding everything together. A fascinating wine and one worth following as it evolves. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$63

93 Bodegas Izquierdo 2021 Antonino Izquierdo (Ribera del Duero). A tawny-tinged nose of black and red fruit is accented by savory, brothy tones. Black tea and dried nuances intertwine with a silky touch of vanilla, helping to soften and balance the tannins. One for the herbally inclined, with plenty of life remaining. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Bodegas López Cristóbal 2020 Viracocha (Ribera del Duero). A mix of red and purple fruit opens onto a bouquet marked by pronounced lavender. Some overripe notes emerge, yet the palate's breadth and density bring the wine back into balance. The winemaking here is spot on. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

93 Bodegas Resalte 2021 Gran Resalte (Ribera del Duero). Dark, brooding aromas combine with black and purple fruit on the nose. There's a subtle hint of funk aromatically, yet the palate is strikingly clean and precise. Already, the mineral tension stands out, though the wine clearly has many years ahead before it fully reveals itself. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

93 Bodegas Resalte 2020 Expresion (Ribera del Duero). A compelling nose of ripe fruit and earth leads into an impressively smooth entry on the palate. Freshness clearly takes center stage, matched by an admirable sense of balance. It borders on being almost too polished, but in the end, that smoothness works in its favor. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

93 Bodegas Vilano 2023 Black (Ribera del Duero). Fresh fruit and garden-herb nuances are supported by a discreet, well-defined oak framework. The palate combines precision with substance, delivering a finely knit, seamless expression. A fine effort here. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Bodegas Vilano 2022 Vilano (Ribera del Duero). Deeply purple in hue, the wine opens with a fresh, vibrant nose. Immediate complexity emerges through an engaging interplay of earth, fruit, and oak. While the overt ripeness never fully resolves, the tannins provide enough structure to support it. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Bosque de Matasnos 2021 (Ribera del Duero). Fresh and juicy dark-red fruits dominate the nose flowing into a palate defined by a smart usage of oak. As the wine opens, the balance becomes more and more evident, signaling that this may very well have a bright future ahead of it. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

93 Familia Fernández Rivera 2021 Condado de Haza Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Cherry with underlying violet tones swirl in the glass. Aromas invite with fennel, flint, mixed berries, and a light pour of cream, leading into additional flavors of violets and vanilla. Alluring, bold, and a pleasure. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Grupo Solar de Samaniego 2020 Durón Cueva del Raposo (Ribera del Duero). A big, juicy, and fragrant nose is accented by an enticing floral-ity. The fruit is ripe but inviting, and the palate maintains a refreshing smoothness. Nothing feels out of place and the wine can either be decanted today or placed in the cellar. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

93 Grupo Solar de Samaniego 2019 Durón Óptimo Reserva (Ribera del Duero). A nose defined by black and red fruits is accented by earthy and eucalyptus undertones. There is a noticeable initial warmth, though the palate counters with a welcome

freshness. Over time, an intriguing sense of luxuriousness emerges that should develop further. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Señorío de Nava 2018 Dominio de Nava Reserva Tinto Fino (Ribera del Duero). Red and black fruit meld seamlessly, leading into a brothy palate shaped by an unexpected ripeness. The structure pulls everything into focus, creating an intriguing mélange of flavors. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

92 Bodegas Emilio Moro S.L. 2022 Malleolus (Ribera del Duero). A ripe yet slightly reserved nose is shaped by blackberry-driven fruit with a subtle touch of chocolate. The palate is lush and velvety, helping to soften the otherwise dominant tannins. Moro Brothers. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Bodegas Resalte 2022 Origen de Resalte (Ribera del Duero). An initially restrained nose opens with notes of cranberry and lavender. The palate is fresh and lifted, driven by a sleek, linear momentum throughout. While not especially complex, the wine remains highly approachable and easy to drink. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Bodegas Valduero 2020 Una Cepa (Ribera del Duero). Ripe violet and lavender notes create an immediately decadent aromatic profile. The palate reins in the exuberant nose, restoring a sense of balance. Those drawn to a touch of hedonism will find plenty to enjoy. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Bodegas Valduero 2019 Dos Cotas Reserva (Ribera del Duero). The nose leans kirsch-like and syrupy, marked by dried fig notes, before shifting to a savory palate. Acidity verges on assertive, but the underlying structure is attractive. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Bodegas Valduero 2019 Tierra Alta De 2 Racimos Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). An openly oxidized nose built on dank fruit and earthy tones leads to a palate that follows suit. There's little in the way of momentum, yet the experience is still gratifying. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$180

92 Bodegas Vilano 2022 Terra Incógnita (Ribera del Duero). Fragrant sandalwood and vanilla notes intertwine with red and black fruits. A touch of heat on the nose is quelled by a palate accented by a savory edge. At present, the balance is slightly askew, though this may very well integrate in time. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Bodegas Vilano 2021 Legón Reserva (Ribera del Duero). An initially reserved nose gradually opens into a well-woven mélange of fresh black and red fruits mixed with savory, earthy tones. The palate follows suit, introducing just the right touch of funk. Per-

haps a bit shy overall, yet offering several fine moments. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2023 El Arte de Vivir Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). A wild, brambly nose leads into a fresh, easy-drinking palate. A coy note of ripeness creeps in, but the wine's underlying streamlined character ultimately prevails. Well suited to near-term drinking. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2021 Neo Punta Esencia Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). A restrained nose of dark earth and fruit gives way to a palate dominated by overt ripeness and robust tannins. The wine is clearly wound up today and will need time in the cellar to fully unfurl. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2021 Neo Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). A polite nose of red and black fruit is set against a floral backdrop. The palate shows a distinct density that is not yet fully integrated, though it may prove intriguing with time. For now, a decant is recommended to unpack its somewhat austere profile. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$56

92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2021 Sentido Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 9. W. Direct Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Casado Alvides 2023 Finca Las Juanillas La Colmena (Ribera del Duero). Violet and lavender notes intertwine with tomato leaf and brothy undertones. The palate opens cleanly with a sound structural frame, though full balance has yet to be achieved. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Diaz Bayo 2021 15 Meses Barrica (Ribera del Duero). Vibrant, juicy aromatics come together in a focused, precise nose. The palate is engaging from start to finish, with both oak and tannins well integrated. All told, a nice effort. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Familia Fernández Rivera 2021 Tinto Pesquera Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Deep ruby in the glass. This Tempranillo offers fulfilling complexity with dark fruits clothed in a mix of velvety spices, incense. Tannins are supple, carrying into a mouthwatering finish of espresso and cocoa powder. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Pinea 2021 17 by Pinea (Ribera del Duero). Baked pie notes of purple and black fruit dominate the nose and carry directly through to the palate. Oak is thoughtfully integrated, lending support and structure without overwhelming. Overall, well balanced and cohesive. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

91 Acón 2023 Roble Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Jammy purple fruit takes center stage, with ripe aromatics that verge on overpowering. The palate does pull things back somewhat, lending a degree of balance and cohesion overall. Those drawn to bold, fruit-forward styles should take notice. The Spanish Wine Importers, LLC. *Best Buy.* —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Alvides 2021 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Fragrant grape and plum notes dominate the nose and carry directly onto the palate. The fruit is notably intense, almost prompting a search for earth or mineral counterpoints. Those drawn to lush, immediate flavors will find plenty to enjoy. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Bodegas López Cristóbal 2021 Parcela Uno (Ribera del Duero). Vivid blood orange and wild cranberry fruit are accented by oak that remains a touch unresolved. The palate retains admirable lift and freshness, though the elements stop just short of attaining harmony. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$77

91 Bodegas Nabal 2024 Organic (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 11. W. Direct Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Bodegas Nabal 2020 Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 11. W. Direct Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

91 Bodegas S. Arroyo 2021 Señorío de Sotillo Crianza (Ribera del Duero). A campfire nose complements a vibrant purple hue, leading into a palate that echoes similar traits. While balance isn't quite achieved, some enjoyable moments appear along the way. Vinamericas Inc. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Señorío de Nava 2020 San Cucufate Bancales de Jalón (Ribera del Duero). Rust tinged and tawny in color, the wine opens with dried fruit and leather nuances. The palate leans savory and brothy, supported by a confident oak framework. Despite its more earth-driven elements, an underlying clarity emerges that is genuinely intriguing. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$120

91 Valdrinal 2021 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Effusive aromas of oak and dark fruit greet the senses, stopping just short of excess. On the palate, savory notes help counterbalance the plushness, aided by a noticeable tannic presence that keeps things in check. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

91 Vizcarra 2023 Senda del Oro (Ribera del Duero). Fragrant purple florals dominate the nose, while the palate presents a notably more lithe profile. The tannins feel well integrated, though the acidity arrives a bit abruptly at present. A bit more time should

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help bring everything into better alignment. Olé & Obrigado. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Bodegas López Cristóbal 2023 La Linde (Ribera del Duero). An overtly green, herbaceous nose gives way to hints of lavender and plum. The palate is notably smooth, working to reconcile the contrasting aromatics, but the wine stops short of complete harmony. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Bodegas S. Arroyo 2020 Señorío De Sotillo Crianza (Ribera del Duero). A green and herbaceous nose leaves fruit in the back seat. The palate initially presents itself as smooth, though the tannins do catch up by the end. Still, some degree of pedigree is noticeable. Vinamericas, Inc. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Isaac Fernández 2021 Rios de Tinta (Ribera del Duero). Juicy black cherry and purple fruit aromas are accented by sandalwood on the nose. On the palate, the wine shows initial smoothness but the tannins catch up quickly, creating the effect of everything happening at once. *Best Buy.* —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Valderiz 2021 Valdehermoso 9 Meses Roble (Ribera del Duero). Deep vanilla tones meld with black fruit and earthy nuances on the nose. The palate is built around thick, assertive tannins, though they're supported by a firm underlying structure. Well suited to meat-forward pairings. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Pinea 2022 Korde Tinto (Ribera del Duero). A ruby red nose composed of underripe apples and cranberries leads into a similarly suited palate. Flavors reminiscent of sour candy come to mind, all of which are underpinned by an intense frame of acidity. —B.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

TORO

92 Bodegas Vatan 2023 Triton Tempranillo (Toro). Fresh violets and lavender lead the way, backed by touches of black fruit and dark earth. The palate is fairly streamlined, with well-knit tannins and a freshness that carries through to the finish. A gentler, more polished expression of Toro. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

92 Carodorum 2022 Vino de Autor Crianza (Toro). Stewed plum and assertive brothy notes carry onto a finely structured palate. A noticeable smoothing undercurrent provides a welcome sense of balance. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$41

92 Carodorum 2020 Selección Especial (Toro). Lush fruit and dark earth notes set the stage for a powerful palate with clearly present tannins. The wine

is undeniably big, yet the oak remains discreet, allowing the other elements to shine through. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$62

92 Elias Mora 2020 Crianza (Toro). An inviting nose of stewed black and red fruits is framed by a pleasing touch of oak. The palate offers a similar harmony, possessing even a hint of lightness despite the weight. Likely best suited for those drawn to fruit-forward styles. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

92 San Román Bodegas y Viñedos 2020 San Román (Toro). Red and black fruits are framed by seductive oak and the lingering scent of cola. The palate maintains a smooth profile throughout, making for a very easy drinking experience. Fans of big Napa styles should take note. —B.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

92 Teso La Monja 2022 Victorino (Toro). Juicy black and purple fruit is framed by pronounced vanilla tones, with a faint note of eucalyptus lingering in the background. The palate is thick and opulent, coating the mouth yet managing to stay balanced. There's an underlying elegance here, though this will appeal most to those seeking a hedonistic style. Jorge Ordóñez Selections Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Campo Eliseo 2022 Cuvée Alegre (Toro). Bright and effusive berry aromatics are complemented well by a pleasant presence of oak. The palate veers ripe and stewy, lacking the substance to pull everything together. Still, there are some agreeable moments along the way. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 Carodorum 2019 Único (Toro). Mature aromas intermingle with savory, meaty tones. The palate follows suit, placing greater emphasis on maturity than on energy. While freshness is muted, a sense of balance ultimately holds the wine together. A lengthy decant may help bring it into clearer focus. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$85

91 San Román Bodegas y Viñedos 2021 (Toro). Cranberry and red apple come together to form a bright, mineral-tinged nose. On the palate, the oak stays out of the way, though the fruit profile skews overly ripe. Balance isn't fully there yet, but perhaps time will bring everything into better alignment. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

91 San Román Bodegas y Viñedos 2021 Prima (Toro). Smoky, chocolate-tinged aromas mingle with red and purple fruit notes. The transition to the palate is smooth, if not especially intricate. Still, it comes across as an easygoing wine that performs solidly enough. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Carodorum 2024 Expresión (Toro). Fragrant aromas of black cherry and plum intertwine with overtly green, herbaceous notes. The palate mirrors this range of elements, though it is not quite as per-

suasive as the nose. Still in its infancy, the wine should gain cohesion with time. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Lui & William 2021 Abelis Lui Crianza (Toro). A restrained yet precise nose framed primarily by perfectly ripened plum leads into a palate marked by a lingering bitterness. The aromatics alone may be enough to entice. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

89 Carodorum 2022 Issos Crianza (Toro). Ripe purple fruit anchors the nose before a palate defined by assertive tannins takes over. Savory notes and a hint of warmth add dimension and weight, even if the elements have yet to fully settle into balance. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

89 Legado de Orniz 2020 Cindus (Toro). Stewed plum aromas are joined by savory, brothy aromatics. The palate echoes these impressions, taking on an almost viscous, candied character. The fruit feels somewhat hollow, leaving a slight lingering bitterness on the finish. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

LA JARABA

93 Pago de la Jaraba 2021 Vina Jaraba Selección Especial (La Jaraba). For full review see page 8. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Pago de la Jaraba 2021 (La Jaraba). A mix of cherries and wild berries layered with oak spice and vanilla cream are carried from the nose into the palate on a body of melting tannins persisting into a lengthy finish. Still a youthful Tempranillo blend that will benefit from a meal or further time in cellar. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Pago de la Jaraba 2022 Vina Jaraba Cosecha (La Jaraba). This blend of Tempranillo accented by Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot impressively delivers beyond its price point. Aromas and flavors are deeply toned with dark fruits, a waft of smoke and spices with an earthy, balsamic finish. Medium to full bodied with plenty of structure that is nevertheless approachable. Pleasing with versatility at the table. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Pago de la Jaraba 2019 Vina Jaraba Crianza (La Jaraba). Generous, concentrated, and lavish, this blend of Tempranillo with strengthening additions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot proves upfront while also polished and layered. Black fruits rolled in warming spices gain flavors of mocha, tobacco, and a mineral finish. Tannins are integrated with just enough texture to keep the palate stimulating through a lengthy finish. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

OTHER RED WINES

97 Clos Mogador 2022 Espectacle (Montsant).

Intensity, seductive pleasure, and refinement combine in this provocative, full-bodied red wine from Rene Barbier and Clos Mogador. Opulent while refined, layered yet robust, this equally confounds and entices, making for an unforgettable wine. Red berries, crunchy pomegranate, grapefruit pith, a complex of dried, Mediterranean herbs spun with integrated spices, and a lingering balsamic finish. The concentration of 100+ year old vines makes for a bold wine well respected by its winemaking. This will continue to gain depth and complexity for the next couple decades. Europvin USA. *Hidden Gem*. —E.C.B.

abv: 15% Price: \$158

94 Quinta Sardonía 2020 Q (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).

A brilliant nose of dark red fruit is framed by subtle, nuanced undertones that carry through to the palate. The sense of balance is particularly impressive—precision of this sort is rarely encountered in the region. The alcohol does surface slightly on the finish, but otherwise everything feels very much in place. —B.B.

abv: 15% Price: \$70

92 Vinos de Arganza 2023 Viña Século (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).

A vibrant nose of blue and purple fruit leads into a decidedly fruit-forward palate. Earthy notes sit in the background alongside a faint floral lift. Straightforward and well suited to a weekday dinner. —B.B.

abv: 14% Price: \$26

92 Cara Nord Celler 2023 Mineral (Montsant).

Glittering ruby in the glass, aromas of bramble, red berries, and spice lead into flavors of espresso, tobacco, and an unexpected mineral finish. A blend of Cariñena and Garnatxa, captures the intensity of its mountain vineyards with sinewy tannins joined by a refreshing and juicy, crisp finish. Ventura Selections. —E.C.B.

abv: 14% Price: \$35

96 Clos Mogador 2022 (Priorat).

Distinctive for its region, this red blend defines its producer's turn toward greater freshness while retaining hearty generosity. Clos Mogador brings juiciness of Garnacha in concert with generous acidity and deeper flavors of Cariñena. There is also a structural boost and spice that comes from them retaining a modest portion of whole clusters in the fermentation, rather than only the fruit. The 2022 vintage nevertheless offers a medium body and balance with a robust frame and deep flavor. Europvin USA. *Editor's Choice*. —E.C.B.

abv: 14% Price: \$110

92 Sacramento Wines 2023 Sacra Red Monastrell (Castilla La Mancha).

Freshness and transparency characterize this Monastrell from La Mancha. Wild blackberries, red plums, crunchy seed spice, and a pleasing thread of dusty earth are carried by

mouthwatering acidity through a long finish. Pop open and enjoy with friends. W. Direct. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

92 Sacramento Wines 2023 Sacra Red Tempranillo (Castilla La Mancha).

Juicy, red and black fruits with mouthwatering flavors, a pleasing hint of palate-cleansing skin tannins, and a finish of mineral freshness and crunchy seed spice, this Tempranillo captures an expression of purity and length for the variety. Approachable and enticing, highly drinkable and versatile. W. Direct. —E.C.B.

abv: 13% Price: \$25

89 Cara Nord Celler 2023 Cara Nord Negre (Conca de Barberà).

Black plums and berries accented by toasted spice, and tobacco make for a fruit-forward blend of Garnacha and Monastrell gaining a lightly woody finish. Tannins are soft and approachable. Ventura Selections. —E.C.B.

abv: 13% Price: \$30

89 Familia Fernández Rivera 2020 El Vinculo Crianza (La Mancha).

Fruit forward and succulent, with intensity of aroma and a fresh palate. Black fruits, fennel, spices, and a waft of vanilla bean and sweet chocolate fill the mouth with flavor, carried by powdery fine tannins into a lengthy finish. Enjoy with grilled meats or earthy vegetables. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES

92 Santos & Seixo 2024 Santos da Casa Grande Reserva (Douro).

This wine's spicy aroma shows its wood fermentation and aging. It is ripe with yellow fruits, sliced red apple, and a mineral edge, typical of the Douro. Drink the wine from 2027. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 Santos & Seixo 2024 Santos da Casa Reserva (Douro).

A lemon aroma shows the freshness of this wine. It is lightly textured, brightened by citrus flavors and ripe apple. Drink the wine now. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$23

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DOURO

93 Santos & Seixo 2022 Duas Familias (Douro).

A limited production wine, rich and dense, this is impressive. Its blackberry fruits, smoothed by two years in wood, and its black coffee aroma reveal a wine that is structured and worth aging. Drink this powerful wine from 2027. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

93 Santos & Seixo 2022 Santos da Casa Grande Reserva (Douro).

With a balsamic aroma and spicy black fruits, this is a powerful wine. Its weight is balanced by dense black-plum fruit flavors, ripe tannins and a polished texture from wood aging. Drink this limited production wine from 2027. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

89 Santos & Seixo 2023 Santos da Casa Reserva (Douro).

The wine's licorice aroma and ripe tannins focus on the generous black-currant fruits and the mineral texture. This is a forward wine that will be ready to drink from 2027. —R.V.

abv: 15% Price: \$NA

88 Santos & Seixo 2023 Santos da Casa Fazem Milagres (Douro).

The wine's black-currant jelly aroma and ripe blackberry fruits are a fine introduction to a ripe wine. Its gentle tannins promise smooth development and a readiness for drinking by 2027. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

92 Santos & Seixo 2021 Santos da Casa Grande Reserva (Alentejo).

A black chocolate and yeast aroma is followed by rich tannins and layers of blueberry fruits and a complex structure dominated by wood and spice flavors. This succulent blend of Alicante Bouschet and Aragonez should be ready later this year. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

88 DFJ Vinhos 2022 Portada Reserva (Lisboa).

Blackberry aromas and ripe black-plum flavors give this rich blend ripeness and balanced tannins and acidity. This balanced blend of Touriga Nacional, Syrah and Alicante Bouschet is attractive, juicy and ready to drink. Tri Vin Imports Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

PORT

95 Dalva NV 50 Years Old (Port).

The concentration of this Port is palpable. It has a wood and almond aroma, layers of wood aging with bitter spice, and great concentration. This is a well-heeled Port that is ready to drink. Grape 2 Glass. *Editor's Choice*. —R.V.

abv: 20% Price: \$300

94 Dalva 1995 Colheita Tawny (Port).

This is a beautiful aged tawny. It has an intense old wood aroma—great richness with wood flavors allied to sweetness and orange-zest flavors. Drink this fine wine now. Grape 2 Glass. —R.V.

abv: 20% Price: \$70

94 Dalva NV 20 Years Old (Port).

This aged tawny Port is balanced between fruit and wood. It shows concentration with wood and spice, a baked apple and wood aroma, and a warm toffee flavor. Drink the wine now. Grape 2 Glass. —R.V.

abv: 20% Price: \$55

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Dalva 2015 Colheita Tawny (Port). This fine tawny Port is at a smooth point in its development. Poised between fruit and wood aging flavors, with a walnut aroma, the wine is rich, finely balanced and ready to drink. Grape 2 Glass. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$35

90 Dalva 2015 Colheita White (Port). Port from a single vintage, this is still young, showing white fruits as well as a nutty character. It is finely delineated, the juicy edge balanced with the beginnings of wood flavors. Drink now. Grape 2 Glass. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$35

94 Dalva NV 50 Years Old White (Port). Like all wood-aged Ports with great age, this has developed serious intensity and concentration. The dark old-gold color and richness are beautifully textured with great old wood flavors and a dense almond aroma, along with just a touch of juiciness. Grape 2 Glass. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$375

ENGLAND

SPARKLING WINE

92 Ridgeview Estate 2013 Bloomsbury Sparkling Blend (England). Creamy notes of Golden Pearmain apple, shortcrust pastry, and juicy green apple meld into a golden, elegant unity. The palate is creamy and gives glimpses of baked apple here, of shortbread there, all the while holding itself with complete poise. This is grown-up, serious stuff with quite a lot of beautiful, echoing resonance, even grace. 2Fly, LLC. —A.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$39

HUNGARY

TOKAJI

96 Tokaj Classic 2018 Aszú 6 Puttonyos Quintessence Furmint (Tokaji). This sophisticated stunner pours a rich amber in the glass. Stone fruit and black-tea aromas make way for stewed peach and apricot flavors offset by fresh herbs and racy acidity on the viscous palate. The concentrated finish is thrillingly long. Credo Imports LLC. —E.S.
abv: 9% Price: \$185/500ml

95 Tokaj Classic 2017 Aszu 6 Puttonyos Furmint (Tokaji). This amber-colored wine leaps out of the glass with stone fruit, pear, and tangerine aromas. Concentrated acidity enlivens the lusciously viscous palate, and it all wraps up with a long, luxurious finish. Pair it with a cheese course, fruit desserts, or spicy noodles—or drink it all on its own. Credo Imports LLC. —E.S.
abv: 10% Price: \$99/500ml

94 Tokaj Classic 2012 Szamorodni Prelude Furmint-Hárslevelű (Tokaji). Juicy apricots and pears meet a lightly raisinated edge in this elegant dessert wine made from two indigenous Hungarian

grapes. The finish is long and beautifully balanced. Credo Imports LLC. —E.S.
abv: 10% Price: \$34/500ml

CALIFORNIA

CHARDONNAY

96 Samuel Louis Smith 2024 Spear Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). The subtlety of this Chardonnay ensures long aging potential, as the delicate notes will evolve in harmony together. Aromas of chalk, cold marble, and Asian pear recall a silky white slip on the nose. A tongue-tantalizing brightness inhabits the palate, where flashes of citrus and stone fruit ride an energetic, texturally taut frame. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$55

95 Joseph Jewell 2023 Phelps Vineyard Chardonnay (Humboldt County). On the nose, this wine is fresh, with layers of captivating Meyer lemon, sweet green apple, spiced Asian pear, and buttery biscuit. The palate combines acidity with crisp stone fruit, orange blossom, honeysuckle, and a mouthwatering, dry finish. I love that this bottling is produced aging in barrel and amphora; there is so much depth and expression in the glass. Cellar or decant until 2035. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$40

95 Samuel Louis Smith 2024 Les Granitiers Chardonnay (Monterey County). This blend cruises from the eastern Monterey peaks of the Gabilan Mountains (44% Coastview Vineyard) to the hills of the Santa Lucia Highlands (43% Fogstone), and terraces of the Carmel Coast (10% Pelio), with a dash of Santa Barbara's Sta. Rita Hills (3% Spear). The nose's earthy, wet-rock minerality pairs with honeysuckle, then drops into a chalky palate of Asian pear and lychee. —M.K.
abv: 12.3% Price: \$35

95 Stephen Ross 2024 Greengate Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley). This cohesively crafted wine will appease those who seek richness and thrill those needing zesty energy. Aromas of singed lemon peel, nectarine, and hazelnut drop into a grippy palate of lemon zest and lightly toasted macadamia nut. Generous while chalky. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$42

94 Dehlinger 2024 Garbro Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The nose of this aromatically enticing wine leads with aromas of grilled pineapple, tangerine, and lemon balm. These lead to flavors of pithy citrus, tart green apple, sage, and lemon blossoms in a framework of vibrant acidity the ebbs and flows through the finish. Absolutely delicious and huge bang for the buck here. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$40

94 Desforges 2023 Suzanne's Block Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Sweet cinnamon, lemon blossom, pineapple, and candied ginger aromas jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate gives nervy acidity and plush texture, with flavors of

grilled pear, spiced nectarine compote, cinnamon, and chopped lemon verbena echoing along the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$60

94 Donum Estate 2023 Single-Vineyard Savoy Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). From a vineyard that's a favorite source for Pinot Noir, this exquisite wine offers aromas of baked yellow apple, citrus, parsley, fresh caramel, vanilla, and marigold on the nose. The palate brings brisk Meyer lemon, white grapefruit, and quince, laced with cinnamon and gentle waves of mineral and acidity throughout the finish. Cellar until 2034. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$85

94 Patz & Hall 2023 Bootlegger's Hill Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aromas of fresh nectarine, Gala apple, lemon blossom, and chopped herb mélange drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings juicy acidity and tense structure, with flavors of zippy citrus, fresh flowers, and cinnamon that linger for a good minute. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

94 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2024 Bacigalupi Vineyards Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Lively, tropical aromas of pineapple, fresh citrus, and lemon blossom pop on the nose of this wine. The palate feels a bit richer, with flavors of roasted apple, white cherry, nectarine, and crushed lemon verbena resonating along the finish. There's some nice evolution in the glass here, so give this a little time. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

93 Cliff Lede Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Generous with lively fruits and a creamy palate, this is a classic California Chardonnay with contemporary refinement. It offers bright acidity and distinctive spice, with tropical fruits alongside ripe orchard fruits. A medium body and persistent finish complete the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$55

93 Cuvaison 2023 Coeurtina Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Complex aromatics lead into a distinctive palate of flavor. Citrus blossoms, nectarine, lemongrass, and ginger lead to a zesty finish. This wine carries mineral freshness nose through palate, intertwined with glittering spice. It offers the firm acidity of its vintage clothed in a succulent mouthfeel. Enjoy now or hold in cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$70

93 Cuvaison 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Flinty aromatics on the nose of this wine swirl into citrus and stone fruit blossoms, crème brûlée, and a pinch of almond paste, all carried by a succulent mouthfeel washed by fresh acidity. Refined and layered, with pleasing concentration. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

93 Cuvaison 2023 Kite Tail Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Impressively concentrated with rich flavor and palate-cleansing acidity, this wine delivers both generosity and freshness. It conveys toasted bri-

oche with alternating slices of apple and peach, topped with a squeeze of lime and a sprinkle of sea salt. The wine lingers in the palate and will do well in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$70

93 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Walker Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 7.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$60

93 Ledson Winery & Vineyards 2023 Mélange Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

The nose of this Chard surges with aromas of fresh citrus, flowers, and green apple, while the palate delivers fresh acidity and flavors of nectarine, candied ginger, lemon curd, and pineapple sage through a long and energetic finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$48

93 Lynmar Estate 2023 La Sereinite Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Aromas of fresh apple, cinnamon, white flowers, and vanilla swirl on the nose of this Chard. The palate brings tropical energy alongside barrel spice, with flavors of mixed citrus, grilled pineapple, herb mélange, and orange blossoms on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$81

93 Patz & Hall 2023 Zio Tony Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Tantalizing aromas of fresh apple, nectarine, and pineapple drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a pop of lively acidity and firm grip, with flavors of spiced pear, lemon verbena, citrus blossom, and cinnamon dancing through the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

93 Rhys Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).

There's a vibrant green-leaf touch to the nose of this bottling, which offers spring-time freshness and aromas of lemongrass and sliced ginger stalk alongside honeysuckle and lime blossom on the nose. The palate zips with acidity and a tight weave, as those ginger-like flavors meet with more familiar citrus elements on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$54

93 Sequoia Grove 2023 Haire Vineyard Chardonnay (Los Carneros).

Highly aromatic, this Chardonnay carries tension, length, yet also expressive flavor. Cardamon, jasmine, and green tea fold into quince and white cherry, all washing into a taut, mineral finish. Compelling. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$60

93 Stephen Ross 2024 Chardonnay (Edna Valley).

Tense aromas of Meyer lemon peel and pith are leveled by a hint of crème fraîche on the nose of this appellation cuvée. The palate is enveloping in texture, showing soft lemon curd and baked pear flavors that are cut with a clay-like minerality and some firm tannins. —M.K.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$32

93 Tondré 2024 Tondre Grapefield Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).

Tightly wound aromas of white flower, Asian pear, and hints of nectarine converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is chalky and reminiscent of smashed marble in its minerality, surrounding flavors of coconut and white melon. —M.K.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$25

93 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2024 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Explosive aromas of lemon blossoms, fresh pineapple, candied ginger, and tangerine swirl on the nose of this unique and distinctly floral Chardonnay. The palate feels acidic and expressive, with loads of fresh citrus, Opal apple, chopped green herbs, and salty lime peel at the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$35

92 Artesa 2023 Chardonnay (Los Carneros).

This wine is glittering gold in the glass. Mixed citrus, quince, and green apple fill the nose and palate leading into flavors of toasted croissant and blanched almonds. Palate-filling flavor and a polished mouthfeel retain lift as the oak spice is modest and well integrated, and the acidity persistent. This Chardonnay captures the freshness and power of Carneros with juicy, rich flavor. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$26

92 Cuvaison 2024 Estate Chardonnay (Los Carneros).

Flinty aromatics transform with air into grapefruit pith with flavors of mixed citrus, blanched almonds, lemon cream, and a touch of baking spice. Approachable with power now, this wine has the stuffing to age for the next several years. The unctuous palate texture remains balanced and lengthy. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$35

92 Cuvaison 2023 ATS Chardonnay (Los Carneros).

This wine offers lavish aromas, rich flavor, plush texture, and a lengthy finish. Layers of honeysuckle, warm orchard fruits, toasted croissant, and sweet cream fill the mouth with layers and a lightly tactile finish. Enjoy now alongside buttered pastas, risotto, and denser white fish, or continue to hold for a few more years before opening. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$85

92 Cuvaison 2023 Hedon Chardonnay (Los Carneros).

Opulent, full bodied, and richly flavored, this wine from the cooler parts of Carneros in the south of Napa Valley layers caramel, crushed almonds, and spice into baked apple, fresh quince, and a squeeze of pineapple. Indulgent while also balanced. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$70

92 Far Niente 2023 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).

Aromatic with a succulent palate, this wine appears glittery-gold in the glass, with aromas of baked apple, spiced citrus, ginger cream, guava, and toasted almond pastry. Almost pert acidity carries the mouth-watering wine into a long finish that is rich while juicy and smooth. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$76

92 Gary Farrell 2023 Westside Farms Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

The nose of this wine gives a whisper of flinty reduction on the nose, with aromas of white cherry, apple skin, and lemon balm. The palate is neatly balanced, with nice grip, zippy acidity, and flavors of green pear, ginger, toasted spices, and flowers resonating through the finale. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$65

92 J. Lohr 2024 Arroyo Vista Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).

For full review see page 10.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

92 La Crema 2023 Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).

Aromas of fresh, ripe Fuji apple, juicy pear, citrus blossom, flinty sediment rock, and vanilla bean arise on the nose of this wine. The succulent energy of high-toned orange, yellow plum, peach, frangipane, cinnamon, and white tea saunters across the finish. Pair with steamed petrale sole. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$40

92 Ledson Winery & Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Aromas of fresh apple, sweet cinnamon, and lemon curd waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate shows lifted acidity and rich barrel structure, with flavors of pear tart, toasted hazelnut, Meyer lemon peel, and white flowers lingering for a full minute. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$58

92 Lewis Cellars 2024 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Big, rich aromas of toasty brioché, roasted pear, cinnamon, and fresh cream waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate gives juicy acidity and plush texture. Flavors of apple compote mingle with barrel spices and flowers throughout the finish. Fans of a richer style will love this. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$65

92 Rodney Strong 2023 Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

The enchanting nose of this Chard pops with aromas of roasted apple, lemon thyme, spice mélange, and citrus peel, giving way to flavors of lemon curd, nectarine, popcorn, and sweet cinnamon through the finale. Drink this with crabcakes or roasted halibut. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

92 Sandiha Wine Cellars 2024 Chardonnay (Napa-Carneros).

Burnished gold in the glass, this pleasingly textural, lightly spiced Chardonnay offers citrus blossoms, ripe quince, crisp apple, and honeysuckle that carry nose through finish. Crisp acidity allows tension within generous flavor. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

