

WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYING GUIDE**

JUNE/JULY 2026

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Morning light shines on vineyards in the Tri-Valley wine region, just east of San Francisco Bay.



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

WE ASKED OUR TASTERS:

What's the most underrated California AVA?



This is a tricky question, but one that jumps out to me is Petaluma Gap. Since the AVA is designed around wind patterns instead of soil or simple geography, it's less well understood than some others. It has exceptional vineyards for Chardonnay, Pinot, and Syrah.

—**Tom R. Capo**



Lake County is often seen as a large-production growing region, and it certainly can be. But the region's diverse volcanic soils make it an important source of grapes for exemplary wines produced locally, as well as for bottlings from Napa, Sonoma, and the broader California appellation. The array of styles Lake County produces gives wine lovers an exciting range of selections to explore.

—**Tonya Pitts**



Cienega Valley and Lime Kiln Valley, where century-old vines still grow. The region's complex geology and very hot summers modified by constant coastal influence allow a wide range of varieties to thrive. That includes classics like Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Riesling, but it's also a hotbed of exploration into Italian and other Old World varieties.

—**Matt Kettmann**



Cool and maritime—like myself—Edna Valley has a superlong growing season that makes for exceptionally complex wines, especially Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, but they're making magic with a crazy array of grapes.

—**Nils Bernstein**



I don't think many people even know this AVA exists. Located in the foothills of the southern Cascades near Lassen Volcanic National Park, Manton Valley AVA offers volcanic soils, possible Bigfoot sightings, high elevations over 2,000 feet, and major diurnal temperature swings. Bonus: There are only a few wineries in the Manton Valley, so you can hit them all in a day.

—**Michael Alberty**

STAFF EDITORS

Anna-Christina Cabrales:
Burgundy, Champagne,
Rhône Valley

Cody Wexler:
Provence, Bandol, Méditerranée

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

Brandon Borcoman:
Northwest Spain

Elaine Chukan Brown:
Napa Valley

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

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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

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

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Slovenia, Switzerland

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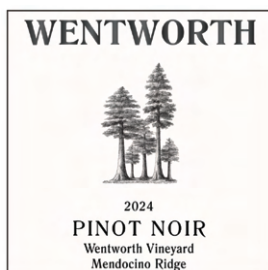
Reggie Solomon:
Beaujolais, Loire Valley, Southern
Coastal Spain, Bosnia and
Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Israel,
Macedonia, Montenegro & Asia

John Sumners:
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Roger Voss:
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France

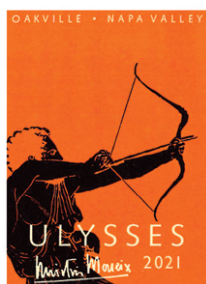
Aleks Zecevic:
Austria, Germany, Alsace, Jura/
Savoie, Vin de France, Armenia,
Czech Republic, Serbia, Slovakia,
Turkey, Moldova



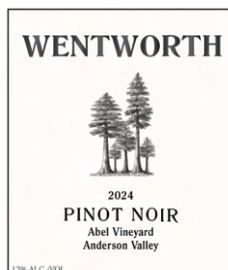
99 **Wentworth 2024 Wentworth Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** Lofty notes of deep dark berries cascade across the nose of this wine, along with dried florals, molasses, fresh herbs, and toasted French oak. Flavors serenade the palate with ripe red plum, youthful blackberry, raspberry, pomegranate, star anise, crushed bay leaf, and juicy acidity on the finish. Aerate or cellar until 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$125



98 **Antonelli 2020 Molino dell'Attone (Montefalco Sagrantino).** This is a garden at absolute peak: plum and cherry trees heavy with fruit, red and violet flowers everywhere, and underneath it all, the quiet hum of the earth holding it together. The acidity runs through the wine like a live wire, the tannins barely a whisper, the whole thing tuned to the mids and trebles with the bass just a feeling in your chest. Omniwines Distribution. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$72



98 **Ulysses 2021 Ulysses Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** This wine delivers an alluring balance of pleasure, restraint, refinement, and seductive texture. Fresh violets and bay laurel lift a complex of spiced, dark fruits and espresso, carrying into a lengthy mineral finish of graphite, gunmetal, and cocoa powder tannins. Balancing acidity brings harmony to a wine of innate intensity and concentration. This is a red wine to age as much as enjoy. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$180



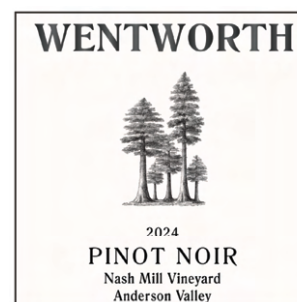
98 **Wentworth 2024 Abel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Aromas of black currant confiture, bramble black plum, black tea, and amber layered on the nose. Flavors on the palate are concentrated, evoking red plum, black raspberry, pomegranate-blueberry, clove, star anise, and bayberry, with mouthwatering acidity and chewy tannins on the finish. Aerate or cellar until 2036. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85



97 **Antonelli 2020 Chiusa di Pannone (Montefalco Sagrantino).** Every swirl of the glass reveals something new: raspberry jam giving way to drying wild cherries, pressed roses, and fresh laurel leaf. The palate is where this wine truly makes its case—warm red fruits with a bright crunchy energy, darker earth and coffee grounds, then warmed earth arriving underneath. Tannins that have absolutely no business being this refined hold the whole thing together. Omniwines Distribution. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$54



97 **Soquel Vineyards 2024 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Clean, bright, and expressive on the nose, this single-vineyard expression shows both creamy and juicy aromas of strawberry, cherry, sarsaparilla, and carob. The palate is lively and fresh, bursting with flavors of strawberry sorbet, cherry compote, baking spice, and delicate mints. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$50



97 **Wentworth 2024 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This wine is powerful, layering aromas of deep boysenberry, dark plum, brandied cherry, and incense. The flavors on the palate convey dark strawberry, pink raspberry, blood orange peel, black tea, and chicory, rounding out into supple tannins. Aerate or cellar until 2036. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

WINEENTHUSIAST BUYINGGUIDE

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

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

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

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

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

SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW:

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

LABELS:

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

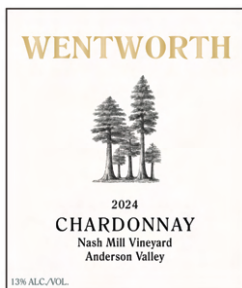
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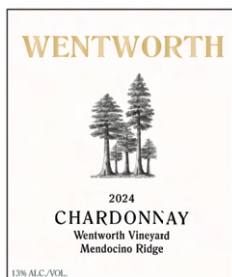
96 Ancien 2023 River Ranch Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley). From a vineyard that's home to historically significant vines, this bottling begins with lovely aromas of smashed blackberry, raspberry, and hibiscus, with savory hints of dried morel mushroom and forest soils. The palate is rich with black-cherry-sauce flavors that are dusted in cocoa and mace spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65



96 Merry Edwards Winery 2023 Meredith Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Rich aromas of ripe Bing cherry, spiced plum compote, licorice, and chopped herb waft from the glass on the nose of this Pinot. The palate is richly tannic, with concentrated flavors of cherry-raspberry, cinnamon, clove, roses, and orange peel lingering through a long finish. Delicious now, this will benefit from some time in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



96 Wentworth 2024 Nash Mill Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Star bright, this wine offers unctuous aromas of fresh yellow apple, pineapple, and Bosc pear on the nose, with orange blossom wafting throughout. Flavors offer crisp Pink Lady apple, yellow plum, lime marmalade, and fresh-cut ginger. Racy acidity swirls in the middle of the palate to create a mouthwatering texture. It's a beautiful Chardonnay with length, fruit, and acidity for days. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$85



96 Wentworth 2024 Wentworth Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge). This wine's aromas offer nuances of alpine florals, sedimentary rock, and dried sagebrush on the nose. Notes of Fuji apple, white nectarine, and visions of sunbeams are conjured when you close your eyes. Flavors are highlighted by Meyer lemon, crisp Golden Delicious apple, and peach. Dried herbs cascade with acidity and minerality to coat the palate. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$85



95 Casas del Bosque 2023 La Trampa Red Blend (Casablanca Valley). Increased sunshine has allowed long-ripening grapes to fully mature in the cool-climate Casablanca Valley. Malbec is one of them and is included in this floral blend, along with Syrah and Pinot Noir. Cherry and spiced flavors complete the character of this fresh and savory red. It's a wine that's making waves in this coastal region. Drink from 2027. Southern Starz, Inc. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75



95 JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery 2023 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a complex and satisfying wine from start to finish. The nose begins with black cherry, toasted walnut, and cola-like spice aromas. The palate is heavy in mouthfeel yet polished with silky tannins, presenting more black cherry, cola, and chocolate cream pie flavors that finish on a black-tea kick. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60



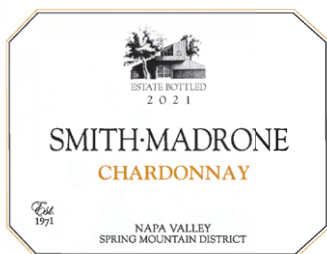
95 Montioni 2022 (Montefalco Rosso). Wild cherries burst out of the glass with a vibrant and almost electric lift, carrying with them the memory of a summer walk through pine forest and balsam—wild and alive in the very best way. The fruit and savory find each other with rare ease, loads of structure keeping everything focused and fresh. This is the wine you did not know you were looking for until it was in your glass. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



95 ONX 2023 Noble Intrigue Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Inky and potent aromas of blackberry jam, elderberry cordial, and chocolate-laced brioche draw the nose into this bottling. The palate is tense and bright with fresh, lovable fruit flavors that cling to a firm texture, which will require some time to mellow out. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80



95 Optio Vineyards 2023 Grenache (San Luis Obispo County). This cooler-climate Grenache shows a lot of power, starting with a dark color and carrying into a nose awash in boysenberry and Luxardo cherry aromas. The palate is creamy in texture, offering dense dark berry and lilac flavors, proving bold but balanced. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



95 Smith-Madrone 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District). Enticing with layers of aromas, flavors, and a mouthwatering palate, this Chardonnay shows off the complexity possible for the variety. White nectarine joins lime zest and lemon custard, with a thin slice of mango picking up an almost chalky-fresh mouthfeel and light layers of baking spices through the finish. Juicy, compelling, satisfying. A pleasure. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



95 Soquel Vineyards 2023 Consonante High Elevation Series Lago Lomita Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's a lot of woody spice on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard set at nearly 2,700 feet, from sandalwood to vanilla, with flashes of dark cherry and wild herbs. The palate is fascinating, showing fresh cherry, incense-like palo santo, and lingering frankincense flavors that should continue to converge with time. Drink now–2043. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



95 Soquel Vineyards 2024 Coast Grade Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ben Lomond Mountain). A light hue in the glass, this bottling from a vineyard at 1,200 feet blends exotic cherry with cinnamon stick and rose petal aromas on the nose. The palate is thinly bodied but complex in dried flower, herb, white pepper, and raspberry flavors. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

WENTWORTH



2024
PINOT NOIR
Anderson Valley

13% ALC/VOL.

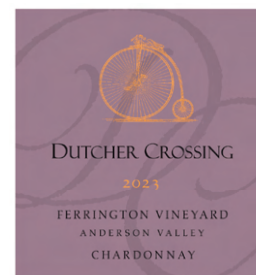
95 Wentworth 2024 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Heady aromas convey dark plum, mulberry, baked Bing cherry, simmering spices, black tea, florals, and Tahitian vanilla on the nose of this wine. The flavors on the palate are tart red plum, raspberry-rhubarb, toffee, and spearmint spiked with fresh bay leaf, acidity, and mouthwatering tannins on the finish. Aerate or cellar until 2036. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50



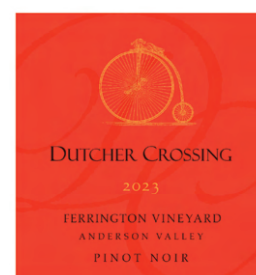
94 Brassfield Estate Winery 2022 Perspective Syrah (High Valley). The name of the vineyard says it all, because this bottling offers a different flavor perspective on the fruit. This wine is unctuous, with supple aromas of huckleberry, olallieberry, star anise, dried florals, and warm vanilla spice. The palate is full yet tart, with blackberry and cardamom cream on the midpalate and silky tannins to finish. Aerate or cellar until 2032. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$80



94 Center of Effort 2023 Giallo Solare Chardonnay (Edna Valley). This bottling of a Clone 5 Chardonnay planted in 1997 and aged in a concrete vessel reveals the selection's inherent richness, offering toasted nut aromas alongside lemon syrup. The palate is savory with buttered chicken and lemon aioli flavors that are salty, hearty, and delicious. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60



94 Dutcher Crossing 2023 Ferrington Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). We usually see the Pinot Noir highlighted from this vineyard site. This Chardonnay is an absolute treat, with vibrant aromas of Fuji apple, Asian pear, dried fine herbs, mineral, and heady acidity on the nose. The flavors match the nose, with massive lift in the midpalate and a mouthwatering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$49



94 Dutcher Crossing 2023 Ferrington Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). The wine shows fullness and lushness on both the nose and the palate, conveying dark strawberry, raspberry, dried florals, and well-integrated toasty vanilla. Fresh red fruits on the palate come with a splash of cream and citrus zest, inviting you to take another sip. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$51



94 Furthermore Wines 2022 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Lifted aromas of strawberry, sour raspberry, and flowers come into focus on the nose of this wine. The palate is plush and harmonious, with crunchy tannin and balanced acid framing flavors of tart berry, cinnamon, roses, and orange peel all along the finish. It's a softer, more aromatic style from this renowned parcel and is very charming. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75



94 Furthermore Wines 2022 Gioia Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). Zippy aromas of fresh raspberries, tart cherries, citrus, and roses lift the nose of this wine. The palate possesses crunchy tannin and juicy acidity, with flavors of Bing cherry, berry gastrique, plum skin, zesty orange peel, and Darjeeling through the finale. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$80



94 Furthermore Wines 2022 Nevina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). Punchy aromas of reduced cranberry, plum, and chopped herbs drive the nose of this wine. The palate is lively and intense, with rich acidity, supple texture, and flavors of baked berry tart, plum jam, dusty cocoa, and purple flowers all along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$90



94 Furthermore Wines 2022 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Candied cherry and strawberry aromas pick up elegantly floral hints of rose on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe and juicy with raspberry, cherry, and fruit punch flavors that are dusted in pepper, making for a complex, vibrant experience. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$80



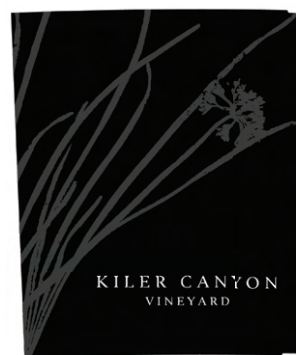
94 Gary Farrell 2023 Hallberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Vibrant aromas of black cherry, cranberry, black plum, chopped herbs, and tangerine zest swirl from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate hits with gorgeous acidity and a satisfying crunch of tannin, revealing flavors of cranberry compote, Darjeeling, sandalwood, and pithy orange through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65



94 Herzog 2023 Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). The name "Red Hills" says it all. Rich iron nuance comes through on the nose of this wine, along with brambly red currant, huckleberry, cedar, toasty vanilla, mushroom, and cocoa. The palate delivers bright fruit concentration in the midpalate and grippy tannins to finish. High-elevation fruit rules the day in this selection. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48



94 Irvine & Roberts 2023 Convergence Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). The Convergence fills the air with its perfume of Golden Delicious apples, salted European butter, and wet slate. Acidity that makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand at attention gives the wine's lemon-zest, chamomile-tea, cilantro, and butter flavors a crisp sensation. Convergence was whole cluster pressed and fermented in 44% new French oak for 16 months, aging on the lees in barrel until bottling in April 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50



94 Kiler Canyon Vineyard 2022 Syrah-Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Ripe and bold aromas of black cherry and blackberry meet with cardamom and woodspice on the nose of this bottling. There's a chalky grip to the palate, where sticky tannins and peppery spices align to finish a dense and detailed expression. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$90



94 ONX 2023 Caliber Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Potent and rich aromas of stewed fruit, heavy spice, roasted wood, and savory mushroom powder show on the nose of this blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Malbec and 6% Petit Verdot. The palate is rich and dark with grilled blackberry flavors that are dusted with strong spice and layered in firm tannins. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65



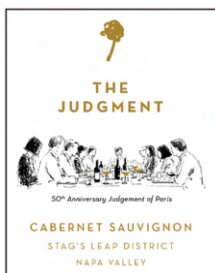
94 ONX 2023 Level 22 Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Rich and unctuous aromas of baked, even stewed, fruit meet with vanilla and caramel on the syrupy nose of this blend of 43% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, 20% Vaccarese, and 7% Syrah. The palate picks up coffee, wild mint, and fudge-like flavors that work with the deeply ripe fruits. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$58



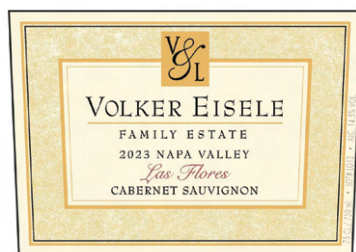
94 Orin Swift 2023 Mercury Head Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bold, generous, and hearty, this full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon is built to satisfy though intensity, layers of flavor, and palate-cleansing structure. Black currants, plum skin, and fig robed in chocolate gain tobacco and graphite from the midpalate. Tannins are almost velvety, persisting with balanced acidity into a pleasurable finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$180



94 Soquel Vineyards 2024 Ascona Vineyard High Elevation Series Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Light colored in the glass, this wine from a mountaintop vineyard entices the nose with lovely aromas of maraschino cherry, red flowers, and pinched thyme. The palate is sprightly yet tense, pairing fresh raspberry and strawberry aromas with a light licorice spice. Drink now–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60



94 The Vice 2023 The Judgment Cabernet Sauvignon (Stag's Leap District). Uniting generosity with refined tannins and brightening length, this wine shines. Dark fruits join wild thyme, tobacco, pencil shavings, integrated oak spice, and a mineral finish. Tannins are supple and palate filling while refreshed by lengthy, fresh acidity. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$128



94 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2023 Las Flores Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Built entirely from Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine comes from the family estate vineyard. A pleasing combination of red and black fruits rolled in cocoa powder is joined by a refreshing waft of cedar and cracked pine. Oak spice coats the palate with flavor while a balance of melting tannins and acidity keep the mouth watering. Enjoy now or hold. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



94 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2023 See Clone Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A unique proposition for Napa Valley Cabernet, the Volker Family See Clone reaches back to the first planting of the estate vineyard in the mid-1970s. This wine is luscious and full bodied, filling the mouth with blackberry and cherry galette served with a bite of spiced, dark chocolate. Tobacco, cedar, and graphite emerge through the finish, carried by melting tannins and balanced acidity. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150



94 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2023 V Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Ripe plum and a light pour of cherry cordial join a waft of cedar, baking spices, pencil lead, and graphite, leading to a lingering finish. Tannins are fine grained and well poised alongside balanced acidity to carry this wine into years in cellar, while remaining approachable enough to enjoy now. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$125



93 Argento 2023 Single Vineyard Organic Malbec (Paraje Altamira). Delicate peppery and floral aromas introduce this tasty, fresh Uco Valley Malbec. Its floral character blends with dark and red berry flavors on the palate, where meaty notes lengthen the finish. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



93 Bodegas Montecillo 2019 Bodega Centenaria Edición Limitada (Rioja). This is a wine of excellent poise and focus, with dried black cherry and black plum complemented by mint, leather, and clove. The berry-skin tannins are still assertive, so be sure to give it a few hours in the decanter or more than two years in the cellar. Alternatively, pop and pour with a grilled rib eye. It should be delicious through 2033. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33



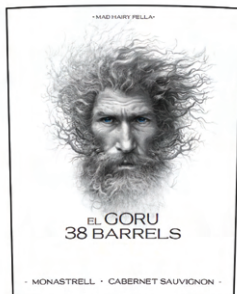
93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Mourvèdre (High Valley). High Valley selections come from high-elevation, older plantings that have been nurtured for cellar aging. This wine is superaromatic, with boysenberry, blueberry, bay leaf, violets, vanilla, and black tea on the nose. The mouthfeel is saturated with juicy blackberry, cream soda, ginger, and silky tannins on the finish. Aerate or cellar until 2032. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38



93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Viognier (High Valley). Superfresh, this wine offers top-note aromas of Meyer lemon, lime, guava, green apple, and wafts of honeysuckle. The flavors on the palate are pineapple, melon, yellow apple, and sedimentary rock, with ginger in the midpalate and a juicy, dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$30



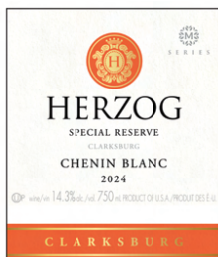
93 Cartograph 2023 Newman Vineyards Cabernet Franc (Knights Valley). The nose of this Cab Franc leads with aromas of saturated cherry, blackberry jam, pencil shavings, and cinnamon. The palate delivers rich tannic structure and vibrant acid, with flavors of plum jam, violets, graphite, and black tea that thrum throughout a long finish. Loving the complexity on display here. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$56



93 Ego Bodegas 2022 El Goru 38 Barrels Monastrell Cabernet Sauvignon (Jumilla). Spain specializes in aged wines like this one. Ruby in color with garnet edges, the nose opens with elegant aromas of cassis, red currant, black olive, and rose hip tea. The palate is silky in texture and has come into its own with leather, smoked meat, and dried cherry flakes that enliven the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



93 Herzog Lineage 2024 Jacobson Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Musque (Kelsey Bench). The Musque clone is rarely highlighted in Sauvignon Blanc. This expression offers fresh, floral, and vivacious citrus aromas, along with white flowers, and mineral on the nose. The flavors on the palate are makrut lime, pineapple, white nectarine, peach, fennel, and layers of sedimentary rock on the finish. It's a supercomplex wine and kosher as well. Delicious. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22



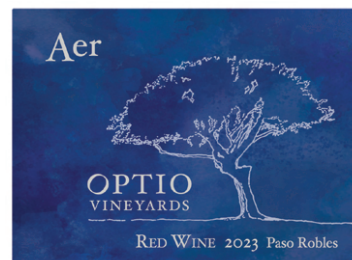
93 Herzog Special Reserve 2024 Prince Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). An elegant, supple selection of old-vine Chenin Blanc, this wine offers a round, lush, and silky texture. Aromas of stone fruit, citrus, vanilla, and cedar swirl around the nose. The palate has complex layers of white peach, white grapefruit, candied orange, yellow apple, and mineral on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



93 McGrail Vineyards and Winery 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). It is remarkable how when wine is allowed to rest in oak, it stretches its legs and becomes this other being. This Reserve is like that, offering deep aromas of dark berries soaked in bourbon and dried florals. The midpalate brings vanilla cream, allspice, chocolate cream pie, ginger, coconut flakes, and silky tannins on the finish. Aerate and enjoy with prime rib. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$49



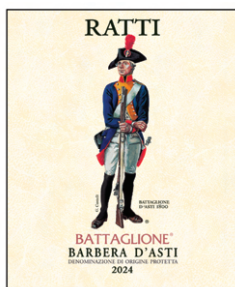
93 ONX 2023 Fiery Nights Syrah (Templeton Gap District). Potent and extracted aromas of squid ink, charcoal, dried meat, and prune draw the nose into this bottling, which includes 5% Viognier. The palate pairs high acidity with very ripe flavors of charred meat, finished in a soy-berry demiglace. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$80



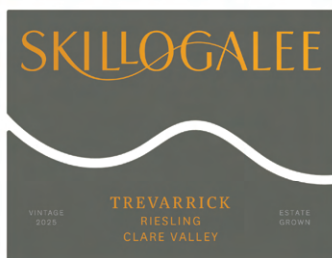
93 Optio Vineyards 2023 Aer LaMar Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles). Very dark in the glass, this blend of 50% Petite Sirah, 40% Tempranillo, and 10% Mourvèdre begins with boysenberry, crumpled flower, and peppercorn aromas on the nose. The palate is lush and juicy, with elderberry jam and black currant flavors that are spiced with vanilla and chai atop a chalky frame. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$65



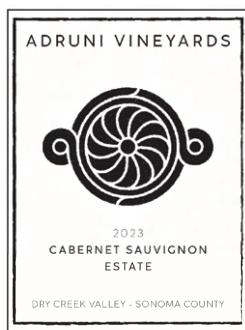
93 Pago del Vicario 2025 Blanco de Tempranillo Blanc de Noirs (El Vicario). This wine is flavorsome and floral. Perfumed aromas of orange marmalade, candied apple, pear liqueur, and dried meadow grass charm on the nose. Rich and fulsome, the palate is an amalgam of white tea and pencil shavings dusted with freshly picked white rose. It comes in a beautiful bottling. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24



93 Ratti 2024 Battaglione (Barbera d'Asti). Mixed berries lounge in a hammock, showing exactly why Barbera earned its reputation as comfort wine with class. The palate keeps that easy luxury flowing, with plump fruits and lush texture creating waves of happiness until bright acidity kicks in like the perfect afternoon wake-up call. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27



93 Skillogalee Estate 2025 Trevarrick Riesling (Clare Valley). Flinty with white florals and some honeyed limey goodness to flesh it out, this is quite a tight, young wine at the moment with soaring acidity that would benefit from another several years in bottle to soften. There's lovely texture and the promise of great complexity for those with the patience to wait. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$46



92 Adruni Vineyards 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). With a few swirls, the nose of this wine presents nuanced aromas of black cherry, leather, chopped herbs, and black pepper on the nose. The palate delivers a wave of roasted cherry and salty black plum, with nuances of pencil shavings and flowers across a tannic finish. A little time in the cellar will soften the edges here. Best from 2030–2040. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



92 Aresca 2022 San Luigi (Nizza). Black raspberries and dark cherries show why Barbera earned its spot at the Italian table. The palate keeps that classic momentum flowing—ripe fruits and crunchy acidity creating the kind of balance that demands braised short ribs over creamy polenta. Tri-Vin Imports Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



92 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2022 Labrit Tinto (Navarra). Delivering a combination of the flavorful pleasure with detail possible from Garnacha through a stimulating combination of juicy red fruits, fresh cut herbs, and a finish accented by cocoa and balsamic. Medium bodied and poised with a nice balance of flavor, structure and a lightly textural palate. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28



92 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2024 Ochoa Moscatel Vendimia Tardia (Navarra). Fresh aromas of flowering lavender and rosemary, honeysuckle, and peach blossom become textural in the mouth, joining flavors of well-integrated spice, grapefruit pith, and a zest of bitter orange. This is aromatic and fresh, with plenty of length and a pleasing balance of palate presence, mouthwatering character and just enough sweetness. Wine Bridge Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30



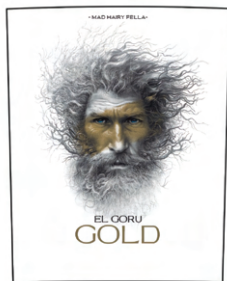
92 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2015 Ochoa Gran Reserva (Navarra). Bringing together the silken ageability of Tempranillo with a boost of Merlot's opulence and Cabernet Sauvignon's structure, the Gran Reserva from Ochoa glows deep ruby in the glass, leading into layered aromas of firm black plum and berry rolled in lightly spiced cocoa before joining flavors of mocha and a juicy finish. Wine Bridge Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48



92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2022 Estate Merlot (High Valley). This is a classic, herbaceous example of the variety, which is usually presented as a riper version. Aromas of plum, cherry, star anise, tobacco, cedar, and toasty oak waft on the nose. Flavors offer black raspberry, vanilla cream, coriander, espresso, and grippy tannins on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50



92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Grenache (High Valley). The High Valley selections are high-elevation, older plantings from small plots that have been nurtured for cellar aging. This wine is bright, with aromas of raspberry, strawberry, cassis, cedar, and violets on the nose. The mouthfeel is full yet lively, with concentration in the midpalate showing darker plum, mocha, vanilla bean, and silky tannins to finish. Aerate or cellar until 2032. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38



92 Ego Bodegas 2022 El Goru Gold Monastrell Syrah Cabernet Sauvignon (Jumilla). There are benefits to age, like this bottling. Gentle, relaxed aromas of candied orange blossom and blackberry open on the nose along with hibiscus and red currant. The silky palate elevates red fruit over black fruit while providing a balanced, long finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22



92 Gérard Bertrand NV Esprit de Cotes des Roses Sparkling Rosé (Vin de France). A fine mousse of tiny bubbles entices the eyes on this sparkling blend of 55% Chardonnay, 30% Pinot Noir, and 15% Grenache, which shows pops of sharp lime and chalk on the nose. The palate is clean, easy, and soft, proving quite comforting rather than aggressive in acidity. USA Wine West. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$25



92 Heron 2023 Laely Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Mixed cherries and plums sprinkled with baking spice and a cocoa powder finish pick up cigar box layers with further sipping. Tannins are refined and lengthy, bringing poise to this generously flavored wine. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45



92 Herzog 2023 Lineage Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). Classic and multilayered, this wine offers complex, concentrated aromas of blackberry, boysenberry, tobacco, sage, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are rich, with a lift in the midpalate and grippy tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22



92 Herzog Lineage 2024 Prince Vineyard Chardonnay (Clarksburg). Opulent aromas of baked apple, pear, and nectarine are the top notes on the nose of this wine, continuing into toasty oak and honeysuckle. The flavors pop on the palate with more stone fruit, sweet orange blossom, and cinnamon spice balanced with acidity on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22



92 JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a deeply satisfying and bold Cab at a very fair price. Lush aromas of cherry, cinnamon, and candied pecan show on the inviting nose. The palate is silky and generous with ample cherry, vanilla, and spice cake flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$30



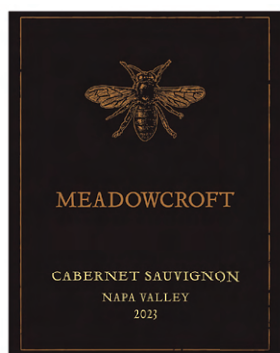
92 Luigi Bosca 2025 De Sangre White Blend (Uco Valley). Delicate spices are combined with aromas of pear on the nose. Peaches and floral notes burst on the palate, followed by hints of vanilla. It's fresh, with a lingering citrus note of grapefruit in the finish. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$36



92 Maison de Madeleine 2023 Rouge (Sancerre). Ruby and slightly garnet in color, the wine draws you in with elegant aromatics. Spiced black plum opens on the palate followed by blackberry compote, black olive, and raspberry. Grippy tannins parade the longevity of this bottling. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onward. Tri-Vin Imports Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$40



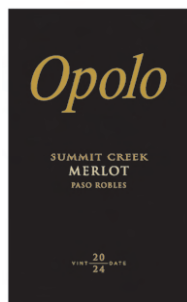
92 Maison de Madeleine 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine). This is a layered, cerebral wine. The bottling is replete with aromas of freshly tilled earth that frame red apple compote, bread dough, and dried orange peel. The palate is creamy and relaxed with a touch of salinity that bumps up against wet stone. Pair with more complex dishes that require a partner of similar ilk. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28



92 Meadowcroft Wines 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Blackberry compote joins bramble and espresso for rich aromas continuing into lush flavors. Gunmetal, cedar, and tobacco emerge from the palate, carried by abundant, while supple tannins. This is a generous and lengthy wine offering opulence and fortitude. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68



92 ONX 2023 Praetorian Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Very dark in the glass, this blend of 73% Tempranillo, 13% Malbec, 7% Touriga Nacional, and 7% Syrah shows pleasantly plummy aromas that are layered in baking spices, especially cinnamon, on the nose. The palate's chalky texture is prominent, balancing the dark raisin and prune flavors that are spiced in gingerbread cookie crumbs. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$62



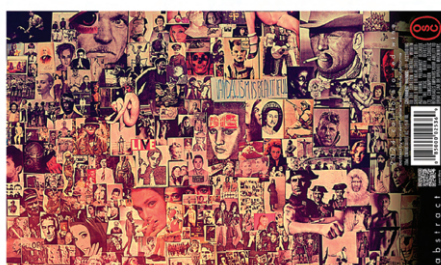
92 Opolo 2024 Summit Creek Merlot (Paso Robles). Deep, dark, and serious aromas of polished cherry and oak show on the nose of this bottling. The palate goes full force with black cherry and raspberry flavors that are framed by a chalky tension and cut by a peppery spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24



92 Orin Swift 2023 Palermo Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Powerful and full bodied, this wine offers a concentration of succulent dark fruits, blueberry, blackberry, and oregano compote, with a warm mocha beside. Generous flavor is well carried by this structural wine that is about opulence as much as aging, enjoyment as much as form. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$70



92 Orin Swift 2023 Papillon Red Blend (Napa Valley). Blue and black fruits join spices, flowering herbs, and dark chocolate, moving from a lush opening to structural close with a powdery-fine mouthfeel and juicy finish. The poised balance of hearty red varieties delivers a mouthful of flavor, with plenty of energy and enjoyment. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$90



92 Orin Swift 2024 Abstract Red Blend (California). The aromatics on the nose of this wine are deep with boysenberry, blueberry, bayberry, and dried florals. On the full-bodied palate, flavors of brambly blackberry, sarsaparilla, and cola lead to orange peel on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$43



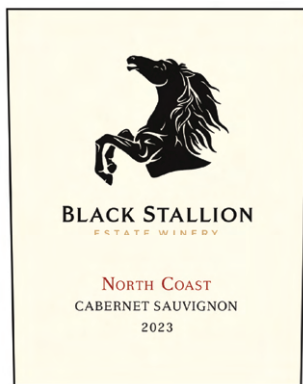
92 Orin Swift 2024 Advice From John Merlot (California). This wine offers robust aromas of olallieberry, blackberry liqueur, star anise, and coriander on the nose. The intense palate is saturated with black plum, allspice, lime-vanilla cream, and dried mineral on the finish. Aerate and pair with grilled steak. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45



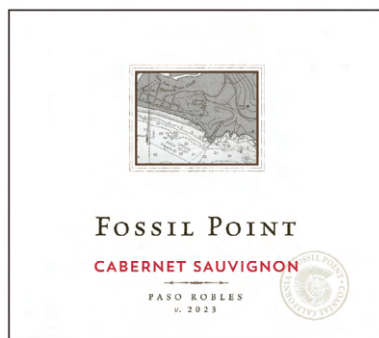
92 Puerta del Abra 2022 Albariño (Balcarge). A light note of golden apple appears on the nose of this Albariño—a grape variety that seems to thrive in South American Atlantic wine regions. The textured palate features pome-fruit flavors, where lively acidity drives the fresh profile. It's savory, with a dash of salt marking the finish. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc. —J.V.
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$50



92 SCEA du Château de Lestang 1573 2022 (Sancerre). Aromas of nectarine, freshly cut fall meadow grass, and tangerine zest are accented by nasturtium and honeysuckle. The palate is firm with orchard fruit resting atop a wave of rounded acidity and citrus zest. The bottling would pair well with pasta carbonara, quiche, and chicken satay. Wine Situation LLC. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90



91 Black Stallion 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). This rich wine swirls aromas of layered black plum, boysenberry, allspice, incense, and vanilla throughout the nose. The palate is saturated with black currant, blueberry, mocha, nutmeg, and supple tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23



91 Fossil Point 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Lots of toasty oak and dried meat aromas pair with fresh red fruit and a hint of mint on the nose of this bottling. The palate's flavors of dark blackberry and oak spice meet with a streak of bloody steak toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24



91 Gary Farrell 2023 Olivet Lane Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine hits with aromas of tart citrus, green apple, white flowers, and a charge of flint. The palate possesses nervy acidity and pithy texture, with flavors of Bosc pear, cinnamon, lemon blossom, and stemmy herb mélange through the finale. A little time in the cellar will soften this out nicely. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$55



91 Les Alliés 2022 (Gigondas). This wine opens with darkly juicy aromas of black plum, blackberry, blueberry, and eucalyptus. A briny vein cuts through an earthy midpalate, while underbrush and baking spice meld into fresh black fruits on the finish. Delicious on its own or alongside Andouille sausage. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



91 Meadowcroft Wines 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Ripe, bright red-fruit aromas become lightly candied and spiced as they move to the palate, picking up flavors of mocha and pencil shavings. Fruit forward and succulent, this is a wine to enjoy now. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$98



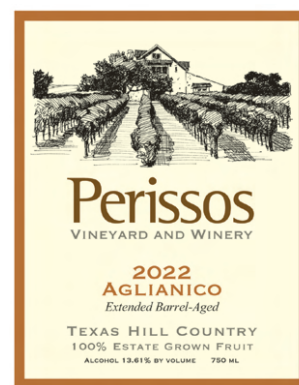
91 Mia Marie 2023 Grenache (San Diego County). This bottling makes a strong case for the potential of lighter-bodied yet quite dynamic Grenache in San Diego County. Aromas of maraschino cherry and root beer spice lead from the nose into a palate of strawberry and clipped garden herbs. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$52



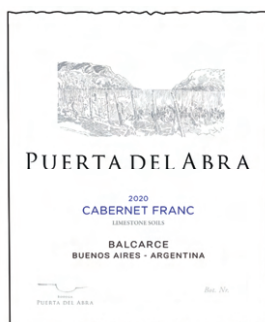
91 ONX 2024 Field Day Sauvignon Blanc (Templeton Gap District). Wet rock, light nectarine, and citrus peel aromas align on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a bolder set of flavors, from tart apple to grapefruit, that create a rich mouthfeel amid hints of peach. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32



91 ONX 2024 Indie Rosé (Templeton Gap District). A very pale hue of yellowish pink in the glass, this bottling shows lemon peel and shaved ginger aromas. The palate zips with acidity and flavors of citrus peel and tangerine flesh, proving light and refreshing. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28



91 Perissos Vineyard and Winery 2022 Aglianico (Texas Hill Country). Aromas of dark berries, herbs, and cracked pepper highlight the nose of this Aglianico. The palate has a deep malty richness, plush tannin, and flavors of baked cherry, fig compote, chocolate, and cinnamon through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60



91 Puerta del Abra 2020 Cabernet Franc (Balcarce). This balanced Cabernet Franc shows delicate aromas of blackberries and chocolate. The medium-bodied palate offers subtle dark- and red-fruit, licorice, and earthy flavors, with nice acidity and fine tannins. A lingering sweet-spice finish completes the profile. It's juicy, making it perfect by the glass, though you'll want the whole bottle. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80



91 SCEA du Château de Lestang 1573 2023 (Sancerre). This delicate Sancerre has an energetic nose of peach blossom, golden apple, and honeysuckle. The palate opens with a more reserved, bready, tangy acidity that moves into wet stone and lemon peel on the finish. Pair with lighter dishes including seafood and a hummus platter. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90



91 Ten to Life 2024 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Superbriant raspberry and strawberry aromas pop on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers lively fruit character and juicy acidity, with soft, crunchy tannin and flavors of berry compote, cola spice, and whispers of black tea and roses on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



91 The Vice 2025 World Cup Limited Edition Rosé (Los Carneros). Racy and energetic, this refreshing rosé combines fruit-forward flavor with crisp length for an ideal glass to enjoy alongside summer salads, ceviche, or, as the name suggests, an afternoon with friends watching a favorite team on the pitch. —E.C.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$36



91 Three Hammers 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (America). A Pennsylvania winery making Sauvignon Blanc using Washington State fruit? Forget AVAs. Welcome to the America label, land of the free. This wine's earthy ripe cantaloupe aroma is pierced by notes of tangy pineapple and fresh-cut grass. Bright acidity then does a nice job of illuminating the Sauvignon Blanc's lime, guava, lemongrass tea, and white pepper flavors. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$31



91 Three Hammers 2024 Swift Waters Bordeaux-Style White Blend (America). This is a white Bordeaux-style blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon made by a Pennsylvania winery using fruit from Washington State's Columbia Valley AVA. When it tastes like this wine, it truly is a rarely experienced "hidden gem." Crisp, fresh aromas of lemon peels, orange blossoms, talc, and gardenias lead to flavors of apricots, anise hyssop, and a slight touch of saline. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$41



90 Adruni Vineyards 2023 The Argument Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of salty plum, dusty cocoa, and cracked pepper drive the nose of this wine. The palate is grippy but nimble, with blackberry, currant, graphite, and licorice flavors that linger on the finish. Great burger wine here. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49



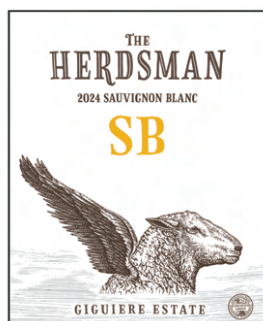
90 Loire Propriétés Dumnacus Vignerons NV Brut (Crémant de Loire). This wine has angular aromas of golden apple, toasted bread, and biscuit accented with white blossom. Rounded in texture, the palate begins with citrusy, pithy acidity that is more subdued on the lingering finish. Ventura Selections. —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25



90 Lucien Albrecht Ollwiller Grand Cru 2023 Riesling (Alsace). Classic orchard and stone fruit form the core, while baking spice, ginger, and a hint of lemongrass add aromatic lift and complexity. The palate is balanced and well structured, with lively acidity keeping the flavors focused. It finishes long, where fruit and spice interplay with clarity and persistence. Foley Family Wines and Spirits USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32



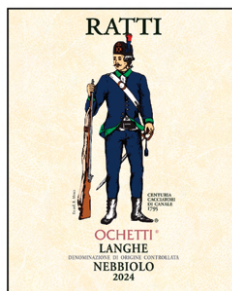
90 **Maison de Madeleine 2024 (Pouilly-Fumé).** Aromas of muddled yellow apple, forest floor, and underbrush open on the restrained nose along with a touch of lilac. The rounded, saline palate washes across wet stone and crushed seashells with a subdued acidity that carries the finish. This wine would be an ideal accompaniment to oysters, clams, and seafood. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32



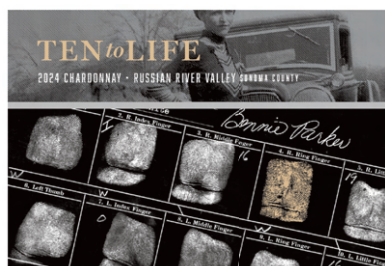
90 **Matchbook Wine Company 2024 Giguere Estate The Herdsman Sauvignon Blanc (Yolo County).** From a historical site, this wine offers fresh, concentrated citrus, green apple, pink grapefruit, guava, and mineral on the nose. The flavors on the palate are Meyer lemon, pineapple, orange blossom honey, and mouthwatering acidity on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22



90 **Puerta del Abra NV Itzae I Red Blend (Balcarce).** The bouquet exhibits light notes of vanilla, introducing a generous palate that showcases spices and dark fruit, along with moderate freshness. Firm, chalky tannins provide support to this full-bodied blend. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

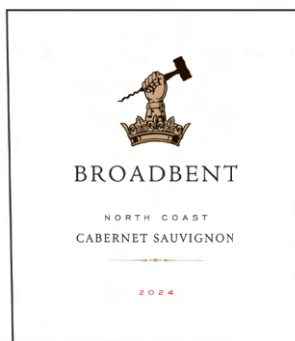


90 **Ratti 2023 Ochetti Nebbiolo (Langhe).** Cherry essence is captured at that perfect moment between fresh fruit and candy, while wild herbs sun themselves on warmed earth. Light and lifted notes carry through, fresh herbs and gentle tannins dance together in this afternoon garden stroll, keeping everything airy and bright. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32



90 **Ten to Life 2024 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Bright Meyer lemon, pithy tangerine, jasmine, and cinnamon lead the nose of this Chardonnay. The palate is nimble, with fresh citrusy acid and rocky minerality, revealing flavors of tart apple, green pear, butter, and candied ginger on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

BEST BUYS



93 **Broadbent 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Firm structure and lifted aromas of dark plum, boysenberry, dried cherry, and peppercorn are noted throughout the nose on this wine. The palate is saturated with blackberry preserve, red currant, ginger, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

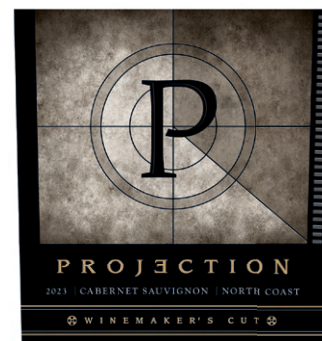
BEST BUYS



93 **Domaine Saint-André 2025 Syrah (Côte de Thau).** Bold and smooth aromas of roasted dark fruit, maple, and brown sugar show a fudge-like density on the nose of this bottling. The palate is lavish and creamy, enveloping the mouth with dark, rich fruit, violet, and lavender flavors that are bold but balanced, finishing on the savory side. DHI Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



93 **Navigator 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** Zesty, this wine offers aromas of citrus blossom, green apple, guava, sedimentary rock, and white tea on the nose. Flavors highlight lime, honeydew, navel orange, dried sage, and mouthwatering mineral on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18



93 **Projection 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Vibrant, this wine offers aromas of baked dark plum, blackberry jam, black olive, toasty oak, and cedar on the nose. Flavors cascade across the palate, delivering boysenberry pie, citrus peel, espresso crema, brown sugar, maple, and supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

BEST BUYS



93 Projection 2024 Chardonnay (North Coast). Lush, this wine offers aromas of caramelized apple, allspice, white tea, and Tahitian vanilla on the nose. The flavors on the palate are baked quince, cinnamon, and orange cream, with mineral on the finish. The wine has a fresh fruit character, with layers of sedimentary rock, dried herbs, and well-integrated oak notes. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19