92 Valravn 2024 Chardonnay (Sonoma).

Aromas of sweet pineapple, pear, candied ginger, and lemon blossoms lift the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a pop of fresh acidity and citrus flavors that mingle with herb mélange and a whisper of chalk through the finish. Awesome bang for the buck here. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$23

BUYINGGUIDE

92 VOON Wines 2023 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). A lightly golden hue in the glass, this bottling shows a toasted hint of pine nut on the nose alongside white melon. The palate of the wine is plush with lemon curd flavors that are voluptuous yet cut by a steely minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$48

91 Cline Family Cellars 2024 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Bright citrus, apricot, chalk, and lemon blossom aromas drive the nose of this wine. The palate is zippy and fresh, with bright citrusy acidity, nice phenolic grip, and flavors of Meyer lemon, pineapple, stone fruit, and a finish redolent of salty lime peel. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

91 Darioush 2023 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Focused, rich, lush, and silken, this Chardonnay provides pleasure with the structural tension of the vintage. Aromas and flavors of apple, quince, and a squeeze of lime layer into fresh spices, fennel seed, and citrus cream. Luxurious mouthfeel is cut through with vibrant acidity. A pleasure. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$60

91 Fun Mom Wines 2024 Everyday Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 11.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$35

91 Longoria 2024 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Crushed grapefruit, lime leaf, and wet stone make for a pungent nose on this appellation cuvée from one of the first brands in Santa Barbara County's modern history. The palate lands tartly with similar citrus elements, picking up light cream notes by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

91 Lynmar Estate 2023 Winemaker's Blend Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aromas of toasted coconut, vanilla, baked apple, and brioche dominate the nose of this Chard. The palate is broad and opulent, with flavors of apple jam, toasty pastry, cinnamon, vanilla, and candied hazelnut throughout the long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$67

91 Truchard Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Truchard delivers pleasing, consistent Chardonnay vintage to vintage. Balanced, mouthwatering, lightly textural, and fresh, this wine delivers a cascade of mixed citrus flavors, a squeeze of enlivening pineapple, and kiss of spice through a lengthy finish. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

90 Buehler 2022 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This wine offers a lively tropical nose with aromas of papaya, mixed citrus, and candied ginger. The palate displays rich structure, zesty acid, and flavors of Anjou pear, jasmine, spiced apple compote, and lemon peel on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

90 Calcaire 2024 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aromas of baked pear, cinnamon,

Meyer lemon peel, orange blossom, and lemon balm drive the nose of this wine. The palate shows nice tension between bright acid and phenolic grip, with flavors of nectarine, pithy citrus, toasty spices, and flowers lingering through the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$27

90 Fly By 2024 Chardonnay (North Coast). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

90 Harken 2024 Chardonnay (California). This wine is an excellent example of the classic California buttery, oaked Chardonnay. Still, this one is balanced with aromas of baked apple, pear, movie-buttered popcorn, roasted nuts, citrus, and mineral on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$15

90 Hologram 2023 Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District). Apple and citrus blossom lead into flavors of ripe quince, pear, and firm nectarine. A creamy mouthfeel brings opulence while a lightly tactile texture keep the mouth watering in this pleasing, versatile Chardonnay. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

90 Juggernaut Wines 2023 Chardonnay (North Coast). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

90 Ramsay 2024 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Barrelstone 2023 Chardonnay (California). Crisp, this wine offers lush aromas of yellow apple, baked pear, toast, hazelnut, white tea, and toasted oak on the nose. In contrast, the flavors on the palate are ripe green apple, cinnamon, orange zest, and lemon cream, balanced with mineral and acidity to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

89 Butter NV Chardonnay (California). The aromas on the nose of this wine suggest lush apple, pear dusted in nutmeg, vanilla, and honeysuckle. Flavors convey grilled orange, baked Pink Lady apple, and allspice, layered with ribbons of acidity throughout the palate. Pair with pasta with cream sauces. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$17

89 Hook or Crook Cellars 2024 Heritage Chardonnay (Lodi). Fresh and lively, this wine delivers aromas of stone fruit, citrus blossom, and toasted oak on the nose. The palate is ripe with yellow apple, Bosc pear, and peach, balanced by baking spices and minerals. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Jax Vineyards 2024 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This wine delivers the richly creamy, opulent character California Chardonnay is known for, along with full-bodied balance. Toasted brioche is swirled with sliced quince, farm butter, and a sprinkle of

toasted almonds. Mineral tones appear through the finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$25

89 Line 39 2024 Chardonnay (California). This wine is fresh and concentrated, with tropical fruits, honeysuckle, white tea, and toasted oak. The palate has flavors of yellow apple, peach, orange zest, caramel, and minerals, with a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$11

89 My Story 2023 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). A light hue in the glass, this bottling is layered in aromas of plumeria, jasmine, and lychee on the tropical-leaning nose. The palate offers baked pear and prominent vanilla flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$20

89 Peirano Estate Vineyards 2023 Heritage Collection Chardonnay (Lodi). This family has grown grapes in Lodi for well over 100 years. Aromas on the nose of this wine convey ripe Golden Delicious apple, pear, orange blossom, and a kiss of French oak. The palate brings juicy red apple, tangerine, nectarine, baking spice, and layered minerals throughout the mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

89 Prototype 2024 Chardonnay (California). Concentrated, this wine offers vibrant aromas of baked apple, peach, melon, white flower, and toasty oak on the nose. The palate has flavors of pear, white nectarine, caramel, ginger, and supple mineral to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

89 The Federalist 2023 Chardonnay (Lodi). This wine is full bodied, with layers of mineral, fresh yet ripe Fuji apple, Asian pear, white peach, cinnamon, and white flowers on the nose. The mouthfeel is electric, with zesty acidity cascading through ribbons of stone fruit. It's a balanced, full-bodied treat for those who love a little more mineral in their glass. —T.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$24

88 Baus Family 2024 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). On the nose, this wine delivers aromas of roasted apple, nectarine, toasty spices, and buttery pastry. The palate brings rich, almost waxy, texture, supple acidity, and flavors of pear compote, cinnamon, lemon peel, and flowers through the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$17

88 Copilot 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). A juicy, flavorful, easy-drinker Chardonnay. Fresh melon, white peach, lemon, and warm apple come with a kiss of honey, while firm acidity keeps the mouth watering. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

88 Jase-Kellen 2024 Chardonnay (California). This wine is complex, with aromatic layers of bright citrus, spice, and toasted oak on the nose. The palate has flavors of white peach, yellow apple, tangerine,

graham cracker crust, toasted hazelnuts, and minerals on the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Kenwood Vineyards 2023 Discoveries Chardonnay (California). Rich, ripe aromas of Golden Delicious apple, pear, and toasty oak waft on the nose of this wine. The flavors on the palate are orange blossom, honey, and crystallized ginger, with a mouth-watering finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Murphy-Goode 2023 Chardonnay (California). Aromas of ripe apple, canned peaches, and toasted vanilla waft on the nose of this wine. The flavors on the palate are baked stone fruit, apple, pear, and baked yellow plum, with white grapefruit rounding out the finish with acidity. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Pretentious 2024 Chardonnay (Lodi). This wine really isn't pretentious, but if you love richer-style Chardonnay, it will fit the bill. The nose is buoyant with ripe aromas of yellow apple, orange blossom honey, cinnamon, and toasty oak. The flavors on the palate are concentrated pear, Gala apple, ginger, orange-vanilla cream, and mineral gliding through the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Robert Mondavi Private Selection 2024 Chardonnay (California). The aromatics on the nose of this wine are crisp green apple, lemon, toasty oak, and honeysuckle. In contrast, the palate brings white peach and nectarine, grapefruit zest, cinnamon, brown sugar, and a supple, dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Trim 2024 Chardonnay (Mendocino). Vibrant aromatics on the nose of this wine recall youthful apple, pear, and nectarine layered with white flowers. The palate has flavors of peach, orange, and plum sprinkled with vanilla and cinnamon, tumbling into supple acidity. Pair with sautéed white fish with lemon basil butter. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$15

88 Tuk Tuk Wines 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). This wine evokes baked apple galette with butter crust, squeezed over with sweet lemon and accented by apple blossom. A straightforward, round, and lightly spiced Chardonnay with reliability and appeal. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$38

88 Vinafore 2024 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 15. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 William Hill Estate 2023 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Aromas of peach and nectarine with a squeeze of pineapple, zested with ginger and pith then pick up apple with a bite of caramel on the palate. Firm acidity and a lightly bitter finish complete this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

87 Edna Valley Vineyard 2023 Chardonnay (California). Refreshing, this wine offers concentrated aromas of stone fruit, white flowers, and toasty oak layered with white nectarine and baking spice on the nose. The mouthfeel is full bodied, with tropical fruit, pineapple, pear, and orange zest that are balanced by minerals on the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Collection 2024 Chardonnay (California). This juicy wine offers aromas of tropical fruit highlighted by fresh honeysuckle and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors are concentrated, with papaya, pineapple, baked apple, cantaloupe, fresh ginger, and layers of minerals. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Josh Cellars 2024 Chardonnay (California). This balanced wine offers aromas of baked apple, pear, white flowers, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors are ripe nectarine, peach, and grapefruit zest, with mineral on the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Robert Mondavi Private Selection 2024 Buttery Chardonnay (California). This is indeed a buttery Chardonnay, with ripe apple, peach, white nectarine, citrus, vanilla spice, and layers of toasty oak, plus mineral for balance on the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Butter NV ButterLight Chardonnay (California). A lower-calorie wine with lower AVB, this offers youthful stone fruit, dried herbs, botanicals, and earth on the nose. The flavors on the palate are pithy yellow apple, bitter orange rind, fennel, vanilla cream, and mineral on the finish. —T.P.
abv: LA **Price:** \$17

SAUVIGNON BLANC

92 Animo 2023 Heritage Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Citrus and honeysuckle aromas gain texture and spice on the palate of this wine thanks to pert acidity and oak aging. Coconut cream with baking spices lingers in the background while the palate stays fresh, with a stimulating, mouthwatering finish on the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$72

92 Cliff Lede Vineyards 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Quince, fresh lemon, mandarin, citrus curd, and integrated oak spices deliver an aromatic wine with a succulent mouthfeel and firm acidity. Full bodied and mouthwatering. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

92 Clos du Val 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Presenting an energetic wash of citrus and freshness with a spine of minerality, this wine brings together mixed grapefruit, sweet lemon, honeysuckle, and a kiss of spice. Racy acidity keeps the silken mouthfeel crisp, detailed, and refreshing. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Cuvaion 2023 Méthode Béton Sauvignon Blanc (Los Carneros). Aromas of jasmine and grapefruit blossom linger into flavors of lime, lemongrass, and a light sprinkle of sea salt on the nose of this wine. Zesty with brightening acidity and a silken mouthfeel, it's impressive and enjoyable. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

92 Hamel 2024 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). This bright and focused wine leads with a pop of lemon zest and green herb aromas on the nose. The palate displays mouthwatering acidity and nice phenolic grip with flavors of pithy citrus, white flowers, and shattered stones elevating the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Ross Ranch and Vineyards 2024 Vintners Cut Sauvignon Blanc (Knights Valley). This wine displays aromas of tart lemon, candied ginger, and some earthy spice on the nose. The palate shows a range of stone fruit and floral flavors before a silky-textured finish. Give this a little time in the cellar to round itself out. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Cuvaion 2024 Méthode Béton Sauvignon Blanc (Los Carneros). Flinty aromas on the nose of this wine open with air to reveal lemongrass, pithy and sweet citrus, an almost minty accent, and resplendent acidity. Lightly textural, with a juicy finish for plenty of satisfaction. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

91 Jax Vineyards 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Generous while crisp, this wine is energetic and fruit forward, with a mineral line through the finish. It carries inviting citrus, lemongrass, and sweet peach aromas followed by a palate of mixed citrus and a pinch of crisp apple. Pert, mouthwatering, and flavorful. **Best Buy.** —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$20

91 Orin Swift 2024 Blank Stare Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

91 The Vice 2024 The House Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Citrus blossom, honeysuckle, lemongrass, and pomelo with a squeeze of pineapple characterize this energetic, fresh, and flavorful wine. Generous in the mouth, with ample aromatics and a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

90 Copper Six 2024 St. Clair Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Alexander Valley). Aromas of tart lime, fresh lemon, white flowers, and honeysuckle swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate feels light and floral, with citrus and white flowers taking center stage before a clean finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$38

90 Gehricke 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). The nose of this wine displays aromas of fresh nectarine, lemon, and gooseberry. Flavors of

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grapefruit, pithy lime, jalapeño, and melon flood the palate before a soft, floral finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$29

89 Estancia 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California). A classic version of California Sauvignon Blanc, this wine is crisp, with vibrant aromas of citrus, white peach, and green apple on the nose. The palate has white grapefruit, lemongrass, and fresh herbs to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Second Cheapest Wine 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). Zesty aromas of guava, papaya, apple, and crushed rock round into white tea on the palate, with white nectarine, lime, coriander, and mineral on the finish of this wine. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Josh Cellars 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This wine offers zesty aromas of citrus, pineapple, and acacia flowers on the nose. The palate is layered with kiwi, lemon, green apple, fennel, and mineral throughout the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 Line 39 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Zesty, this wine offers lively aromas of guava, green papaya, lime skin, and fresh herbs on the nose. Flavors convey pink grapefruit, white nectarine, and high acidity on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$11

88 Meiomi 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California). The aromatics are vibrant, with crisp citrus and stone fruit wafting on the nose of this wine. Rich flavors of tropical papaya, guava, and pineapple are balanced by bright acidity, riper fruit, and a mineral finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Patent Wines 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville). Pronounced aromas and flavors join persistent acidity for a firm, lightly textural Sauvignon Blanc. Mixed citrus blossoms and pith lift from the glass leading into flavors of white stone fruits with a squeeze of tropical fruits and lime. A lengthy finish keeps the palate fresh. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

87 Franciscan 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This wine is zesty, with aromas of grapefruit, lime, crisp green apple, white peach, and lemongrass on the nose. The flavors on the palate are green guava and green papaya, layered with sedimentary rock and a mouthwatering, mineral finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$13

87 Kenwood Vineyards 2024 Discoveries Sauvignon Blanc (California). Crisp, this wine features aromas of citrus, green bell pepper, melon, and pineapple that are prominent on the nose. Flavors are youthful lemon, green apple, and sedimentary rock and mineral on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Butter NV Sauvignon Blanc (California). Zippy, this wine offers aromas of citrus, green papaya, and green apple on the nose. Green bell pepper wades through the palate, along with flavors of lemon, lime, yellow apple, dill, and mineral to finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

PINOT GRIGIO

89 Leia 2024 Pinot Grigio (California). This wine is lively, with aromas of limestone and citrus leaping into sweet honey. The mouthfeel carries juicy peach, melon, pear, and mineral spiking throughout the palate and finish. Pair with grilled oysters. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

87 Estancia 2024 Pinot Grigio (California). This wine is lush, with aromas of Meyer lemon, white peach, pear, white flower, and dried herbs. The palate delivers green apple, pink grapefruit, orange blossom honey, quince, and a mineral finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Prophecy 2024 Pinot Grigio (California). A more tropical style of Pinot Grigio, this bottling offers guava, papaya, kiwi, citrus, and white flowers on the nose. The mouthfeel is fresh and lively, with flavors of pink grapefruit, green papaya, and dried herbs. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Josh Cellars 2024 Pinot Grigio (California). Superfresh, this wine offers aromas of Bosc pear and yellow apple on the nose. The palate boasts flavors of honeydew melon, orange zest, and mineral, with a mouthwatering finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Line 39 2024 Pinot Grigio (California). This wine offers lively aromas of honeysuckle, pear, and yellow apple. The top notes glide into flavors of white peach, nectarine, white grapefruit, acacia honey, and a mineral finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$11

RIESLING

93 Cartograph 2023 Riesling (Sonoma). For full review see page 6. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

93 Smith-Madrone 2021 Estate Riesling (Spring Mountain District). Flinty aromas open the nose on this wine to reveal a complex of citrus blossoms, pith, and oils of sweet lemon, lime, and grapefruit. Freshness lifts from the glass leading to a light sprinkle of savory mineral, almost like sea salt. Pleasing texture sweeps through the palate on bright acidity, for an attractive Riesling with great potential to age. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

91 Gust 2025 Riesling (Petaluma Gap). Potent aromas of melon, citrus, and spice drive the nose

of this wine. The palate delivers succulent apricot, candied ginger, pear, and pithy lemon flavors in an acid-forward style before a finish with layers of flowers and a broader texture. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Thirty-Seven Wines 2024 Riesling (Petaluma Gap). Notions of ginger, lemongrass, and white flowers swirl with aromas of pear, green apple, and lime on the nose of this wine. The palate is pithy and acid-driven, with flavors of tart apple, citrus, chopped green herbs, and delicate white flowers trailing all along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Nenow Family Wines 2024 The Tightrope Bien Nacido Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley). This is a very well-balanced Viognier, which can be hard to achieve for such an oily, powerfully aromatic variety. Delicate aromas of honey, honeysuckle, and pear lead into a similarly flavored palate that picks up coconut while enjoying lively acidity and a chalky texture. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

91 Kiler Canyon Vineyard 2024 Roussanne (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$80

91 Sarah's Vineyard 2024 Estate Grenache Blanc (Santa Clara Valley). Honeydew rind, melon sorbet, and lime peel aromas make for a dynamic nose on this bottling. The palate is tense with citrus pith flavors as broader stone fruit elements also arise. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$38

89 My Story 2023 Viognier (Paso Robles). Honey and ripe apple-flesh aromas arise on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers wild citrus and more opulent melon flavors against a very sharp acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$20

WHITE BLENDS

93 ONX 2024 L'Autre Femme Rhône-Style White Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 The Sneak 2024 White Blend (Sonoma Coast). Citrus blossom, tart lemon, crisp pear, and granite aromas lead the nose of this Riesling-Pinot-Gris-Gewürztraminer blend. The palate is racy and firm, with flavors of apricot, Meyer lemon, kaffir lime leaf, sage, and lemongrass that linger well into the mouthwatering finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

89 Leia 2024 Wavecrest Pinot Grigio-Sauvignon Blanc (California). It's refreshing to see new blends of Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio coming on

the scene. The bright, flinty acidity of Sauvignon Blanc, along with its racy citrus notes, and the more savory, floral, and melon aspects of Pinot Grigio meld into a single expression. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

88 Josh Cellars 2024 Seaswept White Blend (California). Making a comeback, white wine blends are versatile with food and easy to drink. The aromatics of this wine are lively, with bright citrus, stone fruit, and dried herbs. At the same time, the palate is lush with peach, white nectarine, pear, Meyer lemon, and basil, with acidity on the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$14

SPARKLING WINES

94 Iron Horse Vineyards 2021 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5. **Editor's Choice.**

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

93 Iron Horse Vineyards 2022 Year of the Horse Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 7.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

93 Samuel Louis Smith 2022 Pelio Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Monterey County). There's a prominent mousse in the glass of this bottling, as waves of Meyer lemon pith and nectarine come through on the nose. The palate picks up apple flavors and more of a tannic grip, proving refreshing in style and texturally quite bold. —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$70

93 Schramsberg Vineyards 2019 Tognetti Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Los Carneros). Captivating aromas of citrus blossom, zested lime, and pink grapefruit join flavors of mixed citrus cream, crushed almond, and a nibble of caramel with ginger. Impressively juicy on the palate while still fitted with firm acidity, this 100% Chardonnay sparkler shows concentration and length. Mouthwatering, balanced, and carrying the stuffing to age. Delicious. **Cellar Selection.** —E.C.B.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$110

92 Schramsberg Vineyards 2021 Crémant Demi-sec Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley). Baked apple and nectarine squeezed with lemon and lightly dusted with ginger join flavors of wildflower honey in this succulent sparkling wine balanced by firm acidity. Made in a demi-sec style, it shows sweetness balanced by mouthwatering poise, making it both lavish and versatile. Enjoy with a range of foods from rich cheeses, to spicy chicken, or creamy desserts. —E.C.B.

abv: 12.1%

Price: \$47

91 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Reserve Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). Aromas of fresh apple-pear chutney, marzipan, ginger, and white flowers swirl on the nose of this sparkling wine. The palate feels more citrus driven, with zippy acid and flavors of

nectarine, lemon, tangerine, and juicy pear dominating the conversation. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$27

90 Piper Sonoma NV Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Aromas of juicy stone fruit, citrus, and lemon blossoms swirl on the nose of this gently effervescent sparkling wine. The palate delivers a pop of apple, ginger, and toasted almond flavors, with brioche and lemon pith dominating the finale. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$23

89 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). Gentle aromas of green pear, roasted apple, and toasted nuts waft on the nose of this wine. The palate brings flavors of lemon-lime curd, chopped green herbs, and spiced hazelnut, with a persistent lift of effervescence. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$23

ROSÉS

93 Joyce 2025 Rosé (Arroyo Seco). There's a fascinating amount of chalkiness to the nose of this bottling, which offsets the cotton candy and cherry-banana aromas. The palate is racy in acidity and tightly wound in texture, tantalizing the tongue with plush bubblegum flavors. —M.K.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$25

91 Desforges 2024 Pink Rhino Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Bright citrus character dominates the nose of this wine, with intense floral potpourri, peach, and lime emerging across the midpalate before a pithy and mineral-driven finish. Pair this with prawn ceviche and a sunny spot by the pool. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$38

91 Gust 2025 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Lively citrus and berry aromas mingle with white flowers on the expressive nose of this rosé. The palate explodes with flavors of orange, lemon blossom, nectarine, and white cherry before a long, plush finish. **Hidden Gem.** —T.R.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

91 Naidu Wines 2024 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The subtle nose of this wine offers aromas of bright citrus, white flowers, and berries. Flavors on the palate deliver a burst of melon, ginger, and pithy lemon, with bright acid and some nice phenolic grip. Pair this with grilled veggies and salmon. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$30

90 Copper Six 2024 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of crushed cherry, watermelon, and peach come into focus on the nose of this rosé. The palate reveals flavors of mixed berry, nectarine, and energetic citrus, with plenty of pith through the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$42

90 Cuvaison 2024 Grenache Rosé (Los Carneros). Enticing aromatics of mixed white blossoms, fresh citrus, firm strawberries, and a bite of

watermelon make this a crisp, energetic, and juicy rosé. The mouthfeel is silken and long lasting, bringing both enjoyment and refreshment. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

90 Panther Ridge 2025 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of fresh melon, lemon, and flowers swirl on the nose of this stainless-steel-fermented wine. These give way to flavors of dusty berry, pithy citrus, and ginger on the palate before a broad and lushly textured finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$25

90 Sculpterra Winery 2024 Paso Pink Rosé (Paso Robles). Nearly red yet still transparent in the glass, this Rhône variety-based rosé pairs cherry cola with chaparral aromas on the nose. There's a good texture to the palate, where cherry, sarsaparilla, and cream soda flavors meet. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$34

88 Josh Cellars 2024 Rosé (California). Aromas of this wine are fresh and vibrant, offering peach, nectarine, and strawberry. The palate is light, with flavors of sweet cherry, citrus blossoms, dried sage, and mouthwatering minerals on the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

88 Prophecy 2024 Rosé (California). Wonderfully fresh, this wine offers aromas of raspberries, strawberries, honeydew melon, peaches, and dry potpourri on the nose. The palate is crisp with white grapefruit, lime zest, Meyer lemon, and a mineral finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$12

PINOT NOIR

98 Samuel Louis Smith 2024 Redwood Grade Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).

This fascinatingly delicious bottling keeps on giving for days after it's opened. Aromas of cherry, cherry blossom, fresh cranberry, and balsam entertain the nose. The palate is grippy in an almost leathery texture, as waves of red fruit and incense-like herbs ride a peppery acidity through the long finish. Drink now—2044. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$65

97 Merry Edwards Winery 2023 Warrens' Hill Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).

A concentrated nose of rich berry, Bing cherry, Darjeeling, and cola spice aromas bursts from the glass on the nose of this Pinot. The palate gives firm tannic structure and vibrant acid, with flavors of cherry gastrique, rose petals, orange peel, and cinnamon that come into focus on the finish. Delicious now, this wine will reward patience. **Cellar Selection.** —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$72

96 Joseph Jewell 2023 Eel River Valley Pinot Noir (Humboldt County). Aromas on the nose of this wine evoke the ocean and sunshine, as well as cranberry, strawberry, black raspberry, black plum,

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vanilla cream, cardamom, and orange blossom. The palate is concentrated, with Bing cherry, pomegranate-rhubarb, watermelon, navel orange, white pepper, and mulled spices. It features slightly grippy tannins and is immensely satisfying on the finish. Cellar or decant until 2038. Pair with Peking duck. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$40

96 Stephen Ross 2023 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a bold but balanced bottling, beginning with black cherry and mace on the concentrated nose. The palate is lush in texture, though a penetrating acidity steadily rises through the pepper, licorice, and rich fruit flavors. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$65

95 Joseph Jewell 2023 Alderpoint Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County). Aromas of black strawberry, boysenberry, cranberry, honeysuckle, and frankincense on the nose of this wine are captivating and intriguing. Flavors on the palate convey simmering fruit compote, red currant, damson plum, Satsuma orange peel, allspice, and black tea, with a dry, juicy finish. Cellar or decant until 2035. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$50

95 Joseph Jewell 2022 Ryan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County). Rich aromas of Bing cherry, black strawberry, dark plum, dried violets, and hoisin arise on the nose of this wine. The palate is saturated with ripe blackberry, yellow plum, black currant coulis, malted chocolate, orange vanilla cream, star anise, raspberry hibiscus, mineral, and a dry, succulent finish. Cellar until 2038 or decant and enjoy. Pair with grilled lamb lollipops, parsnip mash, and rosemary-lavender jus. —T.P.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$45

95 Samuel Louis Smith 2024 Michaud Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone). Raspberry coulis and red cherry compote aromas are dusted in sage, thyme, and pepper elements on the dynamic and inviting nose of this bottling. The firmly texture palate is bright, fresh, and yet very earthy, with an iron minerality that frames the flavors of strawberries rolled in crumpled thyme. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 12.8% Price: \$65

95 Samuel Louis Smith 2024 Pelio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Black raspberry coulis and strawberry bubblegum aromas are fresh and bouncy on the nose of this bottling from a premiere site on the to-be-appellated Carmel Coast. The palate is tense in texture and buoyant in flavor, with red fruit, vanilla, and zesty sage flavors aligning through the long finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.3% Price: \$65

95 Stephen Ross 2023 Stone Corral Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Potent yet fresh aromas cruise from black cherry to cola to vanilla on the classically layered nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate pairs a lush mouthfeel with tense tannic

depth, as flavors of rhubarb pie, star anise, and crushed riverstone slide into the finish of the wine. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$68

94 Cartograph 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 13.9% Price: \$68

94 Donum Estate 2023 Single-Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Deep aromatic notes of black raspberry, dark plum, brandy cherry, and toasty vanilla are heightened on the nose of this wine. The bright palate delivers strawberry-pomegranate, grilled Satsuma orange, dried tobacco leaf, and coriander, romping to a juicy, dry finish. Cellar until 2035 or decant and enjoy. Pair with black sea bass, black rice, and Thai lemongrass sauce. —T.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$95

94 Donum Estate 2023 Single-Vineyard Reserve Hendy Knoll - Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Hearty aromas of tart strawberry, rhubarb-Bing cherry, maple, and toasty vanilla waft on the nose of this wine. Flavors gush across the palate with yellow and red plums, nectarine, citrus zest, crushed fennel, and mineral, plus a dry, supple finish. Cellar until 2040 or decant and enjoy. —T.P.

abv: 12.9% Price: \$125

94 Donum Estate 2023 Single-Vineyard Reserve Perrygulch - Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This exuberant wine offers aromas of crushed cranberry, strawberry, citrus, sweet Tahitian vanilla, and dried florals on the nose. The palate is supple, with ripe plum, Bing cherry, pomegranate, grilled grapefruit, nutmeg, and a dry finish with grippy tannins. Cellar until 2038 or decant and enjoy. —T.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$125

94 Donum Estate 2023 Single-Vineyard Reserve Pinole - Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Warm aromas of baked dark plum, black currant confiture, black tea, chicory, violet, and vanilla bean arise on the nose of this wine. The palate brings firm tannins and flavors of red raspberry, Bing cherry-pomegranate, orange zest, turmeric, and a dry finish. Cellar until 2035 or decant and enjoy. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.

abv: 13.3% Price: \$125

94 Gary Farrell 2022 Hallberg Vineyard Dijon Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of fresh cherry, tart raspberry, orange peel, and cinnamon drive the nose of this dry-farmed Pinot. The palate brings rich tannin and vibrant acidity, with flavors of crushed black cherry, cocoa powder, and roses lingering for a solid minute on the finish. Yummy now, this will blossom with time in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

94 Gary Farrell 2022 McDonald Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine displays focused aromas of dusty raspberry, roasted mushroom, Bing cherry, and cocoa powder. The palate brings a surge of pithy orange-peel

acidity with grippy tannins and flavors of roasted black plum, cola spice, crushed raspberry, and roses on the finish. Best from 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$75

94 Joseph Jewell 2023 Phelps Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County). Aromas wafting from the glass of this wine convey opulent raspberry, black currant, and brandied Bing cherry, with hints of cardamom-orange dancing around the outer rim. The palate is youthful yet elegant, with rich pomegranate, red plum, blood orange, coriander, pink grapefruit peel, pink Himalayan salt, and a dry, lip-smacking finish. Buy several bottles and watch them evolve in the cellar. Cellar or decant until 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$45

94 Laetitia 2023 Whole Cluster Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Bold and rich on the nose, this bottling's black cherry core is spiced up with peppercorn elements provided by the whole-cluster fermentation. The palate is round and fleshy, as cola and cardamom spice up the balanced black cherry core. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

94 Laetitia 2022 La Colline Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Deep aromas of Luxardo cherry and smashed boysenberry are dusted in nutmeg on the fresh, ripe, and intense nose of this bottling. The palate is bold with black cherry and star-anise cream flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

94 Longoria 2023 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Punchy aromas of raspberry, sandalwood, and cinnamon are bold yet crisp on the engaging nose of this bottling. Bright flavors of red fruit ride an underlying richness that offers vanilla and pastry spice elements, finishing with ample acidity and tension. —M.K.

abv: 13.7% Price: \$75

94 Merry Edwards Winery 2023 Richaven Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of roasted berries, plum skin, spice mélange and flowers drive the nose of this wine. The plush and tannic palate delivers flavors of baked cherry, raspberry liqueur, pithy orange peel, and black tea across the finish. Best from 2030. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$82

94 Red Car 2023 Heaven & Earth Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This focused wine gives aromas of cranberry, fried shiitake, orange zest, and nori on the nose. These lead to flavors of tart cherry, turned earth, black tea, and stemmy green herbs on the palate, in a framework of nervy acid and grippy tannin. Time in the cellar will allow this to unfold nicely. Best from 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$80

94 Samuel Louis Smith 2024 Montañita de Oro Pinot Noir (Monterey County). This blend is worth the ticket price just because it blends the historic appellations of Chalone (Michaud Vineyard) and Santa Lucia Highlands (Double L) with the presumably

soon-to-be-created Carmel Coast (51% from Pelio). Lightly hued in the glass, it offers crisp cran-raspberry and orange peel aromas that lead into softer red fruit, plum skin, and tangerine-spray flavors on the texturally grippy palate. *Editor's Choice*. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

94 Sarah's Vineyard 2024 Rancho La Viña Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Lush aromas of cherry, ginger ale, and cream soda are cut by a slightly bitter hint of sage leaf on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The wine floats across the palate with jubilant flavors of baked plum and li hung mui that are layered in chaparral and redwood spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Stephen Ross 2023 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Deep, dark, and hearty aromas of black cherry, blackberry, and spicy vanilla show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is much more sprightly and refreshing, with acid-washed flavors of raspberry, hibiscus, and white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2024 Bacigalupi Vineyards Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Rich aromas of concentrated Bing cherry, cola spices, orange peel, and Darjeeling waft from the glass on the nose of this Pinot. The palate brings impeccable balance between plush tannin and juicy acidity and flavors of raspberry gastrique, rose petals, cinnamon, and cocoa powder that seem to come into greater focus on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Baldassari Family Wines 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Sour cherry, cranberry, and floral-herbal potpourri aromas swirl on the nose of this aromatically intense Pinot Noir. The palate delivers supple tannin and lively acid, with flavors of baked plum, purple flowers, black tea, and fried mushroom through the finale. Drink this with roasted game birds and/or mushrooms. *Hidden Gem*. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$62

93 Cordant 2023 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Cranberry, cherry, and earthy rhubarb aromas meet with bold chai spice on the nose of this wine. The palate is rounded, with warm baking spices that are wrapped in lush, creamy tannins, proving easy to quaff. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

93 Cordant 2023 Hyperbole Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Dried cherry, toasted sagebrush, and hints of cola make for a somewhat heavier expression of Pinot Noir on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fresher though it retains the boldness indicated in its name, offering dark red fruit, chaparral, and peppery spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Cuvaison 2023 Mariafeld Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). Red plums and berries, sarsaparilla, and a sprinkle of spice join chocolate figs and a crack of pepper in this mouthwatering, juicy, and palate-filling

wine. Energetic while almost velvety, it shows off the advantages of the vintage. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Domaine Carneros 2023 Le Ciel Serein Pinot Noir (Carneros). Raspberry, cherry blossom, black currant, and blackberry aromas with spice join flavors of sarsaparilla, mixed pepper, and black birch in this juicy, hearty Pinot Noir with a kiss of sweet fruit. Elevated aromas spin into integrated tannins with a long, balanced finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

93 Domaine Carneros 2023 The Famous Gate Pinot Noir (Carneros). Almost ethereal aromas gain savory character on the palate of this wine. Rose hip, cherry blossom, aniseed, and a pinch of ginger powder keep it fresh. Glittering acidity is carried by fine while persistent tannins that stimulate the mouth while also leaving lightness in the wine through the finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Redwood Ridge Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

93 Gary Farrell 2022 Klopp Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Concentrated aromas of black cherry, plum, and licorice swirl and dance on the nose of this wine. Grippy tannin and focused acid drive the palate, with flavors of baked nectarine, raspberry, and purple flowers that ebb and flow as the finish meanders along. Drink this with roasted salmon and fennel. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$75

93 La Crema 2022 Sable Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Deep, concentrated aromas of black currant confiture, boysenberry pie, allspice, orange sherbet and toasty vanilla arise on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers ripe strawberry-pomegranate, rhubarb, orange vanilla cream, cardamom, and a dry finish with grippy tannins. Cellar until 2035 or aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem*. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Laetitia 2022 La Coupelle Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Dark black cherry, sarsaparilla, mace, and clove aromas make for a bold nose on this wine. The palate is generous and ripe, throwing forth strong black cherry and baked licorice flavors, making for a heavy-duty Pinot Noir. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Longoria 2023 Fe Ciega Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Baked cherry, plum skin, and potent mace spice aromas show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard that the brand's founder, Rick Longoria, developed decades ago. The palate pairs cranberry and rhubarb flavors with herbal kicks of oregano and thyme. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 Lynmar Estate 2023 Adam's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Lush aromas of cherry, strawberry, sweet cinnamon, and cocoa drive the nose of this Pinot. The palate feels nimble, with soft tannins and vibe-y acid structuring flavors of roasted cherry, berry coulis, sassafras, and roses that expand across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$78

93 Lynmar Estate 2023 Monastery Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Fresh black cherry, cola spice, earthy mushroom, and black tea aromas swirl on the nose of this Pinot, while flavors of fresh plum, strawberry, orange, and flowers highlight a lively and tannic palate. Yummy now, this will soften nicely with a little time in the cellar. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$85

93 Rhys Vineyards 2023 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Although it's the earlier-released appellation cuvée, this wine is still young and would benefit from patience in the cellar. Aromas of cranberry, forest duff, and mushrooms lead from the pleasantly rustic nose into a mountain-spiced, savory palate of sagebrush, orange peel and cranberry. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection*. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$54

93 Stephen Ross 2023 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). This is a fantastic example of the SLO Coast, pairing fresh fruit with ample spice and aromatic herbs. The nose's blend of cranberry, cherry, marjoram, and ajwain lead into the palate of tart red fruit, snappy sumac, and light game, as grapefruit peel gives extra kick. *Editor's Choice*. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Thirty-Seven Wines 2024 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Concentrated aromas of black cherry, cranberry, cinnamon, and orange peel drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings plush tannin and lively acid, with flavors of tart raspberry, purple flowers, cola spice, and black tea throughout the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

93 Tolosa 2024 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). A lighter hue in the glass, this regional cuvée is quite a delight, starting with aromas of cherry, honey, cola, and star anise on the nose. The palate is plush with strawberry and maraschino cherry flavors that are layered in sarsaparilla spices and a fresh, vibrant acidity. *Editor's Choice*. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$32

93 Tondré 2023 Tondre Grapefield Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Cinnamon stick and strawberry candy aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. That spicy red element carries through the palate, where it meets with a refreshing acidity that balances the sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

93 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2024 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Lavish aromas of concentrated raspberry, sweet cherry, red plum, and licorice drive the nose of this wine. The palate is fleshy and deca-

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dent, with rich but finely textured tannin, lively acid, and flavors of baked cherry tart, fresh berries, cinnamon, and sweet herb mélange on the finish. —T.R.C.