92 Gearbox 2024 Chardonnay (California). This bottling is a cool-climate Chardonnay surprise because it has weight and balance. Aromatics are fresh and tropical, delivering pineapple, peach, baked apple, ginger, vanilla, and white tea on the nose. The flavors are crisp Fuji apple, Asian pear, lemon cream, and mineral, with lively acidity on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16



92 Viña Leyda 2025 Coastal Vineyards Garuma Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Salty citrus notes introduce this wine from cool-climate coastal vineyards in the Leyda Valley. Delicate Key lime flavors mix with herbs and peppery notes, accompanied by lifting acidity. Enjoy this medium-bodied Sauvignon with oysters or ceviche. *VSPT USA. Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



92 Vinos Atlántico 2021 Cortijo (Rioja). A spicy-earthy interplay of root-beer bark, nettle, and star anise give this aromatic pop. The baked cherry and oak tones round out a compelling profile. It finishes long, with berry skin and oak spice. It'd make a heck of a match for beef Wellington. Drink this stunning value through 2031. *Olé & Obrigado. Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15



91 1924 2024 Double Black Red Blend (Lodi). Superrobust, this wine offers aromas reminiscent of blackberry pie, giving whiskey-soaked black fruits, baking spices, and violets on the nose. Saturated flavors deliver dusty clove powder, olallieberry, blueberry, fresh herbs, and star anise, with a mouth-watering finish. Pair with grilled rib eye steak. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12



91 Angels & Cowboys 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Aromas of fresh tangerine, lemon balm, citrus blossom, and white peach pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is a balance of lively citrus acidity, pithy texture, and flavors of tart peach, pomelo, ginger, and lime peel through the finale. Fun and easy summer juice! *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

BEST BUYS



91 Arrowflite 2024 Chardonnay (North Coast). Zesty, this wine offers aromas of green apple, Bosc pear, and white flowers wafting through the top notes. Flavors on the palate are baked nectarine, yellow apple, cinnamon, caramel, and mineral on the finish. Pair with roasted sea bass, lemongrass, Thai basil, and coconut milk. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18



91 Aveleda 2024 Solos de Granito (Vinho Verde). This is a beautifully balanced wine, with both fruit intensity and focused length. Fuji apple, melon bowl, and fresh citrus are joined by bread dough and white pepper on the nose. This would be superb paired up against grilled swordfish. Ready now, it will be delicious over the next three years or so. *Aveleda Inc. Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20



91 Aveleda 2024 Solos de Xisto (Vinho Verde). There's a distinct gracefulness to this bottling, as genteel mixed citrus, apples, and melon rind lay a foundation for white flowers, white pepper, and wet rock on the nose. The underlying mineral note anchors the wine and lends a little gravitas. It calls out for sushi and will be excellent over the next two to three years. *Aveleda Inc. Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

BEST BUYS



91 Benziger Family Winery 2023 Merlot (California). Lush, this wine conveys aromas of dark plum, blackberry, allspice, toasty oak, and black tea on the nose. Flavors on the palate are ripe with dark Bing cherry, mushroom, orange peel, mocha, and plush tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20



91 Benziger Family Winery 2023 Pinot Noir (California). This wine comes from a certified sustainable leader in the industry. Fresh and savory aromas convey youthful berries, red plum, orange zest, and allspice on the nose. The flavors are tart strawberry, cranberry-rhubarb, nutmeg, and bitter-sweet chocolate, with supple tannins. Pair with grilled salmon. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$20



91 Bishop Pine Vineyards 2024 Chardonnay (California). The coastal breeze is blowing through the top layer of aromas on the nose of this wine, offering luscious pear, yellow apple, nutmeg, white flowers, and toasty oak. The flavors translate onto the palate as crisp stone fruit, white peach, cinnamon, and candied orange peel, finishing juicy yet dry. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$12

BEST BUYS



91 Bodegas Montecillo 2021 Bodega Centenaria Crianza (Rioja). This has a lot going on in the aromatics, with blue and black fruit surrounding earthy licorice root, leather, date sugar, and red rose. There's a well-structured but still polished feel to the profile, while vanilla-mocha oak notes generously tie a bow on it all. It seriously overdelivers, and should be killer with prime rib. Evaton, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12



91 Domaine Clavel 2025 Régulus (Côte du Rhône). Bruised blackberry and spiced black-plum aromas drive the nose along with dried red-cherry flakes and purple blossom. The palate is firm in texture with pillowy tannins that are relaxed and ready to be enjoyed now. A light dusting of cocoa powder on the finish delivers additional intrigue. Advantage International. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14



91 Hahn 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Classic and opulent, this wine offers aromas of baked strawberry, raspberry, cinnamon, dried pot-pourri, and candied orange slice on the nose. The palate is youthful, with Bing cherry, pomegranate, and maple, with grippy tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS



91 Peirano Estate Vineyards 2023 Heritage Collection Zinfandel (Lodi). This old-vine Zinfandel is full bodied and concentrated, with black-berry, cardamom spice, toasted oak, and florals on the nose. The palate brings boysenberry jam, citrus zest, sarsaparilla, and grippy supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$15

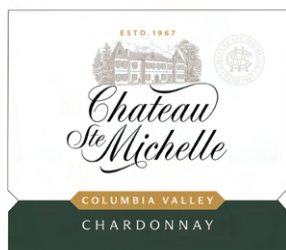


91 Seance 2023 Pinot Noir (California). Classic and opulent, this bottling offers aromas of baked strawberry, raspberry, cinnamon, dried pot-pourri, and candied orange slices on the nose. The youthful palate delivers Bing cherry, pomegranate, and maple, with grippy tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

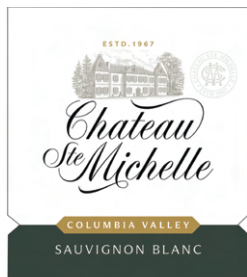


90 Aveleda 2025 (Vinho Verde). This wine substantially overdelivers at the price, as flavors of fresh apricot and green apple are accented on the nose by white pepper and river stone. It's grounded by bright acidity and an underlying minerality, and finishes impressively long, with excellent intensity. It's a great pairing for sushi, lighter chicken dishes, and the like. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2024 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). After aromas of lemon and nectarines have their way with your olfactory system, a wee passion fruit note pops up to make its case for attention. There's a gentle acidity to go along with flavors like passion fruit, guava, thyme, and butter. The wine feels rich on the palate, without being viscous. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14



90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). The aromas are a tropical mix of passion fruit and macadamia nuts, along with notes of ginger and lemon-infused mineral water. The wine feels energetic and crisp on the palate, with acidity bright enough to illuminate a small apartment building. A nice one-two flavor punch of green papayas and lemon zest finishes things off in lively fashion. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14



90 Clos du Bois 2024 Crisp Chardonnay (California). Refreshingly bright is an accurate description of the aromas inside a glass of this wine, wafting stone fruit, citrus peel, green guava, and white flowers. Flavors are a mix of green and yellow apple, grapefruit peel, dried sage, vanilla bean cream, and mineral on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

BEST BUYS



90 DeLoach Vineyards 2024 Chardonnay (California). This Chardonnay wafts aromas recalling fresh orchards of green apple, citrus, and fresh herbs on the nose. The mouthfeel is zesty and juicy, like biting into a perfect Bosc pear, with a little orange peel and baking spice, leaving a supple finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16



90 Hahn 2024 Pinot Noir (California). Lively, this wine offers aromas of ripe dark berries, cola, vanilla, and dried herbs on the nose. The palate is lifted by tart strawberry, dark cherry, mocha, and silky tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16



90 Leia 2024 Fireside Cabernet Sauvignon (California). The name says it all: Enjoy me with those you care about by the hearth. This wine is full bodied with finesse. It delivers dark berries, florals, cardamom, concentrated black plum, root beer, maple, and flinty acidity, with supple tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

BEST BUYS



90 Leia 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This brand is known for sourcing great fruit from outstanding vineyards. The current release doesn't disappoint. Laser focused and open, the wine delivers dried black plum, boysenberry, red currant confiture, and crystallized ginger on the nose. Supple flavors on the palate convey dark cherry, cassis, bay leaf, and mocha, with grippy tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

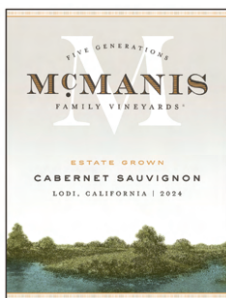


90 Loire Propriétés Dumnaeus Vignerons 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine). This is a solid Sauvignon Blanc. Perfumed aromas of orange and gardenia blossom open on the nose accented with quince peel and Fuji apple. Somewhat rounded in texture, the palate raises additional flavors of river stone and dried lemon peel. Ventura Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

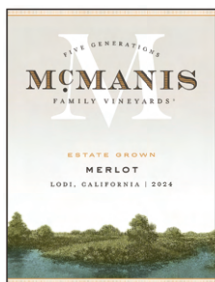


90 Mark West 2023 Chardonnay (California). This wine offers aromas of crisp green apple, baked pear, citrus, and caramel on the nose. The palate is concentrated with baked apple pie, vanilla bean cream, acidity, and a mouthwatering finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

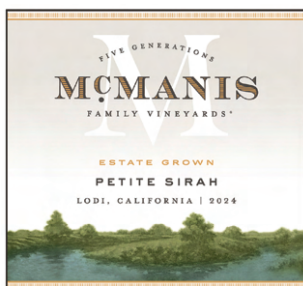
BEST BUYS



90 **McManis Family Vineyards 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** This wine is concentrated, with lush aromatics of dark blackberry, boysenberry, cinnamon, orange zest, and supple acidity on the nose. Flavors on the palate are supple, rich, but not saturated. Lingering notes of mulberry, cassis, and red currant confiture are layered with mocha, cigar, and silky tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12



90 **McManis Family Vineyards 2024 Merlot (Lodi).** A fuller-bodied expression of Merlot, this bottling delivers blackberry, boysenberry, chocolate, and tobacco on the nose. The flavors on the palate are blueberry, vanilla cream, cardamom, citrus peel, and silky tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12



90 **McManis Family Vineyards 2024 Petite Sirah (Lodi).** This selection is consistently delicious, with lush, dark berries, baking spice, chocolate, and the right amount of barrel-aged oak. Concentrated flavors convey blackberry, chocolate, and espresso crema. The full-bodied wine richly coats the palate, and creates a synergy with whatever you are eating or not. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

BEST BUYS



90 **Peirano Estate Vineyards 2023 Heritage Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Top layers of aromas on the nose of this wine convey red currant, allspice, bittersweet chocolate, and espresso. Concentrated and punchy, the flavors present a kaleidoscope of dark berries, clove, Tahitian vanilla, dried bay leaf, and grippy tannins to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16



90 **Prati 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** Focused aromas of blueberry compote, black cherry, and cinnamon drive the nose of this wine. The palate displays grippy tannin and balanced acidity, with flavors of roasted plum, toasty barrel spices, violets, and cracked pepper through the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17



90 **Valley Growers 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This wine is sourced from a collective of growers across California. Aromas are opulent and supple, with lifted red and dark berries, toasted vanilla, fresh florals, and spiced chocolate on the nose. Flavors on the palate are youthful red plum, dark cherry, Red Vines, cinnamon Red Hots candy, and a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS



89 **Misfits and Mavens 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Zesty, this wine offers aromas of citrus blossom, orchard fruit, green papaya, and dried herbs on the palate. The flavors feature crisp lime, white grapefruit, and yellow apple, with a juicy, dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

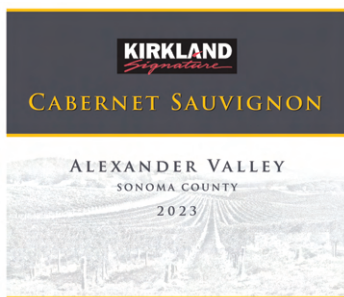


89 **Valley Growers 2023 Zinfandel (California).** This wine comes from a collective of fruit sourced from growers across California. Aromas offer dark berries, toasty vanilla, chocolate, tobacco, and baking spices. The flavors on the palette feature huckleberry, boysenberry, allspice, and chocolate, with a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$16



89 **Valley Growers 2024 Chardonnay (California).** This wine is a new project, a collective of fruit sourced from growers across California. It offers great value. The aromatics are fresh stone fruits, toasty vanilla, caramel, white florals, and baking spices. Flavors on the palate convey green apple, pear, nutmeg, and mineral, with a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS



88 Kirkland Signature 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Blackberry, tobacco, and floral aromas swirl on the nose of this softer-bodied Cabernet. The palate brings velvety tannin and juicy acidity framing flavors of baked black cherry, graphite, and purple flowers that linger into the pithy-textured finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10



88 Koha 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Comparatively subtle notes of nectarine, passion fruit and citrus (with an herb-speckled underbelly) flow to a straightforward palate. There's some nice roundness—even a pithy quality—to the texture, which, when combined with the prickly acidity, equates to versatile, food-friendly sipping. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

96 Sangiacomo Wines 2024 Four Siblings Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of green pear, white flowers, and chopped lemon verbena drive the nose of this native-fermented and cement-aged Chardonnay. The palate is a wash of fresh tangerine acidity, with flavors of nectarine, guava, marzipan, stony minerality, and toasted spices that linger along a floral, pithy finale. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$70

96 Wentworth 2024 Nash Mill Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$85

96 Wentworth 2024 Wentworth Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$85

95 Flowers 2024 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Zesty lemon, lime, and green herb aromas mingle with citrus blossoms and cinnamon on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a surge of vibrant acidity and pithy texture, with flavors of green apple, Meyer lemon, toasted hazelnut, and chopped lemon balm echoing for over a minute. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

95 Fort Ross 2024 Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview). The nose of this invitingly tropical Chardonnay delivers a wave of bright pineapple, tangerine, and citrus blossom aromas. The palate thrums with energetic acidity, giving flavors of green apple, Meyer lemon, pithy lime, and lemon thyme leaves across the lengthy finish. Brilliant now, this wine will soften nicely in the cellar for a decade or more. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

95 Red Car 2023 Heaven & Earth Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Lively aromas of nectarine, Meyer lemon, and candied ginger lift the nose of this Chard. The palate layers juicy acidity with a pleasing phenolic grip and flavors of fresh apple, citrus blossom, and pithy citrus through the lingering finish. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$58

95 Smith-Madrone 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

94 Campion Wines 2024 Rancho Real Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Soft white-flower and delicate peach aromas draw the nose into this single-vineyard expression. The plate pairs Asian pear, cherimoya, and honeysuckle flavors into a subtly brilliant display that will only intensify with time. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$26

94 Center of Effort 2023 Giallo Solare Chardonnay (Edna Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Convene By Dan Kosta 2023 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Intense aromas of freshly squeezed citrus, white flowers, and sage swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate balances energetic acid with flavors of tart pineapple, pithy Meyer lemon peel, candied ginger, and orange blossom across a long, mouthwatering finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

94 Domaine Messier 2024 Myriade Chardonnay (Monterey). The nose on this bottling seems to elevate one's entire head, as aromas of Asian pear, honeysuckle, coconut flake, and minty verbena pro-

vide an almost medicinal effect. The palate is bit more down to earth, with clean flavors of fresh coconut flesh and pear. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$58

94 Dutcher Crossing 2023 Ferrington Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$49

94 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Rued Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Layered aromas of green pear, Meyer lemon, cinnamon, and green herbs swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate brings bright acid and pithy texture, with flavors of tangerine, white cherry, citrus blossoms, and toasty spices that echo all through the finish. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

94 Fort Ross 2024 Mother of Pearl Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview). Rich, round aromas of roasted apple, crème brûlée, and cinnamon come into focus on the nose of this Chard. The palate feels neatly balanced, with flavors of apple tart, grilled pineapple, vanilla, and cream before a finish with notes of flowers and pithy citrus. Drink this with crab cakes. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

94 Innumero Wines 2024 Bootlegger's Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Lively cinnamon, toasted almond, ginger, and lemon burst from the glass on the nose of this aromatically enticing wine. The palate is highly charged, with fresh acid and creamy texture framing flavors of roasted apple, Meyer lemon, citrus blossoms, chopped green herbs, and lemon curd along the silky-smooth finish. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

94 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Pali Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Clean lines of chalk, nectarine, and white orchard blossoms show on the chiseled nose of this bottling. The palate engages with a racy acidity and chalky texture, as marmalade, ginger, and lemongrass flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$70

94 Racines 2023 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Clean aromas of wet chalk, lemon pith, crème fraîche, and Asian pear indicate a long life for this delicate bottling. The palate is firmly textured, as pithy tannins frame tart pear flavors. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Saracina 2024 Chardonnay (Mendocino). Special clones were selected for this wine, yielding fresh aromas of Fuji apple, Bosc pear, citrus peel, peach, and mineral on the nose. The bright palate offers apple, white nectarine, pineapple, papaya, orange blossom honey, and mineral. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$22

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Bernardus 2023 Sierra Mar Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Clean and precise aromas of honeysuckle, freshly plucked mandarin, and warm brioche draw the nose into this wine. The palate is warm with apricot, salted lemon, and nectarine flavors, proving rich but not overpowering. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Buena Vista 2023 Eleanor's Selection Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aromas of crisp yellow apple, pear, caramel, and orange peel somersault through the air on the nose of this wine. The palate weaves fresh flavors of baked stone fruit, vanilla cream, orange blossom honey, and mineral on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Center of Effort 2023 Alba Chardonnay (Edna Valley). This single-clone bottling from a single block planted in 1997 entices the nose with aromas of salted hazelnut, apricot slices, and crème fraîche. The 45% new-oak treatment shows a bit more on the palate, where lemon balm and lime popsicle flavors cut into a viscous texture and riper orchard fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Gregory James Wines 2024 Sangiacomo Vineyards Roberts Road Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). A nuance of flint swirls on the nose of this wine, mingling with aromas of green apple, tart pineapple, chopped thyme, and brioche. The palate hits with bright acidity and persistent grip, with flavors of pear tart, sweet cinnamon, nectarine, and pineapple sage lingering through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

93 Handley Cellars 2024 Handley Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This is stellar selection from a great producer in the Anderson Valley. Lush with a fresh vibrancy, this wine delivers yellow apple, Asian pear, white peach, grapefruit, cinnamon, Tahitian vanilla, white tea, and acidity. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$32

93 Projection 2024 Chardonnay (North Coast). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

93 Taub 2023 Charles Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine displays punchy aromas of fresh apple, sweet cinnamon, rocky minerality, and white flowers. The palate is focused and intense, with flavors of nectarine, lemon blossom, marzipan, and pithy Meyer lemon carrying through the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

93 Three Sticks Wines 2024 Durell Vineyard Origin Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A whisper of flinty reduction flits at the edge of the nose of this unoaked Chardonnay, mingling with aromas of green apple, fresh lemon, grapefruit, and white flowers. The palate brings driving acidity and vibrant mouthfeel, with flavors of pithy citrus, pear, lemon blossoms,

and chopped herbs across a long finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

93 Tlo 2023 Spanish Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast). Aromas of pear, cut lime, and honeysuckle show on the nose of this bottling from an extremely coastal vineyard. The palate offers coconut and lime zest flavors with even more unique flashes of water chestnut. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

92 Albatross Ridge 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Monterey). Stony minerality on the nose of this bottling balances the pine nut paste and lemon peel aromas. The palate is tightly wound with damp riverstone, lime pith, and apple flesh flavors that will be exciting to watch evolve. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$74

92 Bernardus 2023 Ingrid's Vineyard Chardonnay (Carmel Valley). Soft, buttery edges introduce aromas of hazelnut and grilled peach on the nose of this bottling. The palate is hearty with classic California buttery-Chardonnay vibes. Pair with salmon and roast chicken. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

92 Bernardus 2023 Rosella's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Honeycomb and baked lemon aromas are hefty on the nose of this bottling. The palate surrounds a core of baked apple and lemon, with hints of chamomile and baking spice adding depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Bernardus 2023 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Buttery aromas of popcorn, seared marshmallow, and lemon balm are rich while clean on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm tension to the sip, which wraps around the richer, honeyed flavors, altogether proving bold and fulfilling. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$55

92 Center of Effort 2023 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). A golden hue in the glass, this bottling shows rich aromas of russet-colored apple, toasted pine nut, and seared lemon peel on the nose. The palate is bold and viscous in texture, pairing lemony flavors with creamier apple and mango. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 David Bruce Winery 2021 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Chalky lines of seared lemon and delicate white-oak flakes show on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the sip, where toasted hazelnut and lemon verbena flavors make for a unique pairing, finishing on a caramel note familiar to classic California Chard fans. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

92 Frey Vineyards 2024 Sun&Rain Organic Chardonnay (Mendocino County). If sunshine had a scent, it might be like the bright, lifted nose on this wine, offering aromas of orange blossom, crisp yel-

low apple, dried fine herbs, and wet rocks. Flavors on the palate are heightened, conveying Meyer lemon zest, yellow plum, Fuji apple, marjoram, white tea, and ribbons of acidity gliding through the mouthfeel. A mineral-driven chardonnay lover's paradise. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

92 Gearbox 2024 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

92 Grgich Hills Estate 2023 Miljenko's Selection Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Richly layered and aromatic, this wine delivers ripe orchard and stone fruits clothed in baking spice, kept fresh by resplendent acidity. Lengthy and structural, while nevertheless opulently flavored. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

92 Grgich Hills Estate 2023 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Vibrant, flavorful, and energetic, this wine delivers the lush, ripe fruits of its region with palate-stimulating structure and poise. Charismatic and well crafted, it combines ripe quince, lemon curd, lime zest, and grapefruit pith through a silken mouthfeel. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

92 Hartford Court 2023 Sevens Bench Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). Plush aromas and ripe flavors harmonize with juicy acidity for a compelling and flavorful wine. Glittering spices enrobe baked pears and peaches squeezed over with Meyer lemon and mandarin zest. A bite of toasted brioche and a mineral finish complete the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

92 Herzog Lineage 2024 Prince Vineyard Chardonnay (Clarksburg). For full review see page 10. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Keller Estate 2023 La Cruz Vineyard Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This nimble and bright Chardonnay leads with aromas of Meyer lemon, nectarine, toasted hazelnut, and lemon curd on the nose. The palate brings focused acid and flavors of pineapple, candied ginger, lemon peel, and white flowers. Drink this with grilled shellfish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 McGrail Vineyards and Winery 2024 Charlie Rae Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This vibrant wine offers top-note aromas of candied citrus, baked yellow apple, and cinnamon. The palate delivers Bosc pear, canned peach, Tahitian vanilla, and caramel. A fresh wave of mineral glides through the mid-palate, finishing dry. Pair with petrale sole in brown butter sauce. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Optio Vineyards 2024 Norgrove Vineyard Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast). Delicate nectarine aromas meet with lightly toasted macadamia nuts on the lovely nose of this bottling. The

palate is tense, offering stone fruit flavors splashed in citrus spray. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$48

92 Reeve 2023 Septime Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Bright, lemony, and sweet herbal aromas waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers more fresh citrus flavors with echoes of green apple, pithy lime, marzipan, candied ginger, and lemongrass through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

91 Albatross Ridge 2022 Cuvée Béton Chardonnay (Monterey). The concrete aging of this wine amplifies its sidewalk-like aromas, which are cut by touches of lemon-splashed apple slices. The palate is very textural, with a stony streak that opens into citrus and orchard fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

91 Arrowflite 2024 Chardonnay (North Coast). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Bishop Pine Vineyards 2024 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 16. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$12

91 Cuvaizon 2024 Méthode Béton Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Match-strike aromas on the nose of this wine open to reveal grapefruit pith, citrus blossoms, and blanched almonds that combine with flavors of honeysuckle, a kiss of spice, and squeeze of lemon. The acidity is firm and energizing now, but will allow the wine to continue to develop with more time in bottle. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

91 Far Niente 2023 Chardonnay (Coombsville). Richly aromatic with lush flavors, this wine captures the generosity of California sun with mouth-watering length. Baked pear, a spoonful of lemon cream, baking spices, and mandarin zest carry nose through finish on a succulent mouthfeel kept fresh by persistent acidity. A go-to wine for classic California Chardonnay lovers. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$110

91 Frey Vineyards 2024 USDA Organic Chardonnay (Mendocino County). Citrus fruits are lush yet crisp on the nose of this wine, with hints of fresh caramel and white blossoms. Flavors on the palate are quenching, with ripe Pink Lady apple, Bosc pear, orange peel, and salty mineral on the finish. Pair with petrale sole in butter-citrus cream. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

91 Gary Farrell 2023 Olivet Lane Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$55

91 John Anthony 2023 Jameson Canyon Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Ripe pear, quince, and apple sprinkled with spices join mixed citrus and blanched almond, with a gingery, honeysuckle fin-

ish. Flavorful, richly flavored, and full bodied, this is a wine built for the classic California Chardonnay wine lover. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

91 La Crema 2023 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Intense aromas of green pear, nectarine, cinnamon, toasty pastry, and lemon peel drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers bright acidity and grippy texture, with flavors of Gala apple, lemony herbs, toasted hazelnut, white flowers, and chalky minerality lingering along the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$55

91 La Crema 2023 Tidal Break Vineyard Chardonnay (West Sonoma Coast). On the nose, this fresh and energetic Chardonnay delivers aromas of crisp apple, tangerine, and apple blossoms. The palate gives more pithy citrus, pear, and floral flavors along the finish. Enjoy with crabcakes or grilled prawns. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55

91 MacRostie 2024 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aromas of freshly baked pear tart, cinnamon, butterscotch, and popcorn swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate is a balance of rich barrel spice and flavors of nectarine, lemon peel, and toasty spices before a floral finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

91 Patz & Hall 2023 Maddocks & Green Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aromas of fresh apple, nectarine, cinnamon, and vanilla jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate gives flavors of apple skin, Meyer lemon, and caramel in a frame of rich barrel spice and supple acid. Drink this with roasted halibut and beurre blanc. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Protégé 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Baked nectarines, peaches, and pear spun through with baking spices deliver abundant flavor with a crisp, firm finish. This juicy Chardonnay captures generous flavor with palate-cleansing length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

91 Reynolds Family Winery 2023 Corotto Vineyard Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Aromas of quince and baked pear squeezed over with fresh lemon and a touch of grapefruit gain flavors of citrus curd and a sprinkle of spice. Acidity is brightening, carrying a lightly textural palate into a lengthy, flavorful finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

91 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2024 Appellation Collection Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine is all lively citrus, flowers, and crisp linen, giving way to flavors of Gala apple, lemon blossom, pithy tangerine, and fresh ginger across the palate before a long, floral finish. Drink this with lemongrass-grilled prawns. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

91 Submission 2024 Chardonnay (California). This wine is bright, with aromas of starfruit and ripe stone fruit. Flavors swirl around the palate with pear, yellow apple, cinnamon, and slight creaminess rounded out with mineral notes, finishing dry. Pair with baked white fish in lemon-butter. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Taub 2023 Laughlin Road Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aromas of bright lemon, fresh Gala apple, and white flowers dominate the conversation on the nose of this Chardonnay. The palate is nicely textured, with notions of green pear, sweet cinnamon, candied ginger, and lemon balm through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 TOBIAS Vineyards 2024 Blue Oaks Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). Vibrant and rich, this wine offers aromas of crisp stone fruit, baking spices, white blossom, and Tahitian vanilla on the nose. Flavors on the palate convey baked Pink Lady apple, Asian pear, fresh caramel, and toasted hazelnuts, with supple mineral to finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

90 Clos du Bois 2024 Crisp Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

90 DeLoach Vineyards 2024 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Fossil Point 2024 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). This is a clean, down-the-middle expression, overdelivering for the price. Aromas of rounded nectarine, light toast, and cream lead from the nose into a familiar, comforting palate that's lightly buttery yet still fresh. A real crowd pleaser, especially for the host. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 La Crema 2024 Chardonnay (Monterey). Clean aromas of lemon zest, lime pith, and sliced apple show on the nose of this always-reliable brand. The palate is energetic with familiar flavors of Meyer lemon and nectarine. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Lecavalier Cellars 2023 Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). Rich and ripe aromas of roasted apple, crème brûlée, and sweet cinnamon drive the nose of this Chard. The palate delivers rich mouthfeel and loads of barrel spice, white flowers, and concentrated apple flavors, with echoes of lemon peel and citrus blossom along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

90 Mark West 2023 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

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90 Napa Valley Quilt 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Generous aromas and flavors deliver an opulent, plush wine swirling with toasted brioche, caramel butter, lemon and orange butter cream, and baking spices. Acidity keeps the palate silky for this guilty pleasure. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

90 StarWine Cellars 2023 Curious Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This lively, floral wine brings aromas of fresh tangerine, jasmine, and spice on the nose, giving way to flavors of Granny Smith apple, Meyer lemon, hazelnut, and candied ginger on the palate. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Ten to Life 2024 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Tornabene Wine 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Generous while mouthwatering, this wine showcases classic aromas of mixed apple, ripe pear, and a squeeze of citrus continuing into a sprinkle of toasted spice through the finish. Medium bodied, versatile, and lengthy. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$50

90 Trinchero Napa Valley 2023 Sisters-in-Law Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Firm and flavorful with a silken texture, this wine combines ripe flavors of nectarine, citrus, and a touch of guava spun through with baking spice, all leading into a juicy, mineral finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

89 Bernardus 2023 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Quite golden in the glass, this wine offers tropical aromas of tuberose and banana on the nose. The palate is very toasty and full of dried fruit flavors, with a slightly oily texture. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

89 California Press 2024 Chardonnay (California). Aromas of fresh pear, candied green apple, caramel, white flowers, and orange blossom honey arise on the nose of this wine. Flavors convey white nectarine, peach, pineapple, bay leaf, and acidity on the finish. Pair with pasta with cream sauce, rock shrimp, and saffron. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Charles Krug 2024 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Delivering crisp length with bold flavor, this wine captures the youthfulness of its vintage with concentration and integrated oak spices. Warm quince, pear, and apple join a squeeze of pineapple through a lightly creamy palate with a sea-fresh finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$33

89 Cliff Family 2025 Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District). Aromas of apple and citrus blossoms, white nectarine, apricot, and a squeeze of salted lemon remain crisp and fresh from nose through palate of this wine. Eschewing oak in favor of an almost racy

version of Chardonnay, the style focuses on mouth- quenching length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

89 Nash 2024 Chardonnay (California). Lush, this wine offers aromas of baked apple, pear, and cinnamon. Ribbons of toasty oak glide through the mouthfeel of the palate, with quince, orange peel, and mineral to finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Noble Vines 2024 446 Chardonnay (California). This is a classic California Chardonnay, with aromas of baked yellow apple, white peach, allspice, toasted oak, and orange blossom on the nose. The flavors on the palate are pear, white nectarine, orange peel, and vanilla cream, layered with acidity to lighten the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

89 Russian River Vineyards 2023 Petersen Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Tropical aromas of pineapple, citrus, and honeysuckle lift the nose of this unoaked Chardonnay. The palate gives lively acid and grippy texture, with flavors of green apple, stemmy herbs, flowers, and ginger through a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$47

89 Subterra 2024 Chardonnay (California). This is a new, great-value project from a legacy winemaking family. The aromatics feature crisp orchard fruit, citrus, toasty oak, and hazelnuts on the nose. Flavors on the palate are ripe yellow apple, orange zest, and cinnamon, with a supple yet dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$17

89 Toasted Head 2024 Chardonnay (California). What is old is new again. This classic Chardonnay is fresh yet rich, with concentrated stone and tropical fruits and vanilla bean on the top layers. The flavors are green apple, baked peach, fruit cocktail, and cinnamon spice, with a supple finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

89 Une Femme NV Chardonnay (California). Super unctuous, this wine delivers aromas of sun-kissed stone fruit, baking spices, subtle oak, and white flowers on the nose. The flavors on the palate are fresh-picked yellow apple, quince, honey-lemon peel, cinnamon, orange blossom, and juicy mineral on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$5/250ml

89 Valley Growers 2024 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Cannonball 2024 Chardonnay (California). Fresh, this wine offers aromas of baked yellow apple, pear, cinnamon, toasty oak, and mineral on the nose. The flavors are crisp apple, orange marmalade, vanilla cream, and supple acidity on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Chester. 2023 Chardonnay (Monterey). Crushed rock and dried citrus-peel aromas show on the nose of this dog-themed bottling. The palate is subtle at first and then somewhat tart, with lemon wedge and crushed rock flavors that float into a riper finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Joel Gott 2023 GOTT Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Juicy, bright, and crisp, this Chardonnay captures a fruit-forward, approachable, and mouthwatering style. Crisp quince joins a squeeze of pineapple, lemon, and apple blossom with a silken texture and fresh finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35

87 Earth to Glass 2023 Chardonnay (Monterey). Aromas of lemon wedges covered in dust show on the nose of this wine. A burst of lemon acidity slides into sweeter apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 James Wines 2024 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Apple, lime peel, and wet paper aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The simple palate is lean with stone fruit and lime juice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Napa Cellars 2023 Chardonnay (Napa County). Direct, silken and mouthwatering, this Chardonnay combines classic flavors of warm orchard fruits brightened by a squeeze of mandarin sprinkled with spice. The wine remains fresh with an open weave through the finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Russian River Vineyards 2023 Chardonnay (Monterey). Damp earth aromas meet with lime peel on the nose of this bottling. The palate is somewhat viscous and slightly sweet with peach flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

85 Interpretation 2024 Chardonnay (Carneros). Mixed citrus, crisp apple, and a waft of lemon curd are carried by a vivacious wash of acidity. This is a firm and straightforward Chardonnay, delivering plenty of zing. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

85 Winemakers Selection 2023 Chardonnay (Carneros). Direct with a creamy mouthfeel, this wine offers flavors of spiced apple and a squeeze of citrus with a bump of crème brûlée. Acidity remains bright through a modest finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$17

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Saracina 2024 Lolonis Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Redwood Valley). From a historic site for old-vine material, this wine is fresh, with an electrical current of minerality, acidity, citrus, and guava on the nose. These elements continue throughout the palate with makrut lime, Meyer lemon, spearmint,

dried herbs, and sedimentary rock layered through. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

93 Navigator 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Foursight 2023 Charles Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Anderson Valley). Although known for Pinot Noir, this site produces tasty Sauvignon Blanc as well. It is a higher-elevation locale, with a cooler climate and rocky soils. The aromas on the nose convey stone fruit, citrus peel, fresh herbs, and sedimentary rock. On the palate, the flavors deliver makrut lime, white nectarine, yellow apple, sagebrush, and mineral on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$35

92 Innumero Wines 2024 Kick Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Fountaingrove District). Enchanting aromas of white peach, lemon peel, and white flowers erupt from the glass on the nose of this decadent, oak-aged Sauvignon Blanc. The palate vibrates with acidity, giving flavors of Meyer lemon, candied ginger, lemongrass, citrus blossom, and whispers of toasty spices along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$68

92 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2024 Lotus Eaters Vogelzang Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Aromas of smashed lime and lemon peels draw the nose into this wine. The palate shows an earthy face of crushed rock, mossy stone, and even wool, as zesty lime and dried apple flavors slide into a grippy, long-lasting finish on the wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

92 Joseph-Jibril 2024 Blanc Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Supple aromas of lime, lemongrass, ginger, and white flowers swirl on the nose of this energetic, native-fermented Sauvignon Blanc. The palate balances bright stone fruit and pithy citrus flavors with racy acidity and a clean, herbal finish. Pair this with shellfish or grilled veggies on a hot day. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$25

92 Ladera 2023 Ryan's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Oak Knoll District). Succulent aromas of ripe nectarine, melon, pineapple, and lemongrass lift from the glass, continuing with energy and tension into the palate. A lightly gauzy texture joins resplendent acidity for a stimulating Sauvignon Blanc with a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

92 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Chiles Valley). Sweet citrus, white tea, and lemongrass waft from the glass, leading into mouthwatering acidity and a lightly textural palate on this wine. The finish persists, lengthening into crisp, fresh, and mineral refreshment. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$38

91 Angels & Cowboys 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Brandlin Estate 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Mount Veeder). Opulent aromatics layer orchard fruits and sweet citrus with ginger, lemon-grass, and glittering spice. The acidity is vibrant and palate stimulating, balanced by a silken mouthfeel that carries into a lengthy mineral finish on this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Grgich Hills Estate 2023 Fumé Blanc Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Vibrant aromatics and bright acidity join texture and intensity for a memorable wine. A deft use of oak aging delivers pert and sweet citrus, lemongrass, and hint of sea salt. The finish is lengthy and palate stimulating. Refreshing and ideal for the start of a meal. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

91 JAMES Wine 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Subtle aromas of apple and grass converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is cleanly presented, showing lemon and lime flavors as well as a cement-like minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 ONX 2024 Field Day Sauvignon Blanc (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Pech Merle 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Focused aromas of grapefruit, white pepper, lemon blossoms, and jalapeño vibrate on the nose of this intense Sauvignon Blanc. The palate is laser-focused, with generous acid and pithy mouthfeel framing flavors of pomelo, candied ginger, and white flowers for days. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$31

91 Pech Merle 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine is loaded with aromas of lemon, fresh herbs, citrus blossoms, and beeswax. Richly structured and brightly acidic, the palate is awash in pithy lemon-lime, toasted spices, cut grass, and flowers. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$31

91 Pech Merle 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Big Valley District). This flinty wine offers bright aromas of citrus skin, guava, stone fruit, and white flowers on the nose. Flavors on the palate are electric with Meyer lemon, lime, white nectarine, white tea, dried fennel, and mineral layered throughout the mouthfeel. These high-elevation white wines are textured yet robust. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$29

91 TOBIAS Vineyards 2024 Lexi's Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino). The Sauvignon Blancs grown in Mendocino are diverse but always deliver crisp, lush citrus fruit with texture and min-

eral. This bottling offers layers of Meyer lemon, crisp yellow apple, and pineapple on the nose. The flavors are lime peel, quince, and white peach. It's mouthwatering, with a creamy midpalate and mineral on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

90 32 Winds 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Floral aromas mingle with tart lemon, cut grass, and lime peel aromas on the nose of this wine. The palate is nimble, with bright acid, pithy texture, and waves of citrus, floral, and herb flavors that ease into a smooth finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$29

90 Bernardus 2024 Griva Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). Very tart aromas of Granny Smith apple meet with grapefruit flesh on the fresh and zippy nose of this bottling. The grippy palate shows hints of stone fruit and green pepper and slowly flattens out. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$20

90 Cline Family Cellars 2025 Seven Ranchlands Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Punchy aromas of grapefruit, gooseberry, and cut grass drive the nose of this wine. The palate is a wash of fresh lime, grapefruit, and tart pineapple acidity, with notes of white flowers and chopped herbs along the clean finish. Fans of New Zealand Savvy B will dig this one. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Geyser Peak 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This one is inviting for sitting around the pool enjoying the sunshine. Aromas of zippy sugar snap peas, citrus blossoms, and mineral waft on the nose. The palate is layered with lime segments, white peach, yellow apple, white tea, and bright acidity on the finish. Pair with oysters on the half shell. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Groth 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Aromatic, refreshing, and lively, this wine quenches the palate with firm acidity and a silken mouthfeel. Lemongrass, honeysuckle, and citrus blossom join fresh lemon, grapefruit pith, and light orange zest through a lingering finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

90 Matchbook Wine Company 2024 Giguere Estate The Herdsman Sauvignon Blanc (Yolo County). For full review see page 14. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Mia Marie 2024 Old Grove Sauvignon Blanc (San Diego County). Inviting aromas of wet concrete, tangerine peel, and chipped flint show on the nose of this bottling. The palate of the wine lands broadly with nectarine flavors and hints of light wood-spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

90 Orin Swift 2024 Veladora Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Glittering gold with green

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flecks in the glass, this wine lifts from the glass, offering aromas of lemongrass, passionfruit, a squeeze of lime, and dried white sage. The palate is silken while vibrating with acidity, with a kiss of spice adding another rush of interest. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$40

90 Textbook 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Charming floral notes mingle with punchy lime and lemongrass aromas on the nose of this wine. The palate is energetic, with flavors of pithy citrus and stone fruit mingling with fresh herbal flavors through a long finish that becomes more floral as it persists. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$21

90 Trinchero Napa Valley 2023 All the Hats Sauvignon Blanc (Calistoga). Floral aromas of citrus and apple blossoms, white tea, and lemongrass on the nose of this wine drive into a juicy palate that fills the mouth with flavor, leading into a lengthy, firm finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

89 Charles Krug 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Aromas of white tea, grapefruit pith, crisp apple, lemongrass, and hay lead into a palate of vibrant acidity carried by an almost silky mouthfeel. This aromatic and expressive wine keeps gaining length through the finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$22

89 Josh Cellars 2024 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma). The nose of this classic Sauvignon Blanc hits with tart lime, grass, and jalapeño aromas. These evolve into flavors of pithy grapefruit, lemon, white peach, citrus blossom, and salty lime that dominate the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Mason Cellars 2024 Yount Mill Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Expressive, friendly, and fruit forward, this wine offers an appealing mix of citrus blossom, crisp nectarine, and a tart kiss of marmalade that joins mouthwatering acidity for a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Mia Marie 2024 Musque Clone Sauvignon Blanc (San Diego County). Cut grass and diced lime peel aromas introduce the nose to this bottling. The palate is tangy with citrus peel flavors that are leveled by wet earth tones, set atop a soft texture. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

89 Misfits & Mavens 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Pedroncelli 2024 Block 11 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of cantaloupe, guava, and peach dominate the nose of this wine. The palate is smooth and broad, with a trop-

ical energy and gentle acidity, giving way to echoes of citrus blossoms and herbs on the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Silverado Vineyards 2024 Miller Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Full bodied and generous with vibrant acidity, this wine offers aromas of white peach, grapefruit pith, honeysuckle, lemongrass, and a pinch of pineapple sprinkled with sea salt and chalk. Mouthwatering with an almost silky mouthfeel, it has a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

89 St. Avalo 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Los Olivos District). Granny Smith apple peel and crushed riverstone aromas make for a classic nose on this estate bottling. The palate offers lots of pithy elements, both in flavor and texture, as well as hints of riper pear and apple. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

89 Subterra 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This new project from a legacy winemaking family offers zippy aromas of Key lime, kiwi, and mineral on the nose. The palate delivers flavors of crisp green apple, dried herbs, and a mineral finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$17

88 John Anthony Vineyards 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Carneros-Napa Valley). Highly aromatic and mouthwatering, this wine opens with an effusive bouquet of white stone fruit, sweet citrus, honeysuckle, and lemongrass. Crisp on the palate with a lightly silken texture, the wine carries into a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

88 Angels Landing 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Fragrant with a combination of honeysuckle, melon, a squeeze of lemon, and grapefruit pith, this wine gains light spice and plenty of acidity on the palate. Persistent. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

87 Athenaeum 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Bursting aromatics of mixed citrus, sweet peach, and a waft of honeysuckle lift from the glass of this wine, carrying into a palate of firm acidity with a long finish. Crisp, persistent, and mouthwatering. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Napa Cellars 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa County). Mandarin, white peach, and a squeeze of lemon with sea salt bring wafting aromas and mouthwatering flavor to this approachable and satisfying wine. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$16

86 Vineyard Block Estate 2024 818 Special Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Calistoga). Vivacious aromas feature citrus blossom, lemongrass, fresh quince, and a squeeze of pineapple in this direct expression of Sauvignon Blanc. Bright acidity persists, picking up a lightly pithy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

CHENIN BLANC

93 Herzog Special Reserve 2024 Prince Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). For full review see page 8. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Ladera 2024 Ryan's Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Oak Knoll District). Once one of Napa Valley's most planted white varieties, today Chenin Blanc is an unusual (and welcome) find from the region. The Ladera captures the verve and freshness of its 2024 vintage with concentration, joviality, and length. Aromas are layered and vivacious with pineapple, stone fruit, and lightly spiced citrus curd. These continue into the palate, picking up a silken mouthfeel through a long finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$69

92 Little X Little 2023 Mangels Chenin Blanc (Suisun Valley). This lively wine offers aromas of honeysuckle, green papaya, and honeydew melon. Notes of dried marjoram sweep throughout the midpalate, while flavors of candied orange slices, yellow apple, dried sage, and acidity swirl on the finish. Pair with warm fava bean salad, ricotta salata, and lemon oil. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$24

89 Lucas & Lewellen Estate Vineyards 2025 Chenin Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Very light colored in the glass, this bottling is stark on the nose with jicama and pear aromas. The palate offers riper hints of pear and white flower flavors, proving pleasant if simple. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

PINOT GRIGIO

91 BuonGuido 2024 Thomspen Vineyard Pinot Grigio (Dry Creek Valley). On the nose, this wine pops with aromas of cut lime and white flowers. The palate delivers bright acidity and lacy texture, with flavors of pithy citrus and lovely floral-herb mélange across a clean finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

89 Cline Family Cellars 2024 Pinot Gris (Sonoma County). Aromas of flowers, cut grass, and vibrant citrus swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a pop of pithy citrus and lively acidity, with waxy texture and notions of chalky minerals, lemon blossoms, and chopped herbs along the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 St. Avalo 2023 Pinot Grigio (Los Olivos District). Wet stone, lime peel, and citrus pith aromas are pleasant if simple on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tightly wound, offering citrus and stone fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30