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

93 Weather 2022 Leras Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine jumps from the glass with big aromas of Bing cherry, raspberry coulis, cola spices, and black tea. The palate brings in a lovely savory edge, with flavors of salty plum, roasted shiitake, sandalwood, and flowers that elevate the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

92 Desforges 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Bright cherry, cranberry, cinnamon, and fresh citrus zest aromas drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings supple tannin and bright acidity, with flavors of baked cherry pie, root beer spices, and black tea lingering on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

92 Domaine Carneros 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros). Black currants, blueberries, thyme, and sage lift from the glass and continue into flavors accented by dried tobacco, creating a hearty Pinot Noir. Succulent tannins and a full wash of mouthwatering acidity keep the wine poised and fresh in the mouth. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$47

92 Gust 2024 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of tart cherry, cola spice, and roses swirl on the nose of this Pinot. The palate delivers a pop of lively orange zest acidity, with flavors of berry coulis, barrel spice, and fried shiitake mushroom that linger for a solid minute. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 La Crema 2022 Skycrest Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). It is a little-known fact that this site produces old-vine Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. This is a lovely composition of clonal selections in Pinot Noir. Showing opulence but with restraint, the wine offers aromas of baked plum, boysenberry, allspice, graham cracker, and sarsaparilla on the nose. The palate delivers red raspberry, strawberry, cola, crushed herbs, earth, and mineral on the finish. Cellar until 2035 or decant and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

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

92 Lucas & Lewellen 2023 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Exotic spice-rack aromas of mace and root beer waft elegantly on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich and plush, with a creamy mouthfeel that leads into a dynamically bitter finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

92 Lynmar Estate 2023 Anisya's Blend Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of fresh cranberry, spiced cherry, chopped herb mélange, and rose petals drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings bright acidity and crunchy tannin, with flavors of tart raspberry, cinnamon, shiitake, and pithy orange peel lingering through the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$94

92 Lynmar Estate 2023 Old Vines Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Fresh berry, roasted cherry, and cola spice aromas swirl on the nose of this Pinot. The palate possesses rich tannin and neatly balanced acidity, with flavors of plum skin, spiced Bing cherry, and earthy mushroom lingering on the palate. A little time in the bottle will soften this nicely. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$92

92 McIntyre Family Wines 2023 McIntyre Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Stewed strawberry and cherry aromas are dusted in sharp cola spice on the nose of this estate bottling. The palate's dark fruit and plush vanilla and nutmeg flavors are cut by ample acidity and tannins. —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

92 Reeve 2023 Septime Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Tart cherry, plum, orange peel, and cinnamon aromas drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a wave of juicy acidity and feathery tannins, with flavors of baked cherry, fig compote, red licorice, and salty plum on the finale. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$40

92 Wente Family Vineyards 2023 Riva Ranch Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers cranberry, rusty fence, and tumbleweed aromas on the pleasantly rustic nose. The palate is more opulent, offering baked strawberry, nutmeg, and more sanguine flavors. —M.K.

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

91 Cuvaion 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). Bold with a complex of dark fruits and savory undertones, this wine combines ample, well-integrated tannins with juicy length and an almost brooding flavor profile. Intriguing, palate filling, and lightly spiced, this red opens significantly in the glass. Enjoy it over the course of a meal. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

91 Fun Mom Wines 2024 Fire Pit Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$48

91 McIntyre Family Wines 2023 Winemakers Series McIntyre Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Quite rich on the nose, this bottling by winemaker Don Van Staaveren offers roasted cherry, toasty oak, and more rugged hints of blood and tar on the nose. The palate is made in the classically oak-aged California style, showing dried cherry and baking spice flavors atop solid texture and acidity. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60

91 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Punchy aromas of dusty cherry, licorice, cinnamon, and roses jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate balances velvety tannin with vivacious acidity, showcasing flavors of cranberry, orange peel, Darjeeling, and earth through a long and satisfying finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$52

91 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Rio Este Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine delivers bright aromas of cherry liqueur, spiced berry compote, and flowers. Rich tannin and supple acidity on the palate join with flavors of crushed Bing cherry, cola spice, and woody mushroom dancing along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

91 Truchard Vineyards 2023 Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Full of verve with depth, this wine combines pert cranberry, crunchy raspberry, and cherry blossom aromas that lift from the glass, then continue into flavors of fresh mushroom and mineral earthiness. Succulent, fine tannins add a pleasing texture in good harmony through a long finish. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

91 Valravn 2024 Pinot Noir (Sonoma). Vibrant aromas of cherry-berry compote, spice mélange, and flowers drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings the tension of jumpy acidity and crunchy tannin, with flavors of red plum, orange peel, Darjeeling, and roses on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 Barrelstone 2023 Pinot Noir (California). Rich aromas of wild strawberry, raspberry, wildflowers, orange blossom honey, and toasty oak waft on the nose of this wine. The palate has flavors of red plum, rhubarb, pomegranate, and orange zest, finishing with silky tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Bonterra Organic Estates 2023 MENDO Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). For full review see page 12.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22

90 Cuvaion 2023 Spire Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). Currants, cranberries, and mixed cherries roll in baking spice and bitter orange zest in this hearty Pinot Noir. The wine offers savory fruits now, and will continue to develop for several more years in bottle. Tannins are firm while fine grained, making the wine palate cleansing and ageable. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Nash 2024 Pinot Noir (California). This wine is vibrant, with ripe fruit and an intoxicating bouquet. Aromas on the nose convey ripe cherry, dark raspberry, and toasted vanilla. The flavors on the palate are dark strawberry, dark plum, orange zest, cardamom, and silky tannins to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 ViewPoint 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine arrives with aromas of ripe raspberry, cranberry compote, and black tea on the nose. The palate come through with soft texture, moderate acidity, and flavors of reduced nectarine, cola spice, roses, and milk chocolate. Drink this with grilled quail and berry gastrique. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

89 Castle Rock 2024 Pinot Noir (California). The nose on this wine is elegant, with generous aro-

mas of strawberry, Bing cherry, cinnamon, tea leaf, and toasty oak. Flavors suggest ripe cranberry, plum, and tangerine rind, with silky tannins to finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

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

89 Clay Shannon 2024 Long Valley Ranch Pinot Noir (Lake County). Youthful yet rich aromas of baked strawberry, cherry pie, clove, and graham cracker arise on the nose of this wine. The palate focuses on raspberry, rhubarb, cinnamon, maple, and black tea, with a dry, mineral finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

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

89 Estancia 2023 Pinot Noir (California). Super-concentrated aromas of dark plum, blackberry, and cassis arise on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers strawberry, plum, allspice, vanilla, and a silky finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$14

89 Leia 2024 Pinot Noir (California). Fresh, robust aromas of strawberry, raspberry, and dried florals waft on the nose of this wine. The palate bursts with flavors of plum, cola, cardamom, orange blossom, and acidity to finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Line 39 2023 Pinot Noir (California). This wine is bright, with aromas of juicy Bing cherry, red plum, and citrus on the nose. The palate is ripe with raspberry, strawberry jam, dried herbs, and a supple finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

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

89 Me Wineworks 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of bright raspberry, chocolate, cinnamon, and chopped green herbs swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers focused acidity and plush tannin, with flavors of roasted cherry, fig, cola spice, and roses to finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Angels Landing 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This pale-colored Pinot delivers aromas of spiced black plum, orange peel, and forest floor on the nose. The palate balances persistent tannin and moderate acidity, with flavors of roasted cherry, tart raspberry, cocoa powder, purple flowers, and cinnamon unfolding on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Z. Alexander Brown 2024 Pinot Noir (California). Lush, this wine offers aromas of deep berries, dried herbs, florals, and toasty oak on the nose. Juicy flavors deliver red plums and cherries balanced with mineral, orange zest, coriander, and supple tannins to finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Copilot 2023 Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Fruit forward and mouthwatering, this wine offers flavors of mixed cherries and cranberries rolled in chocolate and spices. The wine has melting

tannins, with a modest midpalate and smooth finish. —E.C.B.

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

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95 Cliff Lede Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Rose and violet aromas join flavors of black plum, cassis, and spice with graphite and earth accents. Tannins are refined and well balanced, carrying this generous Cabernet that offers concentration, poise and energy. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$125

95 Judge Palmer 2022 Monte Rosso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Animo 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Lavish and succulent, this wine recalls a blue and purple fruit galette accented by aniseed, baking spices, and served warm. Cracked pine, graphite, and a waft of sandalwood emerge with further sipping. Tannins are abundant while fine grained and balanced into a long finish. —E.C.B.

abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$90

94 AvinoDos 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). For full review see page 4.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$120

94 Clos du Val 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Expressive with the potential to age, this Cabernet captures the inky dark fruits, dark chocolate, and cascade of fresh herbs so classic to the cuvée, with the intensity and lengthy structure of the vintage. Concentration with verve are a highlight. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Davies 2022 Red Cap Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$130

94 Davies 2022 Simpkins Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). For full review see page 5.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$130

94 Davies 2022 J. Davies Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). For full review see page 5.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$150

94 Far Niente 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Ripe, rich dark fruits drive this wine, picking up espresso, chocolate, pine, and redwood aromas, and a finish of blackberry blossoms and graphite. Powdery-fine while abundant tannins join with a velvety texture. Spices are integrated throughout and balanced through a lengthy finish on the wine. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

94 Guadagni Family Wines 2022 Giuseppe Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 5. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$38

94 Red Stitch 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Warming aromatics and luscious flavor fill the palate on this generous, forward, and darkly flavored Cabernet Sauvignon. Fine-grained tannins make for a friendly wine that lingers in the mouth. Black fruits washed in spices and rolled in chocolate join cigar box aromas and a juicy finish. Full bodied and balanced. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$125

93 AvinoDos 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$72

93 Cliff Lede Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Aromatic intensity, dark fruits, and juiciness with structural length characterize this wine. Violets, mixed plums, and bramble with earthy elements and integrated spice are carried by satiny tannins and a lush finish. —E.C.B.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$80

93 Clos du Val 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Layered and attractive, this wine shows off a refined opulence with blackberries, black currants, mixed plums, and a lift of green tea. Savory and mineral earthy notes emerge in the mouth bringing another level of interest and pleasure to the wine. Tannins are polished while also energizing into a persistent finish. —E.C.B.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

93 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). Fruit comes from a special clone of Cabernet Sauvignon grown in the region. The markers are deep, dark fruits of plum and blueberry with espresso, savory herbs, bittersweet chocolate, and silky tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

93 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Clone 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). This clone selection has lush components of florals, red fruits, dark fruits, and dried herbs. The flavor profile gives red plums, blackberries, pomegranate jam, dried juniper berries, vanilla cream, and supple tannins to finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

93 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Clone 7 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). For full review see page 6. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

93 Davies 2022 McGrath Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). A complex of red, blue, and black fruits layered with oak spice, cocoa, and graphite make this a rich, generous, and balanced Cab-

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ernet. Structural while also approachable, this lengthy red wine has the potential to age. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$130

93 Davies 2022 Oliven Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Full bodied and full throated, this wine features lush blue and black fruits, flowering herbs, cracked pine, and spices. It leads with upfront fruits and gains depth with a persistent finish. Melting tannins fill the palate, completing the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$130

93 Ehlers Estate 2023 The Portrait Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Upfront, concentrated and stalwart, this wine combines aromas and flavors of just-baked dark berry and plum galette sprinkled with fresh spices and an accent of mint. Savory flavors emerge from the finish, while polished tannins remain firm but balanced by a burst of acidity through the midpalate. Forward while also well integrated, and approachable now. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

93 Jax Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Aromas of violets and rose cream twist into black currants, sweet plums, and layers of oak spice on the palate of this wine, and then finish with pencil lead and shavings. Romantic, full bodied, and palate coating, with tannins of shantung silk. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

93 Jax Vineyards 2023 Estate Block 3 Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Dense and darkly toned, this trademark Calistoga Cabernet offers the brooding, black fruits and dusty-earth spice of its region swirled through cracked pepper and pencil lead. Robust tannins remain pliant and lengthy for an upfront while highly ageable wine. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125

93 McKahn Wines 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Bold with fine-grained while abundant tannins, this wine originates from forested slopes at the southern tip of the Mayacamas Mountains. Aromas of bay laurel and spiced cocoa join black fruits, wild berries, and a pleasing texture of dusty earth. Balanced while generous, the wine is poised, with a full frame that remains approachable and ageworthy. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

93 Ross Ranch and Vineyards 2022 Vintners Cut Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). The nose of this wine delivers aromas of concentrated cherry, plum, milk chocolate, and purple flowers. Powerfully structured, the palate brings flavors of baked plum tart, cherry liqueur, currant, and toasted spices lingering through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$95

93 Stringer 2023 Ghost Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). This wine offers aromatic intensity and flavors of dark fruits robed in spiced chocolate and sprinkled with flowering herbs. It's full bodied, with lavish texture and fine-grained, persistent tannins that lead into pencil lead and mineral that carry into a long finish. The texture keeps this polished and bal-

anced Cabernet approachable, but it has plenty of time to enjoy aging in the cellar. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$135

93 The Vice 2022 The Mack Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Ripe blackberries and fleshy plums with a bite of butterscotch are amplified with aromas of fresh tobacco and pine sap. Layers of spice and toasted walnuts emerge with further sipping of this lavish wine. Tannins are firm and balanced, becoming more supple after opening, and carry the palate into a graphite finish. Enjoy now with a meal, or continue to let it evolve in bottle. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$115

92 1005 2021 White Lane Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Rich aromas and flavors of black fruits, plums, and chocolate-covered raisins gain savory tones of dried mushrooms and earth. Fine tannins and juicy acidity fill the mouth, leading into a persistent, lightly sweet fruit finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

92 AvinoDos 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$68

92 Bound and Determined 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

92 Brandlin Estate 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Bold with generous flavor, this wine brings black fruits together with spiced cocoa and mountain herbs. Tannins are polished and palate coating, balanced with a light graphite component through a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

92 Clos du Val 2023 Joli Val Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Pleasing aromas of fresh-picked blackberries and currants with a mineral earthiness gain flavors of fennel, fresh herbs, and spice, with a savory finish. Supple and balanced tannins carry this bottling into a lengthy finish. The wine opens significantly with air. Consider decanting, enjoying it through a lengthy meal, or hold it in cellar and enjoy with even more detail in a few years. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Cobden Wini 2022 Old Federal Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Firm dark fruits, tobacco, and uplifting bay laurel lead into a graphite mineral finish. Structured, firm tannins give this wine versatility at the table now as well as the potential to age. Commanding without being domineering, it's nicely balanced. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$105

92 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Reserve Mother Vine Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). This special selection is not always available. Rich, complex aromas of black fruits mingle with sweet oak, thanks to a special barrel program. Flavors evoke blackberry coulis, dark plum, sweet oak, dried bay leaf, tobacco, and grippy tannins to fin-

ish. Aerate and enjoy with grilled petite filet. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

92 Cuda Ridge Wines 2023 Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Super-concentrated, this wine offers aromatics of dark fruits, black licorice, and toasty vanilla. The flavors on the palate are black raspberry, boysenberry, dark cherry, black currant, black tea, cardamom, and sweet tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$46

92 Darioush 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich aromas and textural flavor characterize this full-bodied, lush, and friendly wine. Velvety tannins are balanced by persistent length. Cherry blossoms and bark, dark fruits, and cocoa are followed by a swirl of graphite and cedar. Enjoy now for a mouthfilling red wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$135

92 Davies 2022 Leonardini Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Baked cherries and plums integrated with oak spices make for a bold, fruit-forward style of Cabernet, with a graphite minerality and melting tannins. The lengthy finish and full palate of flavor complete the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$130

92 Davies 2022 Renteria 360 Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Exuberant, velvety, and full bodied, this wine is also balanced. Purple and black fruits gain the spice and savor of cigar box, cracked pepper, and pencil shavings, reaching into the long palate. Palate-coating tannins are balanced with mouth-watering length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$130

92 Judge Palmer 2022 Vintage Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This elegant wine delivers bright aromas of black plum, roasted cherry, roasted meat, and violets on the nose. The palate displays plush tannin, vibrant acid, and flavors of dark berries, chopped herbs, tobacco, and licorice through a long and silky finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Lecavalier Cellars 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). Commanding, full bodied and almost velvety, this bottling captures the brawn of its Diamond Mountain vineyard with ripe fruits that bring approachability. Warm currants and plums rolled in spiced cocoa with a layer of desert herbs complete the wine. Tannins are lightly textural and persistent. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$160

92 Markham 2021 Marked Parcels Bryan's Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). Deeply colored, densely aromatic, and flavorful, this wine captures the intensity with approachability possible from the iconic benchland soils of Yountville. Black cherries and plums, espresso with a pour of cream, layers of spices, and dried herbs combine for a juicy palate well balanced

by an almost pithy finish. Full bodied and generous. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$95

92 Markham 2021 Marked Parcels Meadowrock Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). From grapes grown at 1,500 feet on the rugged slopes of Atlas Peak, this single-parcel red delivers power, concentration, and persistent flavor. Wild blackberries, spiced compote, and cocoa join violets and green tea for a palate-cleansing wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$115

92 Markham 2021 Marked Parcels Tambor Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). This single-vineyard, 100% Cabernet Sauvignon delivers a mix of wild berries, cedar, and anise swirled with French oak spices on a medium-bodied frame. Tannins melt across the palate carrying the wine into a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$115

92 McKenzie Vineyards & Winery 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This wine is dark and spicy, with aromas of dark berries, blue fruit, clove, and violet on the nose. The flavors on the palate are boysenberry, black currant, apricot, black peppercorn, and grippy tannins. Pair with seared ahi tuna. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

92 Ovis 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). For full review see page 10. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 Stringer 2023 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Black plums, dark berries, and mixed currants rolled in unsweetened cocoa powder gain juiciness and a kiss of sweetness in the palate, touched by a waft of fresh herbs and a pencil-lead finish. Succulent tannins and a full body make for a plush Cabernet Sauvignon from one of Napa Valley's iconic mountain vineyards. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$135

92 Timepiece 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Trujillo 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is glittering, opulent, fruit forward and layered with spice. Black cherry lifts from the glass, leading into lush flavors of dark plum, cassis, toasted baking spices, and a waft of sandalwood. Tannins are giving and velvety, carrying plenty of concentration and length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$96

92 Vinafore 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

91 Auctioneer 2023 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

91 AvinoDos 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Wafts of violets, cracked pine, wild herbs, and incense intertwine with dark berries in cocoa and a savory finish. Well-integrated oak spices add another dimension to this richly flavored wine from a cooler area in southern Napa. Tannins melt across the palate into a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

91 Circumference 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Darioush 2021 Caravan Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A mix of red and black cherries and berries layer into cedar, tobacco, and integrated spices, delivering luscious flavors built by a succulent bundle of tannins and a long finish on this wine. Polished, palate cleansing, generous, and pleasing. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$70

91 Josh Cellars 2023 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). Aromatics are rich and subtle on the nose of this wine, with dark cherries, black currants, crushed walnuts, toasty oak, and mocha. Flavors evoke deep blackberries, creamy vanilla, dried tobacco, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 Judge Palmer 2022 Voir Dire Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Toasty spices, chocolate, and plum liqueur aromas drive the nose of this Cabernet. The palate gives superbright cherry, spice, and tar aromas in a framework of punchy acidity and rich tannin. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Laetitia 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Rich and opulent aromas of blackberry jam, vanilla, and caramel are appealing while powerful on the nose of this bottling. The palate is packed with plenty of spicy stuffing, as flavors of chai cookies and black-currant cream make for a bold display. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

91 My Story 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Loads of star anise, licorice, and blackberry aromas show on the nose of this wine. The palate has a medium weight and fresher strawberry, black plum, and chai flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$20

91 Paris Valley Road 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry cordial aromas are wrapped in waves of restrained oak on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more bold and powerful, with clove, licorice, and chai flavors that spice up the black cherry core, with tannins that hold firm. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$78

91 Patent Wines 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). Aromatic and juicy, this wine from southern Napa Valley delivers freshness and deep flavor, with a wash of mixed plums dusted with oak spices, cocoa, and a bright finish. Tannins provide tex-

ture and length. Enjoy now with decanting or hold several more years in cellar. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Sculpterra Winery 2023 Bentley Ironworks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Strong oak influence is immediately apparent on the nose of this bottling, with waves of vanilla and nutmeg amidst the black plum core. There's a hint of freshness to the palate, where the oak spice is more delicate as flavors of pepper, licorice, and blackberry pastry take hold. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

91 Shadow Ranch 2022 SR Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is bright and juicy, with aromas of cassis, Bing cherry, peach, clove, and toasted oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are blackberry, boysenberry, apricot, orange zest, vanilla cream, and dry, silky tannins to finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 1005 2020 White Lane Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Spiced black fruits, mushroom consommé, and tobacco carry aromas and flavors into a moderate finish on this wine. It features powder-fine, while palate-coating tannins, a full body, and concentrated flavor. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Bogle Family Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Cooper & Oak 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Crossbow 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Devil's Well 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

90 District Series 2024 District No. Seven Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Educated Guess 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 EG by Educated Guess 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Flying Cloud 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Stewed black plum and blackberry aromas are hit with toasted cardamom seeds on the nose of this bottling. There's a fresh tartness to the

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grippy palate, with hints of herbs adding to the riper fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Four Seasons 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Collection 2023 Claret Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Jax Vineyards 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bold, commanding, generous, and succulent, this bottling brings together purple and black fruits, cedar, and forest aromas with lightly textural, palate-cleansing tannins for a complete and enjoyable wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

90 Nash 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This bottling is for the Cab lover who craves a fresh yet fruit-forward version. It delivers without being excessively fruity or sugary. Aromas of ripe blackberry, black licorice, and sage arise on the nose. The palate features lush boysenberry, mocha, and vanilla-bean cream, wrapped in velvety tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Plungerhead 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). Superlush aromas of blueberry and dark cherry pulsate with toasted vanilla on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate are juicy but dry, with olallieberry, black currant, bittersweet chocolate and supple tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Pretentious 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This wine is anything but pretentious. It is, in fact, a well-made, balanced, and fruit-forward Cabernet, ready to drink right now. The aromas are rich and lush with black plum and blackberry. Flavors convey dark cherry, allspice, orange zest, toasted vanilla, and supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Prototype 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

90 RISK Winery 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Full bodied, silken, and layered, this wine delivers the powdery-fine while abundant tannins possible from Oakville while showcasing a juicy, long finish. Blackberry, cracked pine, tobacco, and cocoa powder make for a wine that is full fruited, earthy, and also fresh. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

90 Sarah's Vineyard 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley). Ripe, rich, and bold on the nose, this wine begins with jammy aromas of stewed black currant. The palate is also bold with black cherry and blackberry flavors that join pie crust spices and smooth tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Stringer Cellars 2023 Metal Bender Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Deeply violet in the glass, this wine offers approachability with just enough grip to stimulate the palate and provide texture. Aromas and flavors stride forth with juicy purple fruits, gaining floral lift, an accent of crunchy berry-seed spice, and a mineral finish. Mouthwatering and lengthy, the wine has the powdery tannins to enjoy now but will gain complexity with further aging. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

90 The Messenger 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Generous with lavish flavor, this is a fruit-forward, friendly Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate offers blackberry compote drizzled with cassis and chocolate alongside spiced espresso, all carried by firm, youthful tannins and balanced acidity into a lingering finish on the wine. Full bodied and bold. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

90 Truchard Vineyards 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Carneros-Napa Valley). Black and purple fruits retain crunch and tension alongside dried herbs and tobacco. Powdery-fine tannins appear firm in the palate of the wine while opening significantly with air into a long finish. Restrained while still palate-stimulating and flavorful. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

90 Vinafore 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 1924 2024 Double Black Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This selection overdelivers with its full yet elegant depth of blackberry fruit and black currant confiture, peppered with crushed fine herbs, molasses, and a toasty oak profile that doesn't weigh down the palate. Enjoy your favorite burger, steak, or hearty beef stew with this pairing. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

89 B Side 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). This wine is vibrant and youthful on the nose. Concentration on the midpalate reveals dark plum, brandied cherry, sweet vanilla, and orange cream, wrapping up with supple tannins on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Bonterra Organic Estates 2023 Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This organically grown California Cabernet is both affordable and tasty. Aromas of dark cherry, black currant, cassis, star anise, and toasty vanilla are layered across the nose. The flavors on the palate are black plum, blackberry, clove, espresso, and dried thyme, followed by supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

89 ET-CETERA / Weinhorn States 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Dense and aromatic, this wine offers dark berries, cream soda, and dried flowers on the nose. The flavors are bright, youthful red berries, allspice, vanilla, and espresso, with a supple, dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Freakshow 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 13. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Hook or Crook Cellars 2024 Winemaker's Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This is a current-release, ready-to-drink wine, which is usually hard to say about a Cabernet. It's hearty and robust, with red fruit, dried herbs, minerality, and silky tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Limited Barrel Lot Number 22 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Deep, rich aromas of concentrated blackberry, mocha, and black pepper lead the nose of this wine. The palate brings dark cherry, spice, and purple flower flavors in a framework of plush tannin that softens, with flavors of cinnamon lingering at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Line 39 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine offers ripe aromas of dark plum, raspberry, and toasty vanilla on the nose. Flavors are black currant, blackberry jam, allspice, mocha, and supple tannins to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

89 Member's Mark 2022 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Black plum and cherry join cherry bark, bitter herbs, and spiced cocoa on a full palate of flavor and tactile tannins to deliver a bold, value-driven Cabernet. Enjoy with steak house classics and consider decanting. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Noble Vines 2023 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Trim 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). Aromas on the nose of this wine offer fresh berries, dried herbs, florals, vanilla, and black tea leaves. Lavish flavors on the palate recall blackberries, black olives, dried bay leaves, and maple, with supple tannins on the finish. Pair with grilled hanger steak in green pepper-corn sauce. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$15

88 Bread & Butter 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Rich aromas of dark plum and boysenberry are layered with flavors of blackberry, mocha, dried rosemary, and grippy tannin on the finish. Aerate and enjoy with roasted whole lamb shoulder. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Clos du Bois 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This classic California Cabernet comes from a long-standing producer that has always punched well above its weight. Rich aromas of dark plum, blackberry, black fig, vanilla, and dried flowers arise on the nose. The palate is ripe with dark cherry, black currant, orange spice, and mocha, with a slightly dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$11

88 Hall Ranch 2023 Cellar Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Juicy aromas of red fruit, mace, and vanilla are quite ripe and spicy on the nose of this bottling. The palate presents a slightly sweet side of black plum and nutmeg that's balanced by a tannic grip. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$25**

88 McKahn Wines 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Black berries and ripe plums clothed in oak spices and cocoa deliver a friendly, generous Cabernet Sauvignon. Melting tannins keep the wine approachable while coating the palate through a modest and juicy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price: \$45**

88 Member's Mark 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich and velvety, this wine offers aromas and flavors of black cherry, sweet plum, graphite, and a savory finish. Bold tannins remain pliable and keep the palate stimulated through a lingering finish. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$15**

88 Member's Mark 2023 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Black fruits and wet earth join spices, mixed pepper, and woody aromas and flavors in this wine. Dusty tannins become almost smoky through the finish, balanced by a lightly palate-cleansing texture and persistence. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price: \$17**

88 Momentum 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Charming, affable, and velvety, this wine is layered with wild blackberries, black currants, and cassis mixed into vanilla cream and topped with chocolate shavings. Palate-filling and approachable. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$39**

88 Sculpterra Winery 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Very light colored in the glass, this bottling is minty on the nose with cranberry and licorice aromas. The palate is very herbaceous, offering dried mint, tart red fruit, and orange peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$44**

88 Tribute 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This classic offering comes from a leader in sustainable farming in California. Concentrated yet fresh, the nose offers black plum, black currant, black licorice, and toasty vanilla. The palate delivers boysenberry, bittersweet chocolate, grilled orange, and vanilla cream, topped with layers of mineral upon the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price: \$18**

87 Josh Cellars 2023 Hearth Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine offers rich, ripe blackberry, bittersweet chocolate, bay leaf, maple, vanilla, allspice, orange, and sweet tannins on the mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$16**

87 Mark West 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Sourced from high-quality vineyards, this wine offers aromas of rich blackberry, cassis, black currant coulis, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors have depth, with hints of rosemary, boysenberry, dark plum, clove, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$13**

87 Nine North Wine Company 2023 Chasing Lions Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Rich, earthy aromas of plum, blackberry, bay leaf, star anise, and vanilla waft on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate convey dried cherry, rhubarb, dried fennel, and silky tannins at the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$16**

86 Carnivor 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). The name says it all. Aromas on the nose of this wine are primal, offering dark berries, earth, mineral, toasty oak, and dried herbs. Blackberries, clove, tobacco leaf, and dusty tannins arise on the finish. This wine was made for grilled red meat. Aerate and enjoy. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$12**

86 Leese-Fitch 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Layers of dried herbs, cassis, Bing cherry, and red currant are generous on the nose of this wine. The palate offers red plum, orange zest, dried herbs, Tahitian vanilla, and supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$15**

86 Robert Mondavi Private Selection 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Zesty aromas of dried cherry, dark plum, bay leaf, and toasty oak arise on the nose of this wine. The palate offers blueberry, dark chocolate, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$10**

86 Robert Mondavi Private Selection 2023 Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Bourbon-aged barrels give a different lens for enjoying wine. This Cabernet is luscious and ready to drink, with notes of black plum, black currant, dried herbs, and vanilla spice. The flavors are blackberry, grilled orange slices, molasses, and brown sugar. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$13**

CABERNET FRANC

94 Joseph Jewell 2023 Elk Prairie Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Humboldt County). This wine is a generous expression of a variety known for showing more herbaceous aromas during superb vintages. Aromas of rich, red plum, bourbon-soaked Bing cherries, orange liqueur, and violets waft from the glass. The palate is supple, almost juicy, with red raspberry, pomegranate-rhubarb, chicory, orange-vanilla cream, and dry, juicy tannins to finish. Cellar

until 2032 or decant and watch it unwind. Pair with roasted duck confit. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.2% **Price: \$40**

93 Clos du Val 2022 Estate Cabernet Franc (Stags Leap District). Cabernet Franc is one of Napa Valley's harder to find, worth-the-search varieties. This bottling delivers a lift of lavender and flowering herbs, leading into a palate of dark fruits, graphite, and a gunmetal finish. Savory flavors gain attention as the wine opens with air. Lightly tactile tannins keep the palate energized for further sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price: \$125**

92 Bricoleur Vineyards 2023 Kick Ranch Vineyards Cabernet Franc (Fountaingrove District). Aromas of jammy raspberry, plum, and cherry swirl with flowers and spice on the nose of this wine. The palate feels tightly wound, with rich tannin built around flavors of berry gastrique, mocha, purple flowers, and black pepper all through the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$80**

92 Cobden Wini 2022 Old Federal Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Oakville). Aromas of dark cherries, mixed berries, and tobacco join with flavors of dried herbs, graphite and pencil shavings. Although commanding, this wine demonstrates the aromatic lift and lighter frame of Cabernet Franc. Tannins are fine and silky, carrying surprising intensity into a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$150**

92 López Family Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). The nose of this wine is complex and floral, with aromas of violets, black pepper, and leather dancing with chopped herbs and muddled blackberry. The palate brings more aromatic intensity than weight, with flavors of cherry coulis, mint, eucalyptus, and cocoa powder through the finale. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price: \$44**

91 Cuda Ridge Wines 2023 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley). This wine offers aromatics of bright red fruits, dried herbs, potpourri, and toasted French oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are red plum, Bing cherry, pomegranate jam, marjoram, and dusty tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price: \$46**

91 Jax Vineyards 2023 Estate Cabernet Franc (Calistoga). Opulent, ripe aromas of mixed cherries, plums, and a pop of boysenberry clothed in plush oak spices command the palate. Refined and abundant tannins create tension that pulls this wine into a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price: \$65**

GRENACHE

96 Hamel 2024 Nuns Canyon Vineyard Grenache (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). The nose of this distinctive Grenache balances

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bright floral aromas with robust cranberry-cherry fruit, savory herbs, and shattered stone. The palate reveals spiced plum, tart strawberry, pithy citrus, and dusty gravel flavors in a framework of energetic acid and plush tannin. Delicious now, but patience will reveal even more brilliance. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$110

96 The Royal Nonesuch Farm 2023 Hokum Grenache (York Mountain). Bold aromas of black cherry are expressive and energized on the nose of this bottling, which is laced with hints of sage and wild fennel. The palate is gripped in a chalky texture that frames the vibrant red fruit and spicy touches of dried ginger. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

95 Hamel 2024 Estate Grenache (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This aromatically dramatic Grenache brings focused aromas of wild strawberry, pluot, Rainier cherry, and orange pith on the nose. The palate demonstrates loads of energy and admirable balance, with fresh acidity, crunchy tannins, and flavors of fresh berry, earthy spices, sage leaf, and an echo of salty citrus peel lingering for over a minute. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

95 Stephen Ross 2022 Bee Sweet Vineyard Grenache (Edna Valley). A stunning example of how cooler-climate Grenache can be uber fresh, this bottling begins with expressive aromas of raspberry, red cherry, and crumpled red and purple flowers on the nose. The palate is juicy and fun with Bing cherry and strawberry flavors that float into a vanilla-kissed finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$48

93 Nenow Family Wines 2023 Grenache (York Mountain). Baked blackberry and black cherry aromas meet with cola and vanilla on the rich and comforting nose of this bottling. The palate is very ripe and nearly sweet with cherry compote, star anise, and mace flavors, as the tension rises to balance to finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$90

92 Whipsmart Wine Company 2024 One Fine Morning Grenache (Russian River Valley). A dramatic nose of strawberry, raspberry, and flower aromas jumps from the glass on the nose of this carbonic Grenache. The palate brings juicy berry fruit, lively acid, and crunchy tannin, with a bit of an herbal lift at the finish. Give this a little chill and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

91 Cline 2024 Grenache (Contra Costa County). This wine is fresh, with layers of red berries, dried florals, and toasty oak. The flavors on the palate are rich red raspberry, red plum, spearmint, and dried coriander, with mouthwatering tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Cabana Wines 2023 Grenache (Lodi). This wine pulsates with aromas of ripe strawberry, peach, and pastis candy on the nose. Flavors of youthful

red plum, tangerine, and red licorice vines lead into a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

SYRAH

95 The Royal Nonesuch Farm 2023 Spine Syrah (Central Coast). Intense aromas of dark berry and black plum are brooding yet still clean and fresh on the nose of this wine. Bold, ripe baked-strawberry flavors are balanced by the crunchy peppercorn spice, a firm texture, and a vanilla-kissed finish. Drink now—2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Joseph Jewell 2022 Red House Vineyard Syrah (Humboldt County). Deep, concentrated aromas of huckleberry, black currant confiture, violet liqueur, toasted vanilla, and bergamot tea waft on the nose of this wine. The palate is rustic yet silky, with blackberry, boysenberry jam, fresh fennel, earth, coriander, and grilled orange on a dry, supple finish. It is refreshing to taste such a fresh and bright Syrah. Decant and pair with grilled lamb sausage, apple, and watercress. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

94 Kiler Canyon Vineyard 2022 Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$95

94 Samuel Louis Smith 2024 Sandstone Terrace Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). A rare blend of Syrah vineyards from this appellation (52% Split Rail on the mountaintop and 48% Lester just down the hills), this built-to-last bottling starts with pristine aromas of red fruit, rose potpourri, and a hint of peppercorn on the nose. The lighter-bodied palate is superfresh and grippy, full of red fruit flavors. Drink now—2044. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$35

93 Cordant 2023 Coastview Vineyard Syrah (Gabilan Mountains). From a stunning mountaintop vineyard overlooking the east side of the Salinas Valley all the way to Monterey Bay, this hearty Syrah, which is lifted by 2% Viognier, begins with potent roasted blackberry and caramelized oak aromas. There's rugged texture to the palate, reminiscent of its site, framing roasted cherry, blackberry, and toasted wood flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Sarah's Vineyard 2023 Besson Vineyard Syrah (Santa Clara Valley). From a historic vineyard that's home to ancient vines, this bottling begins with dark cherry, melted licorice, and rugged woodspice on the nose. The palate is fresher and quite peppery, balancing the ripe roasted-cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Darioush 2022 Syrah (Napa Valley). Intriguing aromas of orange peel, raspberry leaf, and potpourri pull the senses into a palate of spiced and

muddled fruits. Savory flavors of black olive and pepper build with further sipping. Fresh length and silken tannins keep the palate of this wine energized and full of flavor. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

91 Foppa & Ambrosi Wines 2022 American Collection Syrah (Coombsville). Deeply toned glittering ruby in the glass, this wine delivers lifted aromas of mixed berries, bramble, and freshly cracked pepper. Lush flavors of ripe plums and blackberries fill the palate alongside savory length, joining black olives, mixed herbs, and integrated spices. Tannins coat the mouth while remaining supple, partnering with mouthwatering acidity for a full-bodied, generous Syrah. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

90 Truchard Vineyards 2023 Syrah (Carneros-Napa Valley). Generous while mouthwatering, this Syrah comes from the cooler southern end of Napa Valley. Juicy blackberries, chocolate, cocoa-covered blueberries, mixed pepper, and a pinch of dried herbs make for a friendly, full palate of flavor. Serve slightly chilled and enjoy. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

MOURVÈDRE

95 Kiler Canyon Vineyard 2022 Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 3.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$95

92 Cordant 2023 ENZ Vineyard Mourvèdre (Lime Kiln Valley). From a historic site once home to a regionally critical limestone mine, this bottling begins with earthy aromas of leather and tobacco followed by crunchy cranberry accents. Grippy, leathery tannins take hold of the sip, where dried red-fruit flavors are easygoing now but could grow more intriguing with time. Drink now—2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Nenow Family Wines 2023 Joy in the Middle Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Juicy aromas of blackberry syrup and açai smoothie are lifted by hints of violet and lavender on the nose of this bottling. There's a nutty kick of savory spice to the palate, giving some edge to the juicy blackberry and light incense flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$70

MALBEC

93 Thirty-Seven Wines 2023 Reserve Malbec (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of baked blueberry, cinnamon, and cocoa drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of concentrated berries, plum, and spice, with rich tannin structuring a long finish with echoes of flowers. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$58

93 Vincent Vineyards 2022 Signature Malbec (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark and hearty aromas of black plum and toasted seed spices show on the nose

of this rich Malbec. Bold yet tense, the palate has juicy ripe fruit and pepper-spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$135

92 Paris Valley Road 2021 Malbec (Paso Robles). The dark plum-fruit core on the nose of this bottling is spiced in cardamom and wrapped in a clay-like minerality that gives an earthy impression. The palate is cohesive with dark red fruit and opulent spices that are well integrated. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$44

91 My Story 2021 Aged in Bourbon Barrels Reserve Malbec (Paso Robles). Broodingly deep aromas of dark fruit meet with vanilla cream, star anise, and mace on the nose of this bottling. The bourbon-barrel aging kicks in an almost sweet tone to the palate, full of dark strawberry, black cherry, and black tea flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$25

90 Matchbook 2023 Sheep Ranch Estate Bottled Malbec (Dunnigan Hills). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

MERLOT

94 Vincent Vineyards 2022 Signature Merlot (Los Olivos District). This is not an overlooked Merlot, proving rather brooding, serious, and structured. Intense aromas of dark strawberry and raspberry are dusted in shaved nutmeg on the nose. The palate is generous in voluptuous fruit flavors, yet wrapped in firm, dry tannins and spiced with cracked pepper. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$135

93 Cuda Ridge Wines 2023 Merlot (Livermore Valley). This wine is rich, with aromas of Bing cherry, red currant, black strawberry, star anise, dried florals, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are boysenberry, damson plum, black tea, orange-vanilla cream, and silky tannins to finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

93 Guadagni Family Wines 2022 Raffaello Merlot (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of dark berries, chocolate, sweet mint, and spice come into focus on the nose of this Merlot. The palate feels broad and opulent, with rich tannins and flavors of baked cherry, cocoa, toasty spices, and fresh herbs resonating across the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$34

92 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Reserve Merlot (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). This wine has opulent aromas of plum, Bing cherry, allspice, toasted oak, and florals on the nose. Flavors on the palate evoke boysenberry pie, black currant, coriander, espresso, bittersweet chocolate, sweet tannins, and a lingering finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

92 Darioush 2022 Merlot (Napa Valley). Plush, full bodied, and deeply toned, this Merlot captures the rich while still layered and palate-stimulating side of the variety. Cocoa, dark berries, and black plum gain depth with graphite earthiness and a savory kick through the finish. Melting tannins linger in the mouth. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$80

92 Markham 2023 Merlot (Napa Valley). Showcasing the lush flavor and poised frame that made Merlot a classic, this bottling combines favorite sites from throughout Napa Valley, with a little oomph of Cabernet Sauvignon for muscle. Spiced cherries and plums fill the mouth with flavor leading to a mouthwatering finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$32

91 Wente Family Vineyards 2023 Sandstone Merlot (Central Coast). Intriguing aromas of anise, mahogany, blackberry, and black olive make for a savory, complex nose on this twist-top bottling. The palate lands softly with easygoing red cherry and light herb flavors that can pair well with everything from steak to creamy pasta. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 William Hill Estate 2023 Merlot (California). This has more than a traditional Merlot profile, offering richness on the nose and palate. The aromas are ripe blackberries, boysenberries, clove, toasty vanilla, and violets on the nose. Flavors evoke concentrated blueberries, mocha, and bay leaf, with silky tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

87 Josh Cellars 2023 Merlot (California). This is a soft interpretation of classic California Merlot. Aromas are fresh, with dark plum, dried herbs, chocolate, and potpourri on the nose. The flavors on the palate are dried blueberry, orange zest, sage, tobacco leaf, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Leese-Fitch 2023 Merlot (California). Aromatics on the nose of this wine convey ripe dark plum, blackberry, cardamom, orange zest, and toasty oak. Flavors on the palate are savory, with dark cherry, boysenberry, chocolate, dusty tannins, and a dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

PETITE SIRAH

92 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Captain Joe's Petite Sirah (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). This wine is opulent, with black fruit, allspice, black licorice, violets, and sedimentary rock layered with the finest French oak. The flavors on the palate are black raspberry, blackberry, boysenberry, cardamom spice, and orange zest, with silky tannins. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

92 Ovis 2021 Petite Sirah (High Valley). A great selection from a high-elevation, regeneratively farmed site. The fruit is concentrated, with aromas of blackberry, black currant, molasses, violets, and Tahitian vanilla on the nose of this wine. The palate is rich, juicy, and dark, with plum, boysenberry, grilled orange, cardamom, vanilla cream, and grippy tannins on the finish. Aerate and enjoy with grilled rib-eye steak. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

90 Matchbook 2023 Red Earth Estate Bottled Petite Sirah (Dunnigan Hills). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

ZINFANDEL

94 Markus Wine Co 2023 Essenzo by markus wine co - Berghold Vineyard Zinfandel (Lodi). Primarily from 34-year-old vines, this wine offers bright fragrances of ripe plum, rum-spiced cherries, chicory, violets, and sedimentary rock on the nose. The mouthfeel is quenching, tart, and juicy, with red plum, cherry, lingonberry, and orange zest, leading to a dry yet supple finish. Aerate and enjoy with grilled double pork chop and savory chutney. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$41

93 Hartford 2023 Fanucchi-Wood Road Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). The nose of this spicy Zin leads with aromas of spiced raspberry compote, accented by purple flowers, cinnamon, and dry cocoa. The palate gives flavors of freshly crushed cherry, licorice, and cracked pepper framed by rich tannin. Best from 2028. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$65

93 Hartford 2023 Jolene's Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Ripe raspberry, concentrated cherry, and lemon zest aromas waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate balances zippy acid and plush tannin with flavors of berry coulis, plum jam, cinnamon, and flowers that linger for over a minute on the finish. Drink this just because you can. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$65

93 Hartford 2023 Winberrie Knolls Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Bombastic aromas of black plum jam, boysenberry, and dark chocolate highlight the nose of this wine. The palate balances rich tannin and zesty acidity with flavors of baked cherry, anise, cinnamon, and purple flowers all along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Brown Estate 2023 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). Bursting with cherries and berries from nose through palate, this wine offers a succulent texture that keeps the palate intrigued through a mouthwatering finish. Friendly, delicious, and satisfying Zinfandel. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

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92 Gnarly Head 2023 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). This limited-release selection honors the Grateful Dead's 60th anniversary. Embodying the band's musical spirit, the aromas sing with layered rich berries, spices, toasty vanilla, and violets on the nose. The juicy and mouthwatering palate brings boysenberry, huckleberry, brandy-soaked cherry, allspice, and orange segments, leading into a dry yet lip-smacking finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$12**

92 Hartford 2023 Hartford Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Zippy aromas of roasted cherry, concentrated raspberry, lime, and purple flowers swirl on the nose of this Zin. The palate feels concentrated, with plush tannin, juicy acidity, and flavors of cherry-berry compote, plum jam, sweet mint, and cinnamon that swell through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.4% **Price: \$65**

92 Solitary Cellars 2022 Zinfandel (Lodi). Ancient Vines are a rare breed on a label these days. The aromas are subtle, presenting red fruit layered with baking spices and oak on the nose. Concentrated flavors evoke dark plum, dark strawberry, cassis, sarsaparilla, and citrus zest, with grippy tannins to finish. Aerate and enjoy with porchetta. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 15.6% **Price: \$55**

92 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2022 Maggie's Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Aromas of cherry liqueur, spiced black plum, and dark cocoa erupt from the glass on the nose of this Zin. The palate brings concentrated berry flavors, with layers of black pepper, cinnamon, and anise that echo for over a minute on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$54**

92 Stephen Ross 2023 Dante Dusi Vineyard Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Black cherry cobbler aromas, dusted in clove and chai spices, draw the nose into this bottling from a historic vineyard. The palate lands with a clean display of black plum, more cherry, and a potent spice rack that manages to stay light on its feet. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$48**

91 City Winery Chicago 2023 Cuvée Bacigalupi Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Ripe, round aromas of cherry pie, raspberry jam, and flowers swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate gives plush tannins and juicy acid, with flavors of baked berry cobbler, violets, creosote, and licorice through the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$42**

91 Guadagni Family Wines 2022 Heritage Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Subtle aromas of spiced berry, flowers, and zesty citrus drive the nose of this wine. The palate is medium bodied and nimble, with flavors of roasted cherry, plum, and dark chocolate before a feathery finish. Drink this with grilled ribs or roasts. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.3% **Price: \$38**

91 Rodney Strong 2022 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Ripe aromas of blueberry, candied raspberry, star anise and flowers swirl on the nose of this

wine. The palate delivers plush tannins and juicy acid, with flavors of baked berry pie, caramel, black pepper, and roses that persist through a weighty finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$35**

90 Freakshow 2023 Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price: \$18**

90 Kirkland Signature 2024 Old Vine Zinfandel (Sonoma County). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price: \$10**

90 Peachy Canyon 2023 Westside Zinfandel (Paso Robles). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$28**

89 Cabana Wines 2023 Zinfandel (Lodi). Deeply concentrated, this wine offers aromas of boysenberry and baking spices that warm the nose. The palate is coated in red-hot cinnamon candy, plum, and orange segments, with a juicy, dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$12**

89 Fly By 2022 Zinfandel (Lodi). Rich and aromatic, this wine features dark berries, coffee, dried herbs, potpourri, and toasty oak on the nose. The palate shows juicy, fresh blackberry, cassis, cardamom, black tea, and orange zest, with grippy yet supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$15**

89 My Story 2023 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Fat, jammy fruit flavors are spiced by gingerbread on the nose of this wine. The palate is nearly sweet, offering black cherry and maple flavors that are balanced a bit by persistent tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price: \$20**

88 Brochelle Vineyards 2023 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Extracted aromas of ginger beer and cherry coke show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture and offers more of the spicy red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price: \$44**

88 Leese-Fitch 2022 Old Vine Zinfandel (California). Warm, spiced aromas of cassis, blackberry, and clove swirl in the glass. Light touches of vanilla cascade throughout the palate of this wine, never heavy but full of flavor. A classic glass of Zinfandel. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$15**

88 Peachy Canyon 2023 Incredible Red Zinfandel (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$18**

OTHER RED WINES

94 Domenica Amato 2022 Monte Rosso Vineyard Sangiovese (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Aromas of juicy raspberry, spiced

plum, and purple flowers dominate the nose of this wine. The palate delivers racy acidity and neatly balanced tannin, with flavors of berry pie, lemon verbena, cinnamon, and licorice lingering for a minute. Drink this with roasted game or savory pasta for the next decade or more. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$55**

94 Samuel Louis Smith 2024 Baytree Lane Vineyard Gamay Noir (Sonoma Valley). This young Central Coast superstar headed north for Gamay this vintage, and the results fall in line with his lithe style. Quite transparent in the glass, the wine pops on the nose with wet stone and white pepper aromas that decorate the racy core of strawberry water and raspberry granita. The palate is vibrant, spicy, refreshing, and, ultimately, a whole lot of fun. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price: \$35**

92 Jacuzzi 2024 Nero d'Avola (Sonoma County). This inky-black-hued wine delivers a dramatic nose loaded with aromas of black plum, boysenberry, dusty spices, and licorice. The palate is richly tannic and densely packed with flavors of blueberry, blackberry, dark chocolate, violets, and black pepper that linger well into the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$65**

92 Seghesio 2023 Home Ranch Vineyard Barbera (Alexander Valley). With a few swirls of the glass, the nose of this wine yields aromas of baked blackberry, red cherry, and pithy orange. The palate delivers a pop of lively acid and flavors of berry compote, dusty cocoa, and floral herb mélange across a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$45**

92 Seghesio 2023 Venom Rattlesnake Hill Vineyard Sangiovese (Alexander Valley). Spicy and focused aromas of black plum skin, licorice, and coffee lead the nose of this wine. The palate gives a balance of juicy acid and dusty tannin, with flavors of black cherry, dusty cocoa powder, ground spices, and dried flowers across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$55**

91 Longoria 2023 Nebbiolo (Santa Barbara County). This wine is still quite tight and may emerge as a brilliant bottling with some patience. Aromas of juicy strawberry and cinnamon stick show on the nose. The palate is tense in structure, as flavors of red fruit and marjoram align. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price: \$45**

90 Jax Vineyards 2023 Estate Petit Verdot (Napa Valley). Almost inky in the glass, this wine delivers concentrated aromas and dark flavors, with powder-fine while firm, palate-coating tannins. Fresh violets, black plum, and boysenberry lift from the glass joining tobacco and light potpourri in the mouth. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$50**

89 Matchbook 2022 Estate Bottled Petit Verdot (Dunnigan Hills). From a single site, this wine is opulent and intense, with aromas of black fruit,

toasty oak, dried herbs, and dried florals. The flavors on the palate are blueberry, boysenberry, bittersweet chocolate, and dried rosemary, with silky tannins to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

RED BLENDS

96 The Royal Nonesuch Farm 2023 Rhône-Style Red Blend (York Mountain). Elegant lines of elderberry, violet potpourri, pepper and mace converge on the nose of this blend of 67% Grenache, 19% Syrah, 12% Graciano, and 2% Clairette Blanche from atop this appellation. The palate is tightly textured, with wild thyme and lavender flavors floating amidst strawberry and black plum elements, proving to be a satisfying sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Brandlin Estate 2022 Cuvée Red Blend (Mount Veeder). Full bodied, generous, while also polished and earthy, this wine captures the rugged, forest character of its vineyard with a palate of plush fruits, bramble, and dried herbs. Tannins are abundant enough for aging while also succulent enough to enjoy now. Balanced with a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Nenow Family Wines 2023 Elevens Rhône-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). A powerful core of blueberry candy and violet is cut with more delicate aromas of lavender and lilac on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very bold and satisfying, offering berry jam flavors alongside hints of black tea. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$58

94 ONX 2023 Brash Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$56

93 Brandlin Estate 2022 Henry's Keep Red Blend (Mount Veeder). Boldly flavored and structured, this wine showcases the aromatic and savory side of Cabernet Sauvignon, given extra oomph with dollops of Malbec and Petit Verdot. Mountain herbs and blossoms lead into upfront blue and black fruits, mocha, and a waft of incense. Hearty tannins keep this a structural red blend with generosity. Will continue to gain complexity with further time in cellar. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$135

93 Cliff Lede Vineyards 2023 High Fidelity Red Blend (Napa Valley). Bold, upright, generous, and staunch, this is a bottling for those looking for lavish while also structured red wine. Upfront black fruits, cocoa, wet leather, and porcini dance on taut, fine tannins into a long, palate-cleansing finish. Will open significantly with air, and continue to evolve with further time in bottle. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

93 Clos du Val 2022 Yettalil Red Blend (Stags Leap District). In this satisfying blend of Bordeaux varieties, well-integrated tannins and balanced acidity carry aromas of flowering herbs through flavors

of currants, plums, and a cascade of spices, finishing with cracked pine and fresh tobacco. Appealing while still understated, with still more to reveal from time in bottle. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$200

93 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Assemblage Red Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). One of the producer's flagship wines, this is crafted in a historical Bordeaux style. Flavor profiles are complex, offering blackberries, boysenberries, dried coriander, allspice, bay leaf, and toasted vanilla. Age in your cellar, or aerate and enjoy it now with grilled filet mignon. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

93 Cordant 2023 Maniacal Rhône-Style Red Blend (Central Coast). Deep aromas of blackberry, fennel, and oregano work together on the nose of this blend of 49% Grenache, 19% Petite Sirah, 18% Syrah, and 14% Mourvèdre. The smooth palate pairs plum and cherry with peppercorn dust and licorice spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Darioush 2022 Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Mount Veeder). Generous aromas and flavors join velvety tannins and a complete palate experience for a full-bodied, lush wine. Upright structure connects with succulent mouthfeel for a wine that is palate coating and lengthy. Dark fruits, bramble, mixed spices, and mocha show nose through finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$240

93 Fun Mom Wines 2024 Park Wine Red Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

93 ONX 2023 Mad Crush Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 8. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$52

92 13 Rams 2021 Red Blend (Lake County). This bottling is a preview of the Ovis Project, a regenerative-farming initiative for Clay Shannon/Ovis Wines. The wine is rich, saturated with aromas of dark berries, dried herbs, sedimentary rock, and toasty vanilla on the nose. A supple mouthfeel shows grippy tannins that turn to lush blackberries, dark cherries, cola, allspice, black tea, and a smooth finish. Aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Fun Mom Wines 2021 Park Wine Grenache Blend (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

92 Longoria 2023 Perhaps the Crow Knows Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). This proprietary blend works well with a range of cuisines and settings, from serious to laid back. Aromas of candied black cherry, peppercorn, tar, and wild herb lead from the nose into a palate that's layered in red to black fruit, roasted fig, and marjoram flavors. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$42

92 ONX 2023 Reckoning Rhône-Style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$58

92 Paraduxx 2022 Proprietary Red Wine Red Blend (Napa Valley). This wine delivers intensity, rich flavor, and polished tannins. Blackberry, blueberry, plum, mocha, and a sprinkle of baking spices deliver concentration from the first sniff all the way through the long finish. Integrated and crowd pleasing. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

92 Round Pond Estate 2023 Proprietary Left Bank Blend Cabernet Merlot (Rutherford). A tribute to classic Bordeaux, this blend brings together upright and aromatic Cabernet Sauvignon with palate-filling Merlot. A lush, lightly textural wine, it opens with aromas of dark berries and stone fruits accented by flavors of mocha and zest. Integrated flavors are carried by powder-fine tannins into a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$88

92 Round Pond Estate 2023 Proprietary Right Bank Blend Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc (Rutherford). Lifted aromatics and bold flavor reveal the addition of Cabernet Franc to the more structural Cabernet Sauvignon. Flowering herbs and juicy purple fruits lead to a light pour of vanilla cream blended with aniseed and a sprinkle of baking spice. Fresh mint accents the finish, keeping the palate watering for the next sip. Tannins are polished and linger in the mouth. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$110

92 The Introvert 2023 Reserve Red Blend (California). For full review see page 14. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Buena Vista 2023 The Sheriff Red Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Jax Vineyards 2023 Taureau Red Blend (Napa Valley). Rich and full bodied, with palate-cleansing yet still pliant tannins, this wine reveals balance and polish that exceeds its price point. Bramble, blackberries, cedar, and wet tobacco gain cocoa and a mouthwatering finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$25

91 Kazi Cellars 2023 Vinas Ventosas Merlot-Cabernet (Sonoma Valley). On the nose, this wine displays tension between ripe berry flavors and a streak of lively herbaceous aromas. The palate feels more vibrant than heavy, with juicy acid balancing plush tannin and flavors of raspberry, cinnamon, mint, and dark chocolate echoing over the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$39

91 m2 Wines 2023 Clockstoppers Zinfandel-Petite Sirah (California). The label features the great-aunties of the winemaker from the 1880s. Every year, the wine is different, highlighting something

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unique. Standing out in this bottling are rich, red berry, currant, cassis, red licorice, floral notes, toasty oak, and cinnamon stick, wrapped around silky tannins. Enjoy with pulled-pork sliders. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

91 Merriam Vineyards 2023 Sned Red Blend (Sonoma County). Punchy aromas of boysenberry, black plum, cinnamon, and leather drive the nose of this blend. The palate displays flavors of black cherry, earthy spice, cocoa powder, star anise, and pithy orange peel through the finish. This feels like a barbecue waiting to happen. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

91 My Story 2022 Red Wine Blend No. 5 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Strawberry, black cherry, and star anise aromas work well together on the nose of this blend of 42% Syrah, 30% Zinfandel, 24% Tannat, and 4% Viognier. The palate is ripe with those bold flavors yet balanced by acidity and a Meyer lemon-peel edge. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

91 Paris Valley Road 2021 Le Rendez-Vous Red Blend (Paso Robles). Blackberry jam and sharply spiced mace aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Syrah. The palate is plush and rich with black currant and nutmeg flavors that ride a chalky tannic tension into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$72

91 Sculpterra Winery 2023 Maquette Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Black plum and mace-blade aromas show on the nose of this blend of 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Cabernet Franc, 28% Merlot, and 7% Petit Verdot. There's a delicate tension to the sip, where black cherry flavors meet with an iron-like minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Sculpterra Winery 2023 Statuesque Red Blend (Paso Robles). A dark and intense pairing of black and red fruit is laced in molasses and ginger-snap aromas on the nose of this blend of 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Syrah, and 30% Petite Sirah. The palate's chalky texture frames dark fruit and licorice flavors, making for a pleasant pour. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

91 Sean Minor 2024 Signature Nicole Marie Red Blend (North Coast). For full review see page 12. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Shannon Ridge 2023 High Elevation Collection Wrangler Red Blend (Lake County). High-elevation red wines from this region usually hold Bordeaux varieties. This one has a generous nose and palate, with aromas that evoke dark plum, cassis, chocolate, clove, and vanilla cream. The palate boasts juicy red plum, blackberry, red currant coulis, coriander, star anise, and citrus zest, with a dry, supple finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

91 The Fugitive 2023 Red Blend (Dry Creek Valley). Lush cherry, blackberry, and violet aromas swirl on the nose of this blend, while rich tannin and flavors of plum, dark chocolate, and toasty spices drive the palate. The finish lingers with notions of flowers, cracked pepper, and cinnamon. Best from 2028. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Toccata 2021 Riserva Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Dense and potent spice cake aromas meet with stewed fruit on the nose of this blend of Cab, Sangiovese, Merlot, Petit Verdot, and Freisa. That same spice rack of flavor comes through on the palate alongside a berry pie core, and the leathery texture indicates some aging potential. Drink now–2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Ackerman Family Vineyards 2023 Memoir Red Blend (Napa Valley). Fresh and dried floral aromas combine with crunchy red berries, mixed plums, and a complex of baking spices. Tannins lift this red blend across the palate while remaining understated, carrying into a persistent finish. Versatile through a meal. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Bonterra Organic Estates 2023 Made With Organic Grapes Red Blend (California). It's pretty cool to offer an organically grown California red blend with no designation. This wine is delicious, with aromas of red berries, dried herbs, potpourri, and vanilla on the nose. The palate brings darker blackberry, blueberry coulis, clove, orange zest, and silky tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Killer Drop 2023 Rhône-Style Red Blend (California). For full review see page 13. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Maker Wine 2023 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Gingersnap, hoisin, and boysenberry juice aromas work together on the nose of this canned product. The palate is rich with licorice candy, Dr Pepper and bold black-plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$7/250ml

90 Sculpterra Winery 2023 Figurine Red Blend (Paso Robles). Tart cherry, toasted anise, and a waft of smoke make for a complex aromatic profile on the nose of this blend of 44% Primitivo, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 17% Merlot. The palate cruises right down the middle of red fruit and herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Zinister 2022 Red Blend (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Barrelstone 2024 Red Blend (California). Red blends are versatile at the table and easy to drink on their own. This bottling is elegant, with aromas of youthful dark fruit, chocolate, vanilla, and violet on the nose. The palate offers blackberry, blueberry, cassis, cardamom, and soft tannins to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Hook or Crook Cellars 2024 Winemaker's Select Red Blend (Lodi). This wine is rich, offering aromas of dark berries, dried herbs, and toasted oak. The flavors on the palate are blueberry jam, allspice, orange zest, sedimentary rock, and grippy tannins, with a mouthwatering finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Red Blend (Sonoma County). The nose of this blend brings vibrant aromas of raspberry coulis, caramel, and milk chocolate. Zippy acidity and plush tannin on the palate partners with flavors of roasted cherry, tobacco leaf, mint, and purple flowers along a grippy finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$22

89 Three Finger Jack 2023 Wild Country Red Blend (Lodi). The name "Wild Country" says it all. Aromas of wild berries, cinnamon, dark cherry, and sarsaparilla roll into one on the nose of this wine. The mouthfeel is covered in dense blackberries, baking spices, and star anise, with a dry, supple finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

88 My Story 2022 Aged in Bourbon Barrels Reserve Red Blend (Paso Robles). This bourbon-barrel-aged blend of 42% Syrah, 30% Zinfandel, 24% Tannat, and 4% Viognier starts with baked cherry and caramel aromas on the nose. The palate's sticky tannins frame tart red fruit and baking spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$25

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

95 Ponzi 2023 Laurelwood Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). A blend of fruit from Avellana, Aurora, Issimo, and Paloma Vineyards, this bottling will take your breath away with its live-wire acidity and fresh mouthfeel. After an aroma set that includes smoky flint, passion fruit, laurel leaf, and a spicy touch of ginger, the wine lights up the palate with flavors of lime zest, lemon saltwater taffy, and tangy gin botanicals like juniper berries and cardamom. Only pour this wine for people you really, really like. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$43

94 Iterum 2022 Orchard House Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). The Orchard House is quietly staking a claim to be one of the Willamette Valley's top Chardonnays. The latest vintage offers a dazzling array of aromas that include lemon curd and yellow apple, along with touches of butter and saline. The wine closes in on medium-bodied territory, with a bracing bit of acidity escorting flavors of lemon zest, toasted filberts, and small amounts of ginger spice and butter. You could easily enjoy this wine now, but patience will be rewarded for another 13 to 15 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Ponzi 2023 Aurora Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). This wine caught my attention with

a sweet citrus aroma that reminded of the lime cooler cookies we could never stop eating as kids. After the nostalgia trip, aromas of tangerines and yellow dragon fruit offer a tangy counterpoint. Backed by acidity amplified enough to make your neighbor's mouth water, the wine's lemon zest, apricot, wet slate, and saline flavors zip across the palate like a race car. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

94 Satyr Fire 2023 Forgotten World Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This wine is made with fruit from Pearlstad Vineyard, a piece of land where nearly every step you take crunches ancient marine fossils. Earthy notes of ripe cantaloupe covered in sea salt meld with hyacinth, mochi, and yellow apple aromas. Bright acidity and a tangy mouthfeel are the backdrop for flavors of lemon zest and a sliced donut peach. Forgotten World has to be included in any discussions regarding top Willamette Valley Chardonnays from the 2023 vintage. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

93 King Estate 2023 Grand Oak Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). For full review see page 7. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$59

93 Olive Hamilton Russell 2023 Maple Grove Vineyard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).

The warm scent of a melting beeswax candle mingles with this wine's aromas of Meyer lemon, yellow apple, and a wisp of talc. With a truly impressive level of acidity lighting the way, flavors like tart lemon zest, grilled pineapple, and wet slate zip across the palate in energetic fashion. I would love to revisit this wine one day with a plate of fritto misto, or a chunk of fresh goat cheese and a crusty baguette. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$59

93 Ponzi 2023 Avellana Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). The 2023 vintage was a great one for Ponzi's Chardonnay program. This single-vineyard wine kicks off the fun with a tangy mix of lemon-infused mineral water that's heavy on the minerals, cantaloupe, salted butter, and thyme. Flavors are more to the orchard side of Chardonnay, with pear and green apple flanked by wisps of lime zest and sage. The acidity here is crisp and dazzling, with a texture similar to that clean sensation one gets from rubbing the tongue over fresh-polished teeth. —M.A.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$75

92 Approachment 2024 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). I like lemons and I like chamomile tea. I even like chamomile tea served with a slice of lemon. Which is great, as that describes this Chardonnay's main aromas. But what really got my attention was a smoky mineral note similar to striking flint to start a fire. The wine's tart and crisp texture dovetails nicely with its Golden Delicious apple and icy lemon granita served with a sprig of mint flavors. Pair with a nice piece of grilled halibut. —M.A.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$35

92 Benza 2023 Touch of Gold Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). In this stellar Chardonnay, the first aromatic wave from the glass is a floral sensation that mixes jasmine and daffodils. Then, the tropics beckon with aromas of pineapple and lemon. The wine has brisk acidity, with a crisp mouthfeel and flavors like preserved lemon, saline, and thyme. If you have ever had a slice of beach pie, the citrus and salt flavor combination here will be familiar. —M.A.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$42

89 King Estate 2023 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Incredibly fresh aromas of orange zest, thyme, and lemon-scented soap powder give the impression of freshly laundered sheets hanging on a clothesline. The wine feels thin on the palate, with lime, apricot, and almond butter flavors supported by slightly elevated acidity. Grapes were pressed whole cluster, then fermented in neutral oak. The Chardonnay then aged for 10 months in French oak, 15% new, with weekly stirring. —M.A.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Satyr Fire 2024 Stargazer Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills). Acidity that feels in the mouth like ice crunching underfoot sets the tone for this delightfully dry wine. Aromas are a heady mix of apple, chamomile flowers, fresh-cut grass, and a savory/saline note that might give you a hankering for seared scallops. With flavors like guava, passion fruit, and macadamia nuts with extra salt, Stargazer is a tropical oasis. The next time you make fish tacos, here's your glass pour. Trust me on this one. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Ponzi 2023 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Ponzi has made Pinot Gris for 45 years and they are one of the important standard bearers in the Willamette Valley for the noble grape. This latest Pinot Gris release is among the best from them that I have tried. It smells like an icy-cold lemon granita hit with a touch of powdered sugar. If you love lemon drops, you will revel in this wine's aromas. With elevated acidity and a fresh, crisp texture, the lemon and lime flavors are doubly refreshing. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$20

91 Satyr Fire 2024 Croaking Toad Riesling (Ribbon Ridge). Made with fruit from Trisaetum Vineyard, the Croaking Toad is an off-dry gem that hops with aromas of petrol, lychee, lemon, and fresh-cut grass. It's packed with sweet Meyer lemon and brown sugar-apple tart flavors that suggest a high-tea dessert trolley. The acidity is elevated, without being bracing, with a mouthfeel that is plush and smooth. —M.A.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$40

90 Iterum 2024 Old Friend Oak Grove Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Eola-Amity Hills). This old friend makes its presence known with potent and grassy guava, lime, and passion fruit aromas. The wine is light and airy, with elevated acidity making a path for Key

lime, lemongrass tea, and saline flavors. Serve this wispy wine with ceviche and a sunset. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 King Estate 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Oregon). This straightforward Sauvignon Blanc opens with a mix of tropical and orchard fruit aromas. The first scent wave offers notes of pear and coconut accented by a mild iron-like aroma. Acidity that is on the gentle side then propels flavors like passion fruit and green tea served with a twist of lemon. —M.A.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$20

89 King Estate 2023 Havlin Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Van Duzer Corridor). A rich lemon butter aroma is tempered by flecks of lemon verbena tea and flint. Almost medium bodied with a rich texture, this Grüner Veltliner's lemon curd, toasted marshmallow, and sage flavors coat the palate in pleasing fashion. A bit more acidity would have been welcomed with open arms. —M.A.