88 Akira 2025 Pinot Grigio (California). This producer is a leader of organic, vegan, and

no-sugar-added offerings in the market. Aromas on the nose highlight crisp citrus and pear. The palate is light, with subtle nuances of lime peel, green papaya, kiwi, and white peach. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

RIESLING

93 David Bruce Winery 2023 Jeanette's Vineyard Riesling (Santa Cruz Mountains). Clean aromas of lemon, melon, and white peach draw the nose into this bottling from one of the few Riesling sources in the appellation. There's a decent viscosity to the palate, where lime and guava flavors meet with a unique herbal streak of verbena. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39

93 Reeve 2024 Vonarburg Riesling (Anderson Valley). Aromas on the nose of this wine feature crisp mineral, sedimentary rock, bruised apple, crushed herbs, and white flowers. Layered flavors on the palate convey green apple, yellow plum, quince, citrus, fennel seed, mineral, and searing acidity with a mouthwatering finish. Pair with halibut crudo in blood orange oil. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$42

91 Rancho Sisquoc 2024 Riesling (Santa Barbara County). Honeyed aromas of mango and stone fruit hint at some sweetness without being overdone. The palate of this wine is rather dry at first, offering flavors of lemon and white melon. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Centennial Mountain 2022 Carricante (Sonoma County). Punchy aromas of tart pineapple, fresh white flowers, granite, and candied ginger erupt from the nose of this focused Carricante. The palate delivers waves of charged citrus acidity and rich, pithy texture, with flavors of Meyer lemon peel, fresh-cut green herbs, citrus blossoms, and toasty spices. Absolutely gorgeous now, this will soften nicely in the cellar. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$49

94 Wentworth 2024 Mendo Sunshine Grüner Veltliner (Mendocino Ridge). This quintessential variety comes from a spot revered for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Lively and aromatic, the nose brings loads of white florals, stone fruit, citrus, and earth-driven nuances. Flavors on the palate are makrut segments, Meyer lemon peel, fennel seed, and pink grapefruit. The midpalate is layered with red apple skin, chicory, and sedimentary rock, with quaffable acidity on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Viognier (High Valley). For full review see page 8. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Herzog Lineage 2024 Jacobson Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Musque (Kelsey Bench). For full review see page 8. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

92 BuonGuido 2024 Capp Inn Ranch Malvasia Bianca (Suisun Valley). Brisk, this wine layers aromas of lime blossom, pineapple, verbena, and bay leaf across the nose. The flavors are green apple, lemon peel, spearmint, mineral, and mouthwatering acidity to finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Davancy Winery 2023 Fumé Blanc (Shenandoah Valley). This special selection from Helwig vineyards is produced in amphorae and not made every year. Aromas of stone fruit skin, dried apple, pear, dried florals, white tea, and mineral arise on the nose. The flavors on the palate are dried apricot, Meyer lemon, orange blossom, spearmint, and a mouthwatering finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$45

92 Piedrasassi 2022 Viognier (Sta. Rita Hills). Very pale in the glass, this bottling is crisp and bright on the nose with apple flesh and Asian pear aromas. The palate is quite grippy, showing nectarine and melon flavors that are cut by a hint of grassiness. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

92 Seghesio 2024 Keyhole Ranch Vermentino (Russian River Valley). Aromas of candied lemon peel, orange blossom, and lemon thyme swirl on the nose of this punchy Vermentino. The palate feels rounded and zippy, with lemony acid balancing flavors of nectarine, toasted almond, lime zest, and white flowers that blossom on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 St. Avalo 2023 Vermentino (Los Olivos District). Vermentino could be a big star in sunny California, as this bottling demonstrates with chiseled aromas of chamomile, chalk, and daffodil on the nose. The palate is tightly wound around white flower flavors and a waxy texture. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

91 Deux Seraus Wines 2023 Calleri Vineyard Falanghina (San Benito). A slightly golden hue in the glass, this bottling of a very rare grape for California is quite interesting, starting with waxy aromas of honeycomb, lemon peel, apple bushes, and chamomile. The palate is broad yet sharp, mingling lemon zest with riper melon flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$28

90 Midnight Cellars 2025 Grenache Blanc (Paso Robles). Opulent aromas of peach are cut by hints of flint on the nose of this bottling. There's a hit of tension on the palate before it opens into apple and guava flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$39

WHITE BLENDS

92 BuonGuido 2024 Mezzogiorno White Blend (Sonoma). Bright and lively aromas of fresh tangerine, lemon balm, and honeysuckle drive the nose of this blend. The palate brings punchy flavors of sweet citrus, layers of flowers, and ripe pineapple, with brilliant acid vibrating through the finale. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

92 Idlewild 2024 Flora and Fauna White Blend (North Coast). This zesty wine offers aromas of makrut lime, white nectarine, grapefruit, honeysuckle, and fennel pollen on the nose. The flavors are yellow plum, yellow cherry, pink grapefruit, and bay leaf, with a dry, mineral finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$20

91 Midnight Cellars 2025 Aurora Rhône-Style White Blend (Paso Robles). Lovely white-flower aromas are leveled by citrus peel and struck stone scents on the nose of this blend of 38% Viognier, 37% Picpoul Blanc, and 25% Grenache Blanc. The palate is bright and stony, offering Pink Lady apple and guava flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$39

91 RhôneWolf 2024 Saurel Vineyard White Blend (El Dorado). It is great to see more wine-makers producing white Rhône blends with higher acidity and minerality. This one is fresh and vibrant, with citrus, green apple, white flowers, fennel, and mouthwatering acidity to finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Harvey & Harriet 2024 White Blend (San Luis Obispo County). Hints of honey are drizzled across apple peels and damp clay aromas on the nose of this wine. The palate is grippy in texture and layered in tight apple and pear flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

90 Pulchella 2024 Latitude White Blend (Paso Robles). Reductive aromas of lees and citrus peel show on the nose of this blend of Viognier and Sauvignon Blanc from two vineyards. The palate picks up grass and lime flesh flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

89 Pacific Redwood NV Organic White Blend (Mendocino County). Today, organic wines are tasty and well produced. This bottling is fresh, bright, and crisp, with citrus, honeydew, white flower, and mineral aromas. Flavors are juicy, with layers of navel orange, red apple skin, sweet cantaloupe, and acidity on the finish. Great picnic wine! *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$13

SPARKLING WINES

96 Racines 2018 Bentrack Vineyard Sparkling Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). A very fine

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mousse consumes the glass on this bottling, which shows white flower, lime pith, and crème fraîche aromas on the nose. The palate is all about precision, presenting flashes of citrus against a creamy mouthfeel, as the highly textural finish extends very long. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$130

94 Laetitia 2021 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Arroyo Grande Valley). A yellowish-pink in the glass with fine bubbles, this sparkling pops on the nose with crushed marble and citrus peel aromas. There is a hint of dough to the palate, where a rocky minerality pushes through citrus and white melon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Racines 2018 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Sparkling Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Intriguing aromas of toasted rye meet with bright lime elements on the nose of this single-vineyard sparkling wine. A fine, persistent mousse entices the palate, where hints of caraway meet with a bright lemony core. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$130

94 Racines NV Grand Reserve Sparkling Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). A very fine mousse fills the glass like wisps of smoke in this reserve bottling, which opens with aromas of chalk, citrus oil, and light dough. The palate is bold with sharp citrus and leesy flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Laetitia 2021 Brut Coquard Sparkling Blend (Arroyo Grande Valley). Golden in the glass, this wine offers aromas of baked apple and chamomile on the rich nose. The palate is tart with yellow apple flavors but lavish in a creamy body. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Laetitia 2021 Cuvée M Sparkling Blend (Arroyo Grande Valley). Hints of chalk give mineral depth to the blossoming honeysuckle and guava flower aromas on the nose of this wine. The bubbles are quite large and bold on the palate, which balances green apple and white flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Presqu'île Winery 2021 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Damp dough and lemon rind aromas make for a familiar nose on this wine. The palate offers fine bubbles and a pinpoint acidity, carrying Meyer lemon and lightly leesy flavors across a tightly woven texture. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$65

92 Sarah's Vineyard 2022 Sparkling Blend (Santa Clara Valley). Sprightly aromas of white flowers meet with a lively yeast streak on the nose of this bubbly. The palate is pithy in texture, with citrus peel and white flower flavors proving refreshing. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

91 Albatross Ridge 2024 Petillant Naturel Rosé Sparkling Blend (Monterey). A lightly cloudy, fuschia-ish haze entertains the eye on this Pinot Noir-

based bubbly as aromas of red grapefruit and cherry entice the nose. The palate of the wine is juicy with raspberry and strawberry flavors that make for a fun sip. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$54

91 Laetitia 2017 Brut Reserve Sparkling Blend (Arroyo Grande Valley). A deep, golden color in the glass, this bottling offers baked lemon and lightly doughy aromas on the nose. The palate is tangy with citrus and sour apple flavors, enlivening the tongue with relentless acidity. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$85

91 Mumm Sparkling NV Cuvée M Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley). A persistent bead of fine bubbles lifts aromas of sliced peaches and nectarines set atop toasted and buttered brioche. An almost creamy mouthfeel with brightening acidity greets the palate, adding flavors of mandarin, grapefruit, and sweet apricot. It's modestly sweet, to enjoy alongside flaky pastries, soft cheeses, and spicy foods. Pernod Ricard. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Albatross Ridge 2021 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Monterey County). A slightly orangish pink in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of strawberry mashed into tangerine on the nose. The palate is tart with orange peel flavors and a sanguine minerality that sits atop a lingering texture. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$78

90 Cuvaison 2022 Brut Rosé Méthode Champenoise Rosé (Los Carneros). Alpine strawberry, pink grapefruit, and a slice of quince lift from the glass of this wine, leading into a crisp palate with a fine mousse and plenty of persistence. A lightly bitter finish cleanses the palate. Friendly and ready to enjoy. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

90 Duckhorn Vineyards 2022 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Napa Valley). A persistent bead rises from the glass of this wine, carrying aromas of crisp green apple, quince, and citrus cream. The palate reveals toasted brioche layered with lemon curd and a thin slice of firm, white nectarine. Textural and persistent, this wine offers a flavorful, while crisp finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$64

90 Maker 2024 Bubbly Red Cinsault (Paso Robles). This refreshing canned wine by winemaker Nicole Walsh is transparent in the glass, offering juicy raspberry and black slate aromas. There's a soft, light foam to the palate, where crushed cranberry and raspberry flavors arise. Drink on a lake or river. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$7/250ml

90 Maker Wine 2024 Bubbly Rosé Sparkling Blend (Paso Robles). This sparkler by guest winemaker Janelle Dusi is a darker shade of pink in the glass, with aromas of maraschino cherry on the nose.

The palate's hint of foam floats through red apple and generous cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$7/250ml

89 Tlo 2022 Blanc De Noirs Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). This wine shows fairly large bubbles and a pale hue in the glass, offering apple blossom and lily aromas. The palate pickles up flavors of tangerine and more apple, though the bubbles fade quickly. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

89 Tornabene Wine NV Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley). Generous aromas, palate-filling while crisp flavors, and a cascade of foamy bubbles keep the palate watering. Mixed citrus and blossoms with a small bite of toast lead into a waft of flint through the finish of this wine. Crowd pleasing and enjoyable. —E.C.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$56

88 Louis Pommery California NV Louis Pommery Blanc de Blancs Reserve Chardonnay (California). Charming and fruit forward, this wine offers flavors of apple galette squeezed over with fresh lemon and a light sprinkle of sea salt. Juicy, persistent, and firm through the finish. Vranken Pommery America. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

ROSÉS

94 Wentworth 2024 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Soft peachy-hued in the glass, this wine offers aromas of tart yellow plum, nectarine, orange blossom, and mineral on the nose. The palate layers flavors of quince, navel orange, pink grapefruit peel, red plum, watermelon, allspice, and rocky mineral on the very textured finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$42

92 Saracina 2024 Rosé (Mendocino). Fresh and lively, this wine offers aromas of citrus, stone fruit, red berries, and mineral on the nose. The palate is juicy but firm, with flavors of raspberry, peach, yellow plum, and herbs, with a dry, mouthwatering finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$22

92 Three Sticks 2025 Casteñada Rosé (Sonoma Coast). This salmon-hued wine delivers a nose full of fresh strawberry, apricot, and lemon aromas. These elements give way to fresh raspberry, flowers, and citrus-punch flavors along the palate, in a framework of pithy-textured tannin and electric acidity. Pair this with summer vibes. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$45

91 Clif Family 2025 Rosé of Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). Intriguing aromas of pomegranate, red cherry, and white and green tea lift from the glass, leading to a crisp palate. This is a refreshing, firm while friendly rosé of Cabernet Franc, with a fresh finish and plenty of length. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Los Robles Hills 2024 Puerta del Cielo Vineyards Ruby's Rosé (Malibu Coast). This is a strong showing for a Sangiovese-based rosé from the Malibu Coast region. A darker salmon color in the glass, it begins with aromas of strawberry, tangerine sorbet, and crushed chalk. The palate is grippy in texture and full of maraschino cherry and tropical fruit flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$25

91 Lucas & Lewellen Estate Vineyards 2025 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). A light pink in the glass, this wine pairs earthy aromas with cherry and peach elements on the nose. The palate is very mineral-driven, showing crushed rock flavors alongside hints of grapefruit. —M.K.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$30

91 ONX 2024 Indie Rosé (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

91 Pech Merle 2023 Ivy Rosé de Zinfandel (Mendocino). Dark sanguine hued, this wine delivers concentrated aromas of candied raspberry, cotton candy, and dried potpourri on the nose. Flavors on the palate are pink grapefruit, grilled blood orange zest, watermelon, fennel, and spearmint, with a mouthwatering finish. It stands up to robust dishes like duck breast salad. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$31

91 The Vice 2025 World Cup Limited Edition Rosé (Los Carneros). For full review see page 13.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$36

90 Fossil Point 2025 Grenache Rosé (San Luis Obispo County). A darker pink color in the glass, this bottling shows rich aromas of cherry bubblegum on the nose. The palate picks up more cherry and hints of banana, with an underlying mineral tone adding depth. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Mascarin Family Wines 2024 7 Mules Vineyard Rosé (Sonoma Coast). This peachy-hued wine delivers aromas of apricot, fresh strawberry, watermelon, and flowers on the nose. The palate is acid-driven, with smooth mouthfeel and lively flavors of candied citrus, Rainier cherry, and lemon blossoms across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

90 Pech Merle 2024 Vin Rosé de Zinfandel (Mendocino). This salmon-colored wine offers super-fresh aromas of stone fruit, peach, white nectarine, citrus peel, and white flowers on the nose. The flavors on the palate are candied peach rings, ginger, strawberry, and mineral, with a dry juicy finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$27

90 Pedroncelli 2025 Bushnell Vineyard Rosé (Dry Creek Valley). Loving the pale-pink color of this supple rosé! The nose gives lively peach-strawberry aromas, while the palate brings flavors

of roasted apricot, white cherry, candied citrus, and lemon blossoms in a framework of plush tannin and juicy acid. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery 2024 Rosé (Central Coast). A rusty-pink color in the glass, this bottling shows aromas of rose petal potpourri and cherry on the nose. The palate offers hints of dried citrus and cherry essence set against an iron-like minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Midnight Cellars 2025 Luna Rosé (Paso Robles). A lovely, almost magenta color in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with ripe maraschino cherry aromas. The palate is full of strawberry and cherry flavors that are quite sweet compared to most other rosés. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$29

PINOT NOIR

99 Wentworth 2024 Wentworth Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

98 Wentworth 2024 Abel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

97 Drew 2023 The Fog-Eater Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). The nose on this wine bursts with lively raspberries, fresh-picked strawberries, and sun-ripened peaches tossed with potpourri and a hint of dried orange peel. On the palate, vibrant yellow plum mingles with raspberry-rhubarb, juicy pink grapefruit, and supple, grippy tannins. Decant or cellar through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$60

97 Drew 2023 Westering Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge). This wine summons aromas of baked plum and warm spices, as a hint of spearmint weaves through lush boysenberry. The midpalate reveals a tapestry of minerals and alpine herbs, unfolding into bright acidity, raspberries, plum, crunchy brush sage, orange rind, and grippy tannins on the finish. Decant or cellar until 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

97 Soquel Vineyards 2024 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 3.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$50

97 Wentworth 2024 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

96 Ancien 2023 River Ranch Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

96 Bernardus 2023 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This iconic vineyard is really hitting its stride in this vintage, showing its typical power but with ample freshness. The wine erupts on the nose with raspberry sorbet and pristine rose petal aromas. Juicy and expansive, the palate shows both ripe and tart sides of a lush cherry compote core, as flashes of cinnamon and Sichuan peppercorn pop into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$90

96 Drew 2023 Estate Grown-Field Selections Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge). This wine bursts with concentrated aromas of ripe blackberry, black plum, brandied cherry, and a touch of warm brown sugar. On the midpalate, savory pink strawberry mingles with grilled orange slices and a hint of coriander, unfolding into red currant, raspberry-pomegranate, red licorice, stony mineral, and juicy tannins to finish. Decant or cellar until 2035. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

96 Lussier 2023 Signal Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge). From one of the region's high-elevation vineyard sites, this expression is supple and focused, wafting aromas of spiced Bing cherry, black strawberry, and savory herbs across the nose, which becomes increasingly expansive. Vibrant and alive, the palate delivers a concentration of raspberry, red plum, blood orange zest, and celery salt to create a lifted, mouthwatering finish. Decant and enjoy until 2038. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$60

96 Merry Edwards Winery 2023 Meredith Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

96 Racines 2023 La Rinconada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark cherry and black raspberry aromas are balanced by layers of minty soil and dried meat on the fruity yet savory nose of this single-vineyard expression. That dark core of fruit is enhanced by palo santo spices and a sappy tension. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

96 Three Sticks Wines 2023 Gap's Pinnacle Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Fresh cranberry, fleshy cherry, cocoa powder, and cedar aromas swirl on the nose of this Pinot. The palate is a wash of zesty orange peel acidity, with smooth tannic structure and flavors of Bing cherry, cinnamon, roses, and dark chocolate that linger well into the finale. Delicious now, this will take some time in the cellar to show itself truly. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$95

96 Waits-Mast 2023 Mariah Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge). The nose on this wine

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is pronounced, with deep brandied cherry, brambled raspberry, a dash of cinnamon, and fresh-cut flowers. On the palate, sea air seems to softly caress the juicy strawberries, while squeezed blood orange collides with clove, allspice, and yellow plum, leading to a mouthwatering, supple, and mineral finish. Decant or cellar until 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.

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

96 Walt 2024 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Juicy plum, maraschino cherry, and light juniper aromas make for a compelling nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate lands broadly with strawberry and boysenberry flavors that sit atop a warm brioche note and are lifted by lavender elements. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$90

96 Walt 2024 Sierra Mar Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Juicy aromas of black cherry, hibiscus, and rose extract are spiced up by hints of ginger on the fresh and lively nose of this bottling. The potent palate is awash in cherry, strawberry, cinnamon, and chai flavors, leading into an elegantly floral finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Domaine Messier 2024 Verseau Pinot Noir (Monterey). Extremely deep and impressive aromas of black cherry cake and cola spice lure the nose far into this bottling from a new project atop what will one day be known as the Carmel Coast appellation. The palate is hefty with rich cherry and dark spice flavors, yet awash in persistent acidity and a tense texture that will last for years. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$88

95 Foursight 2022 Clone 05 Charles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Sultry raspberry, pomegranate, orange blossom, sagebrush, and floral notes arise on the nose of this wine. The mineral-driven palate mingles ripe strawberry, plum, blood orange, and coriander with a supple, dry finish. Decant or cellar until 2034. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$66

95 Grail by Dan Kosta 2022 Campbell Ranch Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). Punchy aromas of concentrated cherry, berry coulis, cola spice, and orange zest pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate possesses rich but smooth tannin structure and bright acid, with flavors of cherry coulis, sarsaparilla, crushed berries, rose petals, and chopped herb. Delicious now, this will reward patience. Best from 2030–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$95

95 Lussier 2023 Golden Fleece Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine comes from a cool vintage and a site set at 900 feet. These growing conditions create concentration on the nose, which delivers lush aromas of pomegranate, damson plum, pink raspberry, dried violets, orange peel, and cedar. The palate features saturated layers of dark cherry, black strawberry, black currant-rhubarb, sagebrush,

navel orange peel, and a dry, long, and supple finish. Decant or cellar until 2038. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

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

95 Lussier 2023 Roma's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine comes from a cool vintage and a site at a 1,875-foot elevation. The fruit is singing a lovely song. Aromas mix Rainier cherry, raspberry, red plum, dried florals, orange peel, and coriander on the nose. The flavors on the palate convey dense layers of pomegranate, strawberry-rhubarb, cedar, orange honey blossom, and a dry, long, and supple finish. Decant or cellar until 2038. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$60

95 Merry Edwards Winery 2023 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This deep and intense Pinot delivers aromas of roasted cherry, plum jam, cola spice, and roses on the nose. The palate displays rich tannin and barrel structure, balanced by some nervy acid and flavors of concentrated berries, cinnamon, cedar, and black tea that linger into the finish. Give this some time to evolve in the cellar and pair with braised short rib and mushrooms. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

95 Racines 2023 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Rich raspberry aromas are layered in flowing waves of slate, soil, dried flower, and sage stems on the earthy and elegant nose of this single-vineyard expression from a historic estate. The core of red-fruit preserves on the palate is balanced by crushed stone and charred earth flavors. —M.K.

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

95 Racines 2023 Sta. Rita Hills Cuvée Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Crushed raspberry, sour cherry, earthy beetroot, and crushed-up pencil aromas make for a unique nose on this bottling. The palate's tannins are firm and almost gritty at this young age, framing singed chaparral, peppercorn, and dried cherry flavors. All of these components will merge more harmoniously with time. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

95 Sangiacomo Wines 2023 Block 11 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). The nose of this complex wine jumps from the glass with aromas of cherry, cranberry, orange peel, rose petal, cinnamon, and sandalwood. The palate balances rich tannin with energetic acidity and flavors of Bing cherry, shiitake, cocoa powder, sage, and cola spices that linger and evolve for over a minute. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$75

95 Sangiacomo Wines 2023 Block 20 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). On the nose, this wine leads with well-defined aromas of red raspberry, plum, cocoa powder, and rose petals. The palate delivers plush tannin, juicy acidity, and flavors of Bing cherry, orange peel, flowers, and toasty spices through a long finish. —T.R.C.

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

95 Soquel Vineyards 2024 Coast Grade Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ben Lomond Mountain). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

95 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2024 Campbell Ranch Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). This vibrant Pinot delivers concentrated aromas of Bing cherry, sandalwood, orange peel, and cinnamon on the nose. The palate seamlessly balances rich tannin with nervy acidity and flavors of cherry, black plum, pithy citrus, purple flowers, and Darjeeling that linger for a full minute. Yummy now, this will really come into focus with a few years in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.

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

95 Waits-Mast 2023 Filigreen Farm Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). The nose on this wine is generous, offering aromas of dark cherry, sarsaparilla, candied orange, and crushed herbs. On the palate, waves of youthful plum swirl around the tongue, leading into strawberry, red currant jam, clove honey, and grippy tannins to finish. Decant or cellar until 2034. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

95 Walt 2024 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This more affordable appellation cuvée offers just as much impact as many of the single-vineyard expressions. Lush and lovely aromas of violet, açai, and black currant are both bold and juicy on the nose. Rich and ripe flavors of açai and blueberry are leveled by great acidic energy and a compelling tension. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Walt 2024 Clos Pepe Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A very fruity streak of cherry is cut by crushed slate and chai spice on the dynamic nose of this bottling. The palate is juicy, fresh, and vibrant, pairing candied strawberry with earthy lines that lead into a sappy finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

95 Wentworth 2024 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 5. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

94 Ancien 2023 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Fresh, vibrant, and lavish aromas of cherry, lilac, violet, and açai make for a detailed, delicious nose on this bottling. The palate is energized and boisterous with strawberry and blueberry flavors, enhanced with just a pinch of spice. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

94 Christopher Creek Winery 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of spiced raspberry compote, cherry, cinnamon, and cedar jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate feels sumptuous, with flavors of ripe cherry, orange peel, black tea, and cola spice that reverberate along the finish. Loads of "yum factor" here. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$129

94 Christopher Creek Winery 2023 Kasim Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The nose of this wine leads with aromas of roasted plum, cola spice, and roses, giving way to flavors of black cherry, cedar, cinnamon, and chopped green-herb mélange that ebb and flow on a river of orange peel acidity. There's an alluring freshness here that will thrill some drinkers. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$109

94 Convene By Dan Kosta 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Deep and concentrated aromas of Bing cherry, raspberry gastrique, cocoa powder, and flowers erupt on the nose of this wine. The palate is weighty, with loads of rich tannin, balanced acid, and rambunctious flavors of cherry jam, sweet cinnamon, crushed green herbs, roses, and plum. Some time in the cellar will bring this into focus nicely. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$58

94 David Bruce Winery 2022 Select Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Cherry compote, tomato leaf, eucalyptus oil, and crumpled sage aromas make for a dynamic nose on this bottling. The palate pairs sage and green-peppercorn flavors with a rich cranberry and grapefruit peel base that transcends the herbal notes. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

94 Domaine de la Rivière 2023 Heritage Block Vineyard Eleven Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). On the nose, this wine offers aromas of dusty cherry, cola spices, Darjeeling, and orange peel. The palate shows grippy tannin and vibrant acid, highlighting savory flavors of plum skin, black cherry, fried shiitake, black tea, and flowers through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$95

94 Domaine de la Rivière 2023 Red Barn Block Vineyard Eleven Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Bright aromas of pomegranate, sweet cinnamon, and roses drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of juicy raspberry, dusty cocoa, soy sauce, sandalwood, and stemmy herbs in a framework of plush tannin and lively acidity. There's a charming brightness on display here. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$95

94 Domaine Messier 2023 Cuvée Sagittaire Pinot Noir (Monterey). Baked strawberry and boysenberry aromas make for a bold entry to the nose of this wine, as Indian-like spices of toasted cardamom and anise add phenomenal depth. The palate is grippy, as firm tannins frame rich flavors of black cherry, cola spice, and cracked pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$88

94 Drew 2024 Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). Supple aromas rise from the glass of this wine, swirling with crushed Bing cherry, black strawberry, dried tuberose, and a whisper of lightly toasted French oak. On the palate, lively notes of red raspberry, rhubarb-pomegranate, peach slices, blood orange peel, and clove come with a mineral thread that

lingers through the finish. Pair with duck terrine. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$37

94 Dutcher Crossing 2023 Ferrington Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 5. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$51

94 Fort Ross 2024 Top of Land Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). Vibrant aromas of fresh raspberry, pomegranate, cinnamon, and flowers drive the nose of this Pinot. The palate is a juicy affair, with mouthwatering acidity framing flavors of tart cranberry, anise, violets, pithy orange peel, and stemmy herb mélange that persist for a solid minute on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Foursight 2022 Parabolli Charles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). The nose on this wine shows layers of fresh red berries, black tea, cardamom, and florals. Dense flavors on the palate convey black raspberry, black strawberry, bourbon-soaked cherry, coriander, and mocha that are rolled into dry, mouthwatering tannins on the finish. Decant or cellar until 2034. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

94 Furthermore Wines 2022 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 5. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

94 Furthermore Wines 2022 Gioia Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 6. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$80

94 Furthermore Wines 2022 Nevina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 6.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$90

94 Furthermore Wines 2022 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 6.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$80

94 Gary Farrell 2023 Hallberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Gary Farrell 2022 Terra de Promissio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of tart cranberry, roasted mushroom, black tea, and cinnamon highlight the nose of this wine. The palate gives focused acid and grippy tannin, with flavors of tart cherry, spiced cranberry, plum skin, clove, and orange peel through the finish. Some time in the cellar will soften this nicely. Drink 2030–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$85

94 Lussier 2023 Cote de Boont Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This is a unique blend from multiple high-elevation vineyards in Anderson Valley, especially exciting from this cooler vintage. The nose is supple, with aromas of raspberry coulis, brandied cherry, rose petals, and dried sagebrush. The palate highlights plum, pomegranate, amaro, and sour cherry, with laser-focused tannins on the finish. Watch and taste the journey of this wine. Decant or cellar until 2038. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Moret-Brealyynn 2024 Sexton Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Punchy aromas of spiced raspberry, black cherry, cedar, and orange peel swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate reveals layers of bright acidity and soft tannin framing flavors of baked plum, shiitake, rose petals, cinnamon, and dusty cocoa that ebb and flow over the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$72

94 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Pali Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). From the winery's estate vineyard, this bottling shows an elegant array of pot-pourri, black raspberry, and spicy cardamom on the nose. The palate is wrapped in a vise grip that tightens around menthol, strawberry, and cranberry flavors. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

94 Pellegrini-Olivet Lane 2023 Old Vine Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of concentrated Bing cherry, raspberry, dusty cocoa, and purple flowers jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers rich tannin and bright acid framing flavors of dark berries, violets, black tea, and cinnamon that expand across the finish. A little time in the cellar will soften this nicely. Drink 2028–2040. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Racines 2023 De Montille Estate Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This first bottling from this estate vineyard planted by Burgundian wizard Etienne de Montille shows immense promise. Brawny red fruit and earthy mushroom aromas make for a dark nose to start. The palate is richly layered in dark berry fruits that are decorated in thyme and fennel-pollen elements. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

94 Reeve 2023 Wendling North Slope Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This producer is known for small-production selections from little-known vineyards. In this bottling, the North Slope parcel has yielded intense and lush fruit, offering aromas of dark plum, strawberry, fresh florals, incense, and toasty oak on the nose. The palate is taut, with pomegranate, cranberry, orange zest, and a juicy finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Reeve 2023 Wendling Suitcase Block Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This producer is known for small production selections from little-

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known vineyards. The bottling is said to be from a suitcase clone meaning it was smuggled in a suitcase in secret. Vibrant aromas convey perfumed red fruit along with incense and layers of vanilla. The palette features flavors of boysenberry, black plum, ginger, black tea, and star anise, with baking spice and tannins at the finish. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$135

94 Sangiacomo Wines 2023 Block 21 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). The nose of this Pinot delivers intense aromas of cranberry, black tea, roses, and nori on the nose. These give way to flavors of black cherry, plum skin, fried shiitake, turned earth, and dusty cocoa in a framework of plush tannin and well-defined acidity. Loads to love here, especially with a little patience. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

94 Sangiacomo Wines 2023 Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This sultry Pinot comes with aromas of intense black cherry, cinnamon, and flowers on the nose. The palate brings a rich, earthy character, with flavors of black plum, cherry pit, pithy orange peel, dusty cocoa, and whispers of flowers and herbs at the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

94 Saracina 2023 Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This wine is classic Anderson Valley, reflecting the varied sites and styles of the region. Deep and earthy, the wine offers aromas of red-berry fruits, baking spice, sagebrush and dried florals on the nose. The palate conveys the tension of the tart red plum, raspberry, cranberry-rhubarb, and cedar. This wine is built to still thrive after 20-plus years in the cellar. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$40

94 Soquel Vineyards 2024 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A lighter color in the glass, this appellation blend offers lovely and delicate aromas of fresh and dried cherry with hints of earthy rhubarb and wet stone. The palate pairs cherry and strawberry flavors with crushed stone and chalky dust elements. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$30

94 Soquel Vineyards 2024 Ascona Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$60

94 Soquel Vineyards 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Sleek and polished aromas of raspberry sorbet, rose potpourri, and pine-needle-slaked soils show on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm, leathery tension and brilliant display of red fruit on the palate, where toasted sage adds depth. —M.K.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$50

94 Soquel Vineyards 2024 Pleasant Valley Farms Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Bright raspberry, crushed slate, and rose petal aromas make for a very chiseled nose on this bottling. The palate is more boisterous, offering cherry and straw-

berry flavors that are balanced by the stony minerality. —M.K.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$50

94 Three Sticks Wines 2024 Price Family Estates Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Lavish aromas of spiced cherry compote, plum, cinnamon, and flowers pop on the nose of this wine. The palate brings plush tannin and punchy acid framing a burst of fresh berry, floral, and cola spice flavors, giving way to nuances of orange peel, Darjeeling, and rose petal at the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$55

94 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2024 Fay's Reserve Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The nose of this wine absolutely soars with aromas of juicy cherries, crushed berries, and rose petals. On the palate, flavors of vibrant cherry-berry gastrique, black tea, cedar, and flowers unfurl in a framework of supple tannin balanced by orange peel acidity. While this is yummy now, patience will be rewarded. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$85

93 32 Winds 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Sultry aromas of roasted cherry, cranberry, sautéed mushroom, and thyme mingle on the nose of this complex and developed Pinot. The palate delivers powder-fine tannin and juicy acidity framing flavors of raspberry, plum, cola spices, and many, many flowers all along the finish of the wine. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$59

93 Albatross Ridge 2022 Cuvée Vivienne Pinot Noir (Monterey). Dank herbal aromas of sage, thyme, and pine needle show on the nose of this red-fruited bottling. The palate's zesty flavors range from tart raspberry to cranberry, with plenty of that herbal touch to keep it interesting. —M.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$64

93 Albatross Ridge 2022 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey). A lighter hue in the glass with a hint of brick, this bottling is loaded with sage-like terpenes on the nose as well as rustic hints of cranberry and grapefruit peel. The palate is very herbaceous, making for a savory sip layered in cranberry, orange peel, and rose petal flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$83

93 BloodRoot 2024 Coastal California Pinot Noir (North Coast). This producer specializes in low-intervention, cool-climate wines, allowing the true nature of the site and region to shine through. Generous aromas on the nose suggest darker fruits of strawberry, raspberry, and savory herbs, with minimal oak. Flavors on the palate are structured yet full, delivering lifted cranberry, pomegranate, and orange zest, with a creaminess midpalate and a juicy, dry finish. Pair with grilled Arctic char and parsnip-leek puree. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$25

93 BloodRoot 2023 Coastal California Pinot Noir (North Coast). BloodRoot specializes in

low-intervention, cool-climate wines. This bottling is crunchy, with aromas of youthful strawberry, raspberry, fresh fine herbs, and minimal oak on the nose. The aromatics open immediately in the glass, creating a saturated mouthfeel on the palate. Pair with grilled salmon, baby squash, and herbed butter. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$25

93 Blue Farm 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Concentrated aromas of black cherry, raspberry, orange peel, and cinnamon swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers rich tannin structure and silky acidity, with flavors of cranberry, black tea, violets, and spice all across a long finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Reserve Pinot Noir (High Valley). This bright wine delivers aromas of youthful plum, Bing cherry, savory herbs, and mineral on the nose. The flavors on the palate are strawberry, rhubarb, pomegranate, orange peel, bittersweet chocolate, and acidity on the finish. Aerate or cellar until 2035. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$65

93 Christopher Creek Winery 2023 Lavio Vineyards Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Vivid aromas of crushed berries, root beer, roses, and tea swirl on the nose of this Pinot. The palate delivers rich tannin and juicy acid, with flavors of baked cherry, orange peel, cinnamon, and toasted spiced lingering for over a minute. It's a more savory style that will pair with a wide range of foods. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$109

93 Convene By Dan Kosta 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Juicy cherry, strawberry, and flower aromas drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings bright acidity and plush tannin, with flavors of black cherry coulis, Darjeeling, fried shiitake, and nori. Nuances of pithy orange peel and star anise arise throughout the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$58

93 Copain Wines 2022 Maggy Hawk Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Super bright and crunchy, this wine offers aromas of dark strawberry, pomegranate, Red Vines, sage, and a hint of oak on the nose. The palate delivers tart red plum, Bing cherry, celery salt, and silky tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 12.1%

Price: \$85

93 DeLoach Vineyards 2023 Marin Pinot Noir (Marin County). This wine is a selection from a certified sustainable leader in the industry. The aromatics are fresh and savory, with youthful berries, red plum, orange zest, and allspice on the nose. Flavors convey tart strawberry, cranberry-rhubarb, nutmeg, bittersweet chocolate, and supple tannins. Pair with grilled salmon and roasted new potatoes. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

93 Deux Seraus Wines 2022 West Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Pleasant cherry aromas are dusted in chaparral and tilled soil elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate begins with a candied fruit flavor that's quickly leveled by toasted sage and dusty earth touches, as a leathery texture leads through the minty finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$42

93 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Devil's Gulch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Marin County). This zesty wine offers aromas of black strawberry, raspberry, boysenberry jam, dried florals, and toasty oak. These elements lead into grilled blood orange, sage, and a wallop of ripe red plum, cardamom, and mineral, with a dry finish. Aerate or cellar until 2032. Pair with grilled duck breast and orange herbed jus. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$95

93 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Dutton Ranch Snow Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). On the nose, this wine delivers punchy aromas of fresh cherry, raspberry coulis, cola spice, and flowers. The palate balances juicy acidity with plush tannin and flavors of Bing cherry, zesty orange peel, rose petals, and cinnamon on a minute-long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$80

93 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Emerald Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Lively black cherry, rose petal, and Darjeeling aromas swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate gives crunchy tannin and balanced acidity, with flavors of tart raspberry, cranberry, cinnamon, and chopped herbs along the finish. Drink this with grilled quail and mushrooms. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

93 Dutton-Goldfield 2023 McDougall Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). Aromas of spiced cherry, milk chocolate, roses, and orange peel swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate brings the pleasant grip of tannin and lively acidity framing flavors of raspberry gastrique, black plum, cinnamon, and whispers of lemon thyme through the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Fort Ross 2024 The Terraces Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). Lavish aromas of black cherry, rose petal, cola spice, and cedar swirl on the nose of this wine. The weighty palate delivers grippy tannin and flavors of concentrated raspberry, licorice, and chopped herb-spice mélange. A little time in the cellar will soften the edges nicely. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Furthermore Wines 2022 Starbridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). This lively wine delivers aromas of Bing cherry, cranberry, orange peel, and cinnamon on the nose. The palate is supple and acid driven, with some crunchy tannin for structure and flavors of cranberry compote, fresh

raspberry, rose petal, and shiitake along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$85

93 Gregory James Wines 2019 Bacigalupi Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Roasty aromas of baked cherry and grilled mushrooms drive the nose of this complex and well-developed Pinot. The palate brings plush tannic structure with supple acidity and flavors of berry compote, toasty bread, cedar, barrel spice, and flowers all along the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

93 Handley Cellars 2024 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Perfect, sumptuous aromas of juicy dark strawberry, cassis, portobello mushroom, and simmering spices are the top notes on the nose of this wine. Flavors convey youthful boysenberry, pomegranate, cola, cardamom, and earth, with supple tannins on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

93 Keller Estate 2023 El Coro Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Vibrant aromas of Bing cherry, raspberry, cedar, and flowers swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers richly textured tannin and energetic acidity, with flavors of cherry, cinnamon, roses, black tea, and sage mingling along all through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

93 Keller Estate 2023 Precioso Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of tart raspberry, cocoa powder, flowers, and orange peel drive the nose of this wine. The palate feels rich but precise, with grippy tannin balanced by focused acid and flavors of cherry, cranberry, clove, cinnamon, and Darjeeling coming in waves throughout the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70

93 Kendric Vineyards 2024 Loup Solitaire Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap-Marin County). Parts of Marin County can get cold, which creates tension and beautiful aromas in a wine. This selection, from a vintage that does not disappoint, offers high-toned red fruit, minerality, and grippy tannins. Rich, unctuous strawberry fruit shows in the middle of the palate, along with citrus peel, coriander, mineral, and a generous finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Nicholson Ranch 2023 Cactus Hill Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The nose of this wine delivers bright aromas of dusty cherry, plum skin, root beer, roses, and black tea. Plush tannin and balanced acid on the palate join flavors of tart berries, clove, cinnamon, and cocoa powder, finishing with hints of mushroom tart and turned earth. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$100

93 Nicholson Ranch 2023 Dry Farmed Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Bombastic aromas of concentrated cherry, orange peel, cola spice, and dark chocolate jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers weighty tannic structure, juicy

acid, and flavors of cranberry compote, fried shiitake, nori, and green herbs through the finish of the wine. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$105

93 Nicholson Ranch 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Sweet cherry and cinnamon aromas absolutely erupt on the nose of this wine. The palate is a wave of concentrated Bing cherry, cola, and black tea flavors that expand across the midpalate and lift the finish, with nuances of rose petal and star anise. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$75

93 Nicholson Ranch 2022 Nirvana Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Lifted aromas of baked cherry, cola spice, cedar, and flowers jump from the glass on the nose of this lavish wine. Bright and textural, the palate features rich tannin, juicy acid, and flavors of berry coulis, barrel spice, plum tart, orange peel, and rose petals across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$115

93 Panther Ridge 2023 Reserve Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of sour cherry, cranberry, Darjeeling, and purple flowers swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate is juicy and fresh, balancing orange peel acidity with grippy tannin and flavors of baked plum tart, shiitake, floral herb mélange and pithy citrus on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

93 Papapietro Perry 2023 Peters Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Bright and lively aromas of fresh cherry, crushed raspberry, roses, and herbs vibrate on the nose of this wine. The palate balances zippy orange-peel acidity and smooth tannin, with flavors of juicy berry, crystalline cherry, cinnamon, and cedar along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$69

93 Patz & Hall 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of dusty cherry, spiced plum, fried shiitake, and cinnamon drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a pop of lively cranberry alongside nuances of cocoa powder, orange peel, and sandalwood across the richly tannic finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Reeve 2024 Septime Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The nose of this wine brings aromas of pomegranate, fresh raspberry, orange peel, and flowers, giving way to flavors of concentrated Bing cherry, licorice, sage leaf, and lemon thyme through the palate. Pair this with roasted duck and berry gastrique. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$40

93 Reeve 2024 Ya Moon Pinot Noir (Potter Valley). This fresh, small-barrel selection comes from a region best known for Sauvignon Blanc. Vivacious, the wine features aromas of red berries, citrus, florals, and toasty oak on the nose. The juicy palate delivers orchard fruits, strawberries, raspberries,

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spearmint, and a supple, dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$42

93 Russian River Vineyards 2023 Classic Cuvée Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Dusty cherry, spiced berry, cocoa powder, and floral aromas highlight the nose of this wine. The palate feels soft and decadent, with powder-fine tannin, lifted acidity, and flavors of smoked plum, turned earth, roses, cedar, and tangerine along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$47

93 Sangiacomo Wines 2023 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). With a few swirls, the nose of this wine begins to give aromas of roasted cherry, fresh strawberry, green herbs, and citrus peel. The palate feels broad and layered, with rich tannin framing flavors of cherry, salted plum, Darjeeling, and rose petal across the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Tamber Bey 2023 UV Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of roasted strawberry, cherry, plum compote, and licorice swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate has juicy acidity and supple tannin, with flavors of black cherry, raspberry liqueur, violets, and roasted porcini mushroom that echo on the lengthy finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

93 The Vice 2023 The House Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). Surprisingly aromatic and nuanced, this wine memorably combines subtlety with persistence. Red cherries, currants, and spice are lifted by cherry blossoms, rose petals, and cedar, delivering a round palate of flavor that floats into a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

93 Three Sticks Wines 2023 One Sky Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain). Complex and elegant, this wine leads with aromas of fresh cranberry, black tea, and dried sage on the nose. The palate gives more of that tart berry and Darjeeling vibe, with flavors of rose petal, green herbs, and mushroom duxelles emerging on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$85

93 Tlo 2023 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Black plum and brawny boysenberry aromas meet with charred meat and hints of smoke on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite bold with dark, plummy fruit flavors that are dusted in anise and cardamom. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$45

93 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2024 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Punchy aromas of raspberry, Bing cherry, black tea, and flowers erupt from the glass on the nose of this elegant wine. The palate balances rich tannin with bright acid, offering flavors of concentrated cherry, black plum, sassafras, roses, and cinnamon all along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Walt 2024 Rita's Crown Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Bold aromas of charred meats and black cherries are savory on the nose of this bottling. That savory tone extends through the palate, where dark plummy flavors are dusted in sagebrush spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$90

92 Cavalli e Vigne 2023 Toyon Farm Vineyard Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). An attractive glimmering ruby in the glass, this wine offers aromas of dried blossoms, powdered sage, and white pepper on the nose, continuing into flavors of bramble, wild berries, mandarin, and grapefruit pith. Tannins are fine grained while offering poise and structure, delivering a Pinot Noir with palate density, litheness, and length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$95

92 Copain Wines 2022 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Staying true to the ecosystem of the brand, this bottling offers vivacious fruit, with aromas of zesty raspberry, youthful boysenberry, and savory herbs. These elements roll into cranberry and rhubarb on the palate, along with citrus zest, mineral, and a snappy finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$55

92 Fennell Family Wines 2023 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Quite light hued in the glass, this bottling pairs cranberry, pomegranate, and hibiscus with a lightly earthy tone on the nose. The palate is subtly textural and easygoing, with fruit punch and orange peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Fort Ross 2024 Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). Juicy dark berry and cherry flavors mingle on the nose of this wine. The palate brings plush tannin and balanced acidity, with flavors of crushed black cherry, cinnamon, cedar, and pithy orange peel through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

92 Furthermore Wines 2022 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Pristine and elegant aromas of red and purple fruits are dusted in spices on the nose of this bottling. Lighter bodied and brisk, the palate pairs tart raspberry, lemon peel, and peppercorn flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Furthermore Wines 2022 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Clean aromas of cherry and raspberry are layered in earth on the nose of this bottling. The palate is pure and light with red fruit, oregano, and pepper flavors that should grow even more interesting with time. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$70

92 Keller Estate 2023 La Cruz Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of fresh cherry, raspberry concentrate, cinnamon, and hints of black tea swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate is soft and well rounded, with supple tannin and balanced acid

framing flavors of Bing cherry, cranberry, cola, roses, and sage through the finish of the wine. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Kleinlerer 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of dusty cherry, cranberry, chopped herbs, and black tea dominate the nose of this wine. The palate is a nervy mix of bright acid and crunchy tannin, with flavors of tart cranberry, cocoa, and Darjeeling mingling before a pithy and herb-tinged finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$49

92 MacRostie 2023 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Aromas of bright cherry, raspberry, orange peel, and fried shiitake drive the nose of this wine. The palate feels silky and weighty, with lively cherry, cola, and cedar flavors framed by barrel spice. Echoes of earth and purple flowers linger on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Pali Wine Co. 2023 Riviera Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The nose of this wine pops with aromas of concentrated Bing cherry, cocoa powder, cola spices, and fried shiitake. The palate balances lively acid with gripping tannin and flavors of roasted raspberry-blueberry, cedar, flowers, and pithy orange peel into the energetic finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Rancho La Viña Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Bold aromas of dried cherry, tar, and dank herbs meet with a sanguine minerality on the nose of this wine. The palate is awash in savory and stemmy pine-forest flavors, with hints of red fruit to bring balance. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$85

92 Papapietro Perry 2023 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Tart cherry, floral potpourri, cinnamon, and orange zest aromas pop from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate brings waves of roasted berry, fresh plum, and purple flowers framed by plush acidity and polished tannin. Drink now–2030. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$64

92 Papapietro Perry 2023 Leras Family Vineyards Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Sweet berry, cassis, cinnamon, and cocoa powder aromas jump from the glass of this wine. These give way to plush cherry, orange peel, cola spice, and flowers on the plushly textured palate before a long and pithy finish. Drink this with roasted duck and berry gastrique. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$69

92 Reynolds Family Winery 2023 Corotto Vineyard Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). Deeply ruby to garnet-colored in the glass, this Pinot Noir from the Carneros area delivers the concentrated dark-red fruits possible from the region, alongside cherry bark, crunchy seed spice, and wild flowers. Full bodied and palate filling, the wine captures intensity with a ripe, round flavor. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$54

92 **Soquel Vineyards 2024 Partners' Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Candied raspberry, rose petal, fine dust, and Red Hot cinnamon candy aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate's cherry soda-like flavors are cut by blood orange elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

92 **Tamber Bey 2023 Mes Filles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Joyful aromas of flowers, raspberries, chocolate, and licorice jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate displays plush tannin, vibrant acid, and layers of black cherry, cinnamon, cedar, and rose petal flavors in a framework of elegant barrel structure. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$85

92 **Vine Wrangler 2023 Highland Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Robust aromas of fresh Bing cherry, toasty spices, rose petal, and orange peel swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate is a savory pop of bright acid, plush tannin, and flavors of tart berries, plum compote, fried shiitake, and black tea across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

91 **Albatross Ridge 2022 Cuvée Owen Pinot Noir (Monterey).** A bit cloudy in the glass, this bottling is quite sanguine on the nose, showing sagebrush, thyme, and sour cherry aromas. The palate carries the chaparral spices forward, picking up orange rind and cranberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$67

91 **Benziger Family Winery 2023 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 16. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$20

91 **David Bruce Winery 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Dark fruit and spice aromas range from cola and cardamom to roasted plum on the nose of this bottling. The palate's rustic cherry flavors are wrapped in a leathery texture with ample baking spice, as the wine's age starts to show even as acidity persists. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

91 **Dutton-Goldfield 2023 Azaya Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** The aroma of roasted cherry dominates the nose of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of rich berry coulis, cocoa powder, plum skin, and fried shiitake in a framework of rich tannin and barrel spice before giving way to cedar and rose petals on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

91 **Fort Ross Vineyard 2024 Sea Slopes Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Aromas of dusty cherry, spiced raspberry coulis, cinnamon, and roses flow from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is plushly textured, with rich tannin framing flavors of baked berry pie, cinnamon, black tea, and sandalwood. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 **Hartford Court 2023 Sevens Bench Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Deep ruby in the glass, this wine offers hearty aromas and flavors of crunchy cranberry, ripe berries, bramble, cherry bark, and baking spices. Tannins with a texture of sheered velvet create a pleasing mouthfeel and a fuller-feeling palate experience. Hearty, generous, and well structured. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$78

91 **Hendry 2023 Reserve Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** Deep ruby in the glass, this wine offers aromas and flavors of red and black cherry, cranberry, pomegranate, brambles, and a finish of tobacco leaf. Tannins are tactile while fine, well balanced by lengthy acidity generating a hearty expression of Pinot Noir. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$70

91 **Lecavalier Cellars 2023 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** The nose of this wine delivers aromas of dark berries, cinnamon, and sarsaparilla on the nose. These give way to layers of black plum, cherry, stemmy mushroom, and black tea across the palate before a plush and tannic finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

91 **Pali Wine Co. 2023 Huntington Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Bright cherry and strawberry aromas lead into an earthy rhubarb element on the nose of this bottling. The palate's candied cherry flavors are lifted by eucalyptus and menthol elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 **Papapietro Perry 2023 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** On the nose, this wine swirls with aromas of fresh plum, jammy raspberry, and lemon peel. The palate delivers smooth tannin, balanced acid, and generous flavors of berry punch, cedar, and cut flowers through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$64

91 **Pellegrini 2023 R.R.V. Cuvée Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Dark aromas of black plum, cherry, and shiitake jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate delivers bright acid structure, with supple tannins and flavors of Bing cherry, black tea, roses, and cedar through the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$40

91 **Russian River Vineyards 2023 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** This bottling, which is lighter colored in the glass, shows aromas of rhubarb, red currant, and rose petal on the expressive nose. The palate has a bright core of raspberry that's layered in peppery spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

91 **Seance 2023 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 16. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

91 **Ten to Life 2024 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Aquinas 2023 Pinot Noir (North Coast).** Bright, wind-swept acidity is on the nose, with aromas of youthful strawberry, raspberry, and citrus spiked with toasty oak. The palate has some concentration of darker berries, orange peel, coriander, and dried herbs. Classic addition to the table. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Bernardus 2023 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling shows sagebrush, anise, and thyme aromas on the red-fruit-driven nose. The palate surrounds baked strawberry and sour cherry flavors, with flashes of herbs and stems adding depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27

90 **Bonterra Organic Estates 2023 Made with Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** Warm, simmering spices permeate the aromas of Bing cherry preserve, dark strawberry, and crushed herbs on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate bring together orange segments, raspberry-rhubarb, sagebrush, earth, and mineral on the finish. Pair with crispy polenta and sautéed mushrooms. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22

90 **Cuvaison 2023 Adda Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** Dried blossoms, aniseed, and baking spice spin through red and dark cherries with a hint of cranberry. Mixed berries continue to emerge as air opens flavors of this wine further. Tannins are supple and balanced into a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$95

90 **Hahn 2024 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

90 **Heath Vineyards 2021 Pinot Noir (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Potent aromas of cherry compote and baking spice are rich on the nose of this bottling, which is just starting to show its age. The palate is hearty and tart, pairing baked fruit flavors with leathery tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$100

90 **Mascarin Family Wines 2023 Moonshine Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Aromas of dusty cherry, spiced plum, fried shiitake, and cinnamon drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers a pop of lively cranberry alongside nuances of cocoa powder, orange peel, and sandalwood across the richly tannic finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$69

90 **Pali Wine Co. 2022 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Damp sagebrush and dark tarragon aromas meet with plummy fruit on the nose of this bottling. The palate's tart red currant and cranberry flavors are awash in those dank herbal tones. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$85

89 DeLoach Vineyards 2024 Pinot Noir (California). This bottling is part of a special project emphasizing certified sustainability. Lush aromas of raspberry, baking spice, and toasty oak lead up to a juicy finish with texture. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

89 Subterra 2023 Pinot Noir (California). This new project from a legacy winemaking family celebrates the bounty of California. The wine is earthy. Aromas of bright red fruit, toasty oak, and florals skip into darker raspberry and orange peel on the palate, with a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

89 Truth & Valor 2023 Pinot Noir (Paso Robles). Clean and easy aromas of cherry sorbet are quite pleasant on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a decent grip and finely presented flavors of red fruit and baking spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

88 Earth to Glass 2023 Pinot Noir (Monterey). Struck stone and strawberry aromas make for a fine entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up more tart aromas of red plum skin as well as opulent cherry elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$35

88 Roshambo 2024 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Cherry sorbet aromas are clean if simple on the nose of this bottling. The palate of the wine is almost sweet with baked red plum and baking spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

87 Akira 2024 Pinot Noir (California). This producer is a leader in organic, vegan, and no-sugar-added selections. Super light, the wine offers aromas of raspberry jam, cherry, and soft acidity on the nose. The palate has flavors of strawberry preserves, orange peel, cola, and a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

87 Chester. 2024 Pinot Noir (Monterey). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers red plum, wet earth, and light thyme aromas. The palate is subtle with red plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$35

86 Napa Cellars 2023 Pinot Noir (Napa County). This wine's mix of cherries, cranberry, cherry bark, and cracked pine gains a lift of fresh herbs, dried hay, and aniseed. Rustic and direct with a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$22

85 Vineyard Block Estate 2023 515 Special Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros). This opulent Pinot Noir features red cherry, cranberry, and pomegranate layered through with cherry blossom and bark as well as oak spices. Tannins melt across the palate culminating in a full-bodied finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

98 Larkmead 2023 Solari Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Built of power with finesse and depth, this wine unites deeply toned opulence with the structure and restraint for long aging. Entirely Cabernet Sauvignon, it comes from an older section of the estate vineyard known for its natural density of flavor and ample while silken tannins. Cassis, tobacco, cracked pine, and sage lead into graphite and a dry-earth finish. An impressive wine to fill the palate with flavor while keeping the mouth fresh for an evening of enjoyment. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$200

98 Ulysses 2021 Ulysses Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15% Price: \$180

97 Larkmead 2023 The Lark Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine delivers a balance of finesse and lush pleasure. Tobacco, thyme, cracked pine, sage, graphite, and a complex of currants, black plum skin, and cherry blossom lift from the glass and carry all the way into the finish. Tannins are lithe with a succulent mouthfeel, lingering into a pleasingly earthy, savory, and brightening close. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$300

96 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2022 Passing By Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Deep and potent aromas of black cherry and berry are laced in caramel and molasses cookie on the rich nose of this bottling. Dark berry flavors are ripe on the palate but balanced by light touches of herb and a firm tannic frame. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$92

95 JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery 2023 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 4. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$60

95 Soquel Vineyards 2023 Consonante Lago Lomita Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

95 Spottswode 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Floral aromas join a complex of red berries and purple plums on the nose of this wine. The palate reveals cassis, cedar, a pleasing earthiness, and a graphite finish. Tannins the texture of sheer velvet maintain an open weave, creating a Cabernet Sauvignon that is both plush and poised. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$285

94 BuonGuido 2023 Mazzetti Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Concentrated raspberry, currant, pencil lead, and tobacco aromas highlight the nose of this wine. The palate displays polished tannin and silky acidity, with flavors of

blackberry, baked plum, violets, barrel spice, and turned earth along the finish. This wine will soften nicely in the cellar. Drink 2030–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$105

94 Herzog 2023 Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). For full review see page 6. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

94 Orin Swift 2023 Mercury Head Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$180

94 The Vice 2023 Mona Lisa Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). An energetic, lithe, and compelling vintage joins a consistent vineyard and polished winemaking for a stand-out Cabernet. Aromatics burst from the glass following into a finessed and persistent palate. A balance of dark fruits meets a complex of herbs, earth, and integrated spices for a lush while sophisticated wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$220

94 The Vice 2023 The Judgement Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$128

94 Vincent Vineyards 2022 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Olivos District). The new-ish team at this estate is amplifying the property's immense potential. This wine begins with elegant aromas of black cherry, strawberry, cocoa, and licorice. The palate lands smoothly, with tannins that slowly rise through flavors of dark strawberry, pepper, and fennel pollen into the blackberry jam finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$135

94 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2023 Las Flores Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

94 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2023 See Clone Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$150

94 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2023 V Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$125

93 Broadbent 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

93 Domaine Helena 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). This special barrel selection was produced for the Swedish market, but is available in the U.S. as well. Established in 1974, the vineyard is set at 1,100 feet and focuses on clone 7. The structure of the wine is firm and the nose aromatic, with dark

fruit, bittersweet chocolate, caramel, and dried herbs. Rich and saturated, the palate brings flavors of blackberry, cassis, black tea, cedar, allspice, and a supple finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$38

93 **Domaine Helena 2023 Mount St. Helena Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).**

This is the regular bottling of the product. Aromatics convey blueberry, black raspberry, allspice, dried violets, and Tahitian vanilla on the nose. The flavors on the palate are broad and saturated with boysenberry, huckleberry, cardamom, and acidity, with gripping tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$38

93 **Dwelle Family Wines 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Clarksburg).**

Supple aromas of black currant confiture, baked dark plum, lanolin, dried roses, and toasty oak arise on the nose of this wine. Flavors feature black licorice, blackberry jam, orange marmalade, allspice, mocha, and silky tannins on the finish. Aerate and enjoy with lamb kebabs. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 15.5% Price: \$30

93 **Ironstone 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sierra Foothills).**

This high-elevation Cabernet Sauvignon offers aromas of blackberry, boysenberry, star anise, allspice, and toasted vanilla on the nose. Concentrated flavors on the palate deliver lush blue fruits, dark plum, sage, tobacco, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

93 **John Anthony Vineyards 2020 Calistoga Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga).**

Violet and black-cherry aromas on the nose of this wine continue into plush flavors of chocolate-covered dark fruits, including fig, and a sip of spiced mocha. Smooth tannins join an almost velvety mouthfeel for a generous and full-bodied Cabernet focused on pleasure. —E.C.B.

abv: 15.2% Price: \$160

93 **Ladera 2022 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak).**

Luscious aromas and flavors of dripping-ripe, dark fruits layered with oak spices gain graphite and gunmetal midpalate through finish. Full bodied and almost burly, the tannins of this wine bring impact and structure to lavish flavor. Decant and enjoy with a meal or hold for several years in cellar. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$169

93 **McGrail Vineyards and Winery 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).**

For full review see page 8. *Editor's Choice.*

abv: 14.7% Price: \$49

93 **Peachy Canyon 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).**

Intense blackberry aromas are lifted by savory hints of cumin on the nose of this bottling. An herbal pine-needle kick cuts into the berry

flavors that ride a lingering grip through the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

93 **Projection 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).**

For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5% Price: \$19

93 **Reynolds Family Winery 2021 Diamond Mountain Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).**

Boldly aromatic and flavorful, with muscular tannins and a rich, upright frame, this wine brings together detail and tension, alongside dark fruits, earthy and mineral flavors, and spiced cocoa. Tannins are built for aging while remain silken through the finish, balanced by lingering acidity and a gunmetal close. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$210

93 **Serres Ranch 2021 Marshall Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).**

The nose of this wine displays robust aromas of black plum, cherry, chopped mint, cinnamon, and baking chocolate. The palate is broad and rich, with opulent tannin framing flavors of spiced plum compote, blackberry coulis, balsamic, and herbs through the finale. —T.R.C.

abv: 15.1% Price: \$115

93 **Sextant 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).**

A dark, silky color in the glass, this bottling is the official wine of U.S. Sailing. Seamlessly woven on the nose, it pairs lush, dark fruit with ample woodspice. The palate is rich but not overdone, as persistent tannins present bold berry and oak spice flavors. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 15% Price: \$25

93 **Sierra Vista 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (El Dorado).**

Opulent, this wine offers ribbons of mineral, dark berry, dark plum, dried roses, and flint on the nose. The palate conveys blueberry pie, baked dark cherry, allspice, sage, tobacco, and acidity to finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$34

93 **The Meeker Vineyard 2021 Winemaker's Handprint Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).**

Savory aromas of toasted cumin, black pepper, tobacco, and chopped herbs mingle with black fruits on the nose of this wine. The palate displays potent tannin and nicely balanced acid framing flavors of spiced berry, plum, currant, and dark chocolate across the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$79

93 **Tiger Lily 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (El Dorado).**

Deep, dense, ample and silky, this wine offers aromas of blackberry, graham cracker crust, violets, and vanilla on the nose. The flavors on the palate are black currant confiture, bittersweet chocolate, mint, and cedar, with grippy tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$44

93 **Trinchero Napa Valley 2022 Tale of Brothers Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).**

Aromas of dried rose, lilac, and woodsy spice linger into bursting flavors of red currant and mixed cherries. Layers of oak spice bring lush flavor to this lengthy Cabernet. Enjoy now with a meal or hold for several years in cellar. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$150

93 **Vincent Vineyards 2022 Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Olivos District).**

Dark fruit and toasted wood aromas work together seamlessly on the nose of this bottling. The palate is smooth in texture, as polished tannins frame the dark cherry and licorice flavors that cruise through the spice rack with glee. —M.K.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$85

92 **Adruni Vineyards 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley).**

For full review see page 9.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

92 **Bella Union 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).**

Full bodied with dense aromatics and intensity of flavor, this Cabernet Sauvignon captures the brooding character of the variety, bringing together a wash of dark fruits with fresh-picked tobacco, spiced mocha, and a finish of forest floor and graphite. Tannins are polished and persistent to complete the wine. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$220

92 **BuonGuido 2023 LuBiGi Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley).**

This richly extracted Cabernet delivers aromas of roasted plum, blackberry, pencil shavings, cocoa, and violets on the nose. These give way to flavors of concentrated black cherry, plum skin, graphite, and black pepper on the palate before a mineral-driven, softly tannic finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$85

92 **Burgess Cellars 2018 Contadina Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).**

A classic Howell Mountain Cabernet, this fills the palate with flavor while almost floating through the mouth. Tannins melt and linger, balanced by persistent acidity and mountain flavor. Aromas of red and black currants, roast meats, and bay laurel continue into flavors of charcoal and cracked pine. Hearty, verging on rustic, and full of length. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

92 **Burgess Cellars 2017 Sorenson's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).**

Bold aromas and generous flavors combine with melting tannins and a lot of length for an upfront, still thoughtful mountain Cabernet. Baked dark plums and berries join cacao nib, fresh herbs, cedar, and graphite for a hearty wine ready to be enjoyed now, or left to rest in cellar for the next several years. —E.C.B.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$175

92 **Crossbarn by Paul Hobbs 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).**

Deeply colored ruby, this wine offers aromas of violets, dark fruit, and a pleasing waft of forest floor. Flavors reveal dark chocolate and cocoa spun through with spice and a sip

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of black coffee. This is a friendly while poised Cabernet Sauvignon with plenty of fruit that reveals layers of interest with further sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Duckhorn Vineyards 2022 Three Palms Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Full of intensity and direct delivery, this bottling from the iconic vineyard pours full, with aromas and flavors of black fruits, dusty earth, and layers of baking spice. Tactile tannins and a lush, textural mouthfeel coat the palate through an elongated finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$115

92 Grgich Hills Estate 2022 Miljenko's Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Bold and upright, this is a wine of concentration and opulence. Layers of sandalwood, incense, and fennel spin through ripe berries, cassis, and candied plum. Tobacco leaf and cracked pine emerge from the mid-palate. Tannins are fine grained while abundant, persisting into a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

92 Grgich Hills Estate 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Deep violet in the glass with dense aromas and intense flavor, this wine joins sweet spices with cassis, ripe plum, wet tobacco, and dark chocolate touched by ginger and graphite. Tannins are plush and palate coating, bringing a structural focus and plenty of length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$73

92 Groth 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Dark fruit and forest aromas gain tobacco and graphite flavors. The palate of this wine is juicy, carried by tannins with an open weave, while still retaining cleansing structure and length. Satisfying and persistent. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$80

92 Grounded Wine Co. 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Opulent, this wine offers aromas of black currant preserve, huckleberry, and star anise on the nose. The flavors on the palate are black plum, cassis, sagebrush, and sweet cocoa, with silky tannins on the finish. Pair with your favorite burger. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

92 Heron 2024 Laely Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Layers of red, purple, and black fruits spun through with oak spices and tobacco are poised by fine-grained tannins and a juicy midpalate on this wine. Cocoa and a light earthy finish emerge with further sipping. A fresh, pleasing Cabernet. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Heron 2023 Laely Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). For full review see page 10. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Herzog 2023 Lineage Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). For full review see page 10. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

92 John Anthony Vineyards 2020 Twisted Oak Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). Bold, full bodied, and intense, this wine from the cooler southern parts of Napa Valley combines the dark fruits and woody aromas of the region with tobacco, oiled leather, and a savory finish. Tannins are pliable while keeping an upright structure persisting through a moderate finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$160

92 JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 10. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

92 Klinker Brick Winery 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This robust wine tantalizes the senses with intense aromas of dark plum, dried coriander seed, fresh florals, and clove. The first sip delivers palate-coating boysenberry confiture, blackberry jam, allspice, orange zest, black tea, and bittersweet chocolate, culminating in supple, juicy tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

92 Ladera 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Lush aromas of wild plums, purple and black berries rolled in cocoa, and cracked pine lead into a full palate of flavor on this wine. Earthy and foresty notes emerge from the midpalate alongside opulent fruits. Tannins are powdery fine and coat the mouth, carried into a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$159

92 Lupin Ranch 2023 Mountain Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). This high-elevation selection is sourced from a volcanic site. The fruit is concentrated, rich yet not overdone, with aromas of dark cassis, blackberry, crystallized ginger, and sedimentary rock on the nose. The flavors on the palate are robust, yet surprisingly gentle across the mouth, conveying dark cherry, boysenberry, black plum, coriander, truffle, Himalayan salt, and supple, grippy tannins to round out the finish. Aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 McGrail Vineyards and Winery 2022 James Vincent Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Dense aromas of concentrated boysenberry and olallieberry preserve are exalting, giving violets, incense, sarsaparilla and French vanilla on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate convey blackberry confiture, black currant, grilled orange peel, molasses, cardamom, and silky tannins to finish. Pair with grilled double pork chops. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$79

92 Meadowcroft Wines 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

92 Oberon 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). Lush aromas of mixed currants and plums layered with spiced cocoa and espresso grounds linger into rich flavors of ripe, black fruits with crushed cacao nib. Full bodied with generosity and powdery-fine, palate-coating tannins, this is a hearty wine built for satisfaction. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$29

92 Orin Swift 2023 Palermo Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$70

92 Reynolds Family Winery 2022 Reserve Annapurna Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Bold, upfront, and opulent, this Cabernet Sauvignon features the dark fruit and lush side of Napa Valley. Full bodied with plenty of flavor, concentration, and impact, it is for wine lovers who want palate-coating richness with a finish that lasts the evening. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$156

92 Scarlett Wines 2022 McGah Family Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Richly flavored, succulent, and enveloping, this Cabernet Sauvignon captures the lush, full-bodied side of the variety. Juicy mixed berries clothed in dark chocolate with a sprinkle of spice linger, carried by palate-coating tannins that create a lavish mouthfeel. Aromatics continue to lift in the glass, revealing flowering herbs through the finish. Made for pleasure, this wine will continue to develop in bottle for the next 15 years and more. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$74

92 Silver Ghost 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Lush, almost velvety, this full-bodied wine balanced by juicy acidity is mouthfilling and flavorful. Blue, black, and purple berries join mocha and spice, with cedar wafting through the finish. Generous, bold, and broad shouldered for a robust experience made for food. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Silverado Vineyards 2022 GEO Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Deep violet in the glass, this wine offers brooding aromas of blue and black plums, bramble, and cherry bark that lead into flavors of integrated oak spices and an earthy, forest-aroma finish. Tannins keep the palate stimulated while remaining approachable, lingering through a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$92

92 Silverado Vineyards 2022 SOLO Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Generous aromas of dark fruits, dried herbs, and earth carry into flavors of mixed berries and sweet cocoa. A pour of cassis and orange zest emerge from the midpalate, adding another moment of rich flavor to this full-bodied, structural, and persistent Cabernet Sauvignon. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$180

92 Trinchero Napa Valley 2022 All the Hats Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Lush and flavorful, this bottling features a mix of dark berries, dried tobacco, and oak spices that are carried by polished tannins into a persistent finish. Boldly flavored and opulent, the wine remains bright and textural across the palate. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

92 Trinchero Napa Valley 2022 Central Park West Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Opulent while dripping with flavor, this wine delivers a mix of dark berries rolled in cocoa and dark chocolate with a sprinkle of spice. Dried tobacco and resinous herbs emerge on the palate bringing an additional layer of interest through the close. Tannins coat the mouth while remaining fine grained, lingering through the finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

92 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Organically farmed, this wine comes from the iconic Volker Estate in the slightly hidden Chiles Valley portion of Napa Valley. Lush aromatics join generous flavor, revealing dripping-ripe berries and plums, spiced cocoa, aromatic pine and cedar, and a graphite finish. Tannins are ample while still pliable and persist into a lingering finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

92 William Knuttel 2020 Peterson Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Punchy aromas of roasted plums and dark berries mingle with flowers and cinnamon on the nose of this Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate brings plush tannin-framing flavors of black cherry, licorice, toasted hazelnuts, spearmint, and cocoa through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$48

92 Ziata 2021 Meteor Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Full bodied and lush, this wine delivers a pleasing combination of ripe, dark fruits and savory, earthy depth. Juicy plums rolled in baking spices with tobacco and mineral carry into a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

91 Baca 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Approachable, delicious, and pleasing, this bottling overdelivers, with aromas of violet and dark fruits, forest floor, and cocoa leading into flavors of plum galette with a sprinkle of fresh Mediterranean herbs. Tannins are fine while palate cleansing, coupled with fresh acidity for a balanced experience. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

91 Black Stallion 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). For full review see page 11. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Calculated Risk 2024 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Aromas of tart raspberry, black cherry, and cedar shavings drive the nose

of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of blackberry jam, salty plum, and graphite in a framework of plush tannin and zesty acidity. Yummy now, the wine will soften nicely with a few years in the cellar. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$59

91 Duckhorn Vineyards 2022 Rector Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine delivers an intriguing combination of wild berries, cherry cola, cedar, sandalwood, black plum, and dusty baking spices. Powdery-fine, palate-coating tannins are balanced through a lengthy finish, delivering a fruit forward while also earthy and savory Cabernet. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$115

91 Fossil Point 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Hahn 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 16. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Heath Vineyards 2021 Liberation Blocks 5b/6 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark cherry, root beer, and cocktail-bitter aromas converge on the intriguing nose of this bottling. There's a lighter strawberry flavor to the palate, where hints of caramel, white pepper, and almond make for a pleasing sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$112

91 Hendry 2022 Hendry Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Fruit friendly and harmonious, this wine promises both versatility at the table and crowd-pleasing appeal. Black fruits with dry cocoa and a waft of Mediterranean herbs join supple tannins through a lingering finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Honig 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Lush aromas of black currants, black berries, and cherries join flavors of toasted pecan rolled in spices and a cedar finish. Fresh and dried fruits partner with sinewy tannins into a persistent finish with balancing acidity. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

91 Jacuzzi 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). The nose of this wine delivers aromas of black cherry, licorice, espresso, and violets, while the palate brings flavors of baked blackberry, plum compote, pencil shavings, and black pepper in a framework of plush tannin. Drink this with pepper-crusted ribeye. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 John Anthony Vineyards 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Generous, upright, and bold, this bottling celebrates opulence and rich flavor. Concentrated dark fruits, tobacco, and cocoa are carried by palate-coating tannins into a full-bodied finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$85

91 Kenwood Vineyards 2021 Jack London Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Mountain). Punchy aromas of roasted plums and dark berries mingle with flowers and cinnamon on the nose of wine. The palate brings plush, tannin-framing flavors of black cherry, licorice, toasted hazelnuts, spearmint, and cocoa through the finish. Nice bang for the buck here. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

91 La Crema 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Pretty aromas of violets and pencil shavings mingle with blackberry and plum on the nose of this wine. The palate is mid-bodied and juicy, with balanced acid and tannin framing flavors of black cherry jam, salty plum compote, black pepper, dry cocoa, and cinnamon. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 McGrail Vineyards and Winery 2023 Shamus Patrick Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Bright, this wine offers aromas of dark cherry, dark plum, lingonberry, and some oak on the nose. The flavors are black plum, blackberry, and nutmeg, with firm tannins to finish. Aerate and enjoy with meatloaf. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$46

91 McPrice Myers 2022 M Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry and anise aromas show on the nose of this bottling by McPrice Myers and Billy Grant. The palate has a slightly tart strawberry flavor that's lifted by green herb elements. Serve proudly with pizza and burgers. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Meadowcroft Wines 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$98

91 Reynolds Family Winery 2022 Reynolds Family Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Plush aromas of ripened dark fruits sprinkled in spiced cocoa become juicy flavors in a mouthwatering palate. With a more open weave in the mouth than typical, this wine proves full bodied, with a focus on structure. Enjoy alongside richer foods to help integrate the tannins and reveal more flavor. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$72

91 Truth & Valor 2023 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Margarita Ranch). Crushed rock aromas join baked cherry, cardamom, and mint elements on the dynamic nose of this wine. There's ample tension to the palate, where black cherry, pepper and broken-stone flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Zichichi Family Vineyard 2023 Pyramid Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of baked plum, cinnamon, mint, and leather drive the nose of this wine. The palate balances rich tannin with bright acidity and flavors of roasted rasp-

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berry, currant, chopped herbs, violets, and black pepper across a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

90 Adruni Vineyards 2023 The Argument Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Auctioneer 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Dense layers of black fruits and forest aromas join cocoa, integrated spices, and a pencil-shavings finish in this Cabernet Sauvignon that is on the more modest side of full bodied. Balanced acidity and a lightly bitter herb accent keep the mouth watering. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Comanche Cellars 2022 Wheeler Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (San Benito County). Dark and dried berry aromas are spiced with mahogany, incense, and charred walnut on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a dry texture, offering dark fruit and wood spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$42

90 Kenwood Vineyards 2021 Six Ridges Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Aromas of malty chocolate, spiced black cherry compote, and blackberry gastrique swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate integrates bright acid with velvety tannins and flavors of juicy black plum, graphite, cocoa, and violets through a silky finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$22

90 Leia 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Leia 2024 Fireside Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

90 McManis Family Vineyards 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 24% **Price:** \$12

90 Meadowcroft Wines 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Blue and black fruits join cracked pine, cedar, and fresh earth for an aromatic and structured wine. Fruit forward with textural tannins, it has the wild forest and mountain character of Mount Veeder peeking through, and a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$135

90 Mia Marie 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (San Diego County). Dried fig, berry, and a nutty, almond-like spice introduce the nose to this bottling. There's a coffee and hazelnut flavor to the palate, giving an intriguing angle to the jammy berry fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

90 Neyers 2021 AME Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Boysenberry, cassis, and

tobacco join aromatic woods and a hint of savory smoky flavor. Tannins are textural and assertive while remaining palatable, joining an almost earthy, forest floor element through the finish. A full palate of flavor completes this wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$110

90 Neyers 2021 Neyers Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A sweet floral note a bit like violet candy layers into lush, warmed, and spiced plum, cassis, and mocha. This wine fills the mouth with a full-bodied while muscular mix of spice and flavor. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

90 Peirano Estate Vineyards 2023 Heritage Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

90 Prati 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

90 Pretentious 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). The nose of this Cab leads with aromas of spiced plum, dark chocolate, and cinnamon. On the palate, flavors of concentrated cherry and raspberry join with notions of cocoa powder, plum liqueur, and fresh mint and flowers at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Silver Ghost 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Juicy with supple tannins, this wine offers aromas and flavors of dark fruits clothed in velvety oak spice, with a waft of potpourri through the close. Generous and forward, it's crowd pleasing and satisfying. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Silverado Vineyards 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This full-bodied wine delivers a bold mouthful of ripe dark fruits rolled in cocoa, lightly sprinkled with sweet and savory spices, leading into a finish of tobacco leaf. Friendly, approachable, and persistent for a crowd pleasing wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

90 Submission 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is bright, with aromas of brambled fruit, dried cedar, toasted oak, and florals on the nose. The palate is saturated with dark plum, red currant jam, allspice, tobacco, and silky tannins on the finish. Pair with beef stew. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Subterra 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A special offering from a legacy family, this wine is concentrated, with aromas of dark plum, black currant, dried florals, and violets interwoven on the nose. The flavors on the palate are blackberry jam, sarsaparilla, orange vanilla cream, black peppercorn,

and grippy tannins on the finish. Pair with pepper steak. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$17

90 Tornabene Wine 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). Mixed berry compote aromas lift from the glass, leading into flavors of juicy, ripe dark fruits, blackberry galette sprinkled with baking spices, and a small bite of caramel. It's a full-bodied, fruit-forward wine with a peppery, warming finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

90 Valley Growers 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Akira 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This producer is a leader in organic, vegan, and no-sugar-added selections on the market. Fuller bodied than the rest of the line-up, the wine offers aromas of concentrated dark berries, dried herbs, florals, and toasty oak on the nose. Flavors on the palate deliver juicy blackberries, blueberries, chocolate, and soft tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

89 Anarchist Wine Co. 2022 The Philosopher Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A bold, opulent red with brawny shoulders and a full body, this bottling celebrates the generous side of Cabernet Sauvignon while avoiding heaviness. Ripe purple and black berries with bramble fill the nose, continuing into layers of spiced cocoa and a loamy, porcini finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

89 DeLoach Vineyards 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This new certified-sustainable series also includes packaging with a lighter carbon footprint. The wine offers structured dark fruits, dried herbs, toasted oak, and dried potpourri on the nose. Flavors convey black plum, dark cherry, tobacco, bittersweet chocolate, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Gabrielle Ashley 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Aromas of bright raspberry, candied cherry, caramel, and flowers swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate is soft and well rounded, with a core of sweet cherry, baked plum, and blackberry flavors in a framework of toasty oak spice. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Geyser Peak 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine is full bodied, with aromas of blackberry, blueberry, dried bay leaf, molasses, and violets on the nose. Flavors are concentrated on the midpalate, offering huckleberry, boysenberry pie, vanilla cream, dried sage, and firm tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$14

89 Napa Valley Quilt 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Fruit forward, this wine is almost sultry, with warm berries and bramble robed in dark chocolate and spiced cocoa. Cassis and cherry liqueur bring flesh to the midpalate, with a dollop of caramel through the close. Melting tannins are balanced by palate-stimulating acidity through a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

89 Ryder Estate 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This bright wine offers aromas of red plum, sage, and dried potpourri on the nose. The palate delivers flavors of Bing cherry-rhubarb, tobacco, vanilla cream, and savory herbs interlaced with mineral throughout the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Appellation Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Baked cherry, raspberry, leather, and tobacco aromas swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate gives loads of structural tannin and flavors of black cherry, pencil shavings, black pepper, and flowers through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$40

89 Tlo 2022 Briarwood Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dark and tart berry aromas meet with thyme and anise on the nose of this wine. There's a smoother black cherry flavor to the palate, where licorice-like spices arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

89 Ultraviolet 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Aromas of caramel, roasted blueberries, and lime zest hit on the nose of this Cabernet. The palate is super-rounded and plush, with very ripe flavors of cherry jam, plum compote, milk chocolate, and wintermint at the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

89 Valravn 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma). With a few swirls of the glass, the nose of this wine reveals aromas of fresh raspberry, caramel, and cocoa. The palate displays peppy flavors of jammy black cherry, spiced plum, cinnamon, milk chocolate, and floral potpourri, in a framework of plush tannin and juicy acidity. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Acclaimed 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Richly spiced dark fruits join orange zest and bitter herbs, with a cocoa-powder finish on this wine. Full bodied and palate filling, it delivers candied cherry and plum, with a waft of sandalwood emerging with further sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

88 Anarchist Wine Co. 2020 The Philosopher Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Direct and generous, this wine opens with blackberry compote aromas, leading into flavors of black currant, wet tobacco, and a sprinkle of cocoa. Almost inky in the

glass, it has a full body and tannins that melt into a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

88 Angels Landing 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Direct, structured, and deeply flavored, this wine offers a mix of dark fruits and dark chocolate, with a waft of espresso and spice. A crowd pleaser. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

88 Atlas Wines 2023 Omen Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Chiles Valley). Opulent and mouthfilling, this wine offers dark fruit cloaked in spices and silken tannins. With plenty of intensity, boldness, and juicy flavors, it's a wine to enjoy alongside a hearty meal. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Kirkland Signature 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

88 Performance 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This crowd-pleasing, fruit-forward wine offers purple and black berries, fresh bramble, cedar, and a finish of cherry compote and crushed vanilla bean. The wine continues to gain layers as it opens to air, with melting tannins and a balanced finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Ravel & Stitch 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Blackberry, lava rock, and rustic herb aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is somewhat viscous in texture, showing slightly sweet and candied red-fruit flavors against a pinch of herbs. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Stipulation 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District). Bold and generous, this wine delivers plenty of ripe, black-fruit flavor joining spiced cocoa, tobacco, and graphite. Tannins melt and spread across the palate, coating the mouth and persisting into a moderate finish. Oak spices build with further sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Tlo 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Charred licorice and oregano aromas join dark, dried cherry on the nose of this wine. Herbal tones from anise to marjoram show on the palate, as sweeter cherry fills the fruit role. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

88 Tornabene Wine 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This fruit-forward, generous wine offers black-fruit aromas that lead into flavors of warm, spiced blackberries and crème brûlée with a pinch of brown sugar. Full bodied and plush, with a moderate finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

87 Tried and True 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Violet aromas join flavors of blackberry, dark currants, and a sprinkle of spices. Up front and juicy, this generous wine fills the mouth with flavor. Upright tannins will benefit from decanting and a meal. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$24

CABERNET FRANC

98 Quintessa 2023 Cabernet Blend (Rutherford). This remarkable wine shines with clarity, detail, and poise. Violets and lavender lift from the glass, carrying with them aromas of black currants, tobacco, and cedar. Cashmere-like tannins join brightening acidity to deliver elegance, restraint, and durability for aging. The wine will benefit from decanting if opening now, but will develop in bottle beautifully. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$270

94 Deux Seraux Wines 2022 Coquelicot Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley). This is a Loire-like expression of Cab Franc, starting with aromas of strawberry, tree bark, hibiscus, and rose extract on the lovely nose. The palate, bolstered by 33% whole-cluster fermentation, pops with peppery flavors of raspberry and boysenberry that are zesty and fun. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$35

94 Serres Ranch 2022 Tudor Cabernet Franc (Sonoma Valley). Punchy aromas of concentrated cherry compote, spiced fig jam, and toasted spices highlight the nose of this wine. The palate is weighty but smooth, with flavors of tobacco, black pepper, raspberry liqueur, and cocoa surging through the finish. Yummy now, this will soften nicely with a few years in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Vincent Vineyards 2022 Signature Cabernet Franc (Los Olivos District). Snappy aromas of dark boysenberry and white peppercorn are juicy and fresh on the nose of this wine, which balances the grape's inherent spiciness with California sunshine. The palate is rich, dense, and yet still lively, as flavors of black currant and dark purple flowers ride a polished structure into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$135

93 Cartograph 2023 Newman Vineyards Cabernet Franc (Knights Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$56

93 Dwelley Family Wines 2023 Cabernet Franc (Clarksburg). This wine boasts lush aromas of boysenberry preserve, nutmeg, cola, dried potpourri, and toasted oak on the nose. The palate delivers concentrated huckleberry, citrus peel, star anise, sage, and silky tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$32

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92 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Estate Cabernet Franc (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley).

This limited offering is a special selection of old-vine Cabernet Franc. A traditional expression of the variety, it offers earth, mineral, green herbs, sage, bayberry, plum, Bing cherry, and tobacco on the nose. The mouthfeel has grippy tannins with flavors of dark plum, tart boysenberry, bittersweet chocolate, bay leaf, and a dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$55

92 Copain Wines 2022 Taylor Peak Vineyard Cabernet Franc (North Coast).

This classic expression of the variety offers herbaceous notes, dark red berries, dried herbs, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are sweet dark plum, mocha, candied orange slice, and coriander, with a dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 12.6% Price: \$105

92 Ironstone 2022 Ironstone Reserve Cab Franc 2022 Cabernet Franc (Sierra Foothills).

This region is not known for Bordeaux varieties, but more winemakers are using classic grapes. Aromas on the nose of this wine suggest blackberry, dark cherry, thyme, toasty vanilla, and florals. Bold flavors deliver concentrated dark berries, citrus peel, chocolate, coriander, and supple tannins, with a long finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

92 Little X Little 2022 Pickberry Cabernet Franc (Sonoma Mountain).

Aromas of fresh violets, roses, herbs, and cherries drive the nose of this fun and easygoing wine. The palate delivers bright acid balanced by the satisfying crunch of tannin and flavors of crushed berries, tart plum, tobacco, and floral potpourri along the finish. Drink this with a slight chill at sunset. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$40

90 Jenblossom Cellars 2021 Cabernet Franc (Knights Valley).

This opulently styled wine leads with aromas of roasted plum, black cherry, leafy tobacco, and flowers on the nose. The palate is plush, with rich tannin, bright acidity, generous barrel spice, and flavors of crushed cherry, licorice, violets, and stemmy herbs that linger through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$175

89 Midnight Cellars 2022 Moonlight Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).

Dried cherry aromas join cinnamon and nutmeg on the slightly oxidative nose of this wine. The palate pairs dried fruits with a rusty minerality and nutty caramel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$52

GRENAACHE

96 Terranean Wines 2023 G2 Vineyard Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).

This is one of the more exciting new brands to emerge from Paso Robles in recent years. From an iconic vineyard, this bottling begins with potent and juicy aromas of black raspberry and chai spice on the nose. The wine floats across the palate, offering maraschino cherry, earthy pomegranate, and cinnamon spice fla-

vors, managing to be both thought-provoking and refreshing. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$85

95 Optio Vineyards 2023 Grenache (San Luis Obispo County).

For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

95 Terranean Wines 2023 Grenache (Paso Robles).

This newer brand by husband-and-wife vintners Alex and Ryan Kemp is off to a tremendous start. This appellation cuvée is clean and precise on the nose with pure cherry, rose candy, and baking spice aromas. The palate is juicy, generous, and complex, showing cherry, mocha, nut-spiced coffee, and rooibos tea flavors that are enveloped in a leathery grip. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

94 Terranean Wines 2023 Coakley Vineyard Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).

In a sea of heavy-duty Grenache from Paso Robles, this is a lithe and lightly colored revelation. Aromas of raspberry, rhubarb, and pepper lead from the nose into a palate of sour cherry and tart berry, with pinches of pine needle and bay leaf. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$75

93 DeRose Winery Inc. 2023 Grenache (Santa Clara Valley).

Black cherry and dark berry aromas are spiced with nutmeg and fennel pollen on the nose of this bottling. Baked red fruit, mace, and cinnamon spice flavors are bold and ripe on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$40

93 Pulchella 2023 Witness Grenache (Paso Robles).

Rounded aromas of cherry, wood-spice, and herb show on the nose of this bottling. Candied red-fruit flavors are vibrant and refreshing on the palate, as earthy spices and lingering tannins carry the wine deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% Price: \$57

92 Brassfield Estate Winery 24 Estate Grenache (High Valley).

For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14% Price: \$38

91 Brassfield Estate Winery 2023 Estate Grenache (High Valley).

These high-elevation special bottlings are meant to be enjoyed now or aged in your cellar. Lively aromas offer red plum, pomegranate, Bing cherry, toasty oak, sage, and sedimentary rock on the nose. The flavors on the palate are red currant, raspberry, cherry, orange peel, allspice, and dry tannins. Aerate or cellar until 2035. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$38

91 Mia Marie 2023 Grenache (San Diego County).

For full review see page 12. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 11.9% Price: \$52

91 The Grenachista 2023 Grenache Noir (North Coast).

Bright aromas of strawberry, dark berry, plum, sage, toasty oak, and dried florals arise

on the nose of this wine. Flavors on the palate offer dark plum, pomegranate, cedar, black tea, blood and orange peel, with dry, grippy tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$28

SYRAH

96 Piedrasassi 2019 X Block Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).

This wine, which is only available in magnum, is just starting its journey, even though it's seven years old. Aromas of dark berry, peppercorn, and both raw and charred meats confirm the bottling's cool-climate pedigree. The palate is savory to the core, pairing meaty funk with toasted herb, as waves of purple fruit and flowers pass through. Expect a long life, so drink confidently from right now to 2045. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$120/1.5L

95 JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery 2022 Focus Syrah (Paso Robles).

Baked strawberry, caramel, toasted herb, and peppercorn aromas make for a juicy and creamy nose on this bottling. The palate is broad and enveloping, carrying flavors of lush red fruits, cappuccino, and creamy mocha touches that are quite comforting. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$115

95 ONX 2023 Noble Intrigue Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).

For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$80

94 Brassfield Estate Winery 2022 Perspective Syrah (High Valley).

For full review see page 5. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 15.1% Price: \$80

94 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2022 Jersey Girl Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).