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

WHITE BLEND

91 King Estate 2024 Four Nobles Cuvée Blanc Alsace White blend (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 11.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

SPARKLING WINES

94 Maison Jussiaume 2021 Rosé Oeil de Perdrix Sparkling Blend (Rogue Valley). Loire Valley native Jean-Michel Jussiaume is a name you need to get know when it comes to brilliantly handcrafted, traditional-method sparkling wines. This is a 50-50 blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that spent three years of sur latte aging. Petite bubbles drive aromas of lemon zest, white chocolate, anise, and shortbread straight to the part of the brain that regulates pleasure. Incredibly vigorous acidity then lights up flavors like apricot, raspberry, and a bitter note similar to orange pith. Bravo! *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Iterum 2020 Orchard House Estate Sparkling Rosé Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). An earthy, sweet, and nutty aroma combination reminded me of a slice of red bean cheesecake, while the wine's orange zest aroma was a nice warm-up for the palate. With a lean texture and energetic acidity, flavors like nectarine, saline, and a trace of orange blossom tea offered a nice bit of mouthwatering tanginess to the equation. Serve with a warm summer's evening and any João Gilbert to records you can lay your hands on. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$90

93 King Estate 2021 Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 7. *Editor's Choice.*

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

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Maison Jussiaume 2020 Brut Nature Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). Dosage-free and filled with verve and nerve, this 100% Chardonnay Brut nature was aged sur latte for approximately four years before a June 2025 disgorgement. It smells like red apple, lemongrass tea, rhubarb, and a yeasty note similar to sourdough starter. A heady flavor combination of lime zest and strawberry is supported by ample acidity, with just a touch of chamomile on the lengthy finish. Pair with waltzes and a plate of Oregon's Yaquina Bay oysters. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$75**

92 Maison Jussiaume 2020 Brut Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). Jean-Michel Jussiaume takes Chardonnay from Del Rio Vineyards, the other place where he makes wine, to craft this traditional method Blanc de Blancs that sees a minimum of four years of sur latte aging. The wine opens with aromas of orange-flavored olive oil cake and an earthy bit of chalkboard dust. Golden Delicious apple, pear, and anise cookie flavors are then ably escorted by the kind of blazing acidity that creates goosebumps. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$70**

ROSÉ

89 Sokol Blosser 2025 Estate Rosé Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This latest vintage is a fresh and airy pink version of Pinot Noir that makes its introductions with peach, strawberry, filbert, and toasted marshmallow aromas. Its acidity is gentler than recent vintages, with flavors of raspberry, grapefruit, and a touch of cinnamon. Feel free to enjoy your summer with bottles of this wine in your refrigerator. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price: \$30**

PINOT NOIR

97 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Notorious Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The notorious PGC has dropped a champion wine on us. The 2023 vintage of this wine is easily the best Notorious I have ever tasted. Aromas of fresh-shucked oyster shell linings, ripe, earthy blackberries, and a whisper of orange peel remind me of Willamette Valley Pinot Noirs from the days of yore. Flavors of tart dark raspberries, black tea, rosemary, and a savory/smoky note are backed by scintillating acidity, silky tannins, and an elegant texture. It's the total package of Pinot Noir greatness. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$85**

95 Iterum 2022 Old Friend Arlyn Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). With its impeccable balance and grace, this bottling stakes its claim as one of the top Willamette Valley Pinot Noirs from the 2022 vintage. The wine leads with aromas of black currant and orange-flavored olive oil cake, but the herbs soon take over, with bursts of lavender and dried rose petals uniting in potpourri fashion. Tart orange-cranberry flavors are backed by touches of sage and English breakfast tea. Elevated acidity and fine-grained tannins are a perfect match for the wine's restrained alcohol.

Arlyn is a ballet dancer; do your best to keep up. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$90**

95 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Durant Vineyard Bishop Block Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The 2023 vintage is a strong one for Pinot Noir at Patricia Green Cellars, and the Bishop Block is a highlight. What's not to love about a wine that greets you with aromas of ripe red raspberries, forest floor pine needles, and a wisp of dried rose petals? Flavors mix Bing cherries, lemony Kenyan coffee, and bittersweet dark chocolate that glide along an elegant, smooth texture. Everything from the modest alcohol and crisp acidity to the fruit and velvety tannins are in harmony. Enjoy as often as you can from 2026 to 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price: \$55**

95 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Ridgecrest Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). The way the black cherry and sunbaked straw aromas mix with this wine's floral and saline scents is positively sinful. It is like sitting next to a vase filled with spicy vanilla-scented phlox while chowing down on a bowl of squid-ink risotto. Then, Bing cherries take over on the palate, where they are joined by flavors of lemon zest, rye flour, and black tea. Firm tannins and zingy acidity complete this very attractive Pinot Noir package. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$85**

94 Iterum 2022 Clone 114 Orchard House Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A ripe black-cherry aroma fills the local air space as this wine is swirled in the glass. Additional aromas of orange zest and chalkboard dust are nearly as prominent as that cherry. The wine feels lithe and nimble on the palate, with a crisp texture uniting with snappy acidity and velvety tannins. Flavors are a mix of earthy blackberry tea, marjoram, and a trace of unsweetened cocoa. This wine should grace any truly special occasion. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price: \$75**

94 Iterum 2022 Old Friend Quailhurst Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Just when I thought my memories of the winter holidays had faded for another year, this wine hits my olfactory system with aromas of cranberries, pine needles, clove, orange peel, and a difficult-to-pin-down tropical note. As tangy acidity raised a few goosebumps on my arms, the wine's tannic structure, which has a bit of grip to it, provided an ample frame for flavors like raspberries and lemon verbena. That tropical note reappeared as a flavor, although this time it was identifiable as guava. Enjoy this wine now through 2038 to 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price: \$90**

94 Ponzi 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Blackcap raspberries and dark chocolate team up in perfumed fashion with floral notes of lilacs and rose petals. Peppy acidity and integrated tannins then provide a suitable frame for this wine's tart Bing cherry and cranberry flavor combination. Behind that tangy fruit lurk notes of black tea, sage, and cedar.

Pair with duck ragù over polenta and any Siouxsie and the Banshees EP. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price: \$75**

93 Benza 2023 Symphony Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Each section of this Symphony is a winner. The wine opens with perfumed aromas of blackberries, violets, and rosemary. After a brief intermission spent just smelling this wine, its flavors of blackberries, orange pekoe tea, and bittersweet dark chocolate reach a crescendo. It offers a perfect balance between modest alcohol, cymbal-crashing acidity, and tannins as velvety as theater curtains. Pair this wine with the Berlin recording of Leonard Bernstein's performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Ode to Pinot Noir. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price: \$44**

93 Iterum 2022 Eola Bench Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). They grow some mighty fine fruit on the Eola Bench, as this Pinot Noir demonstrates. Dark, jammy raspberry aromas are accented by flecks of pomegranate seeds, hyacinths, and saline, followed by flavors of raspberries, nutmeg, and black tea. Backed by plenty of acidity and silky tannins, flavors glide along a smooth, elegant texture. This is my favorite Bench since Johnny. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price: \$75**

93 Olive Hamilton Russell 2023 Zena Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This single-vineyard Pinot Noir offers an attractive perfume of dark raspberries, bittersweet dark chocolate, and a hint of talc. After dazzling the nose, tangy flavors like raspberries and cranberries join to escort notes of thyme and green tea. With restrained alcohol, bright acidity, and silky tannins, this is an easy wine to sip throughout an outdoor evening illuminated by white twinkle lights. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$69**

93 Patricia Green Cellars 2024 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Go long on this elegant and balanced wine, because it offers a lot of quality for a very reasonable asking price. The wine's first aroma wave features a potent bit of lilacs and hyacinth. When the floral show retreats, blackberries and an herb farm's worth of rosemary and oregano arrive. Flavors are similar to the wine's aromas, with blackberries, marjoram, thyme, lavender, and Darjeeling tea with a lemon twist holding court. The cherry on top here is a texture as smooth and slippery as Walton Goggins in a three-piece silk suit, sans shirt. Mercy. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$29**

93 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Estate Vineyard Wadensvil Block Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). With an aroma set this pretty, it takes a lot of discipline to abandon sniffing to start sipping. This wine's distinctly floral scents mix lavender and orange blossoms, with ripe blackberries laying down the aromatic back beat. Those same sweet blackberries reappear as a flavor, where they are joined on the palate by a mildly bitter note that comes close to a nice Ligurian olive oil. A lighter-bodied Pinot Noir, it has a gossamer texture, gentle acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$55**

93 Ponzi 2023 Abetina Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Abetina's fresh blackcap raspberry aroma couldn't be any more refreshing unless it were in popsicle form. Which would be appropriate, given the woody cedar-like aroma that reminds me of licking juice from a popsicle stick. A wee bit of lilac joins the fun. Darker flavors of blackberries, root beer, orange zest, and wet slate are backed by zingy acidity and silky tannins. Pair this wine with any Saturday in the park. —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$115

93 Ponzi 2023 Avellana Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). It is difficult to avoid getting hunger pangs when smelling this wine. A mix of marionberries and cranberries makes for a jammy perfume, with notes of a spicy ginger scone and a bit of molasses floating in the background. Tart acidity moistens the palate as flavors of blackberries, thyme, and a touch of coconut dance about the juicy texture. A firm tannic structure completes a sense of balance. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$115

93 Ponzi 2023 Madrona Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). This wine's aroma of a Bing cherry-scented Magic Marker brings childhood coloring-book memories. A hint of saline plays off of those cherries. Tangy blackcap raspberry flavor takes over on the palate, where it is joined by a Christmas kitchen-time medley of black tea, orange peel, and clove. Tannins are as sturdy as the wine's namesake tree, with more than a touch of the grip. Enjoy now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$115

93 Ponzi 2023 Paloma Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). In this elegant and graceful Pinot Noir, everything is "just right." This Goldilocks wine opens with dark chocolate ganache and black cherry aromas that are accented by splashes of orange zest and cinnamon. The good news is this wine tastes just like it smells. Fruit, dark chocolate, and spice flavors glide along the silky-smooth texture, supported by gentle acidity and silky tannins. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$115

93 Ponzi 2022 Reserve Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). This wine's intense acidity is complemented by tangy aromas of not-quite-ripe raspberries, violets, cacao nibs, and wet stones. Bracing acidity makes for a crisp and snappy texture to accompany flavors like tart red raspberries, black coffee, and a wisp of thyme. It would be an excellent candidate to slice through the fat of a Wagyu burger. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

93 Sokol Blosser 2023 Blackberry Block Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). I want any wine named "Blackberry Block" to smell and taste exactly like this Pinot Noir. The aromas are an earthy combination of clean herb-garden compost and marionberries so ripe, you can almost feel the juice dripping down your chin. Flavors are a vivid mix of brambly boysenberries, cacao nibs, and a walnut note akin to a shot of amaro. With every sip and smell, I feel like I am standing in my own

block of backyard berries. This is lighter-bodied fare, with brisk acidity. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$48

93 Sokol Blosser 2023 Watershed Block Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Aromas of this wine pack more flower power than a florist's backroom. Mixed in with raspberries and guava, you can pick up glorious bursts of hibiscus flowers, dried rose petals, and a tropical note similar to the plumeria featured in many a Hawaiian lei. Flavors are equally compelling, as blackberries mix with orange pekoe tea and bittersweet dark chocolate sprinkled with sea salt. Buy a bottle for your own watershed moment. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

92 Benza 2023 Three Tuxedos Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Three Tuxedos should be named Three Overalls because its aromas of earth, grass, and flowers are like prepping a garden for spring. Beyond the garden are aromas of blackberries and espresso served with a dollop of milk. The wine is as silky-smooth as a Vera Wang tuxedo, however, with blackberry, black tea with lemon, and fresh sage-leaf flavors. Boisterous acidity elevates those flavors in "Puttin' on the Ritzy" fashion, with plush tannins offering additional support. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$70

92 Iterum 2022 Old Friend Eola Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). As light and as graceful as air and ballerinas, this wine is an aromatic mix of blackcap raspberries, dark chocolate, and pine needles in forest floor duff. Lively acidity joins velvety tannins in support of flavors like tangy pie cherries, ginger bread, and a mildly tannic cup of black tea. Sip this wine on a back deck with a view. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$90

92 Left Coast 2022 Right Bank Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). I have no idea why a Pinot Noir has a name that immediately makes me think of Merlot, but I digress. Look for red raspberry or marionberry aromas that are juicy and ripe, but tempered by a touch of lemon citrus. The wine's 13.3% ABV and invigorating acidity are right up my alley, and its raspberry, saline, and bone broth flavors are equally appreciated. Taunt your Bordeaux-loving friends by serving this wine with thin slices of rare flank steak graced by a dollop of herb butter. —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$55

92 Ponzi 2023 Chehalem Crossing Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). This wine leads with a black cherry and dark chocolate aroma combination that is Tootsie Pop-worthy. But don't let that trick you into thinking this is some sort of jammy beast. The wine's dried cherry, date, and lilac-tea flavors are joined by a meaty and herbaceous note similar to a cup of bone broth served with garlic bread. What a wonderful discovery that was. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$75

91 Approachment 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The flowers and funk this wine delivers on the nose is like daffodils breaking through the

topsoil on a spring day. This earthy floral show is joined by aromas of blackberries and cedar. With balance and an elegant texture, the wine delivers a rich black flavor counterpointed by saline and orange zest. Approach this wine without fear of disappointment. —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$35

91 Benza 2023 Le Soir Estate Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Dusty and brambly, this wine smells like dark berries that have been plucked along a dirt road in the country. An additional straw note does nothing to dispel that rural sensation. The wine's tart blackberry flavor is joined by notes of espresso and sage. I quite enjoyed the wine's lean, crisp texture and zippy acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$78

91 Illahe 2022 Bon Sauvage Estate Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). Everything about this wine's aromatic set screams out "tangy." A touch of citrus zest duels for attention with aromas of raspberry-infused drinking vinegar, while notes of white tea and fresh rose petals form a background perfume. The wine feels surprisingly light on the palate, as lively acidity and firm tannins support its flavors of red cherries, thyme, and roibos tea. The Bon Sauvage lives up to its wild name. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

91 Iterum 2022 Old Friend Symonette Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). In this floral Pinot Noir, aromas of raspberry and sweet alyssum mingle with touches of hibiscus tea and a vinyl note that I associate with pulling a new LP from its cover. The wine has mildly elevated acidity and plush tannins to go with flavors of blackberries and white tea. It is lighter-bodied fare, with a mouthfeel to match. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$90

91 Ponzi 2023 Aurora Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). This wine's opening aroma volley of blackcap raspberries and root beer took me back to those beloved childhood Bottle Caps candies. There are some parallels on the palate, with tart boysenberry and horehound flavors rubbing up against a potent cedar note. For now, the wine's tannins are massive and imposing, so be prepared to give Aurora time in the bottle or in a decanter. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$115

91 Ponzi 2023 Tavola Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A pronounced blackcap raspberry aroma is soon joined by wisps of wet slate and salty black olives. This lighter-bodied wine has an elegant mouthfeel, elevated acidity, and silky tannins. The wine's flavors are a mix of ripe strawberries, black pepper, and a touch more of that black olive quality, suggesting a touch of tapenade. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$30

90 Grounded Wine Co. 2024 Landform Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The scent of tangy red currants melds nicely with aromas of leather and crushed oyster shells. This is a fruity Pinot Noir, with gobs of red raspberry, cranberry, and watermelon flavors occupying the palate. It is light-bodied fare, with

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crisp acidity and velvety tannins. Pleasing, but not overly complicated. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Iterum 2022 Clone 115 Orchard House Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This lighter-bodied Pinot Noir is an aromatic mix of tangy blackberry-infused drinking vinegar, thyme, and leaves recently fallen on a forest floor. An equally tangy and puckering plum flavor joins an herbal note similar to sage, as well as a cup of coffee served with milk. Bristling acidity accompanies unobtrusive tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

90 King Estate 2024 Inscription Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 13. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Sokol Blosser 2023 Twelve Row Block Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This wine makes a tangy introduction with its cranberry and orange zest aromas. There is also a wee bit of melting beeswax in the background, as if a citrus-scented candle were burning in the room. A blazing bit of acidity then spotlights the wine's blackberry, thyme, and sweet almond flavors. The tannins are perfectly in line with the wine's other components. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$67

89 Grounded Wine Co. 2023 Landform Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). While the wine's primary aromas are blackberries and dried rose petals, there's this sweet and nutty note that reminded me of a ripe avocado. This is a wine so light in body, the word "ethereal" can be accurately invoked, with gentle acidity and plush tannins. Its flavors are a simple mix of Bing cherries and lemon zest. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 King Estate 2024 Artisan Series Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's aromas are a on-two punch of really dark raspberries and caramel. The combination is like a flan or crème brûlée that's been topped with fresh fruit. The flavors are darker, with blackberry fruit leather and juicy black cherries running smack into a wall of cedar. The wine's tannins have a subtle grip to accompany its somewhat leathery texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Ponzi 2023 Laurelwood Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). This lighter-bodied study in red begins with red cherry and macerated strawberry aromas. The crimson theme continues on the palate with raspberries and pomegranate mixing it up with flavors of crushed walnuts and an oceanic note similar to dashi. There's just enough acidity here, and the tannins are on the velvety side, with just a hint of grip. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$47

88 Greenwing 2024 Pinot Noir (Oregon). This light-bodied wine opens up with rich, almost boozy, aromas of blueberries, black cherries, and a trace of caramel. The wine, which aged for 10 months in French oak, 30% new, has an airy texture that complements soft acidity and plush tannins. This fruit-forward

wine offers a mix of blackberry pastille and oak spice flavors, with a spicy red fruit note arriving toward the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

88 Illahe 2021 Percheron Estate Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). A Bing cherry hint is almost engulfed in aromas of bittersweet dark chocolate, vanilla, and cedar. The wine feels light on the palate, with just enough acidity and integrated tannins. Red raspberry and orange pith flavors unite in somewhat sour fashion on the palate, where they join traces of butterscotch and more cedar. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

88 King Estate 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A garden walk's worth of scents begins with aromas of fresh-tilled soil, red raspberries, lemon verbena tea, and a touch of chalkboard dust. This is a light-bodied wine, with acidity so pronounced it is bracing. The tannins also have a bit of grippy bite. Tart boysenberry flavors are right at home with the acidity, while a savory miso note lingers in the background. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$30

88 Vinafore 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

SYRAH

95 Sleight of Hand 2023 The Funkadelic Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). The only thing funky about this Syrah is its soul. Witness the wine's fresh aromas of crushed blackberries, fresh-cracked pepper, and lavender, which are followed by rich flavors of blackberries, mulberries, black licorice, and black tea. The wine's balance is remarkable, with boisterous acidity and silky-smooth tannins backing up all that fruit. It feels slick and slippery on the palate, like Bootsy Collins' song "Slide Easy." Make my funk the Funkadelic. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

95 Sleight of Hand 2023 The Psychedelic Stoney Vine Estate Vineyard Syrah Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). A Psychedelic that would make Aldous Huxley proud kicks off its Syrah trip with aromas of ripe huckleberries and orange zest. If these aromas were a pie filling, I'd be "all in." The wine feels nimble and lively on the palate, as crisp acidity and silky tannins support the tangy boysenberry and orange pekoe tea flavors. There's also a nice herbal quality of thyme and oregano on the long finish. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Benza 2023 Borderlands Vineyard Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). Do you enjoy Syrah? Then you need to track down this Oregon bottling before it disappears. The wine makes your acquaintance with a blackberry pie aroma that is wrapped in an earthy note, mixed with a saline-powered oceanic element that will have you hankering for squid ink risotto. To make those hunger pangs even more

acute, a tiny pork fat accent accompanies dark fruit flavors like black currants and black cherries. From its restrained 13.9% abv to the silky tannins and spiky acidity, this is one beautifully balanced wine. Mangia. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$64

93 Approachment 2023 Wicked Garden Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This wine is made with fruit picked in Les Collines Vineyard's Block 50, which sits at 1,300 feet above sea level. In 2023, the wine is 100% whole cluster and made entirely in amphorae. The wine smells like lilacs and a blackberry pie right out of the oven, complete with the filling that bubbles over the edge to become the most delicious burnt ends. Sturdy tannins then offer ample support to flavors like mulberries, wet slate, and ginger biscuits. Find this Syrah. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$52

92 Sleight of Hand 2023 Badlands Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). This wine leads with an aroma so earthy, you can almost feel your hands in the soil. In the midst of that earthiness are aromas of black cherries and barbecued pork. Velvety tannins offer able support to the Bing cherry and bone broth flavors. This savory Syrah, with its slick and slippery texture, spent 20 months in neutral French oak puncheons. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

WASHINGTON CHARDONNAY

94 Passing Time 2024 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). I'm back in my grandmother's kitchen thank to this Chardonnay's lemon curd with a butter crust aroma. With a bit of air time, the wine picks up mild scents of smoky flint and ripe nectarines. There's a significant amount of new French oak at play here, and you can feel it as the wine's texture thickens in most pleasing fashion. Flavors of yellow apples, sweet donut peaches, and chamomile tea glide across the palate. For Chardonnay fans who prefer their acidity to be of the non-blazing variety, this will become a favorite. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

92 Mark Ryan 2024 Olsen Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). Aged for nine months in a combination of 42% used French oak, 23% new French oak, and 35% concrete egg, this wine possesses a smooth, elegant texture, with just enough acidity to keep things interesting. Aromas are a blend of pears and butter, with a hint of banana taffy. The palate is consistent with those aromas, just richer. Look for a flavor combination of vanilla, cinnamon, ripe plantains, and browned butter to trigger a craving for a Bananas Foster, hold the flames. Divinely decadent. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

91 Januik 2023 Cold Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). A deliciously sweet aroma of Meyer lemon curd opens the door to notes of toasted filberts, butter, and nutmeg. This wine's mouthfeel is

slick and slippery, as tasty acidity propels its ginger, yellow apple, and honeycomb flavors. The wine spent 10 months in French oak, 50% new, and 50% once-used. Great vineyard for Chardonnay, great wine. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Turtle 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Rattlesnake Hills). This Turtle Chardonnay is anything but reserved. Instead, it is a bold, plush wine that first grabs you by the lapels with its peach, clarified butter, and toasted filbert aromas. The wine was fermented in barrel, then spent 30 months in 100% new French oak. Its dried apricot and yellow apple flavors match up with a creamy almond butter note. This is a truly medium-bodied wine that will fill every corner of your senses with flavor. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

88 Waterbrook 2024 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Apples, apples, and more apples is the theme of the day for this Chardonnay. Apple aromas are complemented by notes of talc and citrus. The apple flavor, think Golden Delicious, is joined by a healthy dose of figs. This is a lighter-bodied wine, with a smooth mouthfeel and restrained acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$14

87 Good Measure 2021 Destiny Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). This unoaked Chardonnay leads with aromas of Golden Delicious apples, browned butter, and thyme. The texture is round and soft, with acidity that struggles to be noticed. A flavor combination of yeast and vanilla will warm the hearts of folks who lick pancake batter from the beater. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

87 Two Mountain Winery 2024 Copeland Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). A tart bit of quince goes head-to-head with aromas of apple butter and the saline qualities of a maritime breeze or crushed sea shells. This Chardonnay feels thin on the palate, with flavors of pear, butter, and nutmeg. It is a light-bodied wine, with acidity struggling to be noticed. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

87 Waterbrook 2024 Reserve Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This is one creamy, buttery Chardonnay, starting off with aromas of lemon curd and fresh-shredded coconut. An expansive mouthfeel accompanies big, rich flavors of lime sorbet, coconut, butter, and an apple baked with cinnamon spikes. More acidity would have been welcomed with open arms. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$17

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Pepper Bridge 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Walla Walla Valley). Fermented and aged in a mix of mostly neutral French oak and concrete, this wine offers both crisp acidity and a bit of weight in the midpalate. Aromas are a tropical oasis of guava and passion fruit, with just a faint saline note. Flavors of Granny Smith apples and macadamia nuts are complemented by a

waxy note that suggests lanolin, which reminds me that this wine includes a small amount of Sémillon. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36

89 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). An attractive aroma combination of strawberries and ripe guava is accented by a touch of green leaf volatiles like those that emerge from a fresh-cut lawn. Flavors trigger images of tropical beaches as guava and passion fruit elements are pierced by a bitter kiwi note. This wine would make a fine accompaniment to Hawaiian poke tuna. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Mark Ryan 2024 Quintessence Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Red Mountain). This wine is made with fruit from a single block at Quintessence Vineyard. It spent six months in a 50-50 combination of new and used French oak. Aromas of peach and almond kick things off, along with a burst of lemon-flavored icing. Flavors of grilled lemons, coconut, and thyme accompany a buttery-smooth texture and acidity on the soft side. One day, I plan to try this wine with lobster risotto. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$48

88 Barnard Griffin 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). A distinctive blood-orange aroma is a nice start to this energetic Sauvignon Blanc, which also includes 3% Sémillon. The blood oranges are followed by aromas of lime zest and a cup of white peony tea served with a dollop of honey. Flavors of Granny Smith apples and passion fruit feel nice and round on the palate, with perhaps a bit of mint in the background. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$14

RIESLING

91 Chateau Ste. Michelle & Dr. Loosen 2024 Eroica Riesling (Columbia Valley). This stainless-steel-fermented Riesling offers a wonderful mix of the orchard and the tropics, as passion fruit and peach battle for aromatic supremacy. That same battle occurs on the palate as Golden Delicious apples duke it out with sweet, ripe pineapples. The acidity is enough to support all of that fruit without coming across as bracing or overly tart. —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$24

91 Echolands 2024 Riesling White Rock Vineyard Riesling (Ancient Lakes). Echolands is into Riesling now, and that's great news for Riesling lovers. This debut wine clocks in at 12.0 g/L for sugar, so we are definitely in halbtrocken territory here. Aromas of lemon curd and ripe lemon get things started, followed by flavors of Golden Delicious apples, wet slate, and a wee bit of white pepper. There's just a touch of sweetness here to go along with the live-wire acidity. Pour a glass with your next take-out order of crab rangoon. —M.A.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$32

90 Enodav NV Yellow Jacket Vines of Guadalupe Riesling (Yakima Valley). Not many

skin-contact Rieslings cross my desk, and most of those are made in Oregon. So imagine my surprise when the Yellow Jacket buzzed its way in from the Yakima Valley. I love the wine's scent of chewable orange vitamins, which mix with aromas of lemon zest and an earthy mushroom note. This wine has a bit of body to it, not to mention just enough tannins to rough up the roof of your mouth. It feels chalky on the palate as flavors of green tea, lemon zest, and a trace of apple butter work their magic. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Barnard Griffin 2024 Riesling (Columbia Valley). This has quite the floral nose, with a medley of hyacinth, sweet pea flowers, and ripe Golden Delicious apple aromas at play. A nice little mineral note in the background is like a cross between talc and chalkboard dust. The wine feels light and airy in the mouth, with simple lemon chiffon and Granny Smith apple flavors swirling about. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$14

89 Nine Hats 2024 Riesling (Columbia Valley). This Riesling is a poster child for orchards everywhere, beginning with its aromas of apples, pears, honeycomb, and honeysuckle. Then, a distinct Golden Delicious apple flavor is spiced up by notes of ginger, coriander, and olive oil. The wine's texture is smooth and easy, making this modestly priced wine an enjoyable sipper. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2024 Dry Riesling (Columbia Valley). This wine recalls a walk across the lawn, with aromas of white clover, fresh-cut grass, and a handful of fallen yellow apples. The first sip provides a blast of acidity that send chills down spines. After the initial shock dies down, flavors of Ginger Gold apples, thyme, and lemon drop hard candies soothe the nerves in a sweet-tart way. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

87 Goose Ridge 2022 StoneCap Riesling (Columbia Valley). This stainless-steel-fermented wine has an orchard's worth of aromas, with peaches and pears dueling for fruit supremacy. It feels light and papery in the mouth, with flavors of ripe tangerines and lemon curd holding court. A perfect picnic blanket wine for summer's outdoor concerts and Shakespeare in the park. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$12

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Itä 2024 Les Collines Vineyard Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). I really like Sémillon, but I don't get to try Pacific NW versions very often. So when I taste something like this wine, I am very happy. An aromatic lemon peel and lanolin combination kicks things off in fine fashion. The fruit was grown at over 1,000 above sea level, so you get brightness and natural acidity that blazes like the midday sun. The wine tastes like a baked Golden Delicious apple accented by bits of

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cinnamon and butter. It was fermented and aged entirely in stainless steel. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$28

93 Abeja 2024 Estate Viognier (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's tangerine sorbet and orange peel aromas are a match made in heaven, with a touch of wet slate adding a more terrestrial touch. Flavors of green apple, lemon verbena, and a wee bit of honeycomb are right at home with the crisp mouthfeel. There's also more than enough acidity to put some pep in your step. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Muret-Gaston 2023 Boushey Vineyard Picpoul (Yakima Valley). It didn't hurt my lips, but Muret-Gaston's take on Picpoul, aka "lip stinger," doesn't exactly lack for acidity. The wine's lemon zest, green plantain, melon, and nutty filbert aromas are a nice introduction to its lime-zest-meets-smoky-flint flavors, with a bit of peach thrown in for good measure. A crisp mouthfeel matches the elevated acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Kiona 2024 Old Vine Chenin Blanc (Columbia Valley). This aroma set has it all. At first sniff, there's burst of guava and wet gravel. Then you get this tart and tangy combination of Golden Delicious apple slices drizzled with lemon juice. Things are simpler on the palate, with a wave of apple flavor dwarfing citrus and botanical flavors that trigger gin and tonic cravings. If apple G&Ts aren't a thing, they should be. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Nine Hats 2024 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). This is a cracking good Riesling for the money. It has a slightly funky/earthy aroma similar to a ripe Ginger Gold apple plucked directly from a brown paper bag. Additional aromas of saline and slate linger in the background. The lemon curd, lime peel, and toasted almond flavors are graced by a burst of juniper berries that will have you hankering for an icy G&T. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Bayernmoor 2024 Destiny Ridge Vineyard Albariño (Horse Heaven Hills). A powerful set of aromas that feature preserved lemons and melon is accented by a burst of fresh-cut grass. Mildly elevated acidity then pushes flavors like Granny Smith apples, ginger, and wet slate. This is an airy, light-bodied Albariño where a touch of white peach arrives on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