A vividly dark core of elderberry aromas meets with pepper, soy, and light nuttiness on the nose of this wine. The palate is extremely tense and bright with boysenberry, juicy black cherry, and cracked pepper flavors, lifted by flutters of violet and lilac. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$72

93 Copain Wines 2021 Brosseau Syrah (Chalone).

A classic expression of Syrah, this bottling combines elements of the gamy, fresh fruit and deeper berries quite well and will please many palates, delivering darker berries, texture, and dried herbs. The wine is complex, dense, and alive with fruit, tension, and length. Aerate and enjoy. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$80

93 ONX 2023 Fiery Nights Syrah (Templeton Gap District).

For full review see page 8.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$80

93 Pali Wine Co. 2023 Pali Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).

This cool-climate Syrah shows all the stylistic hallmarks, offering salty charcuterie, cracked pepper, and fresh raspberry and red plum fruits. The palate picks up a stony minerality, deliver-

ing wild herb, cranberry, and elderberry flavors atop a persistent acidity. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection*. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$85

92 Handley Cellars 2022 Kazmet Vineyard Syrah (Redwood Valley). Redwood Valley has always been a fantastic source of compelling Syrah. This one does not disappoint, delivering warm, intense blackberry, black currant confiture, mocha, incense, violet, and French vanilla bean on the nose. The mouthfeel is silky, with bursts of boysenberry, bay leaf, black tea, savory dry herbs, and a long finish. Aerate or cellar until 2032. *Hidden Gem*. —T.P.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$32

92 John Anthony Vineyards 2021 Carneros Gap Syrah (Los Carneros). Aromas of wild berries and plums pick up savory flavors, with integrated spices and mushroom broth. Loamy and peppery flavors lift from the finish of this wine, while the palate stays juicy from bright acidity and silken tannins. A Syrah with the ripe fruits of Napa balanced by earthy, herbal flavors. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$90

92 Tlo 2021 Reserve Syrah (Paso Robles). Blackberry jelly, toasted pecan, and toffee aromas converge on the nose of this rich bottling. The core of baked fruits is laced in caramel and pepper on the palate, which hints at sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$60

91 Campion Wines 2023 Roblar Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Juicy aromas of boysenberry and strawberry are dusted in crumpled violet and dark rose on the nose of this bottling. The palate pops with black raspberry flavors that are fresh and easygoing. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$35

91 David Bruce Winery 2022 Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Toasted pecan, licorice, and smoke aromas give warmth to the sharp red-fruit core on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more tart with red-fruit-skin flavors, as wild herbs add depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$59

91 John Anthony Vineyards 2022 Crane Vineyard Syrah (Oak Knoll District). Lush and full bodied, this wine combines dripping-ripe fruits with layers of oak spice and a savory finish. Tannins coat the palate maintaining a lengthy finish alongside balanced acidity. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$90

91 Pulchella 2023 Decorus Briarwood Vineyard Syrah (Templeton Gap District). Dried elderberry and violet aromas show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is chewy and viscous, offering boiled blackberry and potent spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$57

91 Sierra Vista 2022 Estate Syrah (El Dorado). Earthy, dry, and in the Rhône style, this wine offers supple aromas of blackberry, boysenberry, coriander, florals, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors are dried blueberry, cranberry-rhubarb jam, orange slice, clove, and dried tannins. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

MOURVÈDRE

94 Campion Wines 2023 Paper Street Vineyard Mourvèdre (Paso Robles). This winery's first stab at Mourvèdre is quite a success, opening with aromas of boysenberry jam and chaparral spice on the nose. Singed sagebrush and light leather flavors show on the palate, which surrounds that ripe berry base. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$55

93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2024 Estate Mourvèdre (High Valley). For full review see page 7. *Hidden Gem*.
abv: 15% Price: \$38

93 Pulchella 2022 Mourvèdre (Paso Robles). Black raspberry, cherry, and cracked peppercorn aromas make for a lush entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate shows lighter berry and even blood-orange flavors, proving much zestier than most Mourvèdres. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% Price: \$57

93 Tlo 2023 Sea Shell Vineyard Mourvèdre (Paso Robles). Deep and potent aromas of rich black plum, blackberry, and toasty oak align on the nose of this bottling. The palate is thicker and viscous in mouthfeel, pairing dark berry with flavors of lilac and lavender. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$55

92 Pulchella 2023 Loma Seca Vineyard Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). Lavish aromas of black currant syrup and candied blackberry invite the nose into this bottling, which bursts with fruitiness. The palate is richly layered with boysenberry jam flavors that are leveled by sagebrush and fennel elements. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$57

91 Sierra Vista 2022 Estate Mourvèdre (El Dorado). This wine comes from old-vine plantings, set at a high elevation that deals out warmth and cold spells. Fruit aromas convey dark strawberry, black raspberry, sage, dried florals and toasty oak on the nose. Flavors on the palate are lively with pomegranate, cranberry, blood orange, allspice, and mineral on the dry finish. *Hidden Gem*. —T.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

MERLOT

92 Brassfield Estate Winery 2022 Estate Merlot (High Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 15% Price: \$50

92 Opolo 2024 Summit Creek Merlot (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

92 Orin Swift 2024 Advice From John Merlot (California). For full review see page 11. *Hidden Gem*.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$45

91 Benziger Family Winery 2023 Merlot (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy*.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

91 Ophiolite Cellars 2023 Merlot (Russian River Valley). On the nose, this wine offers aromas of black plum, blackberry, and concentrated cherry. The palate displays powerful tannin and supple acidity, with flavors of dusty cherry, spiced plum compote, cedar, and licorice on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$50

91 Pedroncelli 2023 East Side Vineyard Merlot (Dry Creek Valley). Robust aromas of baked cherry, violets, cinnamon, and cocoa waft from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate balances rich tannin with a streak of bright orange-peel acidity and flavors of spiced plum compote, purple flowers, dark chocolate, and barrel spice. Some time in the cellar will soften this nicely. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

91 Silverado Vineyards 2022 Mt George Merlot (Coombsville). This is an approachable, attractive example of Merlot grown in the chilly, wild reaches of Coombsville in Napa Valley's south. Red fruits, cherry cola, flowering herbs, and a finish of fresh loam and tobacco fill the palate with flavor while remaining fresh thanks to a lengthy and juicy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$70

91 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Artisan Collection Merlot (Sonoma Valley). Aromas of juicy blackberry, cinnamon, clove, and violets swirl on the nose of this Merlot. The palate is broad and plush, with rich tannin framing flavors of dark cherry, berry coulis, chocolate, and herb mélange that linger for a solid minute. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$54

90 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2022 Strayts Merlot (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark cherry-sauce aromas are dusted in caramelized oak flake and nutmeg on the nose of this bottling. The palate's rich oak spice surrounds the black cherry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$72

90 McManis Family Vineyards 2024 Merlot (Lodi). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy*.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

90 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Appellation Collection Merlot (Sonoma Valley). Crushed cherry, blackberry, and cocoa aromas headline the nose of this Merlot. The palate possesses plush

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tannin and the zip of bright acid, with flavors of cherry coulis, plum skin, dark chocolate, and nuances of mint and black pepper that come into focus on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$35

89 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Merlot (Sonoma County). Dark berry, chocolate, and licorice aromas drive the nose of this Merlot. The palate gives grippy tannin and soft acid with flavors of baked cherry, black plum, cocoa powder, cinnamon, and black peppercorn through the finish of the wine. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$22

MALBEC

95 Serres Ranch 2022 Katherine Malbec (Sonoma Valley). The nose of this wine leads with forceful aromas of spice mélange, blackberry jam, cherry liqueur, and a whisper of lemon zest. The palate feels bright and lavish, with silky tannin, juicy acidity, and flavors of baked plum, cinnamon, graham cracker, violets, and dark chocolate all along the finish. *Editor's Choice.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

93 Baldassari Family Wines 2022 Asti Ranch Malbec (Alexander Valley). Toasty spices, dark berries, and fresh cherry aromas swirl on the nose of this native-fermented Malbec. Plush tannin frames the middle, with flavors of black plum, blackberry, sandalwood, kirsch, and cinnamon echoing along the finish. Get a ribeye and a decanter for this one. —T.R.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

93 William Knuttel 2021 Peterson Vineyard Malbec (Dry Creek Valley). Juicy blueberry, black cherry, cinnamon, and black pepper aromas drive the nose of this wine. The palate is powerful but polished, with rich tannin, bright acid, and flavors of blackberry jam, plum compote, dark chocolate, and balsamic through a long finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$45

92 Tlo 2021 Reserve Malbec (Paso Robles). Blackberry and black plum aromas are dark and fresh on the nose of this bottling. The palate is hearty with firm tannins and fresh, full fruit flavors, sure to pair well with grilled steaks. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$55

91 López Family Vineyards 2023 Malbec (Alexander Valley). This nimble Malbec exhibits aromas of crushed cherry, cranberry compote, cinnamon, and lemon zest on the nose. The palate displays concentrated flavors of black plum, blueberry, cinnamon, cocoa, and chopped green herbs through the finale. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$36

PETITE SIRAH

93 David Bruce Winery 2023 Select Petite Sirah (Santa Barbara County). Dark and savory aromas of soy, dried fruit, and salted meats show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers cool-climate hints of peppercorn, toasted seaweed, and more soy, all very umami-like. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$25

93 Ridge Vineyards 2023 Lytton Estate Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). Concentrated aromas of roasted black cherry, plum compote, licorice, and violets pop on the nose of this wine. The palate is full but balanced, with rich tannin and flavors of dark berries, purple flowers, and toasty spice mélange through the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$50

92 Berryessa Gap 2022 Estate Reserve Highway 128 Collection Petite Sirah (Winters Highlands). Sourced from a coastal location, this wine has spent some time in the bottle, so the tannins are supple and plush. Aromas offer dark plum, boysenberry, black currant confiture, black licorice, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are blackberry, huckleberry, cardamom, peppercorn, and sweet tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$68

92 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Nina's Cuvée Petite Sirah (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). This opaque wine offers intense aromas of boysenberry, black plum, violets, and toasted vanilla on the nose. The flavors are juicy blackberry, blueberry, and grilled orange peel with a graham cracker crust. This is what you need on a cold night with braised lamb shank. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$50

92 Corner 103 2023 Petite Sirah (North Coast). This bright and lively version of Petite Sirah differs from the usual dense expression of the grape. The wine is alive and buoyant, with aromas of boysenberry, blueberry, sweet oak, dried herbs, and flowers on the nose. On the palate, flavors of baked plum, baked black raspberry, and baking spices lead to a juicy, dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$60

92 Domaine Helena 2024 Petite Vine Petite Sirah (North Coast). Opulent, this wine delivers lush aromas of black currant, clove, dried florals, and menthol on the nose. The flavors on the palate convey boysenberry, black licorice, orange-vanilla cream, and spearmint, with acidity on the finish. Aerate and pair with pork cutlets, purple cabbage, and potatoes. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$44

92 Guadagni Family Wines 2022 Old Clone Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). Bright aromas of candied raspberry, blueberry, and cinnamon highlight the nose of this Petite Sirah. The palate is decadent and rich, with plush tannin framing a core

of plum, chocolate, and floral flavors that linger for a solid minute. —T.R.C.

abv: 15.6%

Price: \$42

92 Vista del Mirador Winery 2021 Flat Creek Vineyards Petite Sirah (Fair Play). This hidden gem of a region offers many opulent, rich wines. Deep and concentrated, this bottling gives aromas of blackberry, boysenberry, cardamom, and dried pot-pourri on the nose. The flavors on the palate are olallieberry, citrus-vanilla cream, mocha, chicory, and acidity on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$38

92 Zichichi Family Vineyard 2023 Estate North Block Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). The nose of this wine leads with aromas of fresh blackberry, roasted black plum, licorice, and mint. Waves of rich tannin on the palate join flavors of black cherry concentrate, blueberry liqueur, violets, and espresso through the finale. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$50

91 Bricoleur Vineyards 2022 Kick Ranch Vineyard Petite Sirah (Fountaingrove District). Concentrated aromas of roasted black cherry, plum compote, licorice, and violets pop on the nose of this wine. The palate is full but balanced, with rich tannin and flavors of dark berries, purple flowers, and toasty spice mélange through the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$65

91 Optio 2023 LaMar Vineyard Petite Sirah (Paso Robles Geneseo District). Deep, dark, and penetrating aromas also show a slightly tart flash on the nose of this wine. The palate is hearty in mouthfeel and chalky in texture, as roasted black plum and berry flavors are dusted in baking spice. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

91 Peachy Canyon 2023 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Potent but fresh aromas of black currant are layered in caramel and light mint on the nose of this bottling. Sticky tannins frame the sip, where minty blackberry flavors arise. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$24

90 Akash 2022 Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley). Smashed plum, muddy earth, and licorice aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. It's lightly bodied on the palate, offering plum and anise flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$75

90 McManis Family Vineyards 2024 Petite Sirah (Lodi). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*

abv: LA

Price: \$12

89 Midnight Cellars 2022 Eclipse Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Slightly tart aromas of plum meet with mulling spice and incense aromas on the nose of this bottling. The palate's purple fruit core is slightly sour and dusted in chaparral herbs. —M.K.

abv: 16.9%

Price: \$58

TEMPRANILLO

91 Longoria 2023 Momento Tempranillo (Santa Barbara County). Ripe black-plum aromas are splashed across rustic tones of stone, baked soil, and dark wood on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up a minty spice, as smooth tannins run through the smoked fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$52

91 Mia Marie 2021 Reserva Tempranillo (San Diego County). Dark cherry, crushed slate, and light woodsmoke aromas draw the nose into this bottling. The palate is pleasantly rustic, offering red plum, leather, and light smoke flavors. Serve with burgers and ribs. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

91 Optio Vineyards 2023 Estate Tempranillo (Paso Robles Geneseo District). Dark fruit aromas meet with leathery spice and savory dried-meat tones on the nose of this bottling. The palate pairs stewed fruit flavors with a smoked meat core. Pair with weekend barbecues. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Tlo 2022 Briarwood Vineyard Tempranillo (Paso Robles). Clean lines of fennel, charcoal, and blackberry sauce show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers plenty of red cherry flavors that are layered in fennel pollen, cracked peppercorn, and dried tarragon elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Mia Marie 2022 Estate Tempranillo (San Diego County). Stewed blackberry, packaged herb, and pepper aromas make for a thick nose on this bottling. The palate is chewy and very oaky with lots of reduced fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$65

ZINFANDEL

94 Rockpile Winery by Mauritsen 2023 Rockpile Ridge Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). Rich, warming aromas of baked plum, coffee, and spice mélange swirl from the glass on the nose of this age-worthy Zin. The palate is richly tannic, with flavors of roasted cherry, cranberry, blueberry gastrique, and toasted spices that linger through the finish. Best from 2030–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$57

94 Ridge Vineyards 2023 Green & Red Zinfandel (Napa Valley). A pleasing wine from a superb vintage, this bottling showcases the complexity possible from the variety. The wine opens with expressive aromas of mixed berries, wild sage, and cracked pine combining with flavors of plums, wet tobacco, and cocoa, finishing with orange zest. Mouthwatering and demonstrating balanced restraint, this wine gives a shout out to what made Zinfandel California's classic variety. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$42

93 Handley Cellars 2023 Kazmet Vineyard Zinfandel (Redwood Valley). This wine is complex, with aromas of black plum, blackberry, coriander, toasty oak, dried flowers, and earth on the nose. Flavors highlight boysenberry, huckleberry, citrus spice, clove, root beer, and grippy tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Rockpile Winery by Mauritsen 2023 Jack's Cabin Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). Aromas of roasted blackberry, plums, violets, and dusty cocoa powder jump from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate brings plush tannin and balanced acid with flavors of fresh raspberry, malty chocolate, stemmy herbs, and flowers all along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$59

93 Saracina 2022 Zinfandel (Mendocino). This is a charming expression of Zinfandel from the region. Fresh and vivacious, the wine offers orchard-ripe fruits of blackberry, blueberry, cardamom, and violet on the nose. The palate is silky with layers of boysenberry, huckleberry, black currant confiture, tobacco, and supple tannins at the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$32

93 Zichichi Family Vineyard 2023 Estate North Block Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Freshly crushed raspberry, spiced plum jam, and dark cocoa aromas drive the nose of this wine. The palate brings a pop of rich tannin and vibrant acid, with flavors of juicy berries, dusty granite, black pepper, and licorice through the finish. Yummy now, this will soften nicely with a little age. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

92 Fifth Hill Wines 2023 Maggie's Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). The nose of this Zin is a mélange of fresh berry aromas with whippers of green herbs, flowers, and spice. Bright acidity and plush tannin on the palate join with flavors of raspberry, cranberry, licorice, violets, and cinnamon across the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

92 Gregory James Wines 2022 Carreras Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Fresh cherry, blueberry, toasted spice, and green herb aromas swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate balances flavors of blackberry, lime, chopped lemon thyme, cracked pepper, and spice mélange that seem to intensify over the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$36

92 Guadagni Family Wines 2022 1906 Block Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). On the nose, this complex Zin features vibrant aromas of black cherry, olive, blueberry, bitter chocolate, and pithy orange. The palate gives rich tannin and zesty acid, with flavors of black plum, cocoa powder, freshly chopped herbs, and violets across a long finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$42

92 Hendry 2022 Blocks 7 & 22 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). Spiced red fruits burst from the glass continuing into flavors of cracked mixed pepper and black cherries rolled in dark chocolate and cocoa. Savory flavors emerge through the finish, delivering a full-bodied, fruit-forward Zinfandel that gains intrigue with further sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Klinker Brick Winery 2022 Old Ghost Zinfandel (Lodi). Rich, this wine delivers generously fragrant aromas of dark cherry, brambly blackberry, and crushed florals on the nose. The mouthfeel is juicy, with flavors of spicy black plum, pomegranate, candied orange, crystalized ginger, and silky tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$42

92 Pech Merle 2023 Reserve Zinfandel (Mendocino). This old-vine Zinfandel is rich with aromas of dark baked berries, allspice, chocolate shavings, and vanilla bean on the nose. Flavors are saturated throughout the palate, offering boysenberry, candied orange slice, coriander, maple, and layers of mineral on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$33

92 Tiger Lily 2022 Estate Zinfandel (El Dorado). This old-vine Zin is filled with ripe blackberry, boysenberry, black currant confiture, cardamom, dried florals, and vanilla on the nose. The flavors on the palate are blueberry, cinnamon, peppercorn, dried sage, and molasses, with mineral on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Zichichi Family Vineyard 2023 Old Vine Estate Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Ripe aromas of roasted cherry, purple flowers, candied raspberry, and clove drive the nose of this wine. The palate delivers flavors of blueberry liqueur, cherry compote, cinnamon, and black pepper throughout a long, grippy finish. Great wine to pair with ribs or roasts on the grill. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Cline Family Cellars 2024 Zinfandel (California). This selection comes from multiple old-vine vineyards in California. Bright aromas offer strawberry, brambly raspberry, orange zest, nutmeg, dried florals, and vanilla spice on the nose. The flavors on the palate are dark plum, blackberry, cola, cardamom, and cream soda, with a juicy, dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

91 Peirano Estate Vineyards 2023 Heritage Collection Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 16. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$15

91 Puccioni 2023 Puccioni Ranch Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of roasted berries, toasty spices, and fresh flowers erupt from the glass on the nose of this wine. The palate is broad and opulent, with flavors of baked cherry, blueberry, raspberry, and

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fig that mingle with violets, cracked pepper, and cinnamon framed by plush tannin. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

91 Seghesio 2023 Home Ranch Vineyard Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Tart cherry, cranberry, anise, and violet aromas swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate brings more juicy cherry and raspberry flavors, with nuances of shattered stone, black pepper, and cardamom along the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

91 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Old Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma County). This bright and peppery old-vine Zinfandel delivers fresh raspberry, cocoa dust, and black pepper aromas on the nose. The palate brings flavors of roasted black cherry, plum, slate, and dusty spices lingering through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Valravn 2023 Zinfandel (Sonoma). Ripe blackberry, plum jam, dusty cinnamon, and purple flower aromas dominate the nose of this Zin. The palate is neatly balanced with plush tannin and zippy acid, bringing flavors of black cherry, licorice, raspberry liqueur, and freshly crushed spices all along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Zichichi Family Vineyard 2023 Estate Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Roasted cherry, blueberry jam, and minty herb mélange aromas swirl on the nose of this wine. The palate brings flavors of raspberry coulis, spiced fig, dusty earth, and licorice that soften slowly along the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

91 Zinfinity 2019 Zinfandel (Sonoma). This Zin offers punchy aromas of baked plum, licorice, and violets on the nose. The palate delivers powder-fine tannin, juicy acid, and flavors of raspberry compote, fresh blueberry, cracked pepper, and lemon zest, with a distinctly floral finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

90 Bonterra Organic Estates 2023 Made With Organic Grapes Zinfandel (California). Deep aromas of boysenberry pie, dark strawberry jam, dried bay leaf, and potpourri are layered throughout the nose of this wine. The palate holds dried apricot, pomegranate, red plum, white pepper, and juicy, grippy tannins on the finish. Pair with grilled buffalo burgers. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$15

90 Klinker Brick Winery 2022 Alveo Zinfandel (Lodi). Aromas on the nose of this wine are robust and deep, offering dark berries, molasses, toasty oak, violets, and clove. Flavors on the palate highlight boysenberry, habanero jam, cardamom, and orange-vanilla cream, with mineral and supple tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$15

90 Murphy-Goode 2022 Liar's Dice Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Neatly delineated aromas

of fresh raspberry, candied cherry, licorice, and caramel drive the nose of this wine. The palate is decadent, displaying opulent mouthfeel, supple tannin, and soft acid, along with flavors of sweet berry coulis, cherry compote, lemon zest, and minty herbs. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15

90 Pedroncelli 2023 Bushnell Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). The nose of this Zin takes just a moment to come alive, but with a few swirls, aromas of fresh raspberry, cherry, chopped herbs, and black pepper begin to emerge. The palate delivers flavors of tart cranberry, black plum skin, licorice, and peppercorn in a framework of grippy tannin. —T.R.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$40

90 St. Francis Winery & Vineyards 2023 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Dusty cherry, cranberry, cinnamon, and cocoa aromas highlight the nose of this wine. The palate leans into black plum, blackberry, and earthy spice flavors in a framework of rich, drying tannin. Drink this with pulled pork or ribs. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

89 Bonterra Organic Estates 2022 Made With Organic Grapes Zinfandel (California). This multi-layered wine offers aromas of boysenberry, blueberry jam, star anise, and roasted bell pepper on the nose. Flavors on the palate are black strawberry, plum, white pepper, black olive, and dried tobacco leaves, with supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$15

89 DeLoach Vineyards 2024 Zinfandel (California). This special project from a long-time pioneer in California winemaking highlights certified sustainability. The wine has just the right amount of juicy dark berries and cinnamon spice on the nose, rolling into boysenberry and blueberry on the palate and finishing dry. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Valley Growers 2023 Zinfandel (California). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$16

87 Akash 2022 The Sky's the Limit Zinfandel (Temecula Valley). Rustic berry aromas are quite tart on the nose of this wine. There's a sweet flash to the palate before tartness returns. —M.K.
abv: 16.2% **Price:** \$75

86 McManis Family Vineyards 2024 Zinfandel (Lodi). An opulent example of Zinfandel from the region, this wine offers lush aromas of dark berries, allspice, and vanilla bean. Flavors convey black currant confiture, blackberry jam, sarsaparilla, and citrus zest, with a juicy, dry finish. Pair with a barbecue pulled-pork sandwich. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

OTHER RED WINES

94 Pali Wine Co. 2024 Pali Vineyard Gamay Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's decent heft to this bottling, which shows lavish spices, dark berry, and sanguine flavors while retaining a vibrant freshness. The palate is booming with acidity and bright in snappy strawberry and red plum flavors that will further integrate with time. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Lecavalier Cellars 2023 Carmenere (Sierra Foothills). The producer's bottles are designed to be shipped back to the winery and reused. An uncommon variety for the region, this Carmenere has concentrated red-fruit aromas that complement the savory spice, wild mushroom, and earthiness on the nose. Vibrant flavors offer damson plum, citrus peel, allspice, bittersweet chocolate, and chicory, with supple tannins on the finish. Aerate and pair with flank steak fajitas. —T.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$44

93 Scarlett Wines 2022 McGah Family Vineyards Petit Verdot (Rutherford). Supple, lush, while also elegant with focus and length, this is a pleasing, flavorful, and even joyful Petit Verdot. The grape is generally known for its heft and brooding nature, but this bottling tames the beast to bring a complex of aromatics including mocha, fresh berries, earthy, and woody notes joined to flavors of flowering herbs and cracked pepper. Succulent tannins lead into a lengthy, refined finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$64

93 St. Avalo 2022 Nero d'Avola (Los Olivos District). This is a fantastic display of this Italian variety on California soil. Aromas of crumpled rose petal and raspberry jam lead from the nose into a bright palate of cherry, hibiscus, and fruit punch flavors that are cut by a streak of struck stone. Easy drinking yet complex. *Editor's Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

93 St. Avalo 2022 Sangiovese (Los Olivos District). Dark cherry, sandalwood, dried meat, and toasted herb aromas converge on the detailed nose of this bottling. Bright red fruit and salted meat flavors make for a refreshing and satisfying sip, alive with ample acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Ward Four Wines 2024 Zacharias Block Barbera (Mendocino). Superlative aromas of juicy red berries propel towards the air, leaving an intensity of raspberry, coriander, and black tea on the nose of this wine. Concentrated flavors feature dark plum, cassis, green and black olives, crushed herbs, and brown sugar, with grippy tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Deux Seraus Wines 2023 Calleri Vineyard Négrette (San Benito). Though quite historic in California, Négrette remains a rare variety.

The nose begins with aromas of tar, muddy clay, and dark purple fruits, needing some patience to emerge. Dried meat and peppery spices on the palate pair with a plummy core. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$35

92 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2022 WCS Tannat (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Scorched earth, stewed dark fruits, and roasted fennel aromas make for a unique nose on this bottling of a grape still quite rare in California. The palate lands with rich layers of baked cherry, chaparral spice, and toasted woods. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$82

92 Midnight Cellars 2021 Titan Tannat (Paso Robles). Baked red and black plum aromas meet with nutmeg and cinnamon on the nose of the bottling. The palate is smooth with polished tannins that present red cherry sauce and gingerbread cake flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$58

92 Pali Wine Co. 2024 Pali Vineyard Dornfelder (Sta. Rita Hills). This winery is keeping up a hyper-local tradition of this neck of the Sta. Rita Hills by producing this oddball German variety, and they do it as well as anyone can. Nearly opaque in the glass, which is coated by the viscous wine, it hits the nose with black-currant sorbet aromas and then drops into a palate full of dark fruit and soft, smooth tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

92 St. Avalo 2023 Gamay Noir (Los Olivos District). Gamay Noir is mostly being explored in much cooler regions, but this bottling reveals that it can show similar freshness a few more miles inland. Alpine strawberry, hibiscus, and peppered salami aromas lead from the nose to a zippy landing of bright raspberry, pepper and dried meat flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

90 Bolero at Europa Village 2023 Estate Graciano (Temecula Valley). Dark and dried red cherry and strawberry aromas are layered in oregano and light asphalt on the nose of this bottling. The palate is toasty and oak-laced, giving warmth to the strawberry and blackberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$61

90 Hendry 2020 Block 15 Petit Verdot (Napa Valley). Inky violet in the glass, with intensity of aroma and flavor, this is a wine for those seeking bold, brooding, while still structural brawn. Black fruits, cacao nibs, espresso grounds, tobacco leaf, and savory spices join firm, while fine-grained tannins for a full-palate experience. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

90 Hendry 2022 Hendry Vineyard Primitivo (Napa Valley). Red and black fruits drive through palate-carrying flavors of mocha, orange zest, and a lightly spiced finish. The palate is mouth-

filling without heaviness with lots of acidity to keep this wine flowing into a lengthy finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

90 St. Avalo 2024 Estate Dornfelder (Los Olivos District). Earthy aromas of muddy clay and crumbled, dank herbs pair with blackberry on the nose of this bottling. The palate delivers toasted sagebrush with dark, plummy fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$50

RED BLENDS

94 Brandlin Estate 2021 Henry's Keep Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Mount Veeder). Wild berries and herbs join woody aromas for a lavish start to this full-bodied mountain Cabernet Sauvignon. Tannins are corded and lightly textural while still approachable enough to enjoy now alongside a meal. A dense palate of flavor welcomes a mix of black currants, plum, cracked pine, gunmetal and a cocoa-powder finish. Decant or hold for several years in cellar. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$135

94 Kiler Canyon Vineyard 2022 Syrah-Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$90

94 ONX 2023 Caliber Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

94 ONX 2023 Level 22 Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$58

93 Brassfield Estate Winery 2023 Eruption Red Blend (High Valley). Aromas of black currant confiture, sandalwood, and violets waft on the nose of this wine, along with toasted vanilla. Flavors on the palate offer blackberry, blueberry, sarsaparilla, espresso, mocha, and dry, supple tannins. Aerate and cellar until 2035. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28

93 Clif Family 2023 Clif Family x Reyna Noriega Red Blend (Napa Valley). Deep purple in the glass, with aromatic intensity and a mouthful of flavor, this proprietary blend joins juicy, up-front fruits with a succulent mouthfeel for a charming and friendly wine. Mixed fresh and baked berries and light grapefruit zest complete the wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

93 Concannon Vineyard 2023 Stampmaker's GSM (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). These special bottles highlight the history of Concannon Vineyard. Classic and supple, this wine offers lush yet tart raspberry, strawberry, mushroom, blackberry, boysenberry, bay leaf, star anise, and espresso, with silky tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

93 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2022 Choreography Red Blend (San Francisco Bay-Livermore Valley). This opulent wine delivers aromas of baked plum, boysenberry, cedar, and toasted oak that fill the glass. Supple yet tart flavors feature Bing cherry, pomegranate, allspice, mocha, and gritty tannins on the finish. *Editor's Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Groth 2022 Oakcross Proprietary Red Red Blend (Oakville). This wine offers a complex of fruits layered with integrated spice and lifted by floral and forest aromatics and a long finish. Tobacco leaf and cracked pine emerge with air, pulled through the palate by lightly textural tannin and persistent length. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$110

93 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2022 Hell's Kitchen Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark red-fruit aromas join baking spice and oak tones on the bold nose of this blend of 48% Syrah, 36% Graciano, and 16% Grenache. The palate's spicy red-fruit base is rich and cleanly displayed, with chalky tension guiding the way. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$72

93 Optio Vineyards 2023 Aer LaMar Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 8.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$65

93 Optio Vineyards 2023 Inmesceo Red Blend (Paso Robles). This bold and lavish blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Mourvèdre looks opaque in the glass and offers potent aromas of molten lava cake with blackberry coulis. Smooth tannins wrap around the savory dried meat and ripe elderberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

93 Pulchella 2023 Grifter Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Blackberry, cassis, and vanilla aromas work very well together on the nose of this blend of 74% Tempranillo, 14% Tannat, and 12% Petite Sirah. Bold and powerful flavors of berry, cherry, and cocoa are dusted in fennel pollen and crumpled oregano on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$57

93 Pulchella 2023 Siren Red Blend (Paso Robles). Bold and thick in the glass, this blend of Syrah, Tannat, Grenache, and Mourvèdre shows baked strawberry, blackberry, oak, and cocoa on the nose. The palate of the wine is leathery in texture and hearty in mouthfeel, with baked fruit and licorice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65

93 Saracina 2022 Soul of Mendocino Red Blend (Mendocino). This lovely red blend comes from historic small vineyards in the region. The components change every year. Lush aromas of boysenberry, dark raspberry, bay leaf, and oak waft on the nose. Flavors on the palate offer dark plum, black

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strawberry, mocha, star anise, and silky tannins on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$28

93 Tiger Lily 2021 Estate Red Blend (El Dorado). Generous, structured fruit carries aromas of blackberry, huckleberry, sarsaparilla, and ginger on the nose of this wine. Full-bodied flavors on the palate offer ripe baked boysenberry, grilled orange slice, tobacco, and bittersweet chocolate, with gritty tannins on the finish. The vineyard site has an ample amount of granite, which comes through on the palate. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$21

92 Idlewild 2023 Flora and Fauna Red Blend (North Coast). Super pretty, this wine has lush floral aromas on the nose, offering black strawberry, black raspberry, clay, and vanilla. These linger into flavors of tart cherry, pomegranate, red licorice, coriander, dried tobacco, and mineral on the finish. Pair with turkey meat loaf. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

92 ONX 2023 Praetorian Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 11.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$62

92 Orin Swift 2024 Abstract Red Blend (California). For full review see page 11. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$43

92 Orin Swift 2023 Papillon Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$90

92 Paris Valley Road 2021 L'Entente Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Pencil shavings and dark mahogany aromas give depth to the blackberry core on the nose of this blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc, 13% Malbec, 11% Petit Verdot, and 10% Merlot. The palate is dry and wrapped in fine-grained tannins, offering dark fruit and spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$77

92 Paris Valley Road 2021 Le Rouge Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Quite dark in the glass, this blend of 54% Cabernet Franc, 42% Merlot, and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon smoothly integrates aromas of black cherry, toasted oak, and mushroom on the nose. The palate is tense and fresh, with flavors of dried berry, more oak, and a pinch of herb. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

92 RhôneWolf 2020 GSM Rhône-Style Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). This concentrated wine offers wild berries, black tea, citrus zest, toasty oak, and florals on the nose. Flavors of boysenberry, mulberry, and cardamom on the palate are layered with orange zest, mineral, and long, dry finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

92 Trinchero Napa Valley 2022 Traces of Manhattan Red Blend (Napa Valley). Lush, mouthwatering, yet almost brooding, this wine offers

dark fruit woven with spice, leading into a brightening finish. Tannins melt through the palate, coating the mouth with flavor. Tobacco, cherry bark, and graphite emerge with further sipping. A pleasing, full-bodied red blend. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2023 Terzetto Red Blend (Napa Valley). An even blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc, this bottling delivers plenty of dark fruits, ground espresso, and enlivening spices. Succulent tannins coat the mouth with flavor for a lush wine. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$100

92 Ziata 2018 Mia Madre Red Blend (Napa Valley). Concentrated aromas on the nose of this wine lead into a full palate of flavor, showcasing black berries, plums, fresh bramble, and lengthening cords of tobacco and cracked pine. Cocoa-powder tannins coat the mouth while remaining approachable, generating a satisfying blend led by Cabernet Sauvignon while gaining the aromatic lift of Cabernet Franc and pleasure of Malbec. —E.C.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$100

91 1924 2024 Double Black Red Blend (Lodi). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

91 Akash 2022 Dreamville Blend No. 34 Red Blend (California). Aromas of walnut and mahogany recall an old library on the nose of this bottling, which also offers plummy fruits and a caramel spice. The blend of 71% Syrah and 29% Zinfandel shows good acidity and tension on the palate, where spiced rum and chai-like flavors emerge. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$59

91 Cliff Family 2023 The Climber Red Blend (Napa Valley). Bursting with red and black cherries and berries, this succulent red blend celebrates generous flavor with juicy length for an approachable, crowd-pleasing wine. Tannins keep the wine upright and lengthy while allowing the fruit to remain at the forefront. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$42

91 CrossHatch 2024 Rubia Kaerskov Vineyard Grenache-Mourvèdre (Los Olivos District). This lighter-hued blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Mourvèdre is very much chillable, popping on the nose with boysenberry sorbet and scarlet rose-petal aromas. The palate is texturally compelling and full of acidity that frames the crisp raspberry and pepper-dust flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

91 CrossHatch 2023 mi version Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). This blend of 60% Malbec, 20% Syrah, and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon from three vineyards begin with fresh aromas of strawberry sorbet, pomegranate syrup, fennel frond, and a hint of toast on the nose. The palate is snappy with crisp, slightly tart red-fruit flavors that are spiced in pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

91 Hall Ranch 2023 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Roasted black plum and violet aromas are cohesively woven on the nose of this bottling. The palate pairs sweet berry, plum, and peppercorn flavors, as a clay-like minerality forms the backbone. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

91 Hertelendy Vineyards 2023 Vinoville Red Blend (Napa Valley). Pop this red wine open for immediate pleasure and a friendly wash of flavor. Perfect for an evening with friends and summer grilling. Aromas and flavors of black fruits and bramble remain fresh, picking up savory tones of cacao and espresso, with pencil shavings across the finish. Supple tannins are balanced through a persistent finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Midnight Cellars 2022 Vin Celeste Reserve Rhône-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Powerful amounts of vanilla, mace, red plum, and herb show on the nose of this blend of Syrah, Grenache, and Viognier. The palate of the wine pairs cherry and licorice flavors with intriguing hints of Angostura bitters. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$68

91 Paris Valley Road 2021 L'Entrevue Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Intense and dark aromas of black plum and elderberry are lifted by purple flowers and cut by a crushed black-rock minerality on the nose of this blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon and 39% Petit Verdot. The palate is thick with tannins that really restrain the fruit, so expect more to come as it ages. Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$72

91 Reynolds Family Winery 2022 Persistence Vineyard Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This juicy, full-bodied blend captures the perfume, intensity, and structure of a satisfying Napa Valley wine. Spiced fruits, flowering herbs, and dark cocoa lift from the glass. Powdery and textural tannins provide a pleasing mouthfeel, carrying into a lengthy, detailed finish. Enjoy with food. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$72

91 Velvet Buck 2023 Red Blend (Central Coast). Charred berry and black plum aromas meet with cracked stone and dry wood spice on the nose of this blend. The palate is quite broad and enveloping, as bright and crisp blackberry flavors lead into a richer strawberry finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

91 Vincent Vineyards 2022 Right Bank Cuvée Heritage Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Los Olivos District). Dark yet fresh raspberry aromas meet with scorched earth and crushed slate tones on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows softer red-fruit flavors and a hint of char, all presented on smoother tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

91 Yao Family Wines 2021 Family Table Red Blend (Napa Valley). This flavorful, medium-bodied blend features Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Zinfandel, and Syrah. The 2021 vintage brings additional depth and structure to the juicy wine. Aromas and flavors of dried flowers, black currants, cedar, sandalwood, fennel, and baking spices carry savory and peppery nuances that fill the mouth through each sip. The wine maintains movement and freshness through the finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$48

90 Akash 2022 Dreamville Blend No. 53 Red Blend (California). Dark, extracted aromas of licorice and stewed plums show on the nose of this blend of Cab and Zin. Dried fig and fennel flavors align with just enough acidity on the palate of the wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$69

90 Akash 2022 Three's Company Red Blend (Temecula Valley). Crushed slate, baking spice, and licorice aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 50% Zinfandel, 33% Petite Sirah, and 17% Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is generous in creamy, lingering tannins that framed stewed plums and more anise-like candy flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$75

90 Heath Vineyards 2021 Absolution Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). A pretty color in the glass, this wine offers blackberry and toasted wood aromas on the familiar nose. Clean, easy, and down the middle, the palate is sure to please those seeking a well-built red wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$112

90 Pretentious 2024 Red Blend (Lodi). This wine is concentrated, with aromas of ripe berries, molasses, bay leaf, and earth on the nose. The flavors on the palate are lifted with boysenberry, black plum, coriander, allspice, candied citrus, and firm tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 Pulchella 2022 Unwilling Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Dark strawberry and hearty leather aromas show on the nose of this blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petit Verdot, 9% Malbec, 5% Merlot, and 3% Tannat. The palate offers flavors of cherry, pepper, and a rusty minerality. Serve with roasted beef and pot roast. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$57

90 Unshackled 2023 Red Blend (California). Smashed plum and rugged elderberry aromas are dark yet tart on the nose of this wine, which also has damp violet scents. The palate lands with a bold sense of earth, with chaparral and crushed rock flavors pairing with dark red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$22

89 Cloud Break 2023 Red Blend (California). Rich and pronounced aromas of tart red berry, plum, cocoa nib, toasty oak, and dried florals

waft from a glass of this wine. With a gentle swirl, the flavors deepen into darker berries soaked in brandy, citrus, and simmering spices, finishing dry. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

89 Midnight Cellars 2021 Mare Nectaris Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dried fruit and herb aromas are slightly sour on the nose of this blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 11% Malbec, 8% Petit Verdot, and 2% Cabernet Franc, which is starting to show its age. The palate is full of baked and stewed fruit flavors, wrapped in leathery tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$68

89 Une Femme NV Red Blend (California). This brambly wine offers aromas of dark raspberry, boysenberry jam, ginger, cocoa nib, dried potpourri, and toasty oak on the nose. The flavors on the palate are dark strawberry, blackberry confiture, white pepper, bittersweet chocolate, and supple tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$5/250ml

88 ANDREW 2023 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Smashed raspberry aromas meet with sage sticks and a leathery, Old World spice on the nose of this blend. The palate pairs dried meat and wild herb with dried berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$29

88 Interpretation 2023 Red Blend (Napa Valley). Lush berry and cherry aromas join flavors of plum compote sprinkled with spiced cocoa and a slice of fig. Full bodied and lavish, this wine stays fruit forward and approachable through a moderate finish. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

88 Pulchella 2022 Awakening Red Blend (Paso Robles). Very extracted fruit aromas are paired with potent woodspice, clove, and vanilla aromas on the nose of this blend of 56% Tannat, 33% Petite Sirah, and 11% Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is jammy with more clove and rich stewed-fruit flavors, as a strong vanilla spice consumes the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$57

88 Tlo 2022 Visko Red Blend (Central Coast). Strawberry and prune aromas seem almost sweet on the nose of this blend of 38% Malbec, 37% Petit Verdot, and 25% Zinfandel. The palate is full of ripe black fruit and anise flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

87 Akash 2022 Dreamville Blend No. 67 Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (California). Strong oak-spice aromas and ripe fruits overwhelm the nose on this blend of 75% Malbec and 25% Cabernet Franc. The palate offers plummy fruit flavors alongside anise elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$69

DESSERT WINES

91 Ackerman Family Vineyards 2018 Counterpoint Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). In this dessert wine, Cabernet Sauvignon has been picked later in the season for richer flavor, and then fortified with brandy for extended aging. The result is a relatively light (below 15%) fortified wine with palate-filling flavor. Mulled black cherry, coffee, and dried caramel give rich flavor brightened by a finish of citrus zest and crunchy cacao bean. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

90 Ackerman Family Vineyards 2016 Counterpoint Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). This wine is bold and intriguing. Aromas of mixed plum, spiced berry compote, and sprinkles of espresso grounds lift from the glass, carrying into flavors of clove, cocoa, and a long, lightly citrus finish. A fortified Cabernet is unusual anywhere in the world, here a unique find from Napa Valley. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

90 Ackerman Family Vineyards 2015 Counterpoint Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). A rare find in Napa Valley wine, this fortified expression of Cabernet is made only in the best vintages. Red and dark cherries mixed through with baking spices, salted caramel, and coffee gain texture with each taste. An end-of-the-meal enjoyment meant for slow sipping. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

88 Fetzer Vineyards NV Ruby Port (California). This port comes from one of the original California producers. Aromas of strawberry-rhubarb coulis, raspberry, and Bing cherry join with salted caramel from the nose to finish. It could very well be an anytime treat with vanilla ice cream. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 18% Price: \$11

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

94 Evening Land 2023 La Source Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). If you poached an apple, then spiced it up with cinnamon and spritzed it with lemon juice, you would have a small idea of how glorious this wine smells. With a spine of steely acidity, La Source's green apple, wet slate, and sourdough bread served with a dollop of butter flavors snap to attention with every sip. Pair this lithe and crisp wine with acid jazz and a favorite Dungeness crab dish, then enjoy it—and I really mean enjoy it, from now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$75

94 Evening Land 2023 Summum Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Have you ever smelled a batch of freshly picked elderflowers? It's like honey, lemon, and pears were all rolled up into one aroma. This year's Summum is packed with elderflower action, along with aromas of butter and apple cider.