88 Bayernmoor 2024 White Pinot Noir (Washington State). A ripe peach scent is a nice companion to this wine's watermelon and wet modeling clay aromas. It's a light-bodied affair, with restrained alcohol, gentle acidity, and the suggestion of tannins. Tart nectarine and red raspberry flavors are about all I could pick up. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

85 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2024 Pinot Gris (Washington). A faint lemon-peel aroma is about all I could pick up, no matter how hard I swirled my glass. This wine's papery-thin texture and indistinct acidity accompany flavors of lemon and a touch of honey. I'd try this wine as an aperitif, perhaps with some fresh goat cheese. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$19

WHITE BLENDS

90 Fidelitas 2024 Optu White Bordeaux-Style White Blend (Red Mountain). This blend holds 66% Sauvignon Blanc and 34% Sémillon. I enjoyed how the wine's aromas put me in the mood for a ploughman's lunch, as its apple, peach, and smoky gouda cheese aromas enveloped my head. There was also a sweet, honeyed note similar to fresh-picked alyssum. The wine feels lean on the palate, with lemon pith and apple flavors accented by touches of white grapefruit and coconut. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

90 Muret-Gaston 2022 Blanc Rhône-Style White Blend (Yakima Valley). This blend of 43% Roussanne, 32% Grenache Blanc, 12% Viognier, 11% Marsanne, and 2% Picpoul was fermented and aged in a combination of stainless steel and concrete. It is also made entirely of fruit from Boushey Vineyard, which is a very good thing. Floral aromas combine marigolds and lemons with fresh-cut grass and a touch of beeswax. The flavors are a mix of preserved lemons and lime zest, with a nice bit of almond butter. A tad more acidity would have pushed this score even higher. —M.A.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$32

89 Brian Carter 2024 Désir Bordeaux-Style White Blend (Yakima Valley). A blend of 68% Sémillon and 32% Sauvignon Blanc, this wine has aromas that mix lemon peels with mineral water that is heavy on the potassium. It is light-bodied, with mild acidity and flavors like pineapple, lemon, and a mildly sweet note similar to a yellow Life Savers. Try this wine with an herb-based cheese, like Boursin, or tuna belly sashimi. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36

SPARKLING WINE

89 DarkRock NV Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley). What a value. This is a really nice traditional-method sparkling wine that spent a year en tirage, and it will only set you back \$20. Angry bubbles help to deliver aromas of Granny Smith apple, lime zest, and pound cake. Tangy acidity lights up the wine's peach and lemon-infused mineral water flavors, while a hint of juniper berry lingers on the finish. Go long on this one. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

97 Passing Time 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). A rich aromatic burst of

sweet, ripe Rainier cherries is counterpointed by notes of orange peel, pipe tobacco, and the worn leather of a favorite baseball glove. With balance that a Cirque du Soleil performer would envy, flavors like red currants, pie crust, black coffee, and cedar match nicely with velvety tannins and juicy acidity. Those flavors have space between them, requiring you to pay attention to each one thoughtfully. It is like a jazz musician trying to create a sense of anticipation. Pair with a nice steak and the oldest Miles Davis record you can find. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$110

97 Passing Time 2023 Block 1311 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). 1311 is not an error message you want to receive while on Windows. It is, however, a mighty fine number to encounter on a wine label or the jerseys of owners Dan Marino and Damon Huard. This 1311 is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 100% new French oak, that opens up with aromas of cherries on a piece of yellow cake, wet slate, and rosemary. The medium-bodied wine coats the palate with its black cherry, espresso, mocha, and cedar. With crisp acidity and tannins with a bit of grip, consider drinking this wine now to 2038. Hike. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125

96 Abeja 2022 Heather Hill Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$95

95 DeLille 2023 Four Flags Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This elegant and balanced wine is made with fruit from Red Mountain royalty sites: Grand Ciel, Ciel du Cheval, Upchurch, and Klipsun. Its aromas are a sweet and sappy mix of cassis, pipe tobacco, and cherry fruitcake. Flavors of black cherries, bittersweet dark chocolate, and English breakfast tea are supported by gentle acidity and silky tannins. With stylish grace and a finish as long as a line for Bad Bunny concert tickets, this is the kind of wine you want to spend an entire evening with. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$80

95 Passing Time 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Pine and citrus notes of crushed black walnuts grab you by the nose and demand attention. Quickly, aromas of boysenberries, rosemary and anise take over. With a silky smooth mouthfeel, this wine's black cherry, black coffee, and gingerbread flavors glide like cotton socks on a hardwood floor. Tannins are firm without being grippy. Drink over the next 10 to 12 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

95 Passing Time 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A one-two fruit punch of ripe red cherries and dark boysenberries unite in pleasing fashion in this wine, with accompanying aromas of cacao nibs, saline, and wet slate. There is a mouthful of things to consider here, as dried cherries, anise, and chocolate cake flavors fill every nook and cranny of your senses. All of these flavors are supported by serious tannic structure and enough acidity to get the juices flow-

ing. Enjoy this wine for another 16 to 18 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

95 Pursued by Bear 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine has it all, from great fruit and sharp acidity to a pleasing texture and integrated tannins. You know, just the bear necessities. This Bear enters from stage left with aromas of blackberries, fresh-pitched Yakima Valley hay, and a wisp of Madagascar vanilla bean. The balanced, medium-bodied wine then delivers rich, juicy flavors of black cherries, mocha, and star anise. Best Bear yet? *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Long Shadows 2022 Feather Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Feather is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and 100% compelling. It opens with aromas of black cherries, leather, macadamia nuts coated in dark chocolate, and a trace of horehound candy. The texture is graceful and elegant, with flavors of cassis, black pepper, and caraway seeds gliding across the palate. The wine spent nearly two years in French oak, 85% of which was new. Its imposing tannic structure and surprisingly lively acidity are a winning combination that you can expect to enjoy for another two decades. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$85

93 Andrew Januik 2023 Doppelgänger Andrews Family Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). No need to fear this kind of Doppelgänger, as it is a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon that haunts you in a tasty way with aromas of cassis, dark chocolate, pine needles, moss, and star anise. The medium- to full-bodied wine's blackberry, mocha, and Tahitian vanilla flavors feel thick and luxurious on the palate, with silky tannins and juicy acidity providing balance. The wine aged for 21 months in 100% new French oak. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

93 DeLille 2023 Shaw Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aromatically, this wine is a study in red, as cherries and crushed-brick-dust scents battle for supremacy. There's also a bright background note similar to a lemony cup of Kenyan coffee. With crisp acidity and brawny tannins offering ample support, flavors of black cherries, anise, and a touch of molasses coat the palate in a pleasing fashion. Enjoy this wine from now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Fidelitas 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This wine is earthy and funky, with blackberries and Bing cherries melding with aromas of leather and bittersweet dark chocolate. For some reason, every time I inhaled, I pictured Bruno Mars tearing up the stage. Flavors mix black cherries with dark chocolate in pleasing fashion, joined by tiny amounts of anise and cedar. There's a bit of grip to these tannins, while the acidity seems downright shy. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

93 Fidelitas 2022 Quintessence Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The combination of a skilled hand and fruit from such an epic vineyard as Quintessence leads to a Cabernet Sauvignon like this one. It is almost regal with its luxurious texture and balance among alcohol, acidity, and tannic structure. The show begins with rich marionberry and sweet-potatopie aromas. A tiny polished shoe leather note hangs out in the background. The flavors are a decadent mix of plum pudding and a cup of Indonesian coffee served all by itself. I'd like to match this wine with a Yorkshire pudding and roast beef. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Kiona 2022 Heart of the Hill Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A mix of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, and 6% Petit Verdot, this wine is rich and fleshy, starting with aromas of Amarena cherries in syrup and dark chocolate ganache. It is almost like having a Black Forest cake in a glass. The flavors are similar, with black cherries, orange zest, unsweetened chocolate, and cedar, all gliding along a viscous texture. The acidity is gentle, with velvety tannins and a long finish. Heart of the Hill spent 23 months in French oak, 49% new. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Mark Ryan 2023 216 Miles To Go Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is a new Mark Ryan wine for me, but I hope they keep in their portfolio. The Cabernet Sauvignon is supported by 16% Merlot, 5% Malbec, and 2% Petit Verdot, while the wine's name references the distance from Woodinville to the vineyards of eastern Washington. It is packed with aromas and flavors of black currants, blueberries, clove, leather, espresso, and a touch of rose hips. Everything is in harmony, with a mouthfeel that is sinfully silky. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$38

93 Sleight of Hand 2022 The Illusionist Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This beautifully balanced blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Cabernet Franc conducts its magic out in the open, like any great prestidigitator specialist. The Illusionist's first move is to temporarily misdirect with its aromas of dark raspberries, cedar, pork fat, and a saline note that will have you hankering for a batch of Dungeness crabs boiling in fresh sea water. Red cherries suddenly appear on the palate, joined by touches of salted black licorice, black pepper, and cigar box. After 20 months in French oak, 60% new, the tannins are still manifesting in a powerful way. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

92 Andrew Januik 2022 Stone Cairn Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This wine is aptly named, as a wet-stone aroma joins notes of black cherries, raspberry compote, mace, and clove. Tannins that are approaching plush territory then unite in winning fashion with surprisingly crisp acidity. Flavors like black currants, black olives, and fresh-cracked black pepper bring it all home. If I was going to char a steak over a wilderness campfire, I'd happily pour the Stone Cairn. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

92 Pepper Bridge 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This estate blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 4% Merlot, and 4% Cabernet Franc aged for approximately two years in French oak, 57% new and 43% neutral. The medium-bodied wine possesses a wonderfully sweet aroma set of damson plums and figs. There's a lot of black cherry and blueberry fruit on the palate, but the wine's brawny tannins are up to the task. Additional flavors include orange peel, cacao nibs, and balsa wood. Enjoy this wine from 2026–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Kiona 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A fresh red-fruit scent that may trigger cherry snow-cone cravings is a nice match for this wine's other aromas of hyacinth and an earthy cup of blackberry tea. A smooth-sipping Cabernet Sauvignon, it puts a silky texture together with elevated acidity and velvety tannins. Flavors are a heady combination of black cherries, cedar, and a meaty note similar to a steak sizzling on the grill. That would also be a fine food pairing for this wine. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36

91 Mercer 2021 Ode to Brothers Reseve GSM (Horse Heaven Hills). A blend of 38% Syrah, 37% Grenache and 25% Mourvèdre, this wine makes a floral introduction with a strong blast of rose petals, followed by aromas of black currants, worn leather, and a grilled pork chop. Grippy tannins offer ample support to the black cherry, chocolate ganache, and cedar flavors. While the wine offers enjoyment now, proper storage should allow it to age gracefully for another 10 to 12 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$58

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This powerhouse Cabernet Sauvignon leads with an aromatic one-two punch of smoked cherries, leather, and graphite. Flavors deliver a rich mix of dark chocolate ganache, dried cherries, hazelnuts, and varied oak spices, with just enough acidity to hold it all together. Tannins, however, are on the not-so-restrained grippy side. Enjoy this wine from now through 2037. Great value here. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

90 Barnard Griffin 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). With small percentages of Merlot, Syrah, Petite Sirah, and Petit Verdot acting as an able supporting cast, this bold Cabernet Sauvignon strikes first with aromas of figs and Bing cherries coated in bittersweet dark chocolate. The texture is plush, with blackberry, blueberry, clove, and anise flavors coating everything in sight. A nice bit of acidity and velvety tannins helps maintain a sense of balance. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$19

90 Boomtown by Dusted Valley 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A fresh red raspberry aroma matches up with the wine's notes of dark chocolate and an earthy mix of forest floor and fresh hay. This a balanced, medium-bodied wine, with flavors of Amarena cherries coated in dark chocolate.

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The background flavors are an herbal mix of thyme and hyssop. I enjoyed the wine's restrained alcohol and sense of balance, with integrated tannins and gentle acidity.

Best Buy: —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$19

90 Mark Ryan 2023 Dead Horse Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Dead Horse bucks its name with rather lively aromas of black currants, dried lavender, fresh-turned earth, and a Mediterranean touch of red tomato paste. Flavors are a rich mix of black cherries and dark plums, with notes of saline and cedar hovering on the perimeter. The wine spent 20 months in 60% new French oak, and its velvety tannins and lifted acidity help to create a slick and slippery mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$75

90 Two Mountain Winery 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). Blueberries and dark plums offer a fruity introduction that is joined by notes of cocoa powder and wet slate. Energetic acidity and a delightful 13.9% ABV make it easy to take sip after sip of this wine to enjoy its tart marionberry and orange zest flavors. A yummy chocolate brownie-like flavor appears near the finish. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$30

89 Andrew Januik 2023 Baba Yaga Southwind Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This wine is truly a mouthfull. It resided in French oak barrels, 50% new and 50% once-used, for 20 months. The 100% Cabernet Sauvignon's aromas are a case for Black Forest cake, with bursts of dark cherry, dark chocolate, vanilla, and a wisp of coconut emerging from the glass. Massive, chewy tannins provide supporting structure for the wine's tart pie cherry, black tea, oak spice, and black walnut flavors. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

89 Januik 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The first scent to hit the nose is a warm slice of boysenberry pie, followed by a fresh and earthy bit of post-rain petrichor. This wine's velvety tannins have a modest grip, with restrained acidity bringing up the rear. Black cherries and black tea are the main flavors, with just a dollop of clove. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$35

CABERNET FRANC

93 Walla Walla Vintners 2023 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). This doozy of a Cabernet Franc is big and rich, beginning with its blackberry, mocha latte, and wet slate aromas. The flavors are just as decadent, with Rainier cherries and bittersweet dark chocolate mingling with dried herbs and dark-roast Indonesian coffee. It's a medium- to full-bodied hedonistic sipping experience, with velvety tannins ably supporting all of that fruit. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

92 Januik 2023 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope). Talk about a holiday classic. This decadently rich Cabernet Franc harks the chorus with its aromas of warm gingerbread, dark

plums, and a puff of cherry-scented pipe tobacco. It is a medium-bodied wine where jazzy acidity and muscular tannins are well matched. Flavors are a comforting mix of blackberry pie and a cup of black coffee. Curl up by the fireplace with this one. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$45

92 SAMA CELLARS 2023 RAGA | Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). A blackberry pie and orange zest combination, with notes of milk chocolate and cinnamon, is a mighty fine aromatic introduction to this wine. Flavors are equally rich, with sweet black cherries melding with touchess of cedar and macadamia nuts. Soft acidity and silky tannins perfectly complement this opulent treat. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$48

92 Two Mountain Winery 2023 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). This medium-bodied Cabernet Franc, which includes small amounts of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, spent 19 months in French oak, only 32% of which was new. The remaining barrels were a combination of used and neutral. There is a distinctly savory quality to the wine's aromas, with smoked cherries and lavender melding with the scent of grilled portobello mushrooms. Flavors of tart red cherries and cola are accented by a variety of oak spices, including cinnamon and nutmeg. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

91 Enodav 2023 VivIR Angiolina Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). This wine's tart red cherry and caramel aromas are joined by a rural note of straw bales warming in the sun. The fruit flavor is similar to the wine's aromas, with Rainier cherries uniting with traces of horehound candy, sage tea, and a brisk bit of acidity to go along with the silky tannins. This 100% single-vineyard Cabernet Franc aged for two years in new French oak barriques, 30% of which were new, with the rest aging in neutral French barriques. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

GRENACHE

95 Sleight of Hand 2022 Higher Ground WeatherEye Vineyard Grenache (Red Mountain). WeatherEye Vineyard may not have been what Stevie Wonder had in mind, but is indeed higher ground up on Red Mountain. We're talking the Mount Olympus of Grenache kind of hallowed higher ground. This wine begins with a profound aromatic set that includes Bing cherries, dark plums, thyme, rosemary, and black pepper. After that, hold tight, as flavors of blackberries, cacao nibs, and a hint of eucalyptus fill the local airspace. Drink now–2037. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$125

94 Sleight of Hand 2022 The Sorceress Reserve Grenache (Yakima Valley). The Sorceress weaves a seductive aromatic introduction that makes a bowl of blackberries and sachet filled with sage, mace, nutmeg, and lavender materialize before your very nose. The flavors are an equally enchanting mix of tart black cherries, coriander, and a tall, cold glass of sweet tea. After being aged on the lees in neutral French oak for 16 months, someone must have rubbed the puncheons

to release this Sorceress for bottling. **Editor's Choice.**

—M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$55

92 Muret-Gaston 2022 Boushey Vineyard Grenache Noir (Yakima Valley). Sweet and earthy scents of ripe mulberries are flanked by this wine's other aromas of almonds, dark chocolate, and a garrigue-like mix of thyme and rosemary. Tannins as firm as a politician's handshake provide ample support for chocolate-covered black cherry and black pepper flavors. I'd love to try this Grenache with a pork chop and roasted potatoes. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$50

91 Enodav 2023 Carthage Vineyard Grenache (Yakima Valley). This Grenache smells exactly like one of my favorite desserts, which is macerated strawberries drizzled with aged balsamic vinegar and fresh-cracked black pepper. The flavors are darker, with blackberries and sarsaparilla joining touches of dark chocolate, thyme, and leather. Acidity is lively, and definitely out ahead of tannins that are surprisingly tame. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$40

SYRAH

97 Sleight of Hand 2023 Spiders From Mars Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). I love this David Bowie-inspired wine as much as I loved seeing Bowie pair up with Iggy Pop to perform "I Wanna Be Your Dog" when I was a senior in high school. That performance was dangerously close to perfect, as is this Syrah. The wine leads with a funky-earthly mix of dusty roadside blackberries and roasted pork shoulder rubbed with cumin. Blackberries and earthy oregano take over the palate, ably backed by frenetic acidity and graciously silky tannins. Ziggy Stardust reputedly could lick you by smiling. This wine doesn't even need to smile to win you over. **Editor's Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$125

96 Sleight of Hand 2022 Off He Goes Les Colines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Off He Goes heads into a garden filled with the aromas of rose petals gathering dew and gardenias in full bloom. To the side is a blackberry patch buzzing with bees. The flavors are as poetic, with juicy blackberries, blood orange, EVOO, and rosemary water-cracker flavors cruising the elegant and refined texture. This is a Syrah to grow with, so try to hold a few bottles, with confidence, until 2040. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$75

95 Sleight of Hand 2022 Levitation Reserve Syrah (Columbia Valley). My favorite Levitation act since David Blaine is this elegant and sleek Syrah that packs plenty of acidity to go along with its velvety tannins. Blackberry and lavender aromas are joined by a smoke-and-saline note that will remind you of a driftwood beach fire. The flavors are equally dark, as blackberries and thyme are complemented by a burst of Indonesian coffee served with milk. These dense flavors coat the mouth without seeming overly viscous. If you

have a favorite hearty pork or beef stew recipe, deploy the Levitation. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

94 Echolands 2023 Resurgent Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This mix of 96% Syrah and 4% Viognier is made with high-elevation fruit from up on the South Fork of the Walla Walla River. It dazzles with its aromas of blackberries, pine needles, and candied ginger. The wine feels light and lively on the palate as flavors of boysenberries, cedarwood, and coriander do their thing. A lighter-bodied wine, it offers blazing acidity and silky tannins. The restrained alcohol is also appreciated. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$58

93 Enodav 2023 Ora et Labora Reserve Carthage Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). This is a hedonist's dream, right down to a viscous texture that conjures memories of a pearl slowly descending in a bottle of Prell shampoo. Blueberry, dark chocolate, and sunflower seed aromas lead to concentrated blueberry, maple, and black coffee flavors. There's just enough acidity and tannic structure to hold it all together. If you are in the mood for "big and rich," this co-fermented blend of 95% Syrah and 5% Grenache Blanc is a well-executed example. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

92 Ott & Hunter 2023 L'Entente Syrah (Columbia Valley). L'entente translates to "the agreement" in English. Syrah-lovers will likely agree with me that is a mighty fine wine. I quite enjoyed the boysenberry pie aroma that swirled up from my glass. It is joined by notes of moss growing on a stone and chalkboard dust. An elegant mouthfeel accompanies flavors like ripe boysenberries and a cup of green tea. The wine's acidity is invigorating, its tannins velvety. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

92 Ott & Hunter 2023 Stoneridge Vineyard Syrah (Royal Slope). The wine is 100% whole-cluster fermented, with a traditional foot stomping for good measure. Dark and meaty aromas of blackberries and black cherries form a partnership to do battle with pork fat and cedar. The flavors are similar to the aromas, with a shot of star anise joining the dark berry and meat party. A wicked-good combination of tangy acidity and firm tannins is the black cherry on top. Drink now to 2036 or 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

91 Cowin Family 2020 French Creek Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). The ripest, darkest raspberries imaginable join forces with savory aromas of pork fat and hay. This wine's flavors are a mix of black cherries, rosemary, and a cup of Indonesian black coffee. I was surprised that a 14.4% ABV Syrah could be this light and nimble, with a bright and crisp mouthfeel. Offering elevated acidity and velvety tannins to match, this wine does justice to a fine vineyard. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

91 Januik 2022 Ciel du Cheval Syrah (Red Mountain). This is pretty classic Syrah territory, starting with aromas of blackberry pie, violets, and thyme.

The same black fruit reappears as a flavor, joined at the berry hip with notes of a fresh-pulled espresso shot and a bit of pork fat. Ciel du Cheval's alcohol, fruit, acidity, and tannins are balanced, with a silky-smooth texture that you beckons you to sip again. The wine spent 19 months in French oak, 60% new and 40% once-used. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

90 Novelty Hill 2023 Syrah (Columbia Valley). A heady aromatic mix of black-and-blue berries is joined by aromas of sweet gardenias, leather, and roasted pork shoulder in this medium-bodied wine. Boisterous acidity and firm tannins shepherd flavors like black cherries and water crackers sprinkled in black pepper across the finish line. This wine will make a fine match for mushroom risotto or a nice, juicy lamb burger. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$26

89 Ott & Hunter 2023 Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). With 50% whole-cluster fermentation, you get a nice mix of spice, savory, and herb qualities, beginning with this wine's aromas of white pepper, garrigue, blackberries and barbecue pork. Flavors offer a rich mix of blueberries and dark chocolate, with a small hit of espresso. This is medium- to full-bodied action, with plush tannins and a surprising amount of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

89 Turtle 2021 Leatherback Syrah (Rattlesnake Hills). The first aroma to pop up in this wine smells like a cup of light-roasted Kenyan coffee with a splash of milk. After the java break, aromas of black cherries, wet stones, and pork fat take over. The wine was aged in 100% new French oak and clocks in at a whopping 15.9% ABV. Yet somehow, perhaps because of its surprising acidity, it doesn't drink like a port. There's also no detectable heat. Ripe, sweet blackberries, mocha, and anise flavors accompany resolved tannins. —M.A.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$60

88 Barnard Griffin 2023 Syrah (Columbia Valley). The first aroma wave to hit the nose involves a burst of blackberry gelato, with a whisper of something that recalls circus-worthy cotton candy. Those sweet aromas then run smack dab into a wall of balsawood. Flavors of this wine are similar, with blackberry jam slathered on a biscuit dominating a hint of bay leaf. The texture is viscous, with plush tannins and a modicum of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$19

88 Guardian 2023 The Informant Syrah (Yakima Valley). This Informant freely discloses aromas of damson plums, melting beeswax, and a sweet note that will have you craving a maple bar from the local bakery. Flavors are a simple mix of blackberries, anise, and black coffee that are backed by an ample tannic structure and a bit of heat. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

MERLOT

95 Abeja 2023 Merlot (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 3. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

94 Fidelitas 2022 Quintessence Vineyard Merlot (Red Mountain). This decadent Merlot wastes no time in capturing your attention with its earthy aromatic combination of blackberry tea, Rainier cherries, and a wisp of campfire smoke. The wine feels velvety on the palate, with flavors like boysenberry jam and Tahitian vanilla rubbing up against sage and thyme that glide all over the place. Tannins are plush, while the surprisingly elevated acidity keeps things from getting gloppy. This Merlot gives hedonism a well-deserved good name. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Mark Ryan 2023 Little Sister Merlot (Columbia Valley). This Merlot, which includes 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, spent nearly two years in French oak, 56% new and 44% used. The aromas mix a combination of dark raspberries and blueberry fruit leather with a cup of black, dark-roasted Indonesian coffee. Little Sister, despite its name, offers mature elegance and a silky-smooth mouthfeel. Flavors of blackberries, wet slate, and tangy olive oil are matched with a prominent wood note resembling a brand-new cedar chest. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$90

92 Two Mountain Winery 2023 Merlot (Yakima Valley). With aromas of blueberries, cedar, marshmallow, and a hint of worn leather, this wine catches your attention right out of the gate. It is balanced, with restrained alcohol, lively acidity, and velvety tannins with just a hint of grip. Then comes a juicy mulberry flavor that makes you long for pie, which goes nicely with notes of Earl Grey tea and a bit of oak spice. This is a great Merlot value. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$27

90 Novelty Hill 2022 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This Merlot, which includes 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, spent 17 months in a combination of mostly used French and American oak barrels. Aromas join Rainier cherries and fresh-chopped cedar, with a tiny bit of blueberry fruit leather vying for attention. A lushly textured, medium-bodied wine, it coats the palate with flavors of blueberries and bittersweet dark chocolate. Drink now. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$28

89 Barnard Griffin 2023 Merlot (Columbia Valley). At first sniff, aromas of caramel and black tea served with a wee bit of honey dominate this wine. Then, slowly, a beautifully ripe boysenberry note emerges. The mouthfeel is slick and viscous, creating a slip 'n' slide for black currant, milk chocolate, and oak spice flavors. Look for tannins and acidity that are equally silky. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$19

89 Waterbrook 2023 Reserve Merlot (Columbia Valley). Cassis and dark chocolate aromas

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are quite rich on the nose of this wine. Tempering them somewhat is an earthy/mossy note that puts the “floor” in forest floor. Grippy tannins and a major toasted-oak presence on the palate make for a chewy experience to go along with flavors of black cherries, honey, and orange peel. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$23

88 Goose Ridge 2022 G3 Merlot (Goose Gap).

The scent of a big bowl of ripe black cherries fills the air as this wine is poured. Lurking behind the fruit are notes of cedarwood, chocolate ganache, and a hint of mint. The wine’s thick texture and plush tannins are the backdrop for concentrated flavors of black currants, clove, and a variety of oak spices. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$16

MALBEC

94 Mark Ryan 2023 Caballo Muerto Malbec (Red Mountain).

Named in honor of Mark Ryan’s Dead Horse wine, the Caballo Muerto is 85% Malbec, along with small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Fruit was sourced from the Quintessence and Henry Earl vineyards. Black fruit aromas are a potent combination of blackberries and boysenberries, with additional bursts of hibiscus flowers and oak spices. There’s more of the same on the palate, with concentrated blackberry and black currant flavors melding with espresso and wet slate. Sturdy tannic structure supports all of that dark, dark fruit. Enjoy now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$75

92 Bayernmoor 2023 Aquilini Vineyard Malbec (Red Mountain).

This powerful, fuller-bodied Malbec leads with a one-two aromatic punch of Bing cherries and blueberry pie, while notes of cedar and pipe tobacco add interest. With a ton of fruit and velvety tannins, this is a pleasing mouthful of Malbec, with flavors of black cherries, cocoa, and rosemary coating the palate. Enjoy with lamb kebabs and a bowl of roasted corn soup. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$60

90 Kiona 2022 Estate Malbec (Red Mountain).

Everything in this blend of 86% Malbec, 11% Carmenère, and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon seems amplified, derived from its nearly 15% ABV and 31 months in a combination of mostly used French, American, and Hungarian oak. Dark plum and espresso aromas unite in pleasant fashion with sweet tobacco and leather. The medium-bodied wine’s flavors are a mix of dried cherries, dates, and dark chocolate, backed by integrated tannins. The texture here is definitely rich and slippery. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$40

89 Board Track Racer 2023 Malbec (Red Mountain).

This Malbec, which includes small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, rested for 20 months in French oak, 10% of which was new. It is a study in dark fruit, beginning with aromas of black cherries, blueberry fruit leather, saline, and clove. Flavors are even darker, with black currants mingling with earthy blackberry tea, cocoa powder, and assorted

oak spices. There’s a bit of heat from the 15.3% ABV, and the wine’s tannins tiptoe up to grippy territory. —M.A.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$28

OTHER RED WINE

93 Bayernmoor 2023 Clone 777 Pinot Noir (Puget Sound).

This lithe and airy wine reminded me of Pinot Noirs that I have enjoyed over the years from places like Sancerre and Jura. But this wine is made with clone 777 fruit grown at Bayernmoor Vineyard in the Puget Sound AVA. After an earthy aromatic perfume of blackberry tea, rose hip tea, and violets, a tiny wisp of wood smoke pops up. Flavors are a mix of tart blackberries, orange zest, and a cup of bergamot tea. It is a lighter-bodied take on Pinot Noir, where boisterous acidity rules the roost. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$55

93 Mark Ryan 2023 Crazy Mary Mourvèdre (Red Mountain).

This mix of 75% Mourvèdre and 25% Syrah spent nearly two years in French oak, 45% new and 55% used. A berry aroma fest combining black-cap raspberry and macerated strawberry is flanked by notes of rosemary and meat grilling over a cedar fire. Despite its name, this is a balanced wine with good acidity to accompany the velvety tannins. Black cherry, black pepper, and dark chocolate flavors are generous, its finish long. Crazy Mary would like you pass this bottle around with friends when you take it down. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$75

92 Kiona 2023 Estate Lemberger (Red Mountain).

The 2022 vintage of this wine earned a spot in our Top 100 Best Buys of 2025 list. This vintage of Kiona’s Lemberger is even better. The fun begins with the boysenberry, Thai basil, and fresh-turned-earth aromas. Then, backed by startlingly sturdy tannins, a wave of sweet, ripe blackberries is surfed by anise and the sweet, fruity flavor of a little ripe Sungold tomato. I also can’t believe this wine is a mere \$20. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$20

91 Turtle 2021 Elephant Mountain Vineyards Mourvèdre (Rattlesnake Hills).

It is heavenly creatures galore, with a Turtle Mourvèdre made with fruit from Elephant Mountain Vineyards. This isn’t just any critter wine, however. Aromas are a heady mix of black cherry and mocha, with burst of pine and bacon fat for good measure. I did not pick up any heat from the 15% ABV. Instead, the wine felt fairly balanced, with acidity that gives its mouthfeel a sense of tart and tang. Flavors bring together Bing cherry and cedar, along with a dark chocolate and orange combination that will have you craving a Terry’s chocolate orange. —M.A.

abv: 15%

Price: \$55

RED BLENDS

94 DeLille 2023 Chaleur Estate Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Yakima Valley).

Cabernet Sauvignon dominates this blend, which spent 20 months in 93% new French oak. After 10 months of bottle rest at

the winery, the wine eagerly greets the world with aromas of black cherries, graphite, lemon peel, and a vanilla floral fragrance similar to daphne flowers. The first sip of this wine is sturdy and chewy, so decanting is a nice idea if you open the bottle any time soon. Those grippy tannins do an admirable job of backing the wine’s blackberry pie, rosemary, and black coffee flavors. Enjoy from 2027–2042. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$90

94 Enodav 2023 Franky G Red Blend (Yakima Valley).

This 50-50 blend of Syrah and Cabernet Franc hits the nose with the purest expression of Bing cherries that I’ve encountered. A potent mineral note suggests those cherries smashed into a slate patio. The wine feels silky-smooth on the palate, as crisp acidity and plush tannins unite with flavors of cherry preserves on a scone, dark plums, and a mocha latte. That is a breakfast’s worth of flavors that I can get behind. *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$50

94 Fidelitas 2023 Optu Red Estate Vineyard Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Red Mountain).

Aromas of this wine are dominated by dark fruit and savory elements of damp earth, pipe tobacco, and pork fat dripping onto hot coals. Black cherries rule the palate, with flavors of espresso, clove, and black pepper bringing up the rear. Tannins are substantial, and the acidity impressive. The wine spent nearly two years in French oak (50% new), and American oak (7% new). *Editor’s Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$70

94 Mark Ryan 2023 Monkey Wrench Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

This has to be one of Washington’s best premium-red values. But calling Monkey Wrench a “Red Wine” is like dubbing Shohei Ohtani a “ballplayer.” It is a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated blend that opens with rich aromas of black currants, figs, and wood smoke. Then, assisted by a surprising amount of acidity and integrated tannins, the wine twists with flavors of blackberries, black cherries, mace, black tea, and cedarwood. There’s a lot going on here, dive in. Enjoy 2026–3037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$35

94 Numbskull 2023 BDX Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).

This is the BDX version of Numbskull; there is a GSM rendition, as well. A full-throated, full-bodied explosion of fruit and pleasure, it wraps aromas of crushed boysenberries and Bing cherries around a perfume-like core of violets and rose petals. The wine feels thick and powerful in the mouth, with blackberry pie, saline, and iodine flavors running rampant. A rigid tannic structure and lively acidity maintain balance. Enjoy now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$38