BUYINGGUIDE

The Chardonnay's brisk acidity and crisp texture help to frame its lemon-sorbet, lime, and Golden Delicious apple flavors. There's a long, savory finish to enjoy here, so try not gulp it down as quickly as you'd like. If you have sea scallops handy, prepare to sear. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$95

94 Irvine & Roberts 2023 Ascendance Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). Ascendance smells like an orchard camp out. The first scents to hit the nose are a combination of tart apples and ripe, sweet, doughnut peaches. Surrounding this ball of fruit are aromas of a melting beeswax candle and the two pieces of quartz striking one another needed to light the wick. Acidity as invigorating as a Utah night lights up the wine's Meyer lemon, thyme, toasted filbert, and butter flavors. Ascendance is the total Chardonnay package. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$65

94 Irvine & Roberts 2023 Convergence Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$50

93 Open Claim 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Mount Pisgah). The Open Claim estate Chardonnay's aromas and flavors are a hunger-pang-inducing blend of chilled Golden Delicious apple slices, buttery almond, shortbread, and a touch of saline that I always associate with the biological components of a fresh ocean breeze. The wine feels crisp and clean on the palate, with energetic acidity and a fairly long finish. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

92 Compris 2024 Wavelength Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). These aromas of Golden Delicious apples, lemon butter and talc are certainly on the right wavelength for me. Then there's the wine's acidity, which is like slightly licking the lemon wedge after you've squeezed its juice into your iced tea. Wavelength's flavors are a mix of lemon verbena, lemon zest, chamomile tea, and a bit of butter. The wine aged on its lees in 600 litre puncheons and 228 liter barrels, with full malolactic fermentation. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$55

92 Evening Land 2023 Seven Springs Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). The Seven Springs is always a sound Chardonnay investment, and the 2023 vintage is no different. Red-apple and lemon-grass aromas collide in pleasing fashion, joined by an herbaceous burst of celery-like lovage. I enjoyed the wine's tingly acidity and its lean, crisp mouthfeel. Every sip made me feel alive. The wine's preserved Meyer lemon, Thai basil, and quinine flavors were no slouches, either. Great Willamette Valley Chardonnay value to be found here. —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$40

92 Irvine & Roberts 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). Irvine & Roberts wants the world to know that not all of Oregon's fantastic Chardonnays hail from the Willamette Valley. This

estate gem from southern Oregon's Rogue Valley is impressive, beginning with its fresh yellow-apple and lemon-verbena-tea aromas. Additional scents of lemon butter, toasted filberts, and wet stones take up the perimeter. The wine's light and airy mouthfeel is complemented by invigorating acidity and flavors of Granny Smith apples, filberts, and a trace of freshly cut grass or guava. This is a great wine to start with if you are unfamiliar with Chardonnays from this producer. —M.A.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$35

92 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Ribbon Ridge). This lovely, fruit-forward Chardonnay opens up with Bosc pear and lemon-zest aromas that wrap themselves around notes of lemon-verbena tea and crushed chamomile flowers. The wine's flavors are a little snappier, with white grapefruit, saline and tonic water with a wedge of lime flavors. Even the acidity is bright and lemony. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

92 Toil Oregon 2024 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This Chardonnay's aromas of hyacinth and ripe yellow apples are positively spring-like. There's also a butter and citrus note in the background that will trigger a lemon-scone craving. There's some weight and body here, as lemon-verbena tea, lime-zest and butterscotch flavors glide across the palate. The wine's acidity is just enough to get the mouth watering. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$40

91 Amattera 2023 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A faint floral note that mixes gardenias and jasmine rubs up against the wine's aromas of yellow apples and toasted filberts. There's a nice balance here between alcohol, fruit, and the wine's juicy acidity. The Chardonnay's apple, butter, nutmeg, and ginger flavors are like eating an apple crisp fresh from the oven. This is a lighter-bodied Chardonnay with a crisp mouthfeel and an irresistible charm. I recommend trying this brisk wine with a turkey burger and a side of sweet potato fries. —M.A.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$38

91 Lanphere Cellars 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The Willamette Valley's Chardonnay revolution has a successful new combatant, and its name is Lanphere. This estate wine is a tropical paradise filled with aromas of passion fruit sorbet, banana, and the assorted fragrant flowers one finds in a Hawaiian lei. There's plenty of acidity here to fuel a crisp mouthfeel and flavors of lemon, toasted almonds and a hint of apple. If you find yourself in need of a wine pairing for poi, check out the Lanphere Chardonnay. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

91 Stoller 2024 Estate Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Aged for 10 months in a mix of concrete and stainless steel, this estate Chardonnay comes across as bright and lively. Aromas of white grapefruit, lemon, and straw lead to tropical flavors like lime zest and slices of grilled pineapple looking for

the nearest pizza. A highlight of this Chardonnay, it is brilliantly juicy. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

91 Winter's Hill 2023 Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). While fruit notes of pears and peaches dominate the nose with this wine, there is an earthy counterpoint provided by an aroma that mixes marigolds and oregano. The wine's flavor of pear slices drizzled with lime juice refreshes the palate, with faint tonic water and butter flavors on the perimeter. You can expect mildly elevated acidity to accompany a smooth and silky texture. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$49

90 Kason 2025 Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). At \$25 a bottle, this tasty Kason Chardonnay should go marching along into your refrigerator, cellar, and mouth. The wine's aromatics are a blend of pears and a spicy herbal mix of thyme and green peppers. Things get really interesting on the palate, as gentle acidity and an almost creamy mouthfeel join rich flavors like chamomile tea and poached pear drizzled with butter and cinnamon. —M.A.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$25

90 Seiji 2023 Estate Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). A nice blend of pears and apple pie made with Granny Smith apples is joined by an almond and vanilla note similar to cherry blossoms. Slightly elevated acidity is the backdrop for the wine's lemon-drop, buttered popcorn and oak-spice flavors. Look up Ina Garten's perfect roast chicken recipe, serve with a glass of this wine, then prepare for the adulation to pour in from your dinner guests. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$65

PINOT GRIS

92 Love & Squalor 2024 Walks On Gilded Splinters Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Love & Squalor destems fruit from Dion, one of the older vineyards in the Willamette Valley, to make this provocative, extended skin-contact Pinot Gris. The wine smacks you upside the olfactory system with aromas of baked apples, dried strawberries and a bitter note similar to an artichoke amaro. After that, acidity that jitterbugs combines with sandy tannins to escort crunchy pink-grapefruit brûlée, tart apricot, thyme, and orange-zest flavors across the finish line. What a roller coaster ride of a wine. —M.A.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$25

91 Proteus 2024 Ramato Pinot Gris (Laurelwood District). Proteus puts the magic of maceration on full display with this copper-tinted ramato-style take on Pinot Gris. The wine smells like chilled melon balls that have been drizzled with a high-end Daiginjo sake. Wild strawberries and apricots take over on the palate, along with dollops of thyme and a glass of tonic water served on the rocks with a twist of lime. The wine's texture is as fuzzy as peach skins, with elevated acidity and a bit of tannic structure. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$42

91 Soléna 2024 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Yet another excellent Pinot Gris from this producer, with 4% Gewürztraminer thrown in to spice things up a bit. Aromatically, the wine is a mix of farm and tropics, with strawberries and guava mingling with a burst of chamomile flowers. The flavors are a fruity mix of doughnut peaches and Golden Delicious apples, with a tiny wisp of wet stones. You can expect lively acidity and a crisp, fresh mouthfeel with this delightful Pinot Gris. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$24

89 King Estate 2024 Domaine Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). A simple aroma set of yellow apples, ginger, and honeycomb leads to flavors like apples, orange zest, and cold, clean, mineral-laden well water. There's even a bitter note toward the end that suggests a bit of bitter lime pith. The wine's mouthfeel is light and airy, with just enough acidity to keep things lively. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Del Rio 2024 Estate Pinot Gris (Rogue Valley). The wine's ripe pear and shredded coconut aromas are accented by bits of butter and flint. This is a light-bodied Pinot Gris, with an airy texture and limeade and lemon-curd flavors that are backed by gentle acidity. A higher level of acidity, and this pleasant Pinot Gris is off to the races. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$18

PINOT BLANC

93 Winter's Hill 2023 Reserve Pinot Blanc (Dundee Hills). There's a lot to love here. First, there are the wine's lemongrass tea and beeswax aromas that mingle with wispy notes of butter and smoky flint. It is a winning combination. After that, rich flavors like the honey and apricot qualities of really ripe golden raspberries and Hawaii's butter mochi are counterpointed by a bitter almond note. While the wine's acidity is crisp, the mouthfeel has some roundness to it. If you've never had an Oregon Pinot Blanc, this one will spoil you with the first sip. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$36

89 Left Coast 2023 Left Bank Pinot Blanc (Van Duzer Corridor). If you baked a yellow-apple tart and melted a bit of butter on top, you'd have a pretty good grip on this wine's aromas. The palate is a similar story, as flavors of lemon, pear, and almond butter meet up with restrained acidity and a round mouthfeel. The next time you get a shot at some soup dumplings, pour this wine. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$28

90 Brigadoon 2024 Joy Arlene Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). Joy Arlene is a lean, clean Pinot Blanc machine that oozes personality and aromas of Cosmic Crisp apples, yellow flowers, and wet rocks. The wine's elevated acidity lights up its flavors of white grapefruit, apple, and thyme. There's also a tiny note of something in the background that

may remind you of chewing on a piece of hay or straw. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

PINOT NOIR (BLANC)

93 Open Claim 2023 White Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). Made entirely with estate fruit that aged for 16 months in French oak, none of which was new, this white take on Pinot Noir is dazzling. The wine's aromas alone are worth the price of admission, as golden raspberries and lemon curd are joined by notes of wet slate and white flowers. Slightly elevated acidity and a bit of tannic structure support flavors like lemon, brioche, and toasted filberts. This isn't a light and wispy-textured wine, as those flavors feel like they are putting down a double coat on the palate. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$75

91 Compris 2024 Divided Light White Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The scent released by biting into a ripe white peach is complemented by aromas of lemon, fresh hay and a warm croissant. Think biscuits and peach jam. The Divided Light is a white take on Pinot Noir that rested in neutral French oak barrels for 10 months. Its passion fruit, orange-zest, and white-tea flavors are backed by a bolt of acidity that makes each sip seem as juicy as biting into that peach. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$55

90 Left Coast 2024 White Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). Behold the great white Pinot Noir, and call me Ishmael. This stainless-steel treat has a tropical-orchard combo that includes peaches, coconut butter, and a wisp of fresh hay. Mildly elevated acidity provides a frame for the wine's peach, whit-tea, and butterscotch flavors. The wine was fermented and aged in stainless steel, with five months of aging time. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

87 Amity 2024 White Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The white Pinot Noir from Amity Vineyards offers an aromatic mix of lemon and toasted filberts. This is a lighter-bodied wine, with gentle acidity and a flavor combination of lemon tea and peaches. This modestly priced quaffer will be right at home as a staple in any household refrigerator. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Andante 2023 Ardea Alba Sauvignon Blanc (Van Duzer Corridor). The Ardea Alba aged on its lees for a year in 100% neutral French oak. Its macadamia nut, lemon-zest and banana-cream-pie aromas are like a delightful day trip to Gilligan's Island. The wine feels light and airy in the mouth, as crisp acidity shines a spotlight on tropical flavors like coconut and lemon curd. I can testify to how well this wine pairs with fresh chèvre smeared on a crostini. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

91 Andante 2023 Estate Aligoté (Van Duzer Corridor). Let the lip smacking commence. This is a lean, clean Aligoté machine that lives up to its Bouzeron heritage. Lemon-peel, lemongrass, and chamomile-tea aromas strike swiftly right out of the gate. Then, zipping across the palate like an Olympic speed skater, flavors of preserved lemon, lemon butter and tangy pepperoncini light up the palate. The wine's lean mouthfeel is matched its steely acidity. To rejuvenate your spirit after a long day, take two sips of this wine and look for the nearest oyster on the half shell. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Love & Squalor 2024 A Frayed Knot Gewürztraminer (Willamette Valley). You asked for something unique. How bout an extended skin contact Gewürztraminer? Orange you glad you asked? I fell hard for this wine because of its aromas of tangerine sorbet and apricots, complete with fuzz. The tell-tale lychee flavor gives you a gewürtz hint, while the notes of tart soap berries and earthy and sweet bamboo shoots are a bit out there. Is there anything mainstream about this wine? Frayed knot. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Love & Squalor 2022 Dry Riesling (Willamette Valley). An aromatic one-two punch of petrol and wet cement provides a foundation for additional aromas of lemon peels and a not-quite-ripe Bosc pear. There's more rocks and petrol qualities on the palate, with bursts of pear and honey making appearances. The wine is dry as advertised, with lively acidity and a clean, crisp texture. —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$21

89 Andante 2023 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Van Duzer Corridor). This stainless-steel-fermented and aged Sauvignon Blanc strikes first with passion fruit and lemon aromas that are tempered by a wisp of smoke from a sage smudge pot. The wine has a surprisingly rich texture to go along with mild acidity and flavors like guava, lime, and toasted filberts. What a fine white wine to pair with straws and sunsets at your nearest beach or pool party. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 Del Rio 2024 Estate Viognier (Rogue Valley). A sweet, floral scent that mixes gardenias and sweet pea flowers melds with the wine's pronounced yellow-apple aroma. The flavors are tangier, with a mix of grilled lemons, ginger, and a hint of sweetness. This is a lighter-bodied wine with a fine texture and just enough acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

WHITE BLEND

92 Evening Land 2024 Seven Springs Clair de Lune Chenin Blanc-Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Claire de Lune is a 50-50 blend of Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay that was whole-cluster pressed and fermented with native yeasts in barrel, with six months spent in neutral 228 liter barrels, and one

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month in tank. This new cuvée from Evening land opens up with aromas of apples, orange zest, ginger, and cold, clean, mineral-laden well water. There's a touch of spritz on the tongue, with equally ticklish flavors of lemon butter, wet stones, and ripe Golden Delicious apples. The wine's crisp and fresh mouth-feel goes hand-in-hand with its lively acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$55

SPARKLING WINES

92 Irvine & Roberts 2020 Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Rogue Valley). Lively lemons dominate an aromatic set that mixes sweet hyacinth scents with notes of olive oil and butterscotch. The lemon-and-lime flavors on the palate are as brisk as the wine's acidity, with just a touch of chamomile tea bringing up the rear. After one year in barrel and 37 months *en tirage*, this tangy natural method sparkling wine was disgorged in August 2024. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Left Coast 2018 Brut Rosé Pinot Meunier (Van Duzer Corridor). I rarely get to see an Oregon sparkling wine made entirely of Pinot Meunier. Heck, I rarely get to see a Champagne that is 100% Pinot Meunier. I flat-out loved the wine's baked yellow-apple (peel and all) touched with butter and brown sugar aroma. The wine's energetic acidity supports equally lively flavors like yellow grapefruit, dried strawberries, and a pinch of white pepper. This wine spent seven years *en tirage* in neutral French oak barrels. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Irvine & Roberts 2020 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). Apple, with a touch of caramel coating, and lime aromas make for a yin-yang introduction to this 100% Chardonnay sparkling wine. There's also an earthy aroma here that comes across as a combination of wet modeling clay and musky marigolds. The wine's relaxed bubbles, gentle acidity, and almost creamy texture are matched with flavors of pear, ginger, filberts, and a hint of powdered sugar. What a fine match for a bowl of fresh summertime strawberries. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120

89 Left Coast 2018 Blanc de Noir Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). After seven years *en tirage* in neutral French oak barrels, this Blanc de Noir makes your acquaintance with its aromas of apple tarts, the flinty quality of spent 4th of July sparklers, and a wee bit of raspberry. The wine feels lithe and lean on the palate, with somewhat elevated acidity supporting flavors like lemon, earthy oregano and saline. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Silverback 2023 Simply Sparkled Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). Lazy bubbles help to deliver a lovely mix of boysenberry and blueberry aromas that layer over a tart peach-yogurt scent. The kind of acidity that wakes you right up shines a spotlight on the wine's lively lime-zest and tart boysenberry flavors. Gamay Noir doesn't pop up often in

the Willamette Valley, and a sparkling version is rare indeed. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

88 LifeVine 2022 Sparkling Blend (Umpqua Valley). Made with fruit from Coles Valley Vineyard in southern Oregon's Umpqua valley, the LifeVine Sparkling Blend makes its introduction with aromas of yellow apples and the fresh, briny qualities of uni. The wine's flavors are a nearly identical mix of Golden Delicious apples sprinkled with sea salt and a burst of wet slate. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

91 Chehalem 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé (Chehalem Mountains). Palates in need of reviving, here is your relief, as this rosé packs enough acidity to light a small village. Your nose might be tempted to pucker when confronted with these aromas of pink grapefruit, Thai basil tea served with lemon, and chalk-board dust. Pink grapefruit reappears on the palate as a flavor, where it is joined by touches of watermelon and prickly pear. —M.A.
abv: 13%, **Price:** \$28

91 Del Rio 2025 Estate Grenache Rosé (Rogue Valley). With the pretty color of a really ripe white peach, it's hard to get past just staring at this wine in the glass. The wine's orange and lemon kumquat-like aromatic mix is matched by notes of apricot, caramel, and saline. This is tart and juicy fare, courtesy of zingy acidity and flavors of basil and peach slices drizzled in lime juice. All pink wines should be this refreshing. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$18

89 Elouan 2024 Pinot Noir Rosé (Oregon). The wine's fruit and earth aroma combination will have you thinking about picking strawberries from the garden. There's also a nifty background aroma of bubble gum, complete with the dusting of sugary white powder. The flavors are similar, with ripe strawberries melding with notes of rhubarb, rosemary, and bitter almond. This stainless-steel fermented and aged pink wine has a surprisingly creamy texture that makes it feel like the wine is slipping and sliding all over the palate. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$20

89 Remotion 2024 Kenyon Vineyard Rosé (Applegate Valley). The wine's red raspberry, crushed brick dust, and candied apple aromas are accented by a small touch of sweet grass. With soft acidity and a mouthfeel that edges up to creamy territory, this pink wine's nectarine and watermelon flavors feel like they are gliding across the palate. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$24

89 Scenic Valley Farms 2025 Rosé (Willamette Valley). This watermelon-colored rosé mixes the scent of ripe peaches with an earthy note similar to roasted turnips. The wine's rich raspberry and strawberry flavors may be the result of half the wine having gone through carbonic maceration. Additional flavors

like sage and pink grapefruit hover in the background. The wine's acidity is modest, with an ethereal texture. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$18

89 Winter's Hill 2025 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The wine's pretty nose features aromas of peaches, raspberries, spearmint, and sweet pea flowers. These aromas would make an excellent perfume. The pink wine's smooth texture is home to flavors like watermelon, caramel, and lemon-flavored mineral water. This light-bodied wine features acidity that is just shy of crisp, and a touch of lemon-verbena tea on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$31

88 Stoller 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley). The first aroma to hit the nose is a fruit-and-mineral combination that reminded me of peach bubble gum, which I hope actually exists. The other aroma is slightly enticing: overly ripe papaya. A gentle wave of acidity flows over this pink wine's red-apple, red-raspberry, and agave-nectar flavors. Write if you find peach bubble gum. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

87 Samuel Robert 2025 Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley). This copper-hued wine opens with aromas of loamy soil, straw, peach, and a touch of powdery ash. With modest acidity and a creamy mouthfeel, the wine's cotton-candy and red-apple flavors feel like they are gliding across the palate. Something about this rosé made me want seek out an appetizer comprised of smoked salmon and cream cheese. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

PINOT NOIR

95 Evening Land 2023 La Source Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A dark-fruit aroma that edges up to cassis territory is flanked by notes of anise, orange zest, and violets. Propelled by boisterous acidity, the wine's blackcap-raspberry, bittersweet dark-chocolate, saline, and smoky Lapsang souchong tea flavors careen across the palate. Tannins that are soft, but with a subtle grip, offer sturdy support. After a 30% whole cluster fermentation, La Source spent 10 months in 228 liter Ermitage barrels, 50% of which were new. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

95 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Balcombe Vineyard Block 1B Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). I love wines that tell you one thing with their aromas, then head in a different direction with their flavors. Enter for evidence exhibit number 1B. It has a floral nose that fills the air with aromas of lavender-scented French laundry powder and hyacinth. Then, aromas of strawberries and rhubarb join the fun. This elegant perfume is followed by a punch in the palate of ripe blackberries and a cup of strong-brewed Scottish breakfast tea. Pile-driver acidity and brawny tannins offer able support. Drink now, or hold a few bottles for another 20 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

95 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Freedom Hill Coury Clone Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

Top top to bottom, 2023 has to be the best vintage for Patricia Green Cellars Pinot Noir that I have ever encountered. And the Freedom Hill Coury Clone is a star of this vintage class. Its juicy, rip marionberry aroma is flanked by puffs of macadamia nuts and shortbread. Sweet ripe blackberries rule the palate roost, where they are joined by thyme and white-tea notes. This wine's acidity is graceful and crisp, its tannins are velvety, but with a subtle bit of grip. Drink now through 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$75

94 Andante 2021 Ardea Alba Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor).

An Ardea alba is the great white heron, or great egret, that adorns Andante's labels. The Pinot Noir version of Ardea Alba takes flight with its beautifully ripe and liqueur-like red-raspberry and Rainier cherry aromas. The red-fruit aromas are supported by traces of dark chocolate and macadamia nuts. The wine is balanced, with modestly tangy acidity and velvety tannins interacting with plenty of fruit and a modest alcohol percentage. Flavors of red raspberries, cacao nibs, black tea, and pine needles glide along a smooth and elegant mouthfeel. This is a Golidilocks wine where everything is just right. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$65

94 Broadley 2023 Claudia's Choice Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

Claudia's Choice is always a Willamette Valley favorite of mine, and the 2023 is the best I've had in several years. Its ripe red-raspberry and Tahitian vanilla aromas are fresh and clean, while an earthy note similar to moss floats in the background. The wine displays the balance that Broadley Pinot Noirs are known for, with crunchy acidity and velvety tannins supporting flavors like blackberries, English breakfast tea, and saline. A glass of Claudia's Choice will make a fine way to end a day of gardening. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$58

94 Broadley 2023 Starr Point Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

Starr Point is a new wine from Broadley that is made with the best barrel of the vintage. It is named after a historic settlement that helped to form the winery's home town of Monroe, and at only 200 bottles produced, this wine will soon be history as well. The wine's Rainier cherry, cranberry, and sage aromas, a.k.a. the "ultimate stuffing," lead to flavors of blackberry pie, with crust, thyme, and a cup of black tea. Tannins that edge up to grippy territory offer ample support. Enjoy now through 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$74

94 Evening Land 2023 Summum Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).

This is one smooth sipping Pinot Noir. It is lighter in body, with mouthwatering acidity, silky tannins, and a mouthfeel as ethereal as a piece of antique lace. Summum's cherry and melting wax-candle aromas dovetail with a meaty note similar to steaks on the backyard grill. Sweet red cherries dominate on the palate as well, where they

are counterpointed by mildly tart and bitter notes of orange zest and quince. I look forward to one day trying this wine with a bowl of mushroom risotto. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$100

94 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Lillies Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).

Zeroing in on a quarter century of age, Lillie's Vineyard up on Worden Hill in the Red Hills of Dundee is really hitting its stride. The wine that Patricia Green Cellars makes with Lillie's fruit possesses aromas that are at once fruity and earthy, as blackberries meld with aromas of straw, chamomile flowers, wet slate, and freshly tilled soil. It is a repeat on the palate, with blackcap-raspberry and orange-zest flavors colliding with bursts of thyme, oregano, and miso. With significant tannic structure, energetic acidity and a relatively modest alcohol percentage, try to hold a few bottles until 2038 to 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$75

94 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Old Vine Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).

The 2023 vintage train keeps on rolling for this veteran Pinot Noir producer. The Old Vine, made mostly with fruit from vines that are 32 years old, opens with aromas of dark plums, cedar, and a cranberry scone. The wine feels fresh and youthful on the palate, as lively acidity and tannins with subtle grip back flavors of ripe blackcap raspberries, oaky vanilla spice and a touch of wet stones. Drink now through 2038, perhaps longer. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$45

94 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 Volcanic Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).

The wine's name may refer to soils, but it also packs an eruption or two's worth of spice. It all begins with a blackberry and brown-sugar aroma combination that is nearly matched by a minty-spicy burst of holy basil tea. There's a repeat performance on the palate, as the wine's black-currant flavor is intersected by powerful notes of nutmeg, coriander, peat, and bittersweet dark chocolate. Volcanic's acidity is as silky smooth as its tannins, so you can expect a smooth lava, er, Pinot flow. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$48

94 Toil Oregon 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

Toil, with its elegant mouthfeel and velvety tannins, is no trouble. Its aromas begin with an earthy note similar to sauteed maitake mushrooms, followed by notes of Bing cherries, honeycomb, and freshly split pine logs. There's a nice bit of acidity here to match up with the wine's rich blackberry, mocha, and saline flavors. I'd love to try the Toil with lamb burgers cooked over a campfire and a Pendleton wool blanket. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

93 Amaterra 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

Black-cherry and worn leather aromas make a nice combination, especially when joined by puffs of orange peel and steaks grilling over hot wood coals. The fruit is even darker on the palate, with

ripe blackberries uniting in fine fashion with flavors of sage and grilled steak rubbed with espresso grounds and black pepper. This is a graceful Pinot Noir with jazzy acidity and silky tannins. What's not to love? *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$47

93 Broadley 2023 Marcile Lorraine Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

A mix of Pommard and Dijon 667 & 115, Marcile Lorraine opens with aromas of black cherries, meaty portobello mushroom and a wee bit of smoky peat. Those aromas gave me the feel of drinking Pinot Noir around a fire while camping in the woods. The flavors trigger hunger pangs, as blackberry-cobbler, orange-zest, and maple flavors reign supreme on the palate. This is a smooth sipper, with alcohol, fruit, bright acidity, and silky tannins in almost perfect harmony. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$58

93 Evening Land 2023 Seven Springs Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).

A really ripe and sweet blackcap-raspberry aroma is counterpointed by tangy bits of lemon verbena, mint, and a fresh wood scent that reminds me of the rubber-band-powered balsa glider plane toys we'd fly as kids. The fruit on the lighter-bodied wine's palate is a mix of mulberries and elderberries that meld with flavors of dark-chocolate ganache and orange zest. There's plenty of acidity and velvety tannins here to offer support for all of that fruit. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$45

93 Foris 2024 Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).

Pinot fans should do everything possible to find this incredible value. It all starts with ripe red-cherry and tart blackberry aromas playing off one another in fine sweet-tart fashion. Additional aromas of black tea and loamy soil linger in the background. Then comes a delightful blackcap-raspberry-jam flavor that is balanced by lemony acidity and fine-grained tannins. There is also this baked good flavor that, appropriately enough given the raspberry jam, comes across like a warm sourdough biscuit. The wine's texture is extraordinarily silky, like sliding into a bed made with 600 thread-count sheets. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

93 Irvine & Roberts 2022 Wadenswil Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).

Pizza fans get ready, as this wine will entice you with aromas of dark plums, Roma tomatoes, basil, and a savory note similar to a cured meat, like prosciutto or speck. A nice bit of juicy acidity and integrated tannins offer support to the wine's "none so black" black-cherry, black-pepper and black-tea flavors. Cue the Spinal Tap, call out for pizza and dig into this saucy Pinot Noir. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$65

93 Kason 2023 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).

A perfume of rose hips tea and violets melds beautifully with aromas of Rainier cherries and yeasty sourdough bread. The seamless Barrel Select displays almost perfect balance between restrained alcohol, gentle acidity, velvety tannins, and fruit. The primary fruit flavor is macerated strawber-

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ries, which are flanked by bursts of green tea, saline, and nori. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 King Estate 2023 Domaine Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). GoDaddy's got nothing on this Domaine. A rich aromatic introduction that mimics a cherry pie, complete with a butter crust, will put you right back in your grandmother's kitchen. Or grandpa's kitchen. But only if the grandparents kept a piece of wet slate handy. Bing cherries dominate the palate, joined by touches of sage and a bottle of mineral-laden sparkling water that's infused with lemon. With crisp acidity, sturdy tannins, and a modest 13% abv, enjoy this Domaine from now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$75

93 Open Claim 2021 Layer & Stitch Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a new Open Claim estate wine for me, and it is an impressive debut. The wine's aromas are a rich mix of black cherry and bittersweet dark chocolate that are positively ganache-like. With flavors of blackberry jam, ginger, and a touch of black pepper, you could almost spread this medium-bodied wine on toast points. Bright acidity and velvety tannins offer a sense of balance. Kick back and enjoy Layer & Stitch with the Mark Keali'i Ho'omalulu and the Kamehameha Schools Children's Chorus version of "Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride." —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

93 Styring 2022 Wit Reserve Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This is a Pinot Noir to float down a river with. The wine's smooth and creamy, creamy texture provides a nice base for rich flavors of black cherries, black coffee, and an earthy bit of oregano. Don't worry, this hedonistic treat's aromas of blackberry pie and a forest-floor mix of duff, pine needles, and mushrooms are equally compelling. Drink now, and enjoy the wine's lemony acidity and silky tannins. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

92 Brigadoon 2024 Lower Long Tom Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Deep in the beautiful woods just north of Eugene, Oregon, Brigadoon pops up every vintage with terrific wines that won't bust your budget. This latest Pinot Noir offers up aromas that combine a bowl of mixed berries and grape popples with wisps of citrus and saline. Zingy acidity and silky tannins offer able support to the wine's ripe blackcap-raspberry, mulberry, and mineral-water with a wedge of lemon flavors. This is literally a lip-smacking wine. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Patricia Green Cellars 2023 La Belle Promenade Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The wine's dominant pie-cherry aroma is joined by an earthy, savory mix of white button mushrooms sautéed in soy sauce and sprinkled with oregano. I've can't remember ever before experiencing this scent combination. La Belle Promenade's flavors are more familiar, as dark raspberries, blueberries, and cacao nibs mix with notes of bay leaf and lemon balm. The

wine's brisk acidity by far overshadows tannins that are soft and integrated. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$55

92 Styring 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This lighter-bodied and elegant estate wine fills the room with aromas of intensely ripe red cherries, fragrant gardenias, and a bit of pie crust to accompany those cherries. Layer upon layer of developing flavors include black cherries, orange pekoe tea, and a swirling mix of caramel and dark chocolate. The wine feels clean and fresh on the palate, with integrated tannins matching up with bristly acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

91 Garageland 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is the best Pinot Noir in the world named after a record made by The Clash. It is also consistently one of the best wine values in the Willamette Valley. Aromatically, this year's Garageland is a red-raspberry pie flanked by wisps of lemons grilling over a campfire. It is a lighter-bodied wine, with lively acidity, velvety tannins with subtle grip and a crisp texture. The wine's flavors mix blackberries with black tea, and clove. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Kason 2023 Dijon 777 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). I love a Pinot Noir with bright fruit, tangy acidity that is light on its feet. The Kason Dijon 777 ticks all the boxes for me. The wine is packed with aromas and flavors of red cherries, dark chocolate, pine needles, and cedar. Its acidity makes the mouth water, its tannins are fine-grained and unobtrusive. This ethereal sipping experience is just fine by itself, or perhaps served while listening to a favorite symphony recording. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 Proteus 2024 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For fans of Pinot Noir with a lighter touch and modest alcohol percentages, get on board the Proteus train. Their reserve wine offers a perfume of blackberries, orange peel, and saline to make its introduction. Tart pie cherries then take over on the palate, where they are joined by notes of cranberry and balsa. While the wine's acidity is lively and crisp, the tannins are as silky as sheets. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$72

91 Stoller 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A rich black-currant-jelly aroma is counterpointed by notes of tangy cranberry, dried rose petals, and the most salinity this side of the Salton Sea. Blazing acidity then illuminates the wine's dark raspberry, rose hip tea and pine-needle flavors. While the finish is a bit short, this is one refreshing sip of Pinot Noir. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

91 Styring 2023 Wit Reserve Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). A fruit-and-flower combination of lavender and blackberries unites in pleasing fashion with notes of straw and the saline quality of the lining of a freshly shucked oyster. Acidity, with a bit of tart and twang, then lights the path for the wine's Bing cherry

ice cream, dark-chocolate, and cedar flavors. The tannins are as silky as the Wit Reserve's mouthfeel. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

90 Battle Creek 2023 Unconditional Pinot Noir (Oregon). The wine's blackberry and violet aromas put you in the garden. The pronounced aromas of pine needles and duff take you straight to the floor of the nearest forest. The flavors are way richer, with mulberries, strawberry jam, and black tea served with a teaspoon of demerara sugar. But don't worry, the wine's chippy acidity and mildly grippy tannins are up to the task of offering a sense of balance. Prepare to surrender to the Unconditional. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$20

90 Fullerton 2024 Three Otters Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Three Otters is an appropriately playful and frisky wine packed with crisp acidity and all the tang you can handle. Its aromas are one-two punch of red cherries and butter-scotch, with just a touch of spicy nutmeg. The flavors are fruity and spicy, with red raspberries playing nicely with cinnamon, ginger, and bits of cedar and coriander. A modest alcohol percentage goes hand-in-hand with the light-bodied wine's boisterous acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Styring 2023 Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). The wine's aromas are shy at first, but with a bit of glass swirling, bits of boysenberry and a swirl of vanilla and dark chocolate emerge. The wine's smooth texture floats flavors like blackcap raspberry jam and vanilla. While the tannins are unobtrusive, this estate wine's elevated acidity stands out. I might like to sip this wine with bit of baked Brie. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

90 Styring 2022 Signature Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). While the first aroma wave includes really ripe black cherries and a touch of caramel, the second wave is a savory mix of saline and meat that conjures memories of a great salumi tray. It's more of the same on the palate, where sweet black currants square off against flavors of caramel, coffee, and cedar. The medium-bodied wine's crisp acidity and velvety tannins give a sense of balance to all of that fruit. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

89 Amattera 2022 Nemarniki Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The sweet and floral scent of Rainier cherries drifts lazily from the glass, soon followed by aromas of vanilla and black tea. The wine's dominant flavor is red cherry, with faint wisp of molasses and sweet oak hovering in the background. Ripe tannins and gentle acidity contribute to a smooth mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$67

89 Brigadoon 2024 Lylee Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The scent of a hay bale warming in the sun is complemented by Lylee's aromas of bright red cherries and violets. With acidity that goes

to 11, this wine may strike some as overly tart. It is a light-bodied Pinot Noir, with a wispy mouthfeel and flavors of boysenberries and balsa. I think I might like to let this wine slice through the fat of a salumi tray filled with meats like mortadella, spiced capocollo, and *culatello*. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

89 Kason 2023 Old Vine Reserve Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Rich fruit aromas erupt from the glass, with dried cherries, sultanas, and dark plums uniting in plum-pudding-like fashion. There's also an earthy aroma similar to freshly turned garden soil. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir, with silky tannins and elevated acidity. The flavors are a wall of damson plums and black coffee. Kason's Old Vine Reserve spent two years in 100% new French oak barrels. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

89 Kason 2023 Pommard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This is one of those rare times when a wine's aromas are perfectly replicated as flavors. With every sniff and sip you can expect a massive bowl of briary blackberries garnished with a spritz of rose water. There's a nice balance here between the fruit, restrained alcohol, gentle acidity, and velvety tannins. Kason's Pommard spent two years in 50% new French oak barrels. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Lanphere Cellars 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A combination of blackberries and bay leaf melds seamlessly with fresh aromas of saline, crushed rose petals, and lemon-scented French laundry powder. Acidity is out ahead of the plush tannins on this one, leading to a tangy mouthfeel that accompanies flavors like ripe Rainier cherries and a sweet and savory note similar to barbecued pork ends from a Chinese restaurant. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Lanphere Cellars 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The initial aromatic impression is one of a potent wall of blackberry liqueur. The sweetness of the blackberries is tempered by aromas of cranberry ice, orange blossoms, and clove. The wine's flavors have an earthy streak, with oregano and blackberry tea uniting with a hint of black currant and toasted oak. You can expect slightly elevated acidity and integrated tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Pin Point 2023 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Talk about "funky, funky but chic." Pin Point's loamy soil and straw aromas are pierced by notes of pie cherries and orange zest. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir, with energetic acidity, velvety tannins, and flavors like blackcap raspberry and a wee bit of coconut. Pair with any David Johansen record and a chicken *mole torta*. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Proteus 2024 Valley Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The scent of a beeswax candle slowly melting joins the wine's red-cherry and lemon aromas

in a relaxing fashion. After the rejuvenating aromatherapy session, the Pinot Noir's black-cherry and briary strawberry flavors are spiced up by bits of cinnamon and nutmeg. Silky tannins and sprightly acidity make for a refreshing sip of wine. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$40

88 Alchemist 2023 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Alchemist conjures up a massive bowl's worth of black-cherry aromas that are accented by bits of cedar and violets. The wine's texture is soft and plush, with silky tannins supporting flavors like blackberry, thyme, and maple hard candies. This is a straightforward and easy to sip Pinot Noir. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

88 Amaterra 2022 Swede Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The aroma of dusty, not-quite-ripe roadside Himalayan blackberries mingles with a burst of lemon zest. Forget about acidity, this wine's aromas alone will make you pucker up. The tribute to tart repeats on the palate as tangy pie cherry, cranberry, and dill flavors hold court. Swede Hill's zippy acidity matches up with gentle tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$67

88 Bravuro Cellars 2023 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Country roads beckon, as this Pinot Noir delivers aromas of dusty roadside blackberries, moist red clay, and an earthy herbal combination of oregano and sage. The wine's mouthfeel is lean, with tart flavors like chokeberries and orange pekoe tea backed by grippy and drying tannins. I'd suggest trying the Bravuro with beef cheeks bourguignon. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$45

88 Firesteed 2024 Pinot Noir (Oregon). A strawberry-popsicle aroma, complete with the wooden stick, dominates the wine's sidekick aromas of black pepper and a meaty note similar to venison jerky. I quite enjoyed the wine's crisp acidity, which highlighted its flavors of red cherries, cola, nutmeg, and black tea. This wine represents the kind of strong value that will ably fuel large gatherings and tailgate parties. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Kason 2023 Reserva Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Kason's Reserva saw a full two years in 100% new French oak before its release. The Pinot Noir leads with dark-plum and fresh rose-petal aromas, along with a tiny bit of red licorice lurking in the background. And before you email, I am aware that red licorice isn't real licorice. Those aromas repeat as flavors on the palate, along with wisps of oak spices and roasted pork shoulder. The Reserva's acidity is tart, its tannins a bit grippy, and its mouthfeel lean. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

88 Lanphere Cellars 2022 B&D Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). The aroma combination of blackberries, Hershey's chocolate, and espresso is like a cafe beverage that no one's thought

of yet. The palate is the site of a complete gearshift, as tart black-cherry and slightly bitter Ligurian olive-oil flavors are flanked by a hefty dose of cedar. The wine's mouthfeel is lean, its acidity gentle, and tannins inconspicuous. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Proteus 2024 Estate Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). The absolute tart and twang of this estate wine is something to behold. It all starts with tart hibiscus-tea and tomato-leaf aromas wrapping themselves around a wisp of rye bread. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir that flashes gentle acidity and plush tannins. The flavors are red fruit, wet stones, and saline—which is like sipping a glass of mineral water infused with strawberries—all floating on an airy texture. A bit more acidity would have been welcomed with open arms. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$55

88 Styling 2023 Signature Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). With aromas of blueberries and tangy cranberries, not to mention a tiny amount of wet stones, I though I was about to sip something crisp and brisk. In a 180-degree gear shift, the first sip yields potentially sweet flavors of cranberry clafouti and Niagara grape juice served on the rocks. This yin and tang experience is backed by silky tannins and slightly elevated acidity. The mouthfeel is rich and smooth. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

92 Broadley 2023 Jessica Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A blackberry and red-apple aroma combination mixes with notes of honeycomb and wet slate to give the impression of a homemade muffin, fresh from the oven. The wine feels nimble in the mouth, with sprightly acidity illuminating flavors of Bing cherries, cedar, and a nifty bitter note on the finish similar to arugula dressed with a Ligurian olive oil. The wine's tannins are silky smooth. Jessica is 100% Wädenswil clone, and 50% whole cluster. The wine aged in a mix of neutral and 30% new French oak barrels. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$58

92 Dobbles Family 2022 Eola-Amity Hills Cuvée Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This winner of a wine strikes first with aromas of ripe blackcap raspberries, cacao nibs, freshly picked violets, and wet slate. If that wasn't enough joy, blazing acidity shines its spotlight on flavors like tangy boysenberries, thyme and a tiny dollop of dark chocolate. This is light-to-medium-bodied fare, with tannins possessing a little grip. Enjoy now, with gusto. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Open Claim 2023 Flora's Veil Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah). After 18 months in French oak, one-third of which was new, Flora is lifting its veil to reveal a most captivating set of aromas. It starts with sappy red raspberries mingling with a vanilla scent that may trigger cravings for birthday cake. Then, hovering in the background, there's an earthy note similar to hemp rope. Flavors of marionberries, lime zest, and oregano are joined on the finish by a

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touch of anise, all backed by crisp acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$90

91 Compris 2024 Mountain Echo Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Midnight Echo was fermented with a tiny amount of whole cluster in macro bins and amphora, then aged 11 months in 12% new French oak. The Pinot Noir's aromas are an amazing combination of sweet, ripe raspberries, candied rose petals, lavender, and cedar. A sweet marionberry-jam flavor is counterpointed by notes of orange zest and the anise qualities of freshly picked Thai basil leaves. There's a nice balance here between restrained alcohol, bright acidity, and silky tannins. Midnight Echo's texture is so smooth, it sips like a whisper. —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$55

91 Del Rio 2023 Birdseye Estate Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). Keep an eye on this newish cool-climate estate property, as the north-facing Birdseye is planted exclusively to Pinot Noir clones. The 2023 vintage offers a briary nose that is packed with aromas of a scone filled with ripe raspberries and topped with a bit of vanilla icing. The fruit flavor is darker, with black cherries bumping into flavors of black tea and an earthy herbal mix of oregano and thyme. This is a superbly balanced wine that showcases modest alcohol, satiny tannins and lemony acidity. Birdseye spent 10 months in French oak, 25% of which was new. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$55

91 Winter's Hill 2022 González Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A distinctly earthy nose conjures thoughts of getting your hands into the soil for a bit of gardening. That loamy soil aroma is matched by ripe black cherries and a wisp of clove. This Pinot Noir is a seamless sipper with just-right acidity and integrated tannins. Flavors of Bing cherries, pipe tobacco, and cacao nibs take center stage on the palate, with just a touch tart red cranberry on the fairly long finish. —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$109

90 Left Coast 2023 Latitude 45 Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). A fresh, bright red-cherry aroma wraps itself around the wine's other aromas of fresh hay and dark chocolate. After that nice introduction come flavors of tart red cherries, mushrooms picked from a pine-forest floor, and a powerful bit of cedar. Latitude 45 also has a happy mix of zingy acidity and brawny tannins that border on being grippy. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$55

89 Primarius 2024 Pinot Noir (Oregon). There's a sense of balance here among fruit, alcohol, acidity, and tannins, not to mention the fact that Primarius smells and tastes like Pinot Noir. That's getting a lot for \$16. The wine's savory aromas mix red raspberries with a puff of roasted meat (think sirloins on the grill) and black tea served with lemon. It also delivers flavors of ripe Rainier cherries, black coffee,

and the cinnamon, brown sugar, and caramel qualities of a Stroopwafel cookie. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

89 Scenic Valley Farms 2024 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A heady mix of ripe blackberries and blueberry-fruit leather is accented by a wisp of aged balsamic vinegar. The flavors are even richer, with Amarena cherries in syrup melding with bitter-sweet dark chocolate. This is a rich Pinot Noir that feels almost creamy on the palate, with plush tannins and gentle acidity. —M.A.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$25

GAMAY NOIR

94 Evening Land 2024 Seven Springs Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Light and elegant, this Gamay Noir soars on gossamer wings. It is also the best example of Gamay Noir from Evening Land that I have ever tasted. Fresh, clean aromas of cranberry, orange zest, and a chest of cedar drawers are flanked by a trace of bittersweet dark chocolate. Crisp acidity then does its thing for the wine's dark raspberry, black-pepper, and white-tea flavors. The wine feels tart and juicy in the mouth, with velvety tannins that possess a subtle grip. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$45

93 Love & Squalor 2024 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). Love & Squalor's Gamay Noir is consistently one of my favorite wines in all of the Willamette Valley. The whole-cluster fruit went through two weeks of carbonic maceration, then malolactic fermentation, before resting in neutral barriques for 11 months. It is packed with aromas and flavors of raspberries, sweet pea flowers, jasmine tea, and black pepper. The light-bodied wine feels graceful and airy on the palate, as its acidity causes the mouth to water like an automatic sprinkler. This is joyous juice. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$32

92 Andante 2023 Estate Gamay Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). Tangy and balanced, Andante's lighter-bodied Gamay Noir is a refreshing sipper. The wine's aromas are clean and fresh, with red cherries, chalkboard dust, and vanilla-tinged sweetgrass uniting in pleasant fashion. Zippy acidity then lights the way for the wine's pie-cherry, orange-zest, and wet slate flavors. This Gamay Noir spent 14 months on its lees in French oak barrels, 16% new. —M.A.

abv: 12.2%

Price: \$40

OTHER RED WINES

93 Remotion 2021 Raffinato Sangiovese (Rogue Valley). Raffinato is a Sangiovese-heavy blend with a compelling aromatic mix of Bing cherries, ripe boysenberries, and a spicy burst of gingerbread. The baked good theme continues on the palate, where flavors of blueberry scones, sage, molasses, anise, and cedar are framed by the wine's balanced set of silky tannins, bright acidity, and modest alcohol. With a graceful, rich mouthfeel, the Raffinato is

hard to beat when it comes to Sangiovese fun. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$32

92 Brockmeyer Family 2023 Los Rocosos Vineyard Grenache (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). There sure are a lot of excellent Grenache wines coming out of Washington state these days, and you can add Brockmeyer Family to the list excellent producers. Los Rocosos, made with fruit from the illustrious The Rocks District, opens with rich aromas of blackcap raspberries, dark chocolate, orange peel, and clove. The wine's dark-strawberry and black-cherry flavors are joined by wee bits of cedar, saline, and chocolate-crinkle cookies. All of those flavors hang on a sturdy wall of chewy tannins. Powerful stuff, so be sure to swirl hard before sipping. —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$40

91 Remotion 2021 Celestina Vineyard Barbera (Rogue Valley). A Barbera from southern Oregon is a rare treat indeed. Remotion's version lifts off with its Bing cherry, anise, loamy soil, and lavender aromas. A tart pie-cherry flavor then plays off of notes of white pepper and aged balsamic vinegar. The wine's plush mouthfeel allows those flavors to merrily glide along, supported by silky tannins and lemony acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$32

90 Remotion 2021 Swallow Hill Grenache (Rogue Valley). This is a tale of two wines. The Grenache's aromas are a sweet mix of wild strawberries drizzled with balsamic vinegar, sage, and a touch of cornmeal. Then the wine's snappy acidity takes over, highlighting tangy flavors like cranberry, anise, and black pepper. After five years resting in the bottle, the wine's tannins feel smooth and accommodating. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$32