94 Passing Time 2023 Red Wine Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

Calling this “Red Wine” does not do it justice. That’s like calling Patrick Mahomes “quarterback.” This blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Merlot opens with an aromatic meal of dried cherries, a seared pork chop, and an herbal barrage of thyme, sage,

oregano, and fennel. With its jangly acidity and silky tannins, the wine feels bright and fresh in the mouth. Flavors of black cherries and anise mingle with traces of cedar and dark chocolate. Pair with anything you grill at your next tailgate party. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$65

94 Sleight of Hand 2022 The Archimage Reserve Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

An archimage is a powerful magician or wizard who should not be trifled with. While this Archimage casts a powerful spell, it should definitely be explored. It is a blend of 55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot that spent 20 months in French oak, 45% new. Its magical charms include aromas of macerated strawberries, black cherries, red apple skins, and nutmeg. Flavors of black cherries, black pepper, and a hint of black coffee are backed by lively acidity and velvety tannins. The smooth and silky texture is fitting for such a beautifully balanced wine. Enjoy now—2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$65

93 Brian Carter 2022 Byzance Rhône-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

For full review see page 6. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$45

93 Brian Carter 2022 Corrida Tempranillo Blend (Columbia Valley).

Corrida is a tantalizing tango of 66% Tempranillo, 23% Graciano, 6% Garnacha, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Named for the bullfight, this Iberian Peninsula-inspired blend's opening aroma pass includes blueberries, blackberries, and the salt and smoke combination of a beach campfire built with driftwood. Bright acidity and brawny tannins then ride herd over the marionberry, cardamom, and white tea flavors. Olé! *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$35

93 Cowin Family 2020 Left Bank Reserve Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

Left Bank is a 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Malbec, and 20% Merlot blend that does its namesake justice. The aromas, a combination of black cherry and dark chocolate, are like an adult-themed Tootsie Pop. Acidity that will make your mouth water unites with integrated tannins to support flavors of blackcap raspberries, more dark chocolate, and a wisp of tangerine. Pair with pork mole and a side of Cuban black beans. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$65

93 Fidelitas 2022 4040 Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Red Mountain).

Named for the 4,040 acres that make up Red Mountain, this Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend features complex aromas of blueberries, elderberries, star anise, and violets. Mouthwatering acidity unites with integrated tannins to support flavors of marionberry, orange zest, and English breakfast tea served with demerara sugar. With balance worthy of a Cirque du Soleil high-wire artist, this wine is a joy to sip. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$40

93 Fidelitas 2022 Estate Red Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Red Mountain).

This wine's initial black cherry aroma is quickly matched by savory notes of grilled beef steaks with a spicy rub of paprika, thyme, and rosemary. Tart red-cherry flavors rule the palate, accompanied by black coffee and spicy pepper notes. The wine possesses a rare combination of pronounced acidity and brawny tannins, with a chalky texture. Enjoy now with a bit of decanting, or stash some bottles away to enjoy over the next 15 to 18 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

93 Long Shadows 2021 Chester-Kidder Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

The meatiness of this wine is quite appealing, rather as if you roasted a pork shoulder rubbed with rosemary, thyme, and black pepper. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Syrah, and 11% Petit Verdot, it offers aromas of black cherries, leather, and cigar box. The wine's slippery texture escorts rich flavors like blackberry pie and black coffee, making it seem like a meal in a glass. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$70

93 Ott & Hunter 2023 Smiladon Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Columbia Valley).

Smiladon was a ferocious saber-toothed predator that is thankfully extinct. Its wine namesake, an equal-parts blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, is lively and friendly. Aromas are quite floral, with violets and yarrow mixing it up with fruity notes of blackberries and rhubarb. The flavors serve a breakfast cereal mix of black cherries, oats, and a bit of clove. What sets this wine apart is its elevated acidity and a mouthfeel as crisp as a chilled apple. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$45

93 Ott & Hunter 2023 Woolly Syrah-Petite Sirah (Columbia Valley).

The combination of 60% Syrah and 40% Petite Sirah from two great vineyard sources, Boushey and Heart of the Hill vineyards, is a winning one. Velvety tannins with a slight touch of grip are matched with acidity that makes the mouth feel slick and slippery. Black cherry and Indonesian black coffee flavors are pierced by a burst of lemon zest. Despite the hefty woolly mammoth, there's nice balance and a touch of finesse here. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$45

93 Sleight of Hand 2022 The Conjuror Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

I've been drinking this wine since its first vintage, and it's not just because Neil Patrick Harris' mug is on the label. No, it's because this fantastic Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot blend over delivers for its price. This latest rendition opens with a concentrated black fruit aroma that is surrounded by notes of graphite and cigar box. Flavors of black cherries and fresh-brewed Indonesian coffee rule the palate, accompanied by an elegant texture and velvety tannins. Doogie for the win(e). *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$35

92 Brian Carter 2022 Le Coursier Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

Le Coursier, which in English translates to "the messenger," announces that a Merlot-based blend does really well by spending two years in French oak, 40% new. Aromas are a perfume of black cherries and dark chocolate, mixed with fresh meadow flowers and bunch grass, reminiscent of coriander and vanilla. Flavors like cherries, oranges, cacao nibs, and pipe tobacco glide along a slick and slippery texture, backed by juicy acidity and velvety tannins. Message received. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$45

92 Brian Carter 2022 Trentenaire Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

The Trentenaire smells like a handful of dark raspberries smashed into a weathered piece of leather. This sauvage aromatic introduction is followed by more civilized flavors of ripe blackberries and orange pekoe tea flavored with a dollop of honey. The wine is nicely balanced, with crisp acidity uniting with velvety tannins. It is a blend of 60% Petit Verdot, 16% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, and 7% Malbec that aged for two years in French oak, 40% new. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

92 Cowin Family 2022 GSM (Columbia Valley).

A blend of 35% Grenache, 35% Syrah, and 30% Mourvèdre, this classic GSM sports equally characteristic aromas of blackcap raspberries, white pepper, and roasted pork shoulder. Lively acidity and a slick and slippery mouthfeel go along with the sweet, ripe boysenberry and pork fat flavors. Pair this wine with a backyard fire pit, Pendleton wool blankets, and a mug filled with beef stew. Cowin Family Wines Inc. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

92 Enodav 2023 Vadone Angiolina Vineyard Rhône-Style Red Blend (Yakima Valley).

This Rhône-inspired blend of 59% Grenache and 41% Syrah was impressive on its merits. Then I saw the \$25 price and thought to myself, "Wow." The wine opens with aromas of black currants and earthy blackberry tea, plus a touch of tart quince and bittersweet dark chocolate. It feels lithe and lean in the mouth, with impressive acidity, velvety tannins, restrained alcohol, and flavors like black cherries, pipe tobacco, and a smidge of paprika. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$25

92 Mark Ryan 2023 Long Haul Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

This Merlot-dominated blend aged for 22 months in French oak that was 66% new and 34% used. A potent, concentrated black currant aroma unites in a bold fashion with notes of wet rocks, pipe tobacco, and a closet filled with cedar hangers. It's a balanced wine, with elevated acidity and silky tannins that support flavors like blackberry cobbler, dark chocolate, cedar, and a touch of cool cellar-floor earth. Break out the pork chops for the Long Haul. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$65

92 Muret-Gaston 2022 Rouge Boushey Vineyard Rhône-Style Red Blend (Yakima Valley).

This Grenache-driven wine delivers a fruit-meets-forest aromatic mix of red cherries, strawberries, pine needles, and cedar. With a nice sense of balance between alcohol, fruit, acidity, and tannins, the texture is silky smooth.

BUYINGGUIDE

Flavors include blackberries, cinnamon, black tea, and a hint of pork fat. We're talking Rhône blend here, so why not serve the Rouge with chicken in the style of Bresse, with cream and mushrooms? —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$50

92 Pursued by Bear 2022 Bear Cub Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). There's a sweet little bear cub face on this Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend's label, but the juice inside the bottle is equally irresistible. The aromas are a combination of black cherry and gingerbread, with a bit of cedar and clove. Things get a bit richer on the medium-bodied wine's palate, with cherries and chocolate flavors doing their best Black Forest cake impersonation. And when it comes to tannins, this bear sheds its cub status, as this tannic structure is as sturdy as the Rock of Gibraltar. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$38

92 Sleight of Hand 2023 The Spellbinder Red Blend (Columbia Valley). I haven't had such an effective spell cast in my direction since the first time I heard Nina Simone. An aromatic combination of seared steak and black fruit tangos with notes of iron and a well-worn leather jacket. This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend delivers flavors of black currants, earthy black truffles, black tea, and cedar. The tannins will rough up the roof of your mouth, so swirl a bit harder than usual. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$25

91 Board Track Racer 2023 Speed Racer Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Always one of the best values in Washington State, Speed Racer zooms in the 2023 vintage with its blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Malbec, and 13% Merlot. Aromas of black cherries, pipe tobacco, and powdery lilacs lead to flavors like Bing cherries, anise, thyme, and black tea, all backed by juicy acidity and silky tannins. A perfect pairing for a pork sandwich or a grilled portobello sporting pizza toppings. Go Speed Racer, go. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$15

91 Long Shadows 2022 Saggi Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This latest vintage of Saggi is a blend of 67% Sangiovese, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 14% Syrah. It is a burly, full-bodied beast that clocks in at 15.4% ABV, with aromas and flavors of Amarena cherries soaking in brandy, dark chocolate, clove, and pashtrami on rye bread. Robust tannins outpace the wine's gentle acidity, with a mouthfeel that feels big and rich. Enjoy this wine from now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 15.4%

Price: \$70

90 Cowin Family 2020 Ribera Reserva Tempranillo Blend (Columbia Valley). Keep an eye on winemaker Bradford Cowin, as he is making some outstanding wines in Oregon that focus on high-quality grapes grown in Washington State. This blend of 80% Tempranillo, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Malbec, and 4% Merlot begins with aromas of black currants backed by loamy soil and various oak spices. While the wine's tannins are impressive, its acidity keeps pace. With rich raspberry clafoutis and black cherry occupying most of

the flavor space, some black coffee and pipe tobacco flavors add interest. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$65

89 Novelty Hill 2023 Oxbow Rhône-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This blend of 38% Syrah, 37% Mourvèdre, and 25% Grenache hits the ground running, with potent aromas of sweet red currants, lilacs, cinnamon, and wood smoke. Flavors of black cherry, cinnamon, walnuts, and cedar glide across a viscous palate, backed by gentle acidity and plush tannins. A little bit of heat is noticeable along the way. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$50

89 Walla Walla Vintners 2023 Woven Fields Red Blend (Columbia Valley). A classic Bordeaux-inspired blend of 40% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Malbec, this offers a fantastic value in the Washington red category. Black cherry and milk chocolate aromas are encased in a cedar chest of drawers. The flavors are nearly identical, with sweet black cherries swirling about notes of cedar and cocoa powder. The wine's acidity is soft, with a viscous mouthfeel and silky tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

88 Ott & Hunter 2023 Gatherer Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This is a blend of 55% Syrah and 45% Merlot, with fruit sourced from the Boushey, Stoneridge, and Pollard Vineyards. Bing cherry, the main aroma, is joined by wisps of wild grasses, wet stones, and a meaty note similar to bone broth. The medium-bodied blend feels round in the mouth, with a modest amount of acidity and tannins with a hint of grip. Black cherry and cola flavors are accompanied by traces of cedar. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$45

88 Two Mountain Winery NV Hidden Horse Red Blend No. 22 Red Blend (Yakima Valley). What I'm guessing is a blend driven by Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, this oaky offering spent 20 months in a combination of French and American oak. Aromas of Rainier cherries and vanilla are matched by notes of pipe tobacco, hyacinth, and cedar. The wine's blackberry flavor is tart and juicy, while dark chocolate, anise, and oak spices offer a touch of sweetness. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$22

DESSERT WINES

98 Chateau Ste. Michelle & Dr. Loosen 2017 Eroica Single Berry Select Riesling (Columbia Valley). I have been drinking the Single Berry Select for more than 20 years, and this is my favorite vintage so far. The wine's darker hue is a perfect match for its initial buckwheat-honey aroma. After the honey, aromas of apricot tarts, molasses, and caramel-coated apples fill the air. What always amazes me about this selection is its scintillating acidity, and the 2017 vintage is no different. That acidity is a live wire, off of which apricot gelato and mango chutney flavors are counterpointed by the mint and citrus qualities of linden-tree honey and a tart bit of watermelon rind. The wine feels thick and luxurious on the palate, coating any receptor that delivers plea-

sure signals to the brain. Enjoy this dessert wine for the next two decades, with everything from seared foie gras to strawberry-rhubarb tarts. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$200/375ml

93 Muret-Gaston 2021 Jean Boushey Vineyard White Blend (Yakima Valley). At 110 g/L, you would assume this dessert wine is going to be as sweet as old-fashioned Sprite. Thanks to a blazing bit of acidity, this wine sure doesn't feel that way. Instead, this blend of 65% Sémillon and 35% Sauvignon Blanc is a sweet/tart kiss. Lemon, pear, pine needle, set stone, and lanolin aromas lead to flavors of orange sorbet and ginger shortbread. It's off-dry, but not off-kilter. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 10.3%

Price: \$50/500ml

IDAHO

GRENACHE BLANC

91 Telaya 2024 Grenache Blanc (Snake River Valley). My first ever Grenache Blanc from an Idaho producer is fresh and floral. The wine opens with a combination of meadow flowers, earth and a tart burst of Granny Smith apples. Flavors like lime, honeycomb, almonds and a hint of something tropical, like coconut, accompany a smooth, round-in-the-mouth texture and gentle acidity. This Grenache Blanc spent six months in neutral French oak. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$27

MALBEC

91 Telaya 2022 Reserve Malbec (Snake River Valley). Black cherry and licorice aromas do a slow tango with background notes of dried rose petals and fresh-turned earth. This medium-bodied wine spent three years in French oak, 13% new and 87% neutral, before resting in bottle at the winery for six months. Its flavors are a sweet-tart mix of boysenberry jam, star anise, and an artichoke-based amaro that I would love to pair with a big bowl of venison chili. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

ARIZONA

WHITE BLEND

89 Arizona Stronghold Vineyards 2024 Tazi White Blend (Willcox). Loads of zippy citrus and white flower aromas dominate the nose of this blend. The palate brings flavors of energetic lemon-lime, nectarine, orange blossom, and chopped herb mélange that linger along the finish of the wine. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$17

ROSÉ

90 Arizona Stronghold Vineyards 2024 Dayden Rosé of Mourvèdre (Arizona). Aromas of pithy citrus, strawberry, and flowers drive the nose of this wine. The palate is a wash of pithy mixed-citrus

acidity, with a grippy texture and flavors of orange peel, lemon verbena, tomato leaf, and apricot lingering through the finish. *Best Buy*. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$15

NEW MEXICO

SPARKLING WINE

90 Gruet 2024 Au Naturel Brut Sparkling Blend (New Mexico). This bright and lively brut-nature-style sparkling brings aromas of freshly squeezed citrus and white flowers on the nose. The palate delivers rich texture, with bright acidity, opulent bubbles, and flavors of Asian pear, jasmine, Meyer lemon, and stony minerality. —T.R.C.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$24

TEXAS

WHITE WINES

91 Lost Draw Wines 2024 Timmons Estate Vineyard Picpoul Blanc (Texas High Plains). This focused and zippy wine delivers punchy aromas of lime, tart pineapple, ginger, and citrus blossom on the nose. The palate vibrates with zesty citrus acidity and packs a punch of fresh green herbs, tropical fruits, and white flowers. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$32

90 K Estate 2024 Estate White Blend (Texas Hill Country). This blend of Marsanne, Roussanne, and Albarino offers aromas of tart pineapple, green pear, honeysuckle, and nectarine on the nose. The acid-driven palate brings pithy texture, and flavors of pomelo, lemon verbena, white flowers, and candied ginger through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$39

90 Lost Draw Wines 2023 Viognier (Texas High Plains). This bright and bombastic Viognier jumps from the glass with classic aromas of apricot and honeysuckle on the nose. The palate brings round texture, vibrant acidity, and flavors of sweet clementine, candied peach, and flowers that linger through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$36

SPARKLING WINES

89 Elisa Christopher Wines 2024 Method Champenoise Blanc du Bois (Texas). Aromas of candied lemon peel and fresh green herbs drive the nose of this sparkling wine made from the American hybrid variety Blanc du Bois. The palate feels racy, with loads of tart pineapple, citrus, and floral flavors, showing lively effervescence before a pithy and yeasty finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$43

90 Elisa Christopher Wines 2023 Method Traditionnelle Rosé-Pinot Noir (Texas High Plains). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13% Price: \$50

NEW YORK

SPARKLING WINES

92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2020 Cuvée Brut Méthode Traditionnelle Sparkling Blend (Seneca Lake). An almost 50/50 blend of Chardonnay and Pinot with four years on lees, this traditional method fizz from an excellent vintage, is an opulent yet approachable drop. The orchard fruit aromas weave neatly with the more autolytic ones like shortcrust pastry and salted nuts. Acidity, vigorous CO₂, and textural weight play seamlessly together, making for a classy, celebratory bubbles at a quarter of the price of most Champagne. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$39

89 Buttonwood Grove Winery NV The Farm Sparkling Extra Brut Cayuga White (Finger Lakes). This clean, dry, and refreshing sparkler is made from a blend of vinifera and hybrid varieties. Notes of yeasty apple and honeyed lemon peel are at the fore. The fizz is vigorous at first, flattening out after a few minutes in glass, but a laser beam of acidity keeps the refreshment factor flowing. A solid weeknight bubbles, even if the bottle shape and screw cap don't quite match the celebratory nature of the fizz inside. *Best Buy*. —C.P.
abv: 11.3% Price: \$19

89 Damiani Wine Cellars 2023 Brut Rosé Méthode Champenoise Sparkling Blend (Finger Lakes). The shade of ballerina slippers, this classic sparkling blend (led by Chardonnay) offers delicate red berry, vanilla, and fresh cream aromas. There's no shortage of acidity or bubbles on the palate. Combined they give a tart impression. More time on the lees to develop additional complexity would be welcome. But this should be a tasty drop beside a creamy young cheese, nonetheless. —C.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$35

PENNSYLVANIA

SPARKLING WINES

89 Mazza Vineyards NV The Perfect Bubbly White Blend (Lake Erie). Fun, flirty, and easy drinking, "The Perfect Bubbly" is just that for a chill social setting. Peaches and florals dominate. Ease is heightened by zippy acidity, and orange blossoms add a lilting finish. Drink now as an aperitif or with light bites. *Best Buy*. —C.G.C.
abv: 11% Price: \$18

89 South Shore Wine Co. NV Pinot Noir (Pennsylvania). This wine is delightfully fruity and accessible. Cherry, raspberry, and rose petal linger in

broad strokes. The mousse is lively and lathers the palate. Enticing alone or with food. Drink now. —C.G.C.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$30

89 South Shore Wine Co. NV Riesling (Lake Erie). Fun and lilting, this wine explodes on the tongue. The nose is delightful with stone fruit, macadamia nuttiness, orange marmalade, and beeswax. A jasmine florality persists on the palate, which finishes with orange marmalade. The bubbles are fine. A festive experience from beginning to end. —C.G.C.
abv: 11% Price: \$30

88 Grace Winery 2022 Méthode Traditionnelle Chardonnay (Pennsylvania). This wine offers a lean texture, herbal components of basil and licorice married with white flowers, and a light spritz —C.G.C.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$65

AMERICA

SPARKLING WINE

90 Cuvée 89 NV Reserve Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Blend (America). Aromas of toasted hazelnut, Meyer lemon, and chopped green herbs drive the nose of this pale-gold sparkling wine. The palate shows bright acid and rich texture, with flavors of roasted apple, rising pastry dough, ginger, and citrus blossom across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 12% Price: \$30

CANADA

ICEWINE

95 Inniskillin 2023 Gold Icewine Vidal Blanc (Niagara Peninsula). The Vidal Gold fermented in new French oak at an average temperature of 59 degrees Fahrenheit for 16 days. The wine was then allowed to age an additional three months in oak before racking. The result is a fantastic wine that oozes apricot jam, yellow apple, honey, and a fruity hint of Emmental cheese with every sniff from the glass. Flavors of clover honey, tangerine, and buttered cinnamon toast glide on a texture that is thickset, but not cloying. Stick me in a quiet corner with this wine and a chunk of English Stilton, and I'll be exceedingly happy. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. *Editor's Choice*. —M.A.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$90/375ml

94 Inniskillin 2023 Icewine Riesling (Niagara Peninsula). With aromas of orange sorbet, cardamom, and lemon verbena-flavored syrup, this icewine provides a decadent perfume that could be dabbed on various pulse points. With a creamy texture that can be described as mouthfilling goodness, the wine's flavors of honey butter spread on blood orange-flavored olive oil cake glide across the palate in glorious fashion. If you think you need a special occasion to open this bottle, change your ways or make one up, stat. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. *Editor's Choice*. —M.A.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$90/375ml

93 Inniskillin 2023 Icewine Cabernet Franc (Niagara Peninsula). Whoever first decided to make icewine with Cabernet Franc grapes should be given a medal. Inniskillin's latest version is a holiday aroma extravaganza of spicy plum pudding and a bowl of earthy wild strawberries. The wine's peach pie, sweet rhubarb tartlet, and rose water flavors feel right at home slipping and sliding all over its lubricious texture. Somehow, someday, I will find the perfect dark chocolate to pair with this crimson-colored treat. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —M.A.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$110/375ml

93 Inniskillin 2023 Icewine Vidal Blanc (Niagara Peninsula). A forest-like scent of pine needles bursts from the glass, joined by aromas of candied orange segments and a wisp of apricot. Bright acidity offers a sense of balance to the icewine's caramel, maple, and quince jelly flavors. The texture is rich, but not thick, with each sip feeling like silk sheets draped across the palate. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc. —M.A.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$70/375ml

ARGENTINA CHARDONNAY

92 Vinuv 2023 Grand Reserve Chardonnay (Los Chacayes). Apricots and peaches fill the nose of this Chardonnay from vineyards in the Uco Valley. The palate features hints of almonds, with touches of linden tea, golden apple, and spices. Nice acidity elevates the flavors and provides balance, leading to a long finish. Fly Guy Consulting LLC. —J.V.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$40

91 Zuccardi 2024 Q Chardonnay (Valle de Uco). An aromatic nose of lemon zest introduces this wine. The palate features subtle white peach, and green-apple flavors, where touches of lime elevate the fresh finish. Chalky notes and tension define the profile. A fine Chardonnay to explore the potential of white wines from Argentina's high-altitude vineyards. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

90 Domaine Bousquet 2025 Reserve Chardonnay (Tupungato). The nose recalls aromatic notes of lemon verbena and orange peel. This medium-bodied white wine displays bright lime, ginger, and quince flavors supported by vibrant acidity. A long finish reveals hints of honey and chamomile. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

87 Domaine Bousquet 2025 Lo Ca Low Calories Chardonnay (Uco Valley). A tight nose offers minimal aromatic expression. The light-bodied palate exhibits subtle notes of grapefruit with hints of salt and enough acidity to make it refreshing. Drink now. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 8%

Price: \$14

TORRONTÉS

94 El Enemigo 2022 Gran Enemigo Torrontés (Mendoza). Lemon and honey aromas introduce this Torrontés from the Uco Valley. The palate reveals a distinctive mineral texture, with delicate lime, hints of herbal flowers, and white peach creating an elegant profile. Saline notes add complexity and depth. This is a refined expression of high-altitude Torrontés. Winebow Imports. —J.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$75

91 Santa Julia 2025 La Oveja Torrontés (Mendoza). Sweet pears and golden-apple aromas introduce this wine with inviting fruit character. The palate delivers savory melon and apple flavors supported by moderate freshness that keeps things balanced and lively. An enjoyable Torrontés, perfect to sip on its own during hot summer days. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

90 El Esteco 2025 Blend de Extremos Torrontés (Calchaquí Valley). There's nothing like a glass of Torrontés to awaken your senses. Lively floral and white fruit aromas mingle with hints of herbs on the nose, leading to a fresh palate with touches of green tea and citrus. Flavorful and fresh, it would match the intensity of spiced dishes. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

90 Zuccardi 2025 Serie A Torrontés (Argentina). Jasmine aromas fill the nose with attractive floral notes that echo on the palate. Subtle herbal flavors meet with grapefruit and candied lemon peel, adding brightness and citrus character. Good acidity provides balance, making this an aromatic, refreshing wine. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$17

89 Bodegas Krontiras 2025 miKron Torrontés (Argentina). This light-bodied Torrontés presents a citrus character. Light notes of lime emerge on the nose. The palate shows hints of herbs with moderate freshness, leading to a medium-long finish. Park Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 11.7%

Price: \$16

89 Finca El Origen 2024 Reserva Torrontés (Salta). Sweet, delicate floral notes emerge on the nose of this easygoing, aromatic Torrontés. It's light bodied and features enough freshness to elevate an herbal palate that includes hints of lime and fennel. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$15

87 Kadabra 2025 Torrontés (Mendoza). Yeasty aromas open on the nose of this easygoing white. The palate is herbal with lime flavors, moderate acidity, and a short finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 El Enemigo 2023 Chenin Blanc (Mendoza). Chenin Blanc has a long history in Argentina, where it is produced in various styles, ranging from dry to sweet and even as a sparkling wine. This medium-bodied wine from the Uco Valley showcases a fresh and balanced character. It presents a floral aroma that leads to a fruit-driven, textured palate with notes of quince and golden apple, complemented by vibrant acidity. The long finish is accented by hints of herbs. Winebow Imports. —J.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

91 Trapiche 2023 Costa y Pampa Albariño (Buenos Aires). Albariño has adapted well to regions near the Atlantic Ocean in South America. This wine hails from Chapadmalal, Argentina, and opens with aromas of white flowers and peach. Textured and medium-bodied, the palate features notes of grapefruit and hints of mango, complemented by high acidity that lends freshness. Parellel 36 Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$20

89 Artesano de Argento 2023 White Malbec (Agrelo). Delicate notes of white flowers perfume the nose. On the palate, echoes of those floral notes blend with hints of kiwi, adding a touch of tropical fruit. Light bodied and refreshing, this white Malbec offers an unconventional expression of the variety with aromatic appeal. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

87 Trivento 2025 Reserve White Malbec (Mendoza). This white Malbec is light and crisp, with a hint of apple on the nose. The palate shows touches of herbs and citrus fruit. An easy-drinking wine that is perfect for a sunny day. Viña Concha y Toro USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$13

88 Bodega Piedra Negra 2024 Alta Colección Pinot Gris (Los Chacayes). Orange zest shapes the nose of this Uco Valley Pinot Gris. The lightweight palate shows moderate freshness lifting notes of melon and citrus fruit that lead to a pithy finish. *Best Buy.* —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

92 Domaine Bousquet 2024 Ameri Eva Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Gualtallary). Delicate citrus and grapefruit fill the nose. The palate shows herbal character such as linden tea and lemon verbena, with hints of honey and pears. Nice acidity supports a medium-bodied frame marked by mineral texture. This Uco Valley Sauvignon shows depth and freshness. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

94 Bodega Piedra Negra 2023 Gran Lurton Corte Friulano Tocai Friulano (Los Chacayes). This expressive wine hails from the Uco Valley and features a fresh character with complexity. Aromatic sweet honeydew and hints of baking spices fill the nose. The palate is flavorful with layers of pears, golden apple, honeydew, spices, and chamomile. It's full bodied, with good acidity

lifting the palate and lengthening the savory finish. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$33

WHITE BLEND

93 Otronia 2022 45 Rugientes Corte de Blancas White Blend (Patagonia). From vineyards in Sarmiento, Patagonia, comes this white blend of Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Pinot Gris, and Riesling. Citrus notes and hints of white flowers fill the nose with attractive aromas. The balanced palate delivers floral notes complemented by nice acidity. Lime and hints of pear shape the long finish, adding freshness. It's full bodied, showing depth alongside a lively character. New Frontier Wine Co. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

MALBEC

97 Zuccardi 2022 Finca Las Cerrilladas Malbec (Gualtallary). The nose is filled with aromas of strawberries and plums, complemented by subtle notes of cassis. With enough air, hints of thyme also emerge. The palate is rich in dark berry flavors supported by silky, finely-grained tannins. As it comes to a close, touches of jarilla highlight the wine's vibrant and savory fruitiness. A vivid and refined representation of the Gualtallary sub-region at 4,462 feet. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$140

94 Domaine Bousquet 2023 Ameri Wild Roots Block 3 Malbec (Gualtallary). This Malbec showcases the unique characteristics of one of the blocks in the producer's Eva Estate located in Gualtallary. The wine exhibits enticing aromas of red and black berries. It's well structured and fresh, with hints of cinnamon and other spices complementing the core of juicy black fruit. Subtle notes of coffee linger on the finish. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

94 Domaine Bousquet 2023 Ameri Wild Roots Block 4 Malbec (Gualtallary). Aromatic cassis defines the nose of this Malbec from the Gualtallary sub-region in the Uco Valley. The full-bodied and balanced palate delivers nice dark-berry jam, with subtle smoky notes. It's smooth and elegant, showing fruit and intense, yet integrated oak spices. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

94 Terrazas de Los Andes 2021 Extremo Malbec (Gualtallary). Sweet spices followed by cherries emerge on the nose. The palate shows plums blending with leafy and earthy notes, supported by finely grained tannins and optimal acidity. Touches of thyme and other aromatic herbs appear in the finish. This wine shows freshness and a well-structured palate. —J.V.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$200

93 Salentein 2019 Las Tunas Malbec (Valle de Uco). Raspberries and strawberries emerge

subtly on the nose. Leafy notes and hints of coffee highlight dark fruit flavors on the palate, where round tannins and optimal acidity provide structure. The finish is long and slightly warm. —J.V.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$65

93 Viña Cobos 2022 Vinculum Malbec (Mendoza). This bold Malbec shows nutmeg and a dash of cinnamon on the aromatic nose. The gripping palate is multidimensional with layers of baking spices integrated with red and black fruit, cassis, and hints of oregano. Lively acidity brings freshness to counterbalance its rich character and warm finish. Drink now or hold through 2035. Paul Hobbs Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$80

93 Vinuv 2022 Grand Reserve Malbec (Los Chacayes). For full review see page 8. Fly Guy Consulting LLC.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$64

93 Zuccardi 2024 Poligonos Malbec (Paraje Altamira). Floral notes and pencil shavings emerge on the nose of this Malbec from the limestone soils of Paraje Altamira in the Uco Valley. It's vertical on the palate, driven by focused acidity that carries floral and dark-berry flavors through a long delicate finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

93 Zuccardi 2024 Poligonos Malbec (San Pablo). Floral aromas dominate the nose of this wine, creating a delicate bouquet. The palate delivers rich, honest flavors of dark blueberry and mulberry enhanced by licorice, all supported by nice acidity. Fresh and focused, this wine leads to a long, distinctive rosemary finish that adds herbal complexity. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

93 Zuccardi 2024 Poligonos Malbec (Gualtallary). Violets and hints of jarilla emerge on the nose of this vibrant Malbec. The grapes are sourced from the Gualtallary sub-region in the Uco Valley, and, like most wines from this area, it shows energy and structure, with excellent acidity that elevates its character. The palate features ripe dark fruit flavors with touches of dried aromatic herbs. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

92 El Esteco 2024 Fincas Notables Malbec (Calchaquí Valley). This Malbec opens with aromatic wild berries and sage on the nose. A smooth, round palate showcases flavors of raspberries and cherries, with hints of bay leaf and peppercorn that enhance the fruit character, all complemented by good acidity. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

92 Finca El Origen 2022 Single Vineyard Malbec (Los Chacayes). Aromas of violets introduce this wine and lead to a full-bodied palate that echoes those delicate floral notes alongside dark fruit. Fresh, juicy, and balanced, it shows the energy of the Chacayes

sub-region in the Uco Valley, with saline notes appearing in the herbal finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$25

91 Domaine Bousquet 2025 Reserve Malbec (Tupungato). Licorice and delicate plum aromas emerge with subtle hints of black tea on the nose. The palate unfolds with layers of blackberry and blueberry fruit, blending seamlessly with warming spices, and floral hibiscus notes. It offers lively acidity, lifting the flavors and carrying them through to the long finish. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$18

91 El Hijo Prodigio 2020 Single Vineyard Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Jammy aromas fill the nose of this Malbec. The palate has ample blackberry flavors to make it enjoyable, with noticeable oak influence adding dimension. Firm and flavorful from start to finish. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

91 La Posta 2024 Fazzio Malbec (Tupungato). Crushed berry aromas fill the nose of this Malbec. The palate delivers dark-fruit flavors with touches of floral and herbal notes, backed by good acidity and fine tannins. It features pure fruit expression from start to finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

91 Terrazas de Los Andes 2022 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Aromas of fresh desert herbs shape the nose. Peppery flavors blend perfectly with ripe plums, accompanied by good acidity that adds vibrancy. Hints of cassis emerge in the finish, introducing moderate complexity. It's savory, featuring a well-balanced character and firm structure. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 Casa Natal 2021 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). This flavorful Malbec opens with hints of black pepper. Balanced and tasty, the palate features ripe fruit and licorice with moderate acidity and firm yet soft tannins that lead to an earthy finish. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

90 El Esteco 2024 Malbec (Cafayate). Peppery and herbal aromas emerge on the nose of this high-altitude Malbec. Cherries and sandalwood notes blend for a savory character, leading to a finish with hints of cumin. Soft tannins provide a smooth texture making this an approachable red. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

90 Finca El Origen 2024 Reserva Malbec (Uco Valley). Subtle blackberry jam aromas open the nose. Plum and other dark fruit feel ripe on the palate of this lively Malbec. Tight tannins and focused acidity lead the flavors to a medium-long, leafy finish. Pair it with a juicy burger. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$15

90 Lamadrid 2021 Gran Reserva Malbec (Agrelo). An approachable Malbec that begins

BUYINGGUIDE

with subtle aromas of blackberries. This is herbal on the palate, with hints of plums, chocolate, and moderate freshness to keep it balanced and enjoyable. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