90 Remotion 2020 Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). This is one lively set of aromas, as tart pie cherries, orange zest, and mint rub against worn leather and tobacco. This is a nicely balanced Tempranillo, where velvety tannins and energetic acidity support the wine's cherry and English breakfast tea flavors. Southern Oregon is home to a lot of nice Tempranillo, and this is one of them. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$35

89 Remotion 2020 Celestina Vineyard Malbec (Rogue Valley). The first detectable aroma is earthy, like a mix of blackberry tea and loamy soil. Then you get this nice combination of ripe plums, espresso shots and violets. A serious piece of tannic structure supports the medium-bodied wine's jammy black-cherry, orange-zest, and caramel flavors, while the wine's acidity is on the shy side. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$35

WASHINGTON

CHARDONNAY

91 Confluence 2023 Divine Blanc Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). What a mesmerizing fortified wine. There are aromas of dried apricots and golden raisins that make me think I am about to taste an *oloroso* sherry. Then a burst of chamomile flower and almonds push me in another direction. Divine Blanc's texture is thick without being viscous, and its caramel-leche and almond flavors are pierced by an arrow of blood orange. It may sound chaotic, but it actually works. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$50/375ml

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2024 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2024 Canoe Ridge Estate Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). A powerful combination of pineapple and passion fruit aromas will have you expecting a lei to be draped over your head. Behind the fruit, wisps of wet slate and lemon-verbena tea await. The wine's main flavor is that of a Golden Delicious apple coated with melted caramel. The light-bodied wine's acidity and mouthfeel are equally gentle. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2024 Indian Wells Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). A ripe passion fruit aroma runs smack dab into a bit of talc and a healthy amount of butter. It is more of the same on the palate, with the wine's ripe pear and ginger flavors going head-to-head with notes of maple and butter on toast. Try this wine with your next lobster roll. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Browne Family 2024 Heritage Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). A faint aroma of lemon-verbena tea in no way prepares you for the richness that awaits. The wine's sweet lemon curd, ginger, apple, and cinnamon flavors are almost dessert-like, with a touch of butter lurking in the background. With a creamy texture, those flavors feel as if they are honey slowly dripping down the side of the jar. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Echolands 2024 Frenchman Hills Vineyard Block 01 Riesling (Royal Slope). The tropics meet earth as guava and ripe honeydew melon dominate the wine's aromas. The wine's mouthfeel feels on the light and thin side as flavors of Golden Delicious

apples and passion fruit drift by. A highlight here is the Riesling's acidity, which is so crisp and invigorating, it is like taking a cold shower after a long, hot day. —M.A.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$48

88 Enodav 2024 Guadalupe Upland Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Snipes Mountain). An aromatic set that includes pears, mirabelle plums, and talc make for a nice introduction. There isn't much fruit on the palate, with a small amount of yellow apple swallowed by a combination of butterscotch and saline. The Chenin Blanc's light and airy texture is accompanied by a whisper of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

WHITE BLENDS

93 Liminal 2023 The Aerialist WeatherEye Vineyard Roussanne-Marsanne (Columbia Valley). This year's Aerialist is a blend of 85% Roussanne and 15% Marsanne that spent 14 months in a combination of new 500 liter puncheons, neutral barriques and 30% new French oak barrels. The wine's peach and melon aromas are accented by wisps of coconut and jasmine. With restrained acidity, the wine's creamy and smooth mouthfeel plays host to flavors of pear, honeycomb, lanolin and a bitter almond note. My next roasted chicken will have the Aerialist as its wing man. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

89 Enodav NV Cuvée Blanc White Blend (Yakima Valley). This stainless-steel-fermented blend of 57% Riesling and 43% Chenin Blanc is fresh and lively, starting with its meadow-like aromas of wild flowers, grass, and earth. In the midst of that meadow is a fragrant orchard of Golden Delicious apples. The wine's pear and ginger flavors glide along a silky smooth texture, backed by crisp acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Browne Family 2025 Gigi's Garden White Blend (Columbia Valley). Gigi's Garden is a blend of 60% Sauvignon Blanc and 40% Pinot Gris that spent all its time in stainless steel tanks. The wine leads with aromas of passion fruit, sweetgrass, and the smoke of a beach campfire. There's a bit of sweetness here, with soft acidity and flavors like unripened pineapple, ginger, and lemongrass tea. At \$19 for a liter bottle, it will make a fine pairing for picnic blankets and concerts in the park. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19/l

ROSÉ

91 Rujaya 2025 Boushey Vineyard Rosé (Yakima Valley). I am a sucker for a Grenache rosé, and this producer has an excellent one. The wine was 100% whole-cluster pressed, fermented in stainless steel and aged for an unknown time in 100% neutral oak. It is packed with aromas that will place you on a Mediterranean beach: primarily grilled lemons, rosemary, and the salinity of a sea breeze. Puckering

acidity then takes control of the palate, lighting up flavors of pink grapefruit, tangerines, and fresh marjoram. All I need to pair with this wine is sand, sun and salsa—the dancing kind. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$28

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

96 Trothe 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). A warm, earthy scent that I always associate with sandstone or petrichor matches up nicely with the wine's Bing cherry, rose-petal, and orange-blossom aromas. The fuller-bodied wine's flavors mix ripe black cherries with an earthy and herbal taste that is similar to chewing on a piece of straw. That fruit is ably backed by dusty tannins with a subtle grip and some boisterous acidity. Enjoy now through 2045. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$252

95 Liminal 2023 Block 47 WeatherEye Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). After 21 months in 100% new French oak barrels, 47 is eager to make your acquaintance with elegant aromas of black currants, cherry blossoms, violets, cigar box and graphite. The full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon then kicks it into high gear with its robust black-cherry, anise, black-coffee and cedar flavors. Tannins that dry the mouth provide sturdy support. I'm decanting this wine over the next two years, but prepare to enjoy this wine over the next 16 to 18 years. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$125

94 Avennia 2023 Sestina Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). If you enjoy a powerful Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend, this is a wine to grow old with. A potent black-fruit aroma sets the stage for supporting scents of grilled steaks seasoned with black pepper and coriander, plus some added talc. Bruising tannins that grip like Schwarzenegger offer a sturdy frame for Sestina's black-cherry, red-apple, cedar and orange pekoe tea flavors. The wine aged for 21 months in 60% new French oak barrels. Enjoy now through 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$75

93 Avennia 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from Red Mountain sure knows how to trigger hunger pangs. First, there is an aromatic combination of pie cherries and vanilla that reminded me of a cherry scone drizzled with cream. Aromas of lavender and cedar hover in the background. Burly tannins that rough up the roof of the mouth offer sturdy support for the wine's black-cherry, cocoa-powder and espresso flavors. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$60

91 Whitman Hill 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). A sweet black-fruit scent wraps itself around the wine's aromatic core of fresh rose petals, saline, and cedar. After that, flavors of black cherries and cacao nibs are pierced by tangy notes of orange zest and pomegranate seeds. This is

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a light-to-medium bodied Cabernet Sauvignon that maintains a sense of balance between fruit, alcohol, acidity, and tannic structure. This thrill on Whitman Hill is a steal at \$30. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$30

90 Guardian 2022 Newsprint Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahlake Slope). Extra, extra, this Newsprint struts its stuff above the fold. The lede is a combination of Bing cherry and powdered sugar aromas that make for a sweet perfume. After that, the medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon delivers hard-hitting headline flavors like black cherries coated in dark chocolate and a touch of clove. Integrated tannins and gentle acidity are the noteworthy sidebars. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$38

90 Guardian 2022 The Rookie Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This burly Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon is a sturdy as the oak trees that supplied its barrels. The wine leads with aromas of ripe boysenberries, dark chocolate, crushed brick dust, and a hefty dose of cedar. The flavors are even richer, as blackberry liqueur and anise match up with British breakfast tea. There are grippy tannins that make the inside of the mouth feel like corduroy rubbing against corduroy. Decanting will be rewarded. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$58

90 Hyatt 2022 Hyatt Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Rattlesnake Hills). Get out the leather slippers, open a newspaper, and settle in with these aromas of orange-flavored pipe tobacco, black cherries, and the pine needles one finds on a forest floor. Then you can dig into the wine's cherry, espresso, earthy oregano, and cedar flavors. Just be prepared for a wall of grippy tannins that might just be made from cedar. This is one chewy mouthful of wine for which decanting or patience will be amply rewarded. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$45

89 Browne Family 2023 Do Epic Sh*t Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). I don't allow wines to tell me what to do, but in this case, I may make an exception. This medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon strike a happy chord with its aromas of black cherries, cola, and boiled peanuts that have been hit with a bit of salt. The wine's massive tannic structure makes for a chewy combination of Bing cherry, black coffee, and cedar flavors. There's a lot of flavor here for a wine that cost less than \$20. Try it with a MoonPie and tell me I'm wrong. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

89 Waterbrook 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Yet another strong value from this producer. After cracking the screw-cap, it was like being at a Scandinavian holiday party. There's a cherry and lingonberry fruit combination that's wedded to a toasted rye bread aroma that is mouthwatering. A wee caramel aroma floats in the background. Just enough acidity and velvety tannins combine to frame the Cabernet Sauvignon's cherry, black-tea, and balsa flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$17

88 Browne Family 2023 Skull & Chain Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A potent burst of blackberries jumps out of the glass, along with touches of wet slate, sweetgrass, and a melting beeswax candle. Powerful, grippy tannins rough up the palate like a playground bully out to steal lunch money. Those tannins offer ample support for the Cabernet Sauvignon's flavors of black cherries and vanilla. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

MERLOT

92 Echolands 2023 Seven Hills Vineyard Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). This wine makes it clear that Merlot is not a mere afterthought at Echolands. Instead, Merlot is treated with demonstrable care and intention. The wine's boysenberry, cinnamon, and saline aromas run smack into the scent of crushed red-brick dust. Things get richer on the palate, with a blackberry-jam on toast flavor flecked by bitter bits of orange zest. You can expect chewy tannins to do crowd control work on all of that fruit, while brisk acidity lights the action. —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$62

89 Whitman Hill 2022 Estate Merlot (Yakima Valley). Aged for 28 months in a combination of new and once-filled French and Hungarian oak barrels, the Whitman Hill Merlot features aromas of blackberries, anise and wet river stones fringed with moss. The wine's mulberry and burnt sugar flavors are supported by elevated acidity and tannins with subtle grip. I appreciated the wine's balance, particularly its restrained and lively mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$30

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2023 Canoe Ridge Estate Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills). A simple one-two combination of black cherries and dark chocolate is accented by a touch of earthiness. Blueberries and basil flavors collide with notes of cedar and espresso, all backed by modest acidity and plush tannins. The wine's willowy mouthfeel is pure gossamer. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

88 Waterbrook 2024 Merlot (Columbia Valley). A fruity mix of Bing cherries and blueberry-fruit leather dominates an aromatic set that includes a wisp of something meaty, like a pork chop rubbed with sage and thyme. The wine's flavors are a bit darker, with black currants, caramel, and straw coating the palate. Look for slightly elevated acidity to match up with plush tannins. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$15

87 Hyatt 2022 Hyatt Vineyards Merlot (Rattlesnake Hills). There is a boozy red-fruit aroma here, think Amarena cherries in syrup, that almost overwhelms a blueberry-scone note. The Merlot's blackberry and dark-chocolate flavors are joined by a hefty touch of cedarwood and nutmeg. The mouthfeel is somewhat chewy, with firm tannins outpacing the wine's gentle acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$35

SYRAH

94 Liminal 2023 Block 16 WeatherEye Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley). The wine's aromas of blackberry, lavender, rosemary, and dripping pork fat hitting hot coals will cause a hungry person to salivate like one of Pavlov's pups. This is a Mediterranean smorgasbord of aromas that fill the air with each swirl of the glass. The dessert arrives next, as flavors of black cherry clafouti, anise, thyme, and black tea coat the palate in an elegant fashion. The wine's crisp acidity and velvety tannins (with a subtle grip) are in harmony, as you will be with the wine universe after the very first sip of this Syrah. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$70

92 Brockmeyer Family 2023 Francisca's Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This Syrah is a breakfast bowl filled with aromas of blackberries, oatmeal, bacon fat, violets, and freshly tilled garden soil. Blazing acidity lights a trail for the wine's Bing cherry, ginger, and dark-chocolate flavors. And yes, there's a bit more bacon joining in on the flavor fun. Silky tannins play a second fiddle to the wine's glorious acidity. What a fine pairing this wine will make with crispy pork belly banh mi. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$40

92 Confluence 2021 Reserve Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills). These dark-fruit aromas are so rich, they tricked me into thinking I was about to taste a port-like fortified wine. It's as if I were smelling a really ripe Bing cherry that has been coated by layers of dark chocolate. Things settle down a bit on the palate, with blackberry, anise, and maple flavors coating the palate in a hedonistic fashion. This is a medium-bodied wine, with a rich texture that belies its 13.9% abv. No worries though, as there is some powerful tannic structure to corral all of that fruit. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$68

92 Hyatt 2022 Hyatt Vineyards Syrah (Rattlesnake Hills). With a sweet and floral burst of gardenias, you almost fail to notice the wine's black-cherry and freshly cracked black-pepper aromas. This is a medium-bodied Syrah, with blackberry and black-tea flavors that coat the palate in a somewhat thick fashion. A faint bacon-fat flavor appears toward the finish, which is fairly long. The acidity here is prominent, while the tannins feel integrated. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$40

89 Waterbrook 2024 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This modestly priced screw-capped beauty launches itself from the glass with fruity and floral aromas of blackcap raspberries, violets and sweet grass. It is a balanced wine with flavors of jammy raspberries, earthy oregano and tannic black tea. There's more than enough tannic structure to support that fruit, with just enough lemony acidity. This is a super value at \$13. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$13

OTHER RED WINES

94 Echolands 2024 Grenache (Walla Walla Valley). I love this light and airy take on Grenache. From its 13.4% abv to its vigorous acidity, this is grace personified. First, there are the wine's aromas of marionberries, cranberry ice, orange, and just a hint of thyme. Then you get juicy lingonberry, sage, and black-coffee flavors that feel like they are floating along a lithe and nimble mouthfeel. Give me a hammock, a sunset, and a glass of this wine and I will be a happy camper. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

92 Echolands 2023 Blue Mountain Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). With aromas like blackcap raspberries, lavender, saline, and puffs of pipe tobacco and mortadella, how can you go wrong? With beautiful balance between alcohol, fruit, acidity and velvety tannins, this lighter-bodied wine is smooth and refreshing. The cherry on top is a none-so-black flavor mix of earthy blackberry tea, black currants and black coffee. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$62

91 Confluence 2020 Mt. St. Helens Marechal Foch (Washington). I don't encounter a lot of wines from the Mount St. Helens AVA, much less a Marechal Foch that aged in barrels for five years. I quite enjoyed how the wine's dark-plum and black-currant aromas were pierced by a tart scent I can only describe as white grapefruit. The wine's bright acidity, integrated tannins, and restrained alcohol present a sense of harmony that was followed by an exceedingly long finish. With a black-cherry Dum-Dums lollipop, and strong black-coffee flavor combination, this wine is childhood Halloweens intersecting late night grad student study sessions. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65/375ml

91 Enodav 2024 Konnowac Vineyard Tannat (Yakima Valley). I don't come across a lot of Pacific NW Tannat, and that's a shame. Enodav's take on the burly grape is actually quite elegant. Its aromas of blackcap raspberries and cherry blossoms mix nicely with notes of earth, petrichor, and freshly polished leather shoes. This is a surprisingly lighter-bodied wine, where dark-plum and aged balsamic flavors rule the palate, along with a touch of something sweet and spicy, like a dollop of Thai sweet chili sauce. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Enodav 2023 Porteus Vineyard Sangiovese (Yakima Valley). Made with fruit from one of my favorite Yakima Valley vineyards, this 100% Sangiovese will win you over with its aromatic combination of dried rose petals, blueberries, plums, and a wisp of orange-scented pipe tobacco. The wine's texture is silky smooth, with equally silky tannins and soft acidity. As a result, flavors like cherries, dates, cinnamon, and cedar feel like they are gliding on air. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 Waterbrook 2024 Malbec (Columbia Valley). This juicy treat opens with aromas of blueberry pie, a streak of tart red raspberries, white chocolate, and wet stones. It is a lighter-bodied take on Malbec, with wonderfully restrained alcohol, plush tannins, and energetic acidity. The wine's flavors range from black cherries and black tea to an appealing mix of cocoa powder and candied violets. This is a smooth-textured wine that is easy to sip. Great value here. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$15

89 Confluence 2023 Elephant Mountain Malbec (Rattlesnake Hills). These aromas are a blend of marionberries and a sweet mix of white chocolate, or perhaps vanilla, and cedar. After two years in French oak, 30% new, the wine feels surprising light bodied, with a smooth texture to match. The wine's flavors pair with its aromas, dark berries, orange, vanilla, and cedar backed by resolved tannins and gentle acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$100

89 Whitman Hill 2022 Estate Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). What begins as a rich dark-plum aroma quickly evolves into something tangier, like a cidery red apple. A tiny flint note similar to an expiring 4th of July sparkler lurks behind all that fruit. The wine's black-cherry flavor dominates on the palate, accented by flecks of saline and lemon zest. With its zippy acidity and fine-grained tannins, this Cabernet Franc possesses quite the lively mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

RED BLENDS

96 Figgins 2023 Figlia Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). I plan to stay alive long enough to see how this wine turns out. For now, it takes a bit of glass swirling to get the Figlia, a Merlot and Petit Verdot blend, to open up, but once it does, aromas of juicy mulberries, black coffee, dark chocolate, and talc fill the air. The wine's blackberry and blueberry flavors are pierced by notes of black tea and graphite, all ably backed by brisk acidity and tannins that rough up the roof of the mouth like Jason Statham in a bar fight. Decant in the short run, or hold bottles until 2042. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

95 Figgins 2023 Estate Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). A rich and redolent blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot, this estate wine spent nearly two years in French oak barrels that were 64% new and 36% once-filled and neutral. Its ripe black-cherry and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas are accented by touches of orange peel and balsa. The wine's flavors of boysenberry pie, blueberry-fruit leather, and saline are buoyed by velvety tannins and bright acidity. A texture as supple as a calfskin glove is the cherry on top for this pleasurable wine. Drink now through 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$95

95 Sagebreaker 2023 B-56-RHN Rhône-Style Red Blend (Horse Heaven Hills). B-56 is the kind of Rhône bingo that you will want to play all night. It is a 43% Grenache, 32% Mourvèdre and 25% Syrah blend that spent 16 months in a combination of 400 liter French oak barrels and concrete. The wine also spent 15 months in bottle before its release. Aromas of black cherries and molasses are accented by bits of leather and talc. The wine's Rainier cherry, bittersweet dark-chocolate, black-tea, and anise flavors are complex and ably backed by elegant acidity and silky tannins. Bravo. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$68

94 Avennia 2023 Estate Red Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Red Mountain). With proper care, this nearly equal parts blend of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon is destined to have a long life. The estate wine opens with an earthy note of loamy soil, followed by burst of blackberries, gingerbread, and a balsa note that I always associate with childhood toy airplanes powered by rubber bands. Tannins with kung-fu grip and more than enough acidity offer effective support to the wine's flavors of blackberries, orange zest, Darjeeling tea, and a dollop of blackstrap molasses. Enjoy now through 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 DeLille 2023 Harrison Hill Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Snipes Mountain). The Harrison Hill is an elegant and nimble blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc from a vineyard that was planted in 1962. After 20 months of barrel age in 95% new French oak, and one year of bottle conditioning, it greets the world with aromas of sweet-tart cherry mochi, aged balsamic, and a wee bit of saline. Sturdy tannins and sparkling acidity then offer ample support for the wine's black-cherry, dark-chocolate, and cedar flavors. Drink 2027 to 2042. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$110

93 Guardian 2023 Gun Metal Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Black cherries go "boom", then a peach aroma arrives that is both surprising and captivating. This orchard-aroma oasis is followed by flavors of blackcap raspberries, peach pie, and dark-chocolate-covered espresso beans. Firm tannins and just enough acidity offer a sense of balance. Gun Metal is an equal parts blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot that hails from Conner Lee Vineyard. The wine spent 22 months in 55% new French oak barrels. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$48

93 Liminal 2023 The Mountain Tower WeatherEye Vineyard Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Mountain Tower, a blend of 48% Cabernet Franc, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot, is a beast in need of taming. The wine was caged in French oak barrels, 75% of which were new, for 21 months. Its buckwheat-pancakes topped with ripe blackberries aroma is counterpointed by an earthy-woody straw note. The wine's black-cherry, wood, and fresh sage flavors are corralled by a wall of

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grippy tannins and a lariat of elevated acidity. Taming by decanting is a fine idea if you open this bottle any time soon. Otherwise, enjoy 2027 to 2045. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$90

93 Sagebreaker 2023 G-41-BDX Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Horse Heaven Hills). Driven by two Cabs, Sauvignon and Franc, this fuller-bodied blend spent 22 months in 65% new French oak. G-41's fruit aromas are hard to pin down, as they seem to change with each swirl of the glass. It is safe to say some combination of blackberry, marionberry, and blueberry is in play. Beyond the fruit are notes of leather, violets, and a faint suggestion of pine needles. Grippy tannins and a surprising bit of acidity escort flavors of blackberry, lemon zest, and cedar. Enjoy 2027 to 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$86

92 Avennia 2023 Valery Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). With a blackberry perfume and aromas of loamy soil and seared steak with a coffee rub, Valery is quite the temptress. It's more of the same on the palate, as black currants and espresso shots mix with a bolt of toasty oak. Even though the tannins grip enough to earn attention, it's the wine's mouthwatering acidity that wins the day. Drink this wine while reading a favorite poem to yourself. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

91 Enodav 2023 Virtuoso Red Blend (Yakima Valley). This 50-50 blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc does justice to its Virtuoso name. The opening stanza mixes floral aromas of lavender and dried flower potpourri with notes of orange peel, vanilla, and sweet Rainier cherries. Virtuoso's flavors of black cherries and a mocha latte are supported by gentle acidity and tannins that are on the soft side, but with a bit of grip. The wine spent two years in 100% new Austrian oak 600-liter demi-muids. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

91 Guardian 2022 Five-O Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Book 'em Danno, Five-O is here. This Merlot and Cabernet Franc-driven blend spent 22 months in 50% new French oak before it was paroled. The wine's arresting blackberry and cedar-chest aromas lead to blackberry, black tea, clove, and anise flavors. A mouthfeel as slick and smooth as the late Jack Lord's hair goes hand-in-hand with Five-O's integrated tannins and elevated acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

91 Rujaya 2024 Chillable Red Red Blend (Columbia Valley). I don't come across too many chillable reds at 14.5% abv, but this one works for me. That's probably because the wine's acidity is so brisk, it's packing thunderbolts of juiciness. The wine's aroma are a pleasing blend of strawberries drizzled with aged balsamic vinegar and freshly picked basil leaves. The wine feels lively in the mouth, with flavors of pickled plums, a salty umami quality similar to nori, and crushed pomegranate seeds. Chillable

Red is a 50-50 blend of Grenache and Riesling, making it quite the rare treat. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$28

90 Guardian 2023 The Wanted Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). The Wanted is no fugitive from fruit. It is packed with aromas and flavors of black cherries and ripe blackcap raspberries. The fruit is joined by notes of daisies, saline, campfire smoke, and a bit of woodiness that might remind you of chewing on a popsicle stick after the frozen cherry juice is gone. The wine's elevated acidity is matched by grippy tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$48

90 Silverback 2022 Helix Red Blend (Columbia Valley). The Helix is a blend of 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Sangiovese that benefits various gorilla conservation groups with each bottle's sale. The wine's aromas are a mix of ripe, concentrated apricot and dark-cherry fruit that is laced with a bit of Madagascar vanilla. With silky tannins and mildly elevated acidity, the wine feels smooth and juicy on the palate. The medium-bodied wine's flavors blend tart pie cherries and cedar with an earthy note that mixes loamy soil with white button mushrooms. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$42

89 Enodav 2023 Khava Vinsmith Run Vineyard Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Yakima Valley). Khava, a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Cabernet Franc, and 20% Merlot, spent two years in 100% new 600 liter Austrian oak demi-muids. The wine's blackberry aroma is as ripe and sweet as syrup, which complements its spicy vanilla and clove notes. You can expect a velvety texture to accompany flavors like black cherry and anise. The oak influence is prominent still, with a firm tannic structure and a vanilla-cedar combination that lurks behind those black cherries. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

89 Karvale 2023 Shadow Vine Red Blend (Wahluke Slope). Shadow Vine Red is an equal parts blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah, plus 10% Cabernet Franc. Its aromas of lilacs and leather should be a band name, with ripe Rainier cherries acting as an opening act. The flavors are a darker mix of elderberries and dates, with touches of black-tea tannins and sauteed white button mushrooms. The wine's mildly chewy tannins offer plenty of support. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

89 Pendulum 2023 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Franc-heavy blend's decadent set of aromas features black cherries and chocolate cake, along with a trace amount of balsa. This is a medium-bodied wine where blueberry-yogurt and blackberry-tea flavors coat the palate. The wine's grippy tannins make for a chewy texture, while the acidity is rather gentle. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$18

88 Confluence 2023 Equilibrium Reserve Barrel 1 Bordeaux-Style Red Blend

(Rattlesnake Hills). The ripest Amarena cherries imaginable, preserved in a tangy syrup, dominate an aromatic set that also features traces of graphite and espresso. Equilibrium is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot that spent two years in barrel. The wine's rich black-cherry, apricot, plum, buttery pound-cake, and cedar flavors reminded me of the Rumtopf dessert that my Danish relatives make each year for the holidays. There's a whisper of acidity here to accompany smooth tannins that feel fully resolved. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$100

88 Silverback 2022 Makumba Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This is one rich and concentrated blend of 75% Malbec and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. The first hedonistic volley across the bow are the wine's aromas of kirsch and a dark-chocolate bar filled with bits of dried cherries. The medium-bodied wine sports flavors that are equally rich, with cherry liqueur, dark-chocolate ganache, and a bit of coconut vying for attention in Black Forest cake fashion. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$44

88 Waterbrook 2024 Mélange Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Mélange is a Cabernet Franc-driven blend that spent 10 months in American oak barrels, 25% of which were new. The wine's aromas of dark raspberry and newsprint hot off of the presses lead to flavors of black cherries, a lot of cedar, and a cup of black coffee. For the moment, the Mélange is on the oaky side, with tannins that show a decent amount of grip. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$16

ARIZONA

WHITE BLEND

88 Arizona Stronghold Vineyards NV Baseline White White Blend (Arizona). This easy-drinking, canned blend delivers soft aromas of lemon, white flowers, and shattered stone on the nose. The palate is smooth and acid driven, with flavors of tart pineapple, citrus blossom, and ginger before a clean finish. Great for poolside. *Best Buy.* —T.R.C.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$5/250ml

RED WINES

91 Arizona Stronghold Vineyards 2023 Wine-maker's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Arizona). Lively aromas of dark berries, toasty spices, and flowers highlight the nose of this Cabernet. The palate delivers rich, drying tannin, supple acid, and flavors of blueberry, blackberry coulis, cracked pepper, and cocoa through a long, grippy finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

91 Arizona Stronghold Vineyards 2023 Wine-maker's Reserve Malbec (Arizona). The nose of this Malbec brings vivacious aromas of black cherry, blueberry, purple flowers, and mint. On the palate, gripping tannin and a streak of lively acid frame fla-

vors of blackberry, plum, cinnamon, and black pepper through a long finish. Drink this with pepper-crusted ribeye. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

MINNESOTA

LA CRESCENT

91 Rolling Forks 2025 La Crescent Reserve La Crescent (Minnesota). La Crescent is starting to get under my skin, in a very good way. This reserve wine is like a beguiling cross of Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, and Grüner Veltliner. The wine's aromas are a blend of Golden Delicious apples that have been drizzled with honey, and a touch of butter. It will likely tick your brain into thinking something sweet is on its way. Then bam, you get this perky flavor combination of lemon zest, white pepper, and lemon-verbena tea. Best of all, this La Crescent's acidity is, like Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, positively electrifying. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

89 Rolling Forks 2024 Lady Slipper La Crescent (Minnesota). Made with La Crescent, a cold-hardy white hybrid grape, this Minnesota gem dazzles with its aromas of pineapple, freshly cut grass, and just a touch of gooseberry. The wine possesses just enough acidity to balance its tart lemonade and sweet peach-pastille flavors. This off-dry white reminded me of a nicely crafted Moscato d'Asti without the bubbles, so I may have to try it with my next batch of Thai take-out. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

88 Carlos Creek 2024 La Crescent (Minnesota). Carlos Creek's La Crescent, to steal line from the late Chris Cornell, has me looking New Zealand and feeling Minnesota. There's kiwi and gooseberry aromas galore here, along with a burst of sweet pineapple. The wine's gentle acidity is joined by flavors like lemon drops and a cup of white tea served with a dollop of wildflower honey. A touch more acidity would have been most welcome. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Rolling Forks 2024 Reserve Frontenac Blanc (Minnesota). This Frontenac Blanc Reserve is my favorite thing to come out of Minnesota since Charlie Brown and Prince. The wine smells like a combination of a yellow apple and a bowl of peach gelato. The wine is dry and light bodied, with peach, caramel and lemon-fused mineral-water flavors. You can also expect a clean texture, a decently long finish and a puff of Tahitian vanilla near the end of that finish. *Editor's Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Rolling Forks 2024 Allegro Brianna (Minnesota). Allegro is made with Brianna, a cold-hardy white grape developed for the temperature of places like Wisconsin and Minnesota. Allegro's first

stanza features aromas of lemon and cantaloupe, with just a tiny amount of sweet tea. This is light-bodied, off-dry version of Brianna that features a mix of candied orange slices and pineapple flavors. All I wanna do in the middle of the evening is hold you tight, Brianna, Brianna. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

SPARKLING WINE

88 Carlos Creek 2025 Aurora Brut Sparkling Brianna (Minnesota). Brianna is a cold-hardy hybrid white variety that has only been on the market for 25 years. So you are excused if you've never had a wine made with Brianna grapes, much less a sparkling version. Carlos Creek's Aurora is a highly aromatic sparkling wine where its gentle bubbles help to deliver aromas of pineapple, grape popsicle, and wet stones. The flavors are a mix of Key lime pie and orange zest, all backed by a nice bit of acidity. The wine is dry, with a fresh, crisp mouthfeel. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$34

ROSÉ

90 Rolling Forks 2023 Delicato Petite Pearl (Minnesota). Petite Pearl is a cold-hardy, disease-resistant red hybrid grape variety that I clearly need to get to know better. The Delicato features Petite Pearl in rosé form, which is a nice way to meet a grape for the first time. The wine's aromas are a mix of rhubarb pie and peaches that are accented by tale and banana-chip notes. Searing acidity then grabs you by the collar and shakes your palate to attention with flavors of peach marmalade that's light on sugar, thyme, and wheat-bread toast. This is a tart and tangy treat that's easy to dance to. —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$25

MARQUETTE

91 Carlos Creek Winery 2023 Marquette (Minnesota). Does all Marquette smell and taste as good as this wine? Based on this performance, I plan to find out. The lighter-bodied wine's fruit aromas are dark, with a mix of blackberry and dark raspberries melding with notes of rosemary and violets. Snappy acidity then lights up flavors like tart marionberries, black tea served with a cube of sugar, cedar, and a saline quality that had me thinking about pan-seared scallops. Time to update my New Years resolution to add "drink more Marquette." —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$29

91 Rolling Forks 2024 Cihlar's Reserve Marquette (Minnesota). Pick some violets, then crush a handful of black currants on a large stone. That will give you a glimpse into this wine's captivating collection of aromas. On the palate, black cherries take over as flavors of sage, oregano, and a seared pork chop bring up the rear. There's beautiful balance here, with a modest alcohol percentage, silky tannins, and

acidity crisp enough to make the mouth water in more than anticipation. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$49

90 Rolling Forks 2024 Marquette (Minnesota). A heady aromatic blend of black cherries and strawberries mixes it up with notes of black pepper and leather. Then you get these juicy Bing cherry and grape-popsicle flavors that are counterpointed by burst of ginger, anise, and black walnuts. This wine was excellent with a corned beef sandwich on St. Patrick's day. But don't wait until next year's celebrations to go find this wine. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

PETITE PEARL

90 Rolling Forks 2021 Harmony Petite Pearl (Minnesota). There is something very cool going on with this wine's aromas. The first sniff yields dark plums and rosemary aromas. Then, as the wine warms a bit, this faint savory note emerges that smells like pieces of grilled shrimp and beef teriyaki impaled by a shish kebab. The dry wine's flavors are a mix of plum sauce, saline, lemon zest, and a bit of tangy citrus-based ponzu sauce. Harmony is made with the Petite Pearl grape, and matches elevated acidity with a lean texture. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$26

TEXAS

WHITE WINES

91 Hilmy Cellars 2022 Canted County Vineyard Marsanne (Texas High Plains). This zippy and fresh Marsanne brings aromas of lively citrus, freshly cut flowers, and crystalized ginger on the nose. The palate feels broad and neatly balanced, with pithy lemon-lime acidity and flavors of fresh Gala apple, lemon verbena, and apple blossoms through the finale. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$28

90 K Estate Vineyards 2024 Sémillon (Texas High Plains). This light and bright Sémillon delivers aromas of freshly cut citrus, candied pineapple, and herbs on the nose. The palate gives a pop of lively acid, with classic waxy mouthfeel and loads of lemon, tangerine, thyme, and salty stone flavors that echo for just a moment on the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$40

90 Kerrville Hills Winery 2023 Picpoul Blanc (Texas High Plains). Zippy aromas of apple skin, toasty spice, and white flowers drive the nose of this Picpoul Blanc. The palate is rich and creamy, with plush texture, bright Meyer lemon acidity, and flavors of roasted pear, ginger, and wildflowers that wrap up a clean finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Hilmy Cellars 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Texas High Plains). The nose of this Sauvignon

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Blanc offers aromas of tart citrus, flowers, and lemon-grass on the nose. The palate gives soft texture, bright lemon-peel acidity, and flavors of green pear, melon, chopped herbs, and citrus blossoms. —T.R.C.

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

89 **Invention Vineyards 2023 Imaginada Albariño (Texas High Plains).** Vibrant aromas of freshly cut flowers and citrus drive the nose of this Albariño. The palate is light and bright, with flavors of Meyer lemon, candied ginger, pineapple, chopped herb leaves, and salty candied lemon peel lingering through the finale. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$40

89 **Perissos Vineyard and Winery 2023 Picpoul Blanc (Texas Hill Country).** The nose of this stainless-steel fermented and aged Picpoul delivers bright aromas of roasted apple, flowers, and candied ginger, while the plush and generous palate delivers flavors of baked pear tart, juicy apricot, honey, and marzipan through a lingering finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

88 **Hilmy Cellars 2023 Albariño (Texas High Plains).** This bright gold-hued Albariño brings aromas of ripe nectarine, pear, lemon blossom, and honey on the nose. The rounded and generous palate brings a brace of pithy, lemony acidity with waxy mouthfeel and flavors of apple skin, lemon verbena, and white flowers that resonate along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$28

88 **Perissos Vineyard and Winery 2023 Viognier (Texas Hill Country).** Aromas of sweet citrus, white flowers, and lemongrass highlight the nose of this Viognier. The palate is a generously textured balance of pineapple acidity and grippy pithiness, with flavors of Meyer lemon curd, peach pie, and candied ginger thrumming through the midpalate and on to the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$38

WHITE BLENDS

90 **Hilmy Cellars 2023 Doo-Zwa-Zô Bordeaux-Style White Blend (Texas High Plains).** Bright aromas of lemon blossom, fresh lime, green herbs, and spicy pepper drive the nose of this Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon blend. The palate has a nice balance between bright acid and grip, with flavors of tart citrus, pineapple, candied ginger, and flowers lingering on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$28

90 **Perissos Vineyard and Winery 2024 Pape Blanc Rhône-Style White Blend (Texas High Plains).** Aromas of mango, citrus, and honeysuckle drive the nose of this Rhône-style blend, while the palate brings a generous peach-apricot character with silky texture and juicy citrus acidity and notions of white flowers, tangerine, and lemongrass at the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$38

ROSÉ

89 **Hilmy Cellars 2024 Tallent Vineyards Rosé (Mason County).** Bright crystalline peach-red in the glass, this Saignée rosé of Cabernet is all about candied cherries on the nose. The palate brings flavors of candied raspberry, orange marmalade, and flowers. Fans of a sweeter style will love this wine. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28

TEMPRANILLO

91 **Hilmy Cellars 2022 Kubacak Vineyards Tempranillo (Texas High Plains).** Rich aromas of toasty cocoa, ripe raspberry, cinnamon, and spices swirl on the nose of this Tempranillo. The palate is plush and generous, with broad tannins framing zesty acid and flavors of salty plum, black-cherry compote, dark chocolate, purple flowers, and cola spice through the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$60

91 **Perissos Vineyard and Winery 2023 Tempranillo (Texas Hill Country).** Concentrated aromas of black cherry, violets, and roasted game jump from the glass on the nose of this Tempranillo. The palate is lavishly textured with rich tannin, bright acid and nicely integrated oak showcasing flavors of plum compote, raspberry liqueur, flowers, and licorice. —T.R.C.

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

90 **K Estate Vineyards 2023 Estate Tempranillo (Texas Hill Country).** Aromas of black plum, cranberry, graphite, and violets swirl on the nose of this Tempranillo. The palate delivers plush tannin and supple acidity framing flavors of baked cherry, toasty spices, flowers, and stemmy herbs that echo along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

88 **Hilmy Cellars 2021 Tempranillo (Texas High Plains).** Dusty cocoa, roasted berries, and freshly cut flowers swirl on the nose of this Tempranillo. The palate brings zippy acid and balanced tannins, with flavors of black cherry, toasted spices, cedar, and rose petal along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$40

SANGIOVESE

90 **Invention Vineyards 2021 Soleluce Sangiovese (Texas).** Sensuous aromas of cherry, plum, caramel, and rose petals swirl on the nose of this Sangiovese. The palate is balanced neatly with bright acidity, rich tannin, and flavors of juicy berries, stone fruits, freshly cut flowers, and toasty spices echoing on the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$58

90 **Perissos Vineyard and Winery 2022 Lahey Vineyards Sangiovese (Texas High Plains).** Ripe, round aromas of raspberry coulis, spiced plum

jam, and lemon zest pop on the nose of this Sangiovese. The palate shows generous tannin and nicely balanced acidity, with opulent flavors of cherry-pie filling, cinnamon, lemon curd, and sweet mint along the finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

89 **Hilmy Cellars 2022 Lahey Vineyards Sangiovese (Texas High Plains).** The nose of this Sangiovese brings aromas of roasted cherry, cracked black pepper, cinnamon, and green herbs, while the palate displays grippy tannin with flavors of salted black plum, creosote, peppercorn, and pithy grapefruit across the lingering finish. —T.R.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

OTHER RED WINES

92 **Kerrville Hills Winery 2023 Tannat (Texas Hill Country).** The nose of this Tannat delivers a punch of black-fruit and savory herb aromas, giving way to flavors of roasted meats, black plum, salty earth, black pepper, and rose petal in a framework of powerful tannin. Decant this early and serve with grilled steak or lamb. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

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

91 **Hilmy Cellars 2022 Merlot (Texas High Plains).** Aromas of blackberry jam, caramel, and chocolate swirl on the nose of this Merlot. The palate feels decadent and rounded, with plush tannin, juicy acid, and loads of sweet cherry, cocoa, and spice flavors lingering through the finish. Serious yum factor here. —T.R.C.