90 Luigi Bosca 2023 Malbec (Mendoza). Floral notes with hints of licorice create an attractive bouquet. The palate is fruit forward, showcasing nice acidity and fine tannins. A well-crafted, easygoing Malbec to enjoy with juicy beef empanadas or your favorite casserole. —J.V.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$21

90 Old Vines Malbec 2024 1946 Old Vines Malbec (Calchaquí Valley). After a few minutes in the glass, notes of peppercorn emerge on the nose. A leafy character weaves through the core of this wine, followed by hints of dark fruit. Moderate acidity and tannins provide structure and lead the flavors through a lasting finish. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Zuccardi 2024 Serie A Malbec (Uco Valley). Hints of cassis open the nose of this Malbec. The palate shows subtle berry notes blended with touches of hibiscus and dried herbs. Firm tannins and optimal acidity hold the flavors and drive them to a medium-long finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

89 Baron Edmond de Rothschild 2022 Aguaribay Malbec (Mendoza). Hints of blackberries on the nose introduce a soft palate featuring juicy fruit flavors and pleasant acidity. This is an easy pour, perfect for opening on a Tuesday night. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

89 Domaine Bousquet 2025 Black Rock Malbec (Tupungato). Aromas of plum jam dominate the nose with ripe fruit. The supple palate delivers blackberry flavors, leading to a medium, pleasant finish. Easy-going and approachable, drink now to enjoy its youthful character. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

89 El Esteco 2024 Blend de Extremos Malbec (Calchaquí Valley). Candied berry aromas fill the nose. Similar fruit notes carry through to the palate with moderate freshness and hints of paprika appearing in the finish. It's a full-bodied Malbec from high-altitude vineyards benefiting from sunny days. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Marantiqua 2024 Malbec (Neuquén). Cherry candy aromas fill the nose and introduce a soft, medium-bodied palate, featuring red fruit and sweet spices. Moderate acidity and round tannins make for an easygoing, tasty Patagonian Malbec. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

89 Trivento 2024 Reserve Malbec (Mendoza). Plums dominate the nose with ripe, inviting fruit. The fruit-forward palate delivers bright blackberry flavors supported by gripping tannins and good acidity

that provides freshness. It's straightforward yet well-crafted. Viña Concha y Toro USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Finca Sopenia 2024 Altosur Malbec (Mendoza). This Malbec features a subtle fruit-driven character, offering hints of plums on the nose. The thin palate exhibits mild flavors of dark fruit backed by gentle acidity, leading to a medium finish. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Santa Julia 2024 Reserva Malbec (Valle de Uco). The bouquet of this easy-sipping Malbec includes light floral aromas. It offers subtle notes of dark fruit on a medium-bodied palate, leading to a pleasant brief finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 El Hijo Prodigio 2024 Seleccion Malbec (Mendoza). An austere nose offers light notes of overripe plum with minimal aromatic expression. The medium-bodied palate delivers baked berry flavors alongside grassy notes. This wine shows simple character and a medium finish. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 Kirkland Signature 2024 Malbec (Argentina). Dark berry notes fill the nose. The palate features mild flavors of blackberries and blueberries accompanied by moderate acidity. A medium- to light-bodied Malbec to enjoy while still young. Mach Flynt, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$7

PINOT NOIR

95 Otronia 2022 Pinot Noir (Patagonia). For full review see page 4. New Frontier Wine Co.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

93 Otronia 2022 45 Rugientes Pinot Noir (Patagonia). Hints of hibiscus open the nose, followed by bright raspberries and light notes of pomegranate. The palate reveals depth with delicate cherry flavors, backed by vibrant acidity. Touches of spice emerge in the finish. Fresh and well structured, this showcases the elegance expected from Pinot Noir. New Frontier Wine Co. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 Domaine Bousquet 2025 Reserve Pinot Noir (Tupungato). Bright berry aromas emerge on the nose of this fruit-forward Pinot. The fresh palate is full of cherry and subtle earthy notes, balanced by good acidity. Enjoy it on its own or pair it with grilled fish. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Marantiqua 2024 Pinot Noir (Neuquén). Aromas of berry jam blend with a hint of chocolate on the nose. The palate of this Patagonian Pinot Noir delivers ripe berry flavors alongside subtle vanilla spices and touches of dried leaves, creating a balanced profile

with moderate structure and an easygoing character. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Viña Cobos 2022 Volturno Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Red-berry aromas mingle with light notes of coffee and pencil shavings on the nose. Layered and silky, the palate reveals a vibrant essence beneath its delicate character. Notes of coffee and cinnamon wrap a core of rich black fruit flavors, leading to a long and satisfying finish that highlights this Cabernet Sauvignon as a standout example of the variety from Argentina. Paul Hobbs Selections. *Editor's Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$325

94 Viña Cobos 2021 Hobbs Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Agrelo). Berry-jam aromas shape the nose of this Cabernet, with lively fruit character. The palate delivers lush strawberry jam and smoky notes. Pleasant leafy flavors and spices mark the long, structured finish, while focused acidity provides lift and balance. This Cabernet from Agrelo shows abundant energy and fruit with the structure to age gracefully. Drink now–2040. Paul Hobbs Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$100

92 Alta Vista 2023 Terroir Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This blend of Cabernet from the producer's top vineyards in the Uco Valley opens with subtle berry notes. The palate features concentrated cherry flavors and integrated notes of oak and Mediterranean herbs, backed by good acidity. It's smooth in texture, with hints of coffee bean appearing in the lingering finish. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Mascota Vineyards 2022 Unánime Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Peppercorn and hints of espresso fill the nose. Ripe dark and red-fruit flavors mingle with savory saline notes on the palate, framed by gripping tannins and good freshness that balance the full-bodied profile. This bold Cabernet calls for grilled beef. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 The Icon Rock 2022 Single Vineyard Finca La Jarilla Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Fleshy red plums and a light note of jarilla define the nose. The palate is juicy, offering ripe fruit and leafy notes, supported by enough acidity to lift the berry flavors. An approachable, full-bodied Cabernet, with sweet spices appearing in the long finish. WX Brands. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 El Esteco 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Cafayate). Subtle notes of peppercorn, paprika, and dried oregano emerge on the nose. Smooth and round, the palate shows herbal notes with touches of spices, followed by dark berry flavors. Well balanced and enjoyable from start to finish. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 The Icon Rock 2023 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). An aromatic nose with attractive sweet spices, red berries, and a hint of earthiness introduces this wine. Round tannins and sufficient acidity bring together flavors of vanilla, brewed coffee, and ripe raspberries on the palate. This straightforward, full-bodied Cabernet would pair well with shepherd's pie. WX Brands. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Bodega Renacer 2023 Punto Final Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Simple berry notes fill the nose of this Cabernet. The fruit-forward palate exhibits good acidity with touches of thyme and green bell pepper extending the finish. Wein-Bauer, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Trapiche 2023 Medalla Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). The nose of this simple red offers berry-jam aromas. Slightly herbal on the firm palate, it features enough earthy fruit flavors to make for a pleasant Tuesday pour. WX Brands. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Trivento 2024 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Red berries emerge on the nose with straightforward fruit character. The palate offers pleasant flavors of ripe red fruit blended with leafy notes. Light tannins and moderate acidity provide a simple frame for this easy-drinking Cab. Viña Concha y Toro USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

89 Viña Cobos 2023 Felino Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Ripe cherries and strawberries mingle with peppercorn on the nose. The fruit-forward palate features juicy berries framed by thin tannins and moderate freshness. Enjoy it with your favorite pizza. Paul Hobbs Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

88 Kadabra 2025 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Subtle milk-chocolate notes emerge on the nose. This straightforward red features red fruit with hints of grilled bell pepper, supported by gentle acidity. Touches of mocha appear in the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Los Haroldos 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Subtle baked-berry aromas emerge timidly on the nose. The austere palate is lightly structured and offers mild strawberry flavors. Drink now. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

87 Los Haroldos 2022 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Aromas of dark cherries and green notes fill the nose. The medium-bodied palate features soft tannins and stewed berry flavors. Enjoy now. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

94 Bodega Piedra Negra 2021 Chacayes Côt (Los Chacayes). Fierce yet delightful, this wine from the Chacayes sub-region in the Uco Valley opens with attractive aromas of dark fruit and bay leaves. Chalky tannins and focused acidity frame abundant blackberries and blueberries, followed by hints of herbs and saline notes that mark a long finish. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$120

92 Luca 2023 Laborde Double Select Syrah (Uco Valley). Cherries and a light note of white pepper emerge on the nose of this Uco Valley Syrah. It's full bodied, with silky tannins that hold juicy blackberries, chocolate, and rosemary. Excellent acidity balances the flavors and leads to a satisfying finish. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Bodega el Esteco 2024 1958 Old Vines Criolla (Calchaquí Valley). Black pepper and well-defined ripe cherry aromas fill the nose. A minty note runs through the mix of sweet, tart berries and spices on this lively Criolla from Argentina's northern wine region Cafayate. Focused acidity refreshes the palate and carries through to a long finish. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Finca Decero 2022 Syrah (Mendoza). Sweet berry aromas fill the nose with ripe, inviting fruit. The soft palate holds rich blackberry flavors and hints of dried herbs, supported by moderate acidity and firm tannins that provide structure and balance. An enjoyable Syrah from Luján de Cuyo. Vintus Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Tercos 2023 Sangiovese (Mendoza). Fruit-forward aromas define the nose of this simple Sangiovese. The palate shows dark fruit flavors with leafy notes emerging in the finish. Medium tannins and moderate acidity provide enough structure to make it a good pairing for charcuterie. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Dandelion 2023 Organic Criolla (Mendoza). Hints of black olive emerge on the nose, followed by dark berries. The light-bodied palate shows ripe fruit and leafy flavors with moderate acidity throughout. Wine For The World. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Don Cristobal 2024 El Indigo Bonarda (Luján de Cuyo). Spicy pepper aromas open on the nose of this easygoing red. The soft palate features peppercorn with touches of red fruit, leading to a medium, warm finish. Summit Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Tercos 2023 Bonarda (Mendoza). A subtle nose with hints of berries introduces this medium-bodied, red wine. The soft, grassy palate shows

baked red-fruit flavors, leading to a brief finish. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

RED BLENDS

97 Cheval des Andes 2022 Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Mendoza). In a shift from earlier vintages, where Malbec was more prominent, this year's blend includes over half Cabernet Sauvignon. The result is a fuller-bodied wine that opens with aromas of rose petals, ripe red fruit, black pepper, and graphite. It's silky, with depth, tension, and integrated cedar notes complementing a palate of lively fruit and subtle meaty undertones. Hints of spices and licorice enhance the flavors. Drink through 2040. LVMH. *Cellar Selection.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

95 Paraiso 2021 Red Blend (Mendoza). Blue-fruit aromas define the nose, followed by light notes of nutmeg and black pepper adding complexity. Silky and fruit-driven, the palate delivers juicy red berries and dark chocolate supported by fine tannins. Great acidity drives the flavors through a long, spiced finish, maintaining freshness and energy. An elegant Malbec-based blend that balances power with refinement. —J.V.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$170

94 Trapiche 2021 Iscay Cabernet Franc-Malbec (Mendoza). This blend, made from equal proportions of Malbec and Cabernet Franc sourced from the Uco Valley, features delightful aromatic herbs that are appealing to the nose. The palate offers notes of thyme and hints of jarilla, which add complexity. Dark fruit flavors lead to a savory finish. WX Brands. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Finca El Origen 2023 Single Vineyard Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Los Chacayes). This blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, and a splash of Petit Verdot offers floral aromas that create an attractive bouquet. It's full bodied, with subtle flavors of strawberry and red plums, complemented by hints of herbs appearing in the finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Bodega Renacer 2021 Repasso Malbec Blend (Mendoza). Prunes and dates fill the nose of this Malbec. The palate shows a balanced mix of prunes, dried cherries, and bay leaves. Medium tannins and moderate acidity drive the slightly sweet flavors to a medium-long finish. An enjoyable red inspired by the Ripasso method. Wein-Bauer, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$18

CHILE

CHARDONNAY

92 Santa Ema 2024 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (Leyda Valley). Delicate vanilla aromas define the nose of this rich Chardonnay. The palate shows tropical fruit and concentrated sweet spices, complemented by balancing acidity. Flavorful and

BUYINGGUIDE

creamy, it finishes with hints of white tea. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Montes 2023 Alpha Chardonnay (Aconcagua Costa). Hints of salt emerge on the nose of this medium-bodied Chardonnay. The creamy palate shows notes of citrus, spices, and herbs. Moderate freshness brings balance and drives the flavors through a lasting finish. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Casas del Toqui 2025 Alto Totihue Reserva Chardonnay (Cachapoal Valley). Subtle citrus notes emerge on the nose of this Chardonnay. The palate is herbal, with hints of flowers, lifted by mouthwatering acidity. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 7 Colores 2017 Alzado Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Aromatic herbs and spices appear on the nose of this Cabernet. The palate is silky and balanced, featuring a blend of ripe black fruit, vanilla, and hints of coffee that extend the finish. It's structured and approachable. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Ventisquero 2023 Grey Trinidad Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Cherries, strawberries, and licorice create an attractive bouquet. This wine is juicy and flavorful on the palate, delivering plums and blackberries, alongside optimal acidity. Hints of aromatic herbs enhance the finish of this balanced and flavorful Cabernet. Austral Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Casas del Toqui 2024 Alto Totihue Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). Subtle berry-jam notes emerge on the nose suggesting a ripe fruit character. The palate delivers concentrated berry flavors with enough structure and balance to pair with hearty dishes. It's a fruit-driven Cabernet with straightforward appeal and a long finish. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Viña San Pedro 2023 1865 Selected Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Strawberry jam aromas dominate the nose. The palate reveals sweet spices alongside touches of cherry and blackberry, followed by aromatic dried herbs that add moderate complexity. Soft and approachable with balanced acidity and medium tannins, this Cabernet offers enough structure to support its flavorful character. VSPT USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 7 Colores 2023 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). An aromatic nose introduces this wine. The palate features candied cherry and strawberry flavors. A simple, fresh Cabernet from the Maipo Valley. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

89 Ventisquero Wine Estates 2024 Las Cartas The Crush Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Simple strawberry notes fill the nose of this easygoing Cabernet. The palate features sun-kissed red-fruit flavors with soft tannins and moderate acidity that make this wine approachable. Light notes of dried bay leaf mark the finish. Vino del Sol. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

89 Viña Tinajas 2021 I. Mena Cabernet Sauvignon (Chile). Smoky aromas open on the nose. The soft palate shows sandalwood and oak spices, followed by subtle notes of red fruit. Medium bodied with moderate acidity, this is a straightforward, enjoyable Cabernet. Ilaria Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

85 Klean 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). Leafy notes fill the nose, leading to an austere palate with subtle grassy flavors. A low-alcohol wine with a short finish. —J.V.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$15

CARMENÈRE

90 7 Colores 2022 Limited Edition Carmènere (Maule Valley). Sliced-berry aromas fill the nose of this flavorful Carmènere. The ample, soft palate features strawberry with hints of vanilla cream. It's fresh enough to make it enjoyable, leading to a long finish marked by leafy notes and paprika. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Casas del Toqui 2024 Alto Totihue Reserva Carmènere (Cachapoal Valley). Freshly ground black pepper fills the nose of this full-bodied Carmènere. The palate exhibits grassy notes, with hints of spices, moderate acidity, and soft yet firm tannins. Overall, it's balanced and smooth. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

89 Root:1 2024 Carmènere (Colchagua Valley). Hints of eucalyptus emerge on the nose. The palate features strawberry with fine tannins and leafy character, leading to a medium-long finish. This medium-bodied Carmènere has enough freshness to make it an easy sipper. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 7 Colores 2023 Gran Reserva Carmènere (Maule Valley). Mint aromas dominate the nose. The palate presents ripe red fruit alongside green bell pepper, with light tannins and moderate acidity, resulting in a light structure and a medium-length finish. This wine is straightforward and approachable. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

MERLOT

89 Casas del Toqui 2024 Alto Totihue Reserva Merlot (Cachapoal Valley). Leafy notes emerge on the nose of this easygoing red. The medium-

bodied palate exhibits mild red-fruit flavors with hints of grass, backed by soft tannins. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

RED BLENDS

90 7 Colores 2022 Single Vineyard Red Blend (Maule Valley). Juicy and smooth, this red from the Maule Valley opens with aromas of ripe raspberries. The fruit-driven palate leans toward black fruit with blueberries and hints of prune, followed by peppery and earthy notes lingering in the finish. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

89 Root:1 2024 Red Blend (Maipo Valley). This blend exhibits subtle notes of cherries on the nose. The palate shows baked-berry flavors, blending with notes of dried herbs, where round, gentle tannins hold the structure. It's straightforward and herbal, with a medium-long finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Viña Puntí Ferrer Ltda 2024 Winemaker's Secret Barrel Red Blend Red Blend (Rapel Valley). The nose offers subtle peppery notes, leading to a light and easy-drinking palate, with mild flavors of berries. It's a simple and approachable wine. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

URUGUAY

RED WINES

92 Bodega Garzón 2023 Single Vineyard Petit Verdot (Maldonado). Concentrated dark fruit aromas with hints of coffee shape the nose. The palate shows graphite alongside blueberries and blackberries, supported by focused acidity. Lingering spice notes complete its profile. Still a bit tight, it would benefit from another year in the bottle. Drink from 2027–2038. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

91 Bodega Garzón 2023 Reserva Marselan (Maldonado). Marselan, a cross between Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache, was bred in France and has made its way to emerging wine regions such as Uruguay. This wine offers sweet blackberry aromas that fill the nose. A hint of nutmeg complements the blend of dark fruit, cocoa beans, and herbs on the bold palate, where balanced acidity enhances the flavors. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Bodega Garzón 2023 Reserva Tannat (Maldonado). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Cerro Chapeu 2022 Castel Pujol Folklore Carbónica Arinarnoa (Rivera). Hints of peppercorn emerge on the nose of this chillable red from Uruguay's continental wine region of Rivera. Arinarnoa is a crossing of Cabernet Sauvignon and Tannat, and this wine focuses on its dark-fruit character. Blueberries

and mulberries dominate the palate, where soft, yet firm tannins and moderate acidity provide support. —J.V.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$25

89 Establecimiento Juanico 2024 Don Pascual Coastal Tannat (Uruguay).

Aromatic cherries fill the nose of this Tannat. Cranberries dominate the fruit-forward palate with nice acidity throughout. A simple, refreshing Tannat with a lingering finish. *Best*

Buy. —J.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

SOUTH AFRICA

RED BLEND

93 Kanonkop 2003 Paul Sauer Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).

This is a flagship both of Kanonkop and of South African wine, an icon wine. It is a Bordeaux blend, fermented traditionally in open-top fermenters, giving complex tastes: tea-leaves, herbs, black berries, ripe acidity and rich, intense, but always elegant fruit. Still very young, this is one to age.

It will certainly improve over 10 years. 2Fly, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 0%

Price: \$NA

SHIRAZ

88 Graceland 2004 Shiraz (Stellenbosch).

An immediately appealing wine, packed with spicy wood as well as ripe, open, generous black fruits. It has density, but the main, delicious impression, is of rich, hearty fruitiness. 2Fly, LLC. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

SPIRITS



100 **Cazcanes Destilado de Agave Nuestras Raices Still Strength Blanco (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** It's downright kaleidoscopic, by turns citrusy, vegetal, lightly spiced, ever-changing from one sip to the next. But if it must be pinned down, expect a zesty aroma and a lively, complex, and bold flavor. Tons of bell pepper and jalapeño plus a surprising hint of cacao give way to an extraordinarily long finish showing crumbled sage, slivers of lime peel, and ginger root, extinguished by a final cayenne flicker. **abv: 47%** **Price: \$110**



97 **Familia Camarena Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Camarena Tequila, Healdsburg, CA).** A light hand on the oak means the agave really shines. Each sip opens with mild coconut sweetness, and closes with bold, mouthwatering cayenne and jalapeño piquancy, just enough to grab your attention and bring you in for the next sip. *Best Buy.* **abv: 40%** **Price: \$33**



96 **Familia Camarena Tequila Silver (Mexico; Camarena Tequila, Healdsburg, CA).** Savory roasted-tomato and bell pepper scents, freshened with lemon peel, introduce this tequila. The palate is by turns mineral, showing slate and pencil lead, and herbaceous, tinged with sage and tarragon. *Best Buy.* **abv: 40%** **Price: \$25**

BLANCO TEQUILA

Clear, peppery, crisp perfection.

As Cinco de Mayo approaches, many Americans are gearing up to celebrate with a favorite drink in hand—most likely tequila, Mexico's agave-based spirit.

Even without the prompt of Cinco de Mayo festivities, tequila remains a year-round favorite. According to the Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. (DISCUS), tequila/mezcal remains the second-most-popular spirits category in the U.S., selling a total of \$6.5 billion in 2024, behind only vodka. That said, tequila/mezcal revenues doubled last year, DISCUS reported, narrowing the traditional gap between vodka and Mexico's agave spirits.

And no wonder: In addition to celebrity-backed tequila helping to spur interest, blanco is also the backbone of several popular drinks, including the margarita, the Paloma, and the coffee-spiked Carajillo, and represents the vast majority of tequila sales.

For example, just look to Mixteca, a NYC coctelería that pays homage to Puebla, Mexico, hometown of co-owner Victor Lopez. In terms of the drinks on

the menu, blanco outnumbers reposado two-to-one, featuring in every excellent margarita variation and some of the house cocktails too.

Yet blanco need not be mixed. In fact, many tequila fans consider blanco—also called plata or silver—to be the purest expression. Compared to barrel-aged reposados or añejos, blanco can't hide behind the aromas and flavors imparted by oak. By comparison, blancos typically are unaged, or rested up to 60 days in steel tanks.

In terms of what's in the glass, that usually means a clear and crisp spirit, with lively, peppery tones offset by subtle honey, evoking the raw ingredient—roasted agave piñas—at the core of every tequila bottling.

Of note, this month's top score—a rare 100—is an agave distillate that's blanco tequila in everything but name, as it's not certified as a tequila. Most likely, that's going to cause some controversy. But it's exciting to know how far the category can range: from pours that elevate celebratory margaritas to remarkably expressive special editions well worth sipping straight. —*Kara Newman*

“Many tequila fans consider blanco—also called plata or silver—to be the purest expression.”



95 **Pelotón de la Muerte Tequila Blanco (Mexico; M.S. Walker Brands, Boston, MA).** This sprightly blanco has a mild herbaceous scent. The palate shows fresh sage, lemongrass, and lime peel, plus a spicy burst of fresh jalapeño on the long, grassy exhale. **abv: 46%** **Price: \$40**



94 **Olujo Tequila Añejo (Mexico; Olujo, Miami, FL).** The tall, sculptural ceramic bottle is memorable and gift worthy. Inside, the amber liquid offers rich caramel and vanilla, sipping almost like a whiskey, plus a hint of agave peeking through. Cayenne warms the mocha finish. **abv: 40%** **Price: \$500**



93 **Suavecito Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Blue Agave Importers, Denver, CO).** Agave nectar is added to this dark-gold anejo, yielding gentle sweetness from the very first sip. Nuanced coconut leads into cinnamon and cardamom, plus a fleeting touch of sarsaparilla. **abv: 35%** **Price: \$55**



92 **Tres Agaves Tequila Añejo (Mexico; Tres Agaves, St. Helena, CA).** This golden tequila offers a light, toasty scent and flavors including soft honey and wildflowers, plus white pepper sparks and brisk oak midpalate. The long, warming finish is brushed with butterscotch, lemon zest, and a hint of chamomile tea. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40%** **Price: \$45**



92 **Tres Agaves Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Tres Agaves, St. Helena, CA).** Coconut sweetness and agave nectar introduce this blanco, finishing with white pepper tingle and a faint white floral exhale. Sip or mix. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40%** **Price: \$35**

100 **Cazcanes Destilado de Agave Nuestras Raices Still Strength Blanco (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** For full review see page 100. **abv: 47%** **Price: \$110**

96 **Familia Camarena Tequila Silver (Mexico; Camarena Tequila, Healdsburg, CA).** For full review see page 100. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40%** **Price: \$25**

95 **Lagrimas del Valley Plata Tequila La Sabina 2024 (Mexico; Altamar Brands, Cocina del Mar, CA).** This crisp sip leads with fresh tequila brushed ever so lightly with honey and vanilla, accented with fresh dill. A constellation of white pepper sparks heats the finish. **abv: 46%** **Price: \$65**

95 **Pelotón de la Muerte Tequila Blanco (Mexico; M.S. Walker Brands, Boston, MA).** For full review see page 100. **abv: 46%** **Price: \$40**

94 **Pantalones Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Pantalones Tequila, Miami, FL).** Mix margaritas with this bright, fresh blanco backed by actor Matthew McConaughey. The pleasing tropical fruit aroma reveals as pineapple on the palate, flanked by lemon peel and zingy jalapeño and cayenne. **abv: 40%** **Price: \$40**

93 **Azul Force Tequila Blanco (Mexico; PM Spirits, Wilmington, DE).** A bold, zesty scent introduces this blanco. The first sips open with lemon and lime peel, leading into a hint of fresh tomato sprinkled with mouthwatering sea salt, and finishing with a bracing, mentholated exhale. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40%** **Price: \$31/1L**

93 **Zumbador Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Light-house Brands, Miami, FL).** Soft honey intertwines with zesty, vegetal jalapeño and a hint of lemon peel on nose and palate. A cooling spearmint note enlivens the finish. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40%** **Price: \$24**

92 **Lagrimas del Valley Plata Tequila La Loma 2024 (Mexico; Altamar Brands, Cocina del Mar, CA).** Mellow toasted coconut on nose and palate leads into a nuanced white floral note tinged with saline, mineral flecks, and the faintest cayenne tickle on the brisk, lip-smacking exit. **abv: 46%** **Price: \$60**

92 **El Jet's Cantina Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Platinum Brands, Houston, TX).** The mild coconut scent is amplified on the palate, layered with vanilla sweetness. A warming exit includes charcoal, graphite, and black pepper. **abv: 40%** **Price: \$38**

92 **Otaca Tequila Plata (Mexico; Otaca Spirit Distributors, Aliso Viejo, CA).** Coconut on nose and palate is layered with lime peel and a smidge of

cacao. The long, lightly sweet finish is warmed by a delicate trail of white pepper sparks. **abv: 40%** **Price: \$72**

92 **Tres Agaves Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Tres Agaves, St. Helena, CA).** For full review see page 101. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40%** **Price: \$35**

91 **JaJa Blanco Tequila (Mexico; Proximo Spirits, Jersey City, NJ).** Coconut and lychee aromas entice. The palate echoes tropical fruit, with hints of marshmallow sweetness and black pepper tingle. **Best Buy.** **abv: 40%** **Price: \$29**

90 **Mijenta Tequila Blanco Maestra Selection No. 2 (Mexico; Altos Planos, Dallas, TX).** This blanco is distilled with agave sourced from all five states within Tequila's denomination of origin, then blended together. The result is lightly sweet, with gentle marshmallow, vanilla, lychee, and pineapple touches. White pepper braces up the brisk, warming finish. Limited Edition. **abv: 40%** **Price: \$75**

90 **El Tequileo Tequila Blanco Still Strength (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** Bracing and brisk, anise and tingy black pepper lead the first sips, accelerating into cayenne heat. Graphite and charred jalapeño fade into a sooty exhale. **abv: 50%** **Price: \$65**

89 **Southbound Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Southbound Tequila, Nashville, TN).** Overall, this is a relatively neutral tequila—some might even confuse it with vodka. The scent is neutral, while the palate is light and silky, with barely-there coconut and charcoal notes, and a warming, drying finish. **abv: 40%** **Price: \$40**

88 **YaVe Blanco Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** This is a particularly neutral tequila, with little scent and nuanced flavor. It's clean and light, tinged with vanilla and faint white pepper and ginger sparks. **abv: 40%** **Price: \$40**

88 **Pätsch Tequila Blanco (Mexico; WP Wine Imports, American Canyon, CA).** This blanco has a mild almond aroma and relatively sweet flavor—think coconut sassed up with jalapeño frisson and graphite, plus a mellow finish. Dramatic, elongated bottle with a spiky crown as its cap. **abv: 40%** **Price: \$39**

86 **YaVe Tequila Blanco Coconut (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** This flavored tequila offers very sweet, bold coconut tones on nose and palate, suggesting summery suntan lotion vibes, plus a waft of ginger heat on the exhale. Mix into coconut margaritas and other drinks. **abv: 35%** **Price: \$40**

TEQUILA - ANEJO

97 **Familia Camarena Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Camarena Tequila, Healdsburg, CA).** For full review see page 100. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price: \$33**

96 **Cambio Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Catón Importing, Scottsdale, AZ).** Created by Chicago chef and sommelier John des Rosiers, this notably savory, complex anejo likely would pair well with many dishes. The vegetal aroma hints at tomato, while the palate skews remarkably salty and mouthwatering. Fleeting tropical fruit gives way to clove and graphite on the exit.
abv: 46% **Price: \$70**

95 **Una Vida Tequila Anejo (Mexico; One Life Spirits, St Louis, MO).** Toasty, roasty oak on nose and palate lead into warming cardamom and clove, coupled with hints of lemon peel and juicy red fruit. The bold, fiery finish is laced with jalapeño heat and a soothing touch of honey.
abv: 40% **Price: \$69**

94 **Pantalones Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Pantalones Tequila, Miami, FL).** Golden and bright in the glass, this tequila feels silky and light on the palate. Lively almond and lemon zest are accented by a herbaceous tarragon hint midpalate, finishing with white pepper and a coconut-tinged exhale.
abv: 40% **Price: \$50**

94 **Olujo Tequila Añejo (Mexico; Olujo, Miami, FL).** For full review see page 100.
abv: 40% **Price: \$500**

93 **Pätsch Tequila Anejo (Mexico; WP Wine Imports, American Canyon, CA).** A chestnut hue and mild allspice aroma introduce this tequila. Sarsaparilla leads the silky palate, leading into a vanilla bean exhale delicately sprinkled with cinnamon and clove, yielding a spice cake effect overall.
abv: 40% **Price: \$59**

93 **Southbound Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Southbound Tequila, Nashville, TN).** This burnished-gold tequila is a sweet treat, with bold vanilla bean and marzipan on nose and palate. Cayenne pepper and cinnamon brace up the long finish.
abv: 40% **Price: \$70**

93 **Suavecito Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Blue Agave Importers, Denver, CO).** For full review see page 101.
abv: 35% **Price: \$55**

93 **Luna de Jalisco Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Kentucky Whiskey Bottling, Harrodsburg, KY).** Vegetal flavors include roasted jalapeño and bell pepper, leading into a bundle of fresh herbs. Zesty lemon mixes with fresh thyme for a bracing, herbaceous exhale tipped with spearmint tingle.
abv: 40% **Price: \$53**

92 **Tres Agaves Tequila Añejo (Mexico; Tres Agaves, St. Helena, CA).** For full review see page 101. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price: \$45**

90 **JaJa Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Proximo Spirits, Jersey City, NJ).** Oak leads the nose and palate. Mesquite and cayenne provide savory accents alongside mouthwatering saline, plus grapefruit peel astringency on the exit. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price: \$39**

89 **El Jet's Cantina Tequila Anejo (Mexico; Platinum Brands, Houston, TX).** Sweet vanilla and allspice aromas belie a brawny, fiery sip. On the palate, docile toasted coconut gives way to slow-burning cayenne, warming all the way down.
abv: 40% **Price: \$65**

TEQUILA - EXTRA ANEJO

93 **Cazcanes Tequila No. 7 Extra Anejo (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** The scent suggests chamomile tea with honey. Each sip opens with plenty of peppery bite up front: cayenne, black pepper, and a savory hint of cumin, finishing with tinges of vanilla and cocoa. Released in June 2025.
abv: 40% **Price: \$199**

92 **Pätsch Tequila Extra Anejo (Mexico; WP Wine Imports, American Canyon, CA).** Aged seven years, this tequila has an amber hue and toffee scent. That toffee note is echoed on the palate, layered with agave nectar and baking spice, plus a fiery cayenne and cinnamon exhale.
abv: 40% **Price: \$99**

MEZCAL

95 **Mocel Mezcal Artesanal Ensemble (Mexico; Ro & Eli, Seattle, WA).** Herbaceous, zesty, and complex, this ensemble mezcal (made with a blend of agave varieties) opens with lively, mouthwatering lime peel, lemongrass, and pine, winding into rosemary and tarragon midpalate. The long exhale finishes with cubeb pepper and pink peppercorn snap. Limited edition of 582 bottles.
abv: 46% **Price: \$235**

93 **Dady'O Mezcal (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** This espadín has a lightly smoky scent. On the palate, that campfire smoke quality mixes with tinges of dark chocolate and sea salt, plus a roasty, warming finish. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price: \$45**

93 **Rosaluna Mezcal (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** Made with single-estate-grown espadín agave, this mezcal has a bold, dried-oregano scent. The palate shows jalapeño, graphite, and dried herbs, finishing with a sooty exhale and black pepper heat.
abv: 40% **Price: \$35**

AGAVE WINE

93 **Ola Sol Agave Wine (Mexico; E2 Family Winery, Lodi, CA).** Made with fermented agave and fortified with a small amount of agave distillate, this has a similar flavor to tequila. The clear liquid has a faint jalapeño and lime peel scent. It's crisp and vegetal, tinged with white pepper, jalapeño, and bell pepper.
abv: 24% **Price: \$29**

92 **Can de la Calle Mexican Agave Wine (Mexico; T. Edward Wines, New York, NY).** From Melly Barajas, a master distiller with La Gritona tequila, this honeyed liquid has a faint, pale-straw tinge and mild caramel scent. Each mellow, light-bodied sip finishes with lingering dulce de leche and white pepper tingle.
abv: 24% **Price: \$21/1L**