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

91 **Hilmy Cellars 2021 Veeart Vineyards Montepulciano (Texas High Plains).** Dark berries, licorice, violets, and cracked pepper drive the nose of this charming Montepulciano. The palate deftly balances ripe acidity and plush tannin, framing flavors of roasted cherry, plum, and cocoa through the finale. Drink this with hearty pasta on a cold night. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

91 **Meredith Margaret Wines 2025 Cinsault (Texas High Plains).** The nose of this gently extracted Cinsault erupts with the aromas of morello cherry, violets, and cinnamon. The palate mingles bright acid with crunchy tannin, dancing the line between rosé and chillable, quaffable red, while giving flavors of fresh cherry, lime peel, and flowers. Chill and serve poolside this summer. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

91 **Perissos Vineyard and Winery 2022 Aglianico (Texas Hill Country).** For full review see page 12.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

90 **Heath Family Estate 2022 The Elitist Petite Sirah (Texas Hill Country).** The nose of this Petite Sirah gives nuanced aromas of dark berries, flowers, and black pepper, while the plush and tannic

palate brings flavors of plum skin, berry *gastrique*, sage, and clove at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$88

90 **Heath Family Estate 2022 The Individualist Tannat (Texas Hill Country).** This opulent Tannat displays aromas of black cherry, blackberry, game, and flowers on the nose. The palate showcases powerful tannin, nervy acid, and flavors of tart cherry, plum skin, spiced blackberry compote, lavender, and pithy lime throughout the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$88

90 **Hilmy Cellars 2022 Veesart Vineyards Aglianico (Texas High Plains).** Tart cranberry, chopped herb, pine forest, and black-pepper aromas drive the nose of this Aglianico. The palate displays grippy tannin framing flavors of sour cherry, lemon verbena, cedar, and turned earth across the finish. It's a powerful style that should round out nicely with some age. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$38

90 **Hilmy Cellars 2021 Cabernet Franc (Texas High Plains).** The nose of this Cabernet Franc leads with aromas of currant, leafy tobacco, and mixed green herbs. The palate feels similarly Old World in style, with bright acid, soft body, and flavors of baked blackberry, herb mélange, leather, and orange peel before the tannin builds along the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Hilmy Cellars 2022 Veesart Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Texas High Plains).** Aromas of roasted cherry, spiced plum compote, and dark chocolate drive the nose of this Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate balances potent tannin with generous acidity and opulent flavors of baked raspberry, sweet cinnamon, violets, and cracked pepper across a long finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

90 **Kerrville Hills Winery 2021 Teroldego (Texas High Plains).** Punchy aromas of dark berries, black cherry, chopped herbs, and toasty spices explode from the glass of this Teroldego. The palate is rich and textured, with juicy acid balancing forceful tannins and flavors of crushed blackberry, cherry, plum, sandalwood, and a sanguine note that lingers with nuances of roses at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 **Grape Creek Vineyards 2022 Petite Sirah (Texas).** Punchy aromas of tart raspberry, blackberry, coffee, and black pepper swirl on the nose of this Petite Sirah. The palate delivers rich tannin framing flavors of black-cherry jam, violets, cinnamon, and soy sauce. Drink this with grilled ribs. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$55

89 **Hilmy Cellars 2022 Tannat (Texas High Plains).** Aromas of sour cherry, stemmy green herbs, and violets jump from the glass on the nose of this Tannat. The palate displays the antici-

pated grippy tannin and focused acid, framing flavors of blackberry, salty plum, iron, flowers, and cocoa powder through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 **Messina Hof 2021 Reserva Sagrantino (Texas High Plains).** Aromas of roasted berries, malt, and cocoa swirl on the nose of this Sagrantino. The palate is grippy, with plenty of tannin providing structure to flavors of crushed black cherry, blackberry, plum, and overt barrel spices. —T.R.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 **Grape Creek Vineyards 2022 Invention Petit Verdot (Texas).** Zesty aromas of blackberry, lemon peel, and flowers drive the nose of this Petit Verdot. The palate is tannic but soft, with ripe acid, and flavors of concentrated blueberry, plum, licorice and cracked pepper through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$62

RED BLENDS

92 **Hilmy Cellars 2022 Politics & Religion Red Blend (Texas High Plains).** The nose of this Mourvèdre-Merlot blend delivers punchy aromas of red raspberry, strawberry, game, flowers, and chopped herbs. The palate is a dance between bright acidity and plush tannin, framing flavors of plum compote, licorice, violets, orange peel, and sage. *Hidden Gem.* —T.R.C.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

91 **K Estate Vineyards 2023 The Bridge Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Texas High Plains).** Aromas of roasted berries, plum, cedar, and green herbs swirl on the nose of this blend. The palate is nimble and bright with soft tannin framing flavors of currant, raspberry, lemon peel, and purple flowers through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

90 **Bonarrigo Famile Wines 2021 Heritage Reserve Red Blend (Texas).** The nose of this Sagrantino-Sangiovese-Primitivo blend gives aromas of roasted cherry, bruised peach, cinnamon, and dusty cocoa, giving way to rich, drying tannin, supple acid, and flavors of raspberry compote, chopped herbs, and violets lingering through the finish. Drink this with pepper-crusted lambchops. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

90 **Grape Creek Vineyards 2022 Cab Trois Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Texas).** The nose of this blend leads with aromas of candied cherry, spiced plum compote, and freshly cut flowers, while the palate gives grippy tannin, supple acid, and flavors of currant, mint, dark chocolate, soy sauce, and potpourri at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$51

90 **Heath Family Estate 2022 The Originalist Red Blend (Texas Hill Country).** Enchanting floral aromas dance with black plum and cherry on the nose of this blend. The palate possesses plush tan-

nin, bright acid, and a healthy dose of oak, highlighting flavors of black cherry, berry *gastrique*, graphite, pithy orange, and purple flowers all through the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$88

90 **Hilmy Cellars 2022 The Temp Red Blend (Texas High Plains).** Aromas of black plum, spiced berry, and cracked pepper drive the nose of this Tempranillo-Sangiovese blend. The palate is plush, with velvety tannin, juicy acid, and flavors of raspberry, cocoa, violets, and cinnamon on display. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$38

90 **Hilmy Cellars 2021 Robin Rhône-Style Red Blend (Texas High Plains).** Aromas of fresh raspberry, strawberry, dusty cocoa, and pithy orange drive the nose of this Rhône-style blend of Carignan, Mourvèdre, Syrah, and Grenache. The palate possesses powder-fine tannins and bright acid, with flavors of roasted cherry, plum compote, dark chocolate, and floral-spice mélange. —T.R.C.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

90 **Invention Vineyards 2022 LB Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Texas).** Rich aromas of roasted cherry, plum, chocolate, and cinnamon swirl on the nose of this blend. The palate brings plush, gripping tannin, balanced acidity, and flavors of dark berries, licorice, and cocoa powder in a framework of barrel spice. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

89 **Grape Creek Vineyards 2022 Bellissimo Super Tuscan (Texas).** The nose of this Super Tuscan Blend delivers aromas of black cherry, fresh blackberry, and flowers on the nose. The palate displays grippy tannin and energetic acidity framing flavors of tart berries, pithy orange peel, chopped herb mélange, and granite across the finale. —T.R.C.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$60

89 **Grape Creek Vineyards 2021 Mosaic Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Texas).** The nose of this sultry Pinot comes with aromas of intense black cherry, cinnamon, and flowers on the nose. The palate brings a rich, earthy character, with flavors of black plum, cherry pit, pithy orange peel, dusty cocoa, and whispers of flowers and herbs at the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

88 **Invention Vineyards 2022 P2 Petite Sirah-Petit Verdot (Texas).** This Petit Verdot-Petite Sirah blend leads with aromas of concentrated plum, black pepper, and graphite on the nose. The palate brings grippy tannic structure and savory flavors of game, turned earth, peppercorns, and pencil shavings in a frame of black fruits. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$60

87 **Kerrville Hills Winery 2021 Beso Rojo Red Blend (Texas High Plains).** Tart cranberry, strawberry, pithy lime, and cracked pepper aromas drive the nose of this blend. The palate delivers bright acidity and crunchy tannin with flavors of roasted

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blackberry, dill, cedar, and forest floor through the middle and along to the finish. —T.R.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

AMERICA WHITE WINES

91 Three Hammers 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (America). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$31

91 Three Hammers 2024 Swift Waters Bordeaux-Style White Blend (America). For full review see page 13. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$41

90 Carlos Creek NV MinnTerra White Blend (America). Here's a blend I don't see every day: 25% Traminette, 20% La Crescent, 20% French Colombard, 15% Brianna, 10% Frontenac Gris, and 10% Itasca. This mix of grapes helps create a fruity set of aromas that includes sweet grass, pineapple, guava, and a wisp of quince. Mildly elevated acidity then frames the wine's lime zest and passion fruit flavors. This is an off-dry treat with just a hint of residual sugar. I plan to make this wine my BYOB the next time I head to our neighborhood Indian restaurant. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$24

90 Three Hammers 2024 Semillón (America). This might be a Pennsylvania producer, but their stainless-steel-fermented Sémillon is made with fruit from the Yakima Valley AVA. Aromas are clean and refreshing, with notes of lime zest, Golden Delicious apple, and lemongrass tea graced by a tiny amount of mineral-laden sparkling water. Apricots and apples dominate the palate, guided by racy acidity and a crisp mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

SPARKLING WINE

89 Browne Family NV Do Epic Sh*t Rosé Sparkling Blend (America). I have no idea if drinking this wine will motivate you to do anything momentous, but it is certainly is one epic bargain. This sparkling wine is a nearly equal blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, with aromas of red raspberries, dried strawberries, hay and talc. The dry wine's tangy acidity is the perfect foil for its brûléed pink grapefruit, caramel, and brioche flavors. This would be a bottle to keep in the refrigerator at all times. You know, in case something epic happens. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

ROSÉ

90 Carlos Creek NV MinnTerra Rosé (America). I have no idea which grape(s) were used to make this Minnesota rosé, but who cares? It is delightful, and that's what really counts. It begins with the wine's dark strawberry color and aromas of ripe

watermelon, nectarine, and a wisp of butterscotch. Flavors like strawberries, sweety melon, and a touch of guava match up with mildly elevated acidity and a smooth and slippery mouthfeel. This is a perfect pink for sipping on the dock of the bay, watching the tide roll away. —M.A.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$24

RED WINES

89 City Winery Chicago 2023 West Loop Red Red Blend (America). This selection pays homage to the red wine blends produced around the world. It is opulent, with layers of dark berries, dried herbs, florals, earth, toasted oak, molasses, and dried florals on the nose. The flavors on the palate are heady boysenberry coulis, blackberry jam, cassis, orange pekoe black tea, and vanilla cream, with a dry, supple finish. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 City Winery Chicago 2023 Whiskey Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (America). The whiskey-aged wine barrel trend is still alive and is shining with this offering. The aromatics are deep, with dark berries, cream sherry, toasted vanilla, black tea, and molasses, swirling into flavors of boysenberry, huckleberry jam, mocha, citrus peel, cardamom, and dry supple tannins on the finish. Aerate and enjoy with grilled double pork chop. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

89 Three Hammers 2022 Brother's Bond Reserve Red Blend (America). This is a blend of Syrah, Grenache, Pinot Noir, and Tempranillo made with Washington State fruit. It has a devilishly inviting aroma of tangy cranberries mixed with sweet mocha. With a smooth, elegant texture and a nice sense of balance, the flavors of chocolate-covered strawberry, orange zest, and clove feel like they are floating on air. The wine's slightly elevated acidity matches up with silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

88 Carlos Creek NV MinnTerra Red Blend (America). This red blend holds 64% Petite Sirah, 24% Marquette, and 12% Zinfandel. It features really ripe fruit aromas of blackcap raspberries and apricots, along with a burst of fresh violets. The same combination of fruit appears on the palate as flavors, joined by touches of vanilla and balsa. The wine's viscous mouthfeel accompanies resolved tannins and gentle acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$24

88 Three Hammers 2023 Syrah (America). A Pennsylvania winery making Syrah from Horse Heaven Hills fruit? Why not? This Washington wine on an East Coast road trip makes its presence known with aromas of Rainier cherries, orange zest, and leather so worn, it should be a vintage motorcycle jacket. While the wine is surprisingly light bodied, its blockbuster acidity packs a puckering punch. A sweet-tart flavor combination of apricots and black cherry

pastilles is joined by a strong-brewed black-tea note and integrated tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$49

85 Three Hammers 2024 Pinot Noir (America). This hedonistic wine starts off with rich aromas of amarena cherries in syrup that dovetail with notes of gingerbread and orange-flavored pipe tobacco. The wine's almost-syrupy cherries jubilee flavor is pierced by a touch of orange zest, all backed by plush tannins. More acidity would have helped in the balance department. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$47

MEXICO ROSÉ

87 Quinta Monasterio 2020 Renata Rosé (Valle de Guadalupe). This rosé features simple aromas of berries. Semisweet flavors of strawberry blend with hints of pomegranate on the palate, where moderate freshness keeps things rolling through the finish. Oropeza Christian Adrian — DBA: Oropeza Import & Export. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$17

ARGENTINA CHARDONNAY

94 Luigi Bosca 2024 Filos Chardonnay (Valle de Uco). Hints of chamomile flowers introduce this vibrant Uco Valley Chardonnay. The savory palate delivers citrus flavors of lemons and integrated spices, all balanced by excellent acidity. It's tasty and medium bodied, with a long, saline finish. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

90 Bodegas Salentein 2025 Chardonnay (Valle de Uco). Lightly oaked, this Chardonnay offers subtle citrus aromas. The weighty palate features floral notes along with chamomile and ripe stone fruit, leading to a lingering mineral finish. Palm Bay International Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Santa Julia 2025 El Zorrito Natural Skin Ferment Chardonnay (Mendoza). Aromatic and fresh, the nose opens with notes of orange zest. The palate has grip and delivers stone fruit and grapefruit, followed by herbs. Enough freshness lifts the wine's character to make it enjoyable. Winesellers, Ltd.. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

89 Bodega del Fin del Mundo 2023 Reserve Chardonnay (Patagonia). The nose of this simple Chardonnay offers aromas of almonds. Fresh, citrus flavors complement the vanilla and coconut notes on the crisp palate. —J.V.
abv: 0% **Price:** \$NA

89 Marantiqua 2024 Chardonnay (Neuquén). White-peach aromas open on the nose of this creamy Chardonnay. Rich flavors of vanilla and mango take over the palate, with moderate freshness driving the flavors through a medium finish. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Santa Julia 2025 Made with Organic Grapes Chardonnay (Mendoza). Subtle floral aromas emerge on the nose, alongside white fruit. The palate is fruit forward and balanced, making this Chardonnay an approachable, and tasty easy-sipper. Winesellers, Ltd.. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

88 The Icon Rock 2024 Chardonnay (Mendoza). Citrus and oak aromas emerge on the nose. The simple palate delivers moderate freshness alongside lemon and vanilla essence, creating a balanced and approachable profile. Drink now. WX Brands. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Puerta del Abra 2022 Albariño (Balcarce). For full review see page 11. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc..
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$50

91 El Enemigo 2025 Amiguito Moscatel (Mendoza). This Moscatel de Alejandría opens with subtle floral aromas complemented by hints of apricot. The juicy palate mirrors the nose, where floral and fruit notes remain in perfect balance, followed by touches of honey and lively acidity. Truly living up to its name, Amiguito is a delightful wine and perfect for sharing with friends. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

91 Puerta del Abra 2021 Riesling (Balcarce). The nose shows subtle hints of fresh aromas that recall white flowers and sea breezes. This light-bodied white offers lively acidity with saline and chalky notes, complementing stone-fruit and floral flavors. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc.. —J.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$50

90 Finca La Anita 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Agrelo). This Sauvignon Blanc from Luján de Cuyo showcases a citrus and zesty character. Fresh herbal notes introduce a crisp palate, exhibiting lime flavors. It would pair wonderfully with a wide range of dishes, including guacamole and green-pea soup. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Aniello 2024 Blend de Suelos Blanco de Pinot Noir (Río Negro). Hints of papaya introduce this white Pinot Noir. The crisp palate reveals a mix of tropical and citrus fruit, complemented by lingering floral notes. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 Andeluna 2025 1300 Torrontés (Valle de Uco). This lightweight wine opens with aromas of ripe lemons. It features moderate freshness, backing flavors of citrus fruit and hints of dried herbs. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

WHITE BLENDS

92 Luigi Bosca 2025 De Sangre White Blend (Uco Valley). For full review see page 10. Opici Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

92 Viña Alicia 2024 Tiara White Blend (Luján de Cuyo). This blend of Riesling, Albariño, and Savagnin is elegant and medium bodied. Subtle citrus notes create a fresh bouquet. The layered palate features spices and citrus flavors, followed by apricot and pineapple, with good acidity elevating the floral finish. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Bodegas Krontiras 2025 Cosmic Amber White Blend (Argentina). This aromatic blend of Torrontés, Sauvignon Blanc, and Chardonnay opens with inviting notes of fresh herbs, spices, and ripe pear. The palate is equally rich, featuring bright citrus freshness balanced by delicate floral notes and a saline finish. This wine showcases a beautiful amber hue. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

SPARKLING WINE

90 Santa Julia 2025 La Mantis Natural Pet Nat Chardonnay (Mendoza). Aromatic apple notes fill the nose of this crisp pét nat made with organic grapes from the producer's estate in Maipú, Mendoza. The fresh palate offers subtle golden-apple and quince flavors. It's dry, with good acidity and lively bubbles. Winesellers, Ltd.. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

ROSÉ

87 Fincas Patagonicas 2025 Osmosis Rosé (Mendoza). Floral and watermelon aromas introduce this low-alcohol rosé. The profile features berry-juice flavors and moderate freshness. Drink now. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$15

MALBEC

94 Alta Vista 2021 Single Vineyard Albaneve Malbec (Valle de Uco). Located in Luján de Cuyo, the producer makes wines from selected vineyards across Mendoza's and Salta's top regions. This rich and lively Malbec hails from the Uco Valley and offers a fresh character. Licorice and elegant notes of herbs introduce a well-structured and layered palate,

showcasing integrated spices and luscious fruit flavors through a long finish. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

94 Terrazas de Los Andes 2021 Parcel 12 Malbec (Los Chacayes). Rosemary and thyme emerge on the nose with inviting herbal aromas. Tight tannins provide structure and grip to this Malbec that shows leafy notes blending seamlessly with raspberry and red plums. Vibrant character and energy carry through to a delicate floral finish. —J.V.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$100

94 Trapiche 2022 Terroir Series Finca Coletto Malbec (Uco Valley). Thyme and red plums shape the nose of this lively Malbec. The juicy palate reveals rich fruit character and lingering herbs, complemented by hints of spice. Nice acidity lifts the flavors through a long finish, adding freshness and balance. WX Brands. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

93 Alta Vista 2023 Terroir Selection Malbec (Mendoza). Made with grapes from the producer's vineyards in the Uco Valley and Luján de Cuyo, this blend of Malbec opens with aromatic notes of blackberries. The juicy, fruit-driven palate features dark fruit and saline hints, backed by focused acidity that lengthens the flavors. It's full bodied and fresh. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

93 Argento 2023 Single Vineyard Organic Malbec (Paraje Altamira). For full review see page 7. Opici Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Bodegas Krontiras 2022 Explore Malbec (Mendoza). This red offers delicate aromas of plums, pencil shavings, and spices. The textured palate shows good fruit concentration, featuring dark- and red-berry flavors followed by hints of rosemary and saline notes. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

92 El Esteco 2022 Fincas Notables Malbec (Calchaquí Valley). Jammy black-currant aromas fill the nose with concentrated, inviting fruit. The palate exhibits minty notes that gradually give way to peppercorn and blackberries. Tight tannins and focused acidity provide a firm backbone that lifts the flavors and adds energy. This wine is ready to drink now after proper aeration. Total Wine & More. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Estancia Los Cardones 2021 Tigerstone Malbec (Salta). Sourced from Salta, Argentina's northern, high-altitude wine region, this Malbec benefits from the area's intense sun and the significant day-to-night temperature variations that high elevation provides. The result is an aromatic wine that opens with cherries and hints of figs. Round and juicy, the palate delivers ripe jammy flavors complemented by a refreshing leafy note. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

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92 Piattelli 2022 Single Vineyard La Calera Malbec (Calchaquí Valley). Blackberry aromas fill the attractive nose. The flavorful palate delivers cassis and dark fruit, with nutmeg and a light note of paprika. Tasty and smooth, this Malbec features enough acidity to elevate the flavors and add length. Vinocopia. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Solar Del Alma 2020 Cellar Reserve Malbec (Mendoza). Attractive blueberry aromas form the nose of this Malbec, which is made with organic grapes. The smooth palate delivers chocolate and earthy notes, along with pure flavors of plums and cherries. It's tasty and fresh, with a hint of bay leaf and spices in the delightful finish. Wine For The World. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

91 Altos Las Hormigas 2024 Terroir Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Floral aromas introduce this well-crafted Malbec. Firm tannins hold dark-fruit flavors of plums and blackberries, followed by hints of cassis on the mineral-textured palate. Focused acidity and floral notes complete its character. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

91 Bodega Colomé 2023 Estate Malbec (Calchaquí Valley). Subtle ripe aromas introduce this Malbec from Argentina's northern region. Savory notes complement fruit flavors of cranberries and red plums that take over the palate. Delicate hints of bay leaf mark the lingering finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Bodegas Krontiras 2025 Natural Malbec (Mendoza). The nose offers pure blackberry and mulberry aromas for an attractive bouquet. This juicy, fruit-driven Malbec features firm tannins and excellent freshness. Dark fruit and leafy notes dominate the savory palate. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Finca La Anita 2024 Malbec (Agrelo). Black pepper and ripe fruit rise from the glass. This fruit-driven wine reveals dark-berry flavors on the palate, where nice acidity and mineral texture provide structure. Hints of dried bay leaf mark the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 La Truite 2022 Casa Natal Gran Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Black pepper opens on the nose of this enjoyable Malbec. The full-bodied palate delivers a blend of fruit and spices backed by fine tannins and lifting acidity. It's subtle and balanced, with a lingering finish. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

91 Luigi Bosca 2022 Malbec (Mendoza). This delicious wine is perfect for getting people acquainted with Malbec. Blackberries and other dark fruit rise from the glass. It offers cherries, blueberries,

and hints of wood spices on the firmly structured palate, complemented by balancing acidity. —J.V.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$21

91 Sur Bodegas y Viñedos 2022 Sur de los Andes Gran Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Aromatic dried herbs fill the nose of this tasty Malbec. The palate echoes those herbal notes with a distinctly green character, supported by soft tannins and moderate freshness. A mix of red and black fruit emerges in the finish. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

91 Tentadora 2021 Reserva Malbec (Cafayate). Delicate and inviting jammy aromas rise from the glass, with a hint of clove. This smooth, full-bodied wine hails from Cafayate, Argentina's northern region, and features chocolate and black-fruit flavors, with lingering notes of aniseed. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Trivento 2023 Golden Reserve Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Nice and delicate spices define the nose of this Malbec. Approachable and well structured, the palate showcases notes of cinnamon, juicy plums, and blackberries over a smooth texture. Viña Concha y Toro USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Altos Las Hormigas 2024 Terroir Malbec (Uco Valley). Aromatic blackberry-jam and leafy notes rise from the glass. This fruit-driven Malbec features ripe plum flavors on a textured, juicy palate, making it enjoyable through the long finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

90 Anko 2025 Malbec (Salta). The nose of this wine offers classic Malbec aromas of plums and dark cherries, leading to a fruit-driven palate, where similar notes of berries meet hints of spice. It's fresh and firm enough to pair with empanadas. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Bodegas Krontiras 2024 miKron Malbec (Mendoza). Strawberry aromas introduce this delicious easy sipper. The floral palate features hints of violets and leafy notes, though pure berry flavors dominate. Good acidity and fine tannins provide a pleasant experience. Drink slightly chilled. Park Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$16

90 Grazie Mille 2019 Libertad Malbec (La Consulta). Subtle and leafy aromas introduce this Uco Valley red. The herbal palate shows texture and a subtle character, with hints of blackberry lingering in the tasty finish. GM Wines LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 La Posta 2024 Pizzella Malbec (Mendoza). Subtle spices introduce this lightly oaked Malbec from the Uco Valley. The palate reveals plums backed by gentle acidity, turning herbal in the savory finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Ricardo Santos 2022 Finca La Madras Malbec (Mendoza). This friendly Malbec offers subtle red fruit and peppery notes on the nose. The palate features berry flavors and thyme, supported by good structure, resulting in an enjoyable, medium-long finish. It's the perfect match for hearty meals. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 Andeluna 2025 1300 Malbec (Valle de Uco). Aromas of strawberry introduce this fresh and straightforward red. Leafy notes blend with tart berries on the palate, accompanied by moderate acidity and soft tannins. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

89 La Posta 2024 Paulucci Malbec (Mendoza). This Malbec opens with notes of vanilla that repeat on the soft, round palate. Dark fruit adds an extra layer of flavor that lingers through a medium finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

89 Lamadrid 2022 Reserva Malbec (Agrelo). This Malbec offers fresh aromas of cherry and subtle minty notes. The palate features eucalyptus, followed by mild black- and red-fruit flavors, and hints of sweet spices. It's approachable, with smooth tannins and a medium finish. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

89 Piattelli 2024 High Altitude Reserve Malbec (Salta). Subtle dark-fruit aromas emerge on the nose. Medium bodied with moderate acidity and soft tannins, this wine delivers enough flavors of plums and blackberries to make it an easygoing, fruit-driven Malbec. Perfect for empanadas or beef casserole. Vinocopia. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Altos Las Hormigas 2023 Clásico Malbec (Mendoza). Hints of licorice and plums shape the nose. A touch of balsamic blends with black fruit on the palate, where moderate freshness and thin tannins make this wine approachable. Drink slightly chilled and enjoy now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$12

88 Antonio Mas 2024 Almarada Malbec (Uco Valley). Ripe berry aromas define the nose of this Malbec. Grassy flavors blend with prune on the palate, where lean tannins and moderate freshness guide the flavors through a medium finish. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$15

88 Domaine Bousquet 2025 Lo Ca Low Calories Malbec (Uco Valley). Youthful notes of tart berries introduce this low-alcohol, easy sipper. The palate offers flavors of pomegranate, with hints of citrus in the finish, accompanied by moderate acidity. Drink chilled. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$14

88 Don Cristobal 2024 Cristóbal Made with Organic Grapes Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Aromatic berry jam rises from the glass of this organic wine. Red-fruit flavors fill the palate and mix with grassy notes in the finish. An easy sipper with moderate acidity, it's perfect for picnic snacks. Allied Beverage Group. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Mendoza Vineyards 2021 Reserve Malbec (Mendoza). Hints of pomegranate shape the nose. The soft, creamy palate features enough red-fruit flavors to make this easygoing red approachable. It would pair well with pasta and red sauce. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Tercos 2024 Malbec (Mendoza). Cherry aromas introduce this straightforward Malbec. Dark and red fruit take over the palate, where gentle tannins lead to a crisp finish marked by herbal notes. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

87 Andeluna 2025 Raices Malbec (Mendoza). Aromas of blackberry define the nose of this lean wine. Plum-juice flavors appear on the easygoing palate, leading to a brief finish. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Bodega del Fin del Mundo 2024 Postales Malbec (Neuquén). The bouquet of this easy sipper includes subtle herbal notes. Medium bodied and floral, the palate offers mild fruit flavors that disappear in a short finish. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Republic of Wine 2024 Malbec (Mendoza). Blackberry jam defines the nose of this Malbec. It's fruit forward, featuring a simple character of ripe dark fruit. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Bodega Toro Centenario 2025 Malbec (Mendoza). An austere nose introduces this lightly structured wine. The palate exhibits stewed berry flavors and soft tannins, making it easy to drink. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

85 Off-Piste NV The Wanderer Malbec (San Juan). This wine is lean and simple, offering baked berries on the nose and palate, along with gentle acidity. Drink now. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

PINOT NOIR

96 Domaine Nico 2023 Le Paradis Pinot Noir (Uco Valley). This high-altitude Pinot Noir is both expressive and focused. Sourced from the Gualtallary sub-region in the Uco Valley, it displays the refreshing character of cool-climate wines along with complexity and depth. The palate is introduced

by bright floral aromas of hibiscus, leading to a blend of integrated spices, earthy notes, and raspberries, all complemented by hints of citrus and black tea. Winebow Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$350

94 Domaine Nico 2023 Histoire d'A Pinot Noir (Uco Valley). Aromas of nutmeg and strawberries appear on the glass of this round and juicy Pinot Noir. The textured palate unveils layers of ripe berry flavors and spices. While it has a richer character compared to the other Pinot Noirs in the portfolio, nice acidity and mineral notes provide balance and freshness. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

94 Domaine Nico 2023 La Savante Pinot Noir (Uco Valley). Floral and aromatic on the nose, this flavorful wine from vineyards growing at 4,593 feet features optimal acidity and fine, delicate tannins. Notes of rose petals, sweet spices, and cherries lead to leafy notes in the long finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 Domaine Nico 2023 Grand Mère Pinot Noir (Uco Valley). Elegant and tasty, this Pinot Noir offers spices and flowers on the nose. The silky palate features red and black berries, with hints of cinnamon and clove. Delicate yet firm tannins support a long finish marked by orange zest. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 Domaine Nico 2023 Grand Père Pinot Noir (Uco Valley). An alluring blend of black pepper and nutmeg shapes the nose. This delicious wine has a balanced character that slowly reveals subtle red-fruit flavors and sweet spices, followed by pleasant herbs elevating the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 Puerta del Abra 2021 Pinot Noir (Balcarce). This Pinot Noir comes from limestone soils in Balcarce, Buenos Aires province, near the Atlantic Ocean. It features aromas of plums and a flavorful palate that reveals hints of clove, herbs, and rich notes of black and red fruit. Vibrant acidity and chalky notes add length. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc.. —J.V.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$80

BONARDA

93 El Enemigo 2022 Bonarda (Mendoza). Strawberries and a dash of tobacco introduce this well-structured Bonarda. Mulberries and hints of cassis fill the vigorous palate, where excellent acidity adds depth. Dried herbs in the finish provide a savory twist. Winebow Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Altos Las Hormigas 2025 Colonia Las Liebres Bonarda (Mendoza). Strawberries and black pepper introduce this fresh Bonarda. The palate features dark fruit and good acidity, with firm tannins supporting its juicy, lively character. It's a perfect red

wine for a summer picnic. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Puerta del Abra NV Bonarda (Balcarce). Inviting red-fruit aromas rise from the glass of this fruit-forward wine. The palate exhibits plums and cherries with saline notes, leading to a brief finish. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc.. —J.V.
abv: 10.1% **Price:** \$65

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

94 Luigi Bosca 2022 Leon Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This elegant Cabernet displays a delicate blend of spices complemented by subtle hints of graphite on the nose. It offers depth and a balanced mix of blackberries and cherries, accompanied by notes of chocolate, nutmeg, and licorice. Finely grained tannins and optimal freshness create a delightful finish. Drink now through 2038. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

91 Vinuv 2022 Grand Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Chacayes). An aromatically spiced nose introduces this wine. Wood spices dominate the palate, with blackberries and mulberries complementing its layered character. Fine tannins and good acidity support the profile, finishing with vanilla and cinnamon. Fly Guy Consulting LLC. —J.V.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$79

91 Zuccardi 2024 Q Cabernet Sauvignon (Valle de Uco). Captivating aromas of black fruit introduce this structured, enjoyable wine. The textured palate shows plums and other dark-fruit flavors that intensify as it opens, making this balanced and full bodied. Firm, chalky tannins and good acidity provide support throughout. Winesellers, Ltd.. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 El Esteco 2024 1947 Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Calchaquí Valley). Aromas of eucalyptus and hints of vanilla define the nose of this Cabernet. The structured palate brings together red-berry flavors, hints of oak spices, and mint. It's an enjoyable red, with a lingering finish. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 El Esteco 2024 Blend de Extremos Cabernet Sauvignon (Calchaquí Valley). Leafy aromas, like Mediterranean herbs, rise from the glass of this Cabernet from the Calchaquí Valleys. The smooth, round palate reveals ripe flavors and hints of chocolate, with nice acidity to balance everything. It's perfect to enjoy with hearty meals. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Zuccardi 2024 Serie A Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Gentle notes of blackberries create a delicate bouquet. Pure red- and dark-fruit flavors take over the lively palate of this friendly Cab-

BUYINGGUIDE

ernet Sauvignon that finishes with a fresh character. Winesellers, Ltd.. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

89 Fincas Patagonicas 2025 Osmosis Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This fruit-driven Cabernet presents soft tannins and a palate featuring notes of blackberries and blueberries, complemented by subtle herbal notes. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 10% Price: \$15

89 Los Haroldos 2022 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Subtle ripe fruit aromas emerge on the nose of this Cabernet. The palate shows grassy notes, alongside plum flavors in a medium-bodied frame. Enjoy this wine now. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$43

89 Marantiqua 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Neuquén). Easygoing and fruit forward, this red begins with a subtle nose of spices. The soft palate offers hints of earthy red fruit that fades slowly in the finish. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

89 Piattelli 2024 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). This medium-bodied Luján de Cuyo red features aromas of plums. Dark-fruit flavors and hints of oak spices blend on the soft palate, where gripping tannins lead to a medium herbal finish. Vinocopia. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

89 Santa Julia 2025 El Cabrito Natural Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This medium-bodied Cabernet reveals aromas of ripe berries. The fruit-driven palate features pleasant notes of peppercorn and good acidity, balancing its easygoing character. Winesellers, Ltd.. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

89 The Icon Rock 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Leafy aromas guide the senses to a generous palate, where wood spices mix with hints of red berries, and herbs. Moderate acidity and thin tannins lead to a finish marked by subtle notes of rosemary. WX Brands. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

89 Trapiche 2023 Tesoro Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Medium bodied and easygoing, this wine shows aromas of spices. The round palate reveals plum and leafy flavors, alongside sharp acidity. WX Brands. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

88 Altos Las Hormigas 2024 Cloud Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Attractive notes of berry jam (with hints of peppercorn) rise from the glass. This easygoing, unoaked Cabernet features cherry and leafy flavors framed by lean tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

88 Mascota Vineyards 2024 La Mascota Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Aromas of spices introduce this medium-bodied Cabernet. The easygo-

ing palate reveals a blend of subtle vanilla and dark-fruit flavors, with soft tannins and medium acidity. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

88 Santa Julia 2024 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Valle de Uco). Cranberries introduce this tasty, easy sipper. Soft red-fruit flavors appear on the palate, where medium tannins and gentle acidity lead to a brief grassy finish. It pairs well with crispy ground-beef quesadillas. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$14

87 Almarada 2023 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Aromas of grilled bell pepper rise from the glass. Earthy flavors dominate the palate, with enough red fruit to provide an easygoing finish. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

CABERNET FRANC

93 Viña Cobos 2022 Chañares Estate Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). Licorice aromas define the nose of this full-bodied Cabernet Franc. The firm palate delivers coffee beans, licorice, and a compelling mix of red and black fruit. Hints of peppercorn close the finish with a spicy note. Slightly tight, this wine will benefit from one more year in the bottle to fully integrate and reveal its potential. Paul Hobbs Selections. —J.V.
abv: 15% Price: \$100

92 Finca La Anita 2024 Edición Especial Cabernet Franc (Agrelo-Luján de Cuyo). This full-bodied Cabernet Franc exhibits a vibrant character. The inviting bouquet features light dark-fruit aromas introducing blackberry jam and dried herbs, enhanced by subtle hints of cinnamon, on the palate. Firm tannins and crisp acidity provide a sturdy frame. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

91 Puerta del Abra 2020 Cabernet Franc (Balcarce). For full review see page 12. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc..
abv: 13% Price: \$80

OTHER RED WINES

92 Estancia Los Cardones 2020 Tigerstone Garnacha (Salta). This high-elevation version of Garnacha opens with intense notes of strawberry and flowers. The full-bodied, fruit-driven palate delights with perfectly ripe berry flavors and hints of clove, elevated by focused acidity. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

92 Falasco Wines 2020 Hermandad Winemaker Series Limited Edition Petit Verdot (Valle de Uco). Hints of espresso blend with cherries on the nose. The same notes echo on the smooth palate, where good acidity and ripe tannins provide structure. This bold Petit Verdot finishes long with persistent red

berries, making it an ideal match for smoked meats. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

92 Finca La Anita 2024 Petit Verdot (Agrelo). An aromatic bouquet of Mediterranean herbs, tobacco, and chocolate introduces this Petit Verdot from Agrelo, a high-altitude region in Luján de Cuyo. The velvety palate features chocolate ganache, with hints of blueberries and cherries lingering through the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

RED BLENDS

94 Luca 2023 Beso de Dante Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Uco Valley). Attractive aromas of red fruit introduce this structured blend of Cabernet and Malbec sourced from select vineyards in the Uco Valley. Ripe fruit flavors dominate the full-bodied palate, featuring an earthy edge, followed by notes of dark chocolate and finishing with blackberries. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

93 Bodegas Salentein 2023 Numina Gran Corte Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Valle de Uco). Raspberries and red currants introduce this full-bodied blend. The rich profile features blackberries, cedar, and hints of tobacco. Coming from the Uco Valley, this wine offers a balanced, layered expression from start to finish. Palm Bay International Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

92 Mosquita Muerta 2022 Blend de Tinta Red Blend (Mendoza). This approachable blend features a dominant 70% Malbec, complemented by 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Merlot. Delicate baking-spice aromas emerge on the nose, leading to a soft palate that delivers black- and red-fruit flavors with hints of chocolate. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

91 Mascota Vineyards 2022 Unánime Gran Vino Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Mendoza). Subtle wood-spice aromas introduce this wine. The palate opens up generously, delivering strawberries, bell pepper, and herbal notes alongside spices. Round tannins and medium acidity provide a balanced framework that carries through to a medium-long finish. It's an approachable blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Malbec, 15% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

90 Puerta del Abra NV Itzae I Red Blend (Balcarce). For full review see page 14. Puerta del Abra Imports Inc..
abv: 14% Price: \$65

90 Santa Julia 2025 La Vaquita Natural Red Blend (Mendoza). This red offers aromas of blackberry and subtle earthy notes. High acidity injects energy and drives the flavors of cherries and

plums through a lively finish. Enjoy slightly chilled. Winesellers, Ltd., *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

90 Vinuv 2022 Memoir Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Los Chacayes). Vanilla marks the nose of this blend. Plums and cherries meet with integrated spices on the palate, framed by moderate acidity and smooth tannins. Fly Guy Consulting LLC. —J.V.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$64

89 Finca El Origen 2023 Andes Blend Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Uco Valley). This red features hints of blackberries on the nose. Soft tannins and enough freshness frame leafy flavors, dark fruit, and hints of spices on the approachable palate. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$19

89 Ichanka 2022 Malbec-Bonarda (La Rioja). This blend of Malbec and Bonarda from the Famatina Valley in La Rioja province features aromas of dried cherries. Both grapes bring fruit flavors to the blend, delivering sunkissed plums and berries on a medium-bodied palate. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

88 Domaine Bousquet 2025 Virgen Vineyards Red Blend (Tupungato). Dried herbs and strawberries emerge from the glass. The simple palate showcases abundant ripe plum and fig flavors, balanced by enough freshness to lead into a medium herbal finish. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

87 Trivento 2024 Maximum Red Blend (Mendoza). This red features an attractive nose of sweet spices and strawberry jam. The medium-to-full-bodied palate reveals simple berry flavors with gentle acidity. Enjoy with pizza. Viña Concha y Toro USA. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

CHILE

SAUVIGNON BLANC

93 Concha y Toro 2025 Terrunyo Los Boldos Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Balanced citrus aromas introduce this fresh and medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc from vineyards located nine miles from the sea in the Casablanca Valley. The palate bursts with citrus flavors of lime and grapefruit, along with hints of apricot and nice acidity that appear throughout. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

92 Viña Leyda 2025 Coastal Vineyards Garuma Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). For full review see page 15. VSPT USA. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

90 Casas del Bosque 2025 Botanic Series La Canteria Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Saline and citrus notes fill the bouquet of this Sauvignon Blanc, where good acidity creates a fresh experience. Similar notes repeat on the palate, with hints of grass and pink grapefruit adding length. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

89 Aetos 2025 Reserva Privada Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley). Aromatic white fruit and lime zest shape the nose of this white wine. The crisp palate reveals green notes and citrus flavors backed by moderate acidity, leading to a medium finish. Evaki Imports Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

89 Casas del Bosque 2025 Collection Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). An expressive nose of green peas introduces this white. The crisp palate echoes the same character, followed by hints of grapefruit that fade in a medium finish. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

89 Casas del Toqui 2025 Alto Totihue Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Cachapoal Valley). Lively green-pea notes blend with subtle stone-fruit flavors on this balanced, medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc. It's friendly, with a citrus finish. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

89 Santa Ema 2024 Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Subtle celery aromas mark the nose of this white. Similar green notes and hints of citrus take over the palate, where good acidity drives the flavors through a medium-long finish. Opici Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

89 Ventisquero Wine Estates 2025 Las Cartas Love Letters Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). A blend of citrus and green aromas introduces this white. The palate features stone-fruit and pithy flavors, along with refreshing acidity, creating a balanced simple character. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

88 Odfjell 2025 Armador Sauvignon Blanc (San Antonio). Aromas of green pea and lemon peels define the nose. The easygoing palate mirrors the nose, with green and citrus flavors, accompanied by moderate acidity that leads to a pithy finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

88 Sombras del Sol 2023 Santa Rosa Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Maule Valley). An expressive nose of green peas introduces this simple Sauvignon. The green palate features leafy notes and mouthwatering acidity, making it excellent for hot summer days. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

88 Viña Punti Ferrer Ltda 2025 More Por Favor Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley). Subtle citrus notes introduce this light-bodied Sauvignon. The fresh palate features lemon zest, making this an enjoyable, easygoing wine. Drink now. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

87 Klean 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley). Subtle lime notes appear on the nose of this low-alcohol white. The nearly crystal-clear Sauvignon Blanc shows vegetal and leafy flavors that disappear in a short finish. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 8% Price: \$16

85 Cremaschi Furlotti 2025 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Maule Valley). The nose shows flinty aromas. After a few minutes in the glass, the palate exhibits mild lemon flavors and gentle acidity. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

CHARDONNAY

94 Concha y Toro 2024 Amelia Chardonnay (Limarí Valley). From the emerging Limarí Valley comes this elegant Chardonnay. Chalky aromas blend with chamomile flowers on the nose. There is a feeling of balanced tension across the full-bodied palate, with nice acidity adding depth and lifting spices, floral, and citrus flavors. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

92 Dakél 2024 Viñedo Maricerro Chardonnay (Itata Valley). Sea breezes from the Pacific Ocean influence the character of this wine, adding freshness. Subtle wood spices form the nose and introduce a palate that features lime and pear flavors blending with herbs and hints of vanilla. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

87 Cremaschi Furlotti 2025 Reserva Chardonnay (Loncomilla Valley). Mild green notes appear on the nose of this easygoing Chardonnay. It offers vanilla and subtle citrus-fruit flavors, accompanied by gentle acidity. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

87 Odfjell 2025 Armador Chardonnay (Maule Valley). Stone-fruit aromas introduce this simple Chardonnay. The lightweight palate exhibits subtle pineapple flavors, moderate freshness, and a short finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

PINOT GRIGIO

85 Klean 2024 Pinot Grigio (Central Valley). The nose offers subtle white-fruit aromas that shape the simple bouquet. It's lean, with mild grassy

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notes appearing on the lightweight palate before disappearing in a short finish. —J.V.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉ

90 Casas del Bosque 2025 Botanic Series Rosé (Casablanca Valley). Strawberry and peppery notes introduce this delightful, easy-sipping rosé from the Casablanca Valley. Made with Pinot Noir grapes, this refreshing wine offers watermelon, fresh cherries, subtle leafy notes, and citric acidity. The green notes add freshness and make it an excellent choice for pairing with summer meals. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

PINOT NOIR

95 Concha y Toro 2024 Amelia Pinot Noir (Limari Valley). This Pinot Noir, sourced from the limestone soils of the Limari Valley, offers captivating aromas of delicate sweet spices and raspberries. The elegantly textured palate features delicious red-fruit flavors complemented by cedar and earthy notes. Excellent acidity adds depth to the overall profile. Viña Concha y Toro USA. *Editor's Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Dakél 2024 Viñedo Maricerro Pinot Noir (Itata Valley). Wines from the Itata Valley are known for their expressiveness, and this Pinot Noir is no exception. An aromatic nose of red fruit and delicate sweet spices introduces a palate where hints of nutmeg, graphite, berries, and herbs are perfectly balanced by vibrant acidity. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Ventisquero 2023 Herú Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). The producer sources grapes from the coastal Casablanca region to make this balanced and flavorful Pinot Noir. Cherries and saline notes create an attractive bouquet. The wine's firm tannins and optimal acidity frame a flavorful palate of wood spices, floral notes, and red berries. Austral Wines. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Casas del Bosque 2024 Gran Reserva Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). The coastal Casablanca Valley is home to delicious savory Pinot Noir. A touch of sea-spray salinity marks the nose of this red. The juicy palate exhibits hints of spices and herbs, followed by cherries and mushrooms, backed by nice acidity throughout. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Cremaschi Furlotti 2024 Reserva Pinot Noir (Maule Valley). Hints of herbs and peppery aromas introduce this wine. The soft palate shows a blend of bay leaf and red berries, accompanied by moderate acidity. It's ready to be enjoyed now. Manzanos Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Viña Punti Ferrer Ltda 2023 Reserva Pinot Noir (Aconcagua Valley). Light notes of cranberries guide the senses to a medium-bodied palate. This Pinot Noir features cherry and red-plum flavors, with earthy notes and moderate acidity, finishing with leafy character. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Casas del Bosque 2024 Collection Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). Aromas of salt introduce this simple Pinot Noir. The balanced palate features floral flavors with hints of spices and concentrated strawberry, all supported by good acidity. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Klean 2023 Pinot Noir (Central Valley). Mild aromas of berries introduce this low-alcohol wine. Flavors of cherry juice take over the lightly structured palate, finishing with hints of plum peel. At just 8% alcohol, it offers a simple character. —J.V.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$16

85 Republic of Wine 2023 Pinot Noir (Itata Valley). Gentle, tart berry aromas introduce this wine. The palate reveals mild red-fruit flavors, leading to a brief, pithy finish. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Casas del Bosque 2021 Gran Bosque Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Hailing from the Maipo Valley, this Cabernet Sauvignon offers peppery notes, a subtle touch of cinnamon, and red fruit. It's savory, with fine-grained tannins and good freshness. Layers of dark chocolate lead to a long finish. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Concha y Toro 2023 Terrunyo Pirque Viejo Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Pirque). Coming from Maipo Alto, a region close to the Andes Mountains, this Cabernet proves how the grape achieves great results in this area. Integrated spices introduce a firm palate that delivers a rich blend of ripe blackberries and elegant notes of Mediterranean herbs. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Viña Punti Ferrer Ltda 2022 Conforme Cabernet Sauvignon (Rapel Valley). This full-bodied Cabernet offers a subtle blend of spices, herbs, and red fruit, creating an elegant bouquet. The palate reveals herbal character, with nice berry flavors and sweet spices providing balance, leading to a long finish. Drink now through 2037. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 Viña San Pedro 2022 1865 Selected Collection Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Lontué Valley). This red offers an inviting bouquet shaped by cinnamon and tart cherries. The palate reveals a sturdy frame, where smooth tannins carry flavors of

baking spices, bay leaf, and red plums. It's full bodied, with a tasty, savory character. VSPT USA. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

91 Odffjell 2023 Orzada Cabernet Sauvignon (Apalta). Ripe cherries introduce this Cabernet from the Apalta Valley. The lively palate features appealing flavors of berries, red plums, and savory notes. It shows layers and a sturdy structure, providing support and balance. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Ancestro 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Hints of sweet spices introduce this Cabernet. The palate delivers ripe berry flavors, enhanced by a touch of bay leaf and other aromatic herbs. Its savory character maintains freshness throughout. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Viña Punti Ferrer Ltda 2023 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). Plums mark the nose of this simple, enjoyable Cabernet. It delivers concentrated cherry flavors, with leafy notes and firm tannins, offering enough structure throughout. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

89 Cremaschi Furlotti 2024 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maule Valley). This Cabernet opens with aromas of red plums. The round palate features bay leaf, aniseed, and bell pepper, with soft tannins and moderate acidity supporting the herbal character through the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Neyen 2023 Ancestral Cabernet Sauvignon (Apalta). Coming from the Apalta Valley, this wine offers a ripe character. Aromas of bell pepper introduce the soft palate, where gentle tannins lead to a medium finish marked by hints of spices. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Viña Punti Ferrer Ltda 2024 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). This wine has a leafy character, showing herbs on the nose. The plush palate blends hints of bell pepper and red-jam flavors, leading to a medium finish of subtle green notes. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

87 Republic of Wine 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Berries mark the nose of this easygoing Cabernet. Lightly structured, it features bay leaf and lively acidity, leading to a medium finish. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

CARMENÈRE

93 Concha y Toro 2024 Terrunyo Peumo Vineyard Carmenere (Peumo). Delicate spices define the nose of this enjoyable Peumo Valley Car-

menère. The silky palate echoes the nose and reveals cinnamon flavors complemented by red berries. Firm tannins and balanced acidity support the sweet fruit character through a long finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Odfjell 2023 Orzada Carmenere (Maule Valley).** This Maule Valley Carmenère begins with notes of fresh herbs that lead to a medium-bodied palate filled with red-fruit and leafy flavors. It's a balanced red to pair with rosemary chicken. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Viña Punti Ferrer Ltda 2023 Gran Reserva Carménère (Cachapoal Valley).** An aromatic nose of ripe raspberries and hints of Mediterranean herbs introduces this full-bodied wine. The savory palate blends red berries with tobacco, accompanied by optimal acidity, finishing long and tasty. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

89 **Odfjell 2024 Armador Carmenere (Maule Valley).** Subtle cherries create a delicate bouquet. The soft, fruit-driven palate exhibits hints of grilled bell pepper. Moderate acidity makes this Carmenère approachable through the medium finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Viña Punti Ferrer Ltda 2024 Signature Carménère (Rapel Valley).** Red plums and cherries dominate the nose. The palate showcases dark fruit and subtle hints of thyme. Moderate freshness balances the ripe flavor, making it a perfect match for beef stews. W. Direct Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

88 **Casas del Bosque 2024 Collection Carménère (Rapel Valley).** This Carmenère offers a herbal character. The palate is filled with cherries and green peppery notes, backed by moderate freshness and soft tannins. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 **Cremaschi Furlotti 2024 Reserva Carmenere (Maule Valley).** Earthy aromas and aniseed mark the nose of this easygoing red. The soft palate reveals eucalyptus, hints of red fruit, wood spices, and licorice that linger. Manzanos Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

OTHER RED WINES

93 **Polkura 2022 Syrah (Marchigüe).** Floral aromas blend with hints of sweet spices and herbs in a perfumed bouquet. This lively Syrah from vineyards planted over granite soils reveals several layers of red berries and pomegranate, enhanced by integrated notes of clove and cassia. It's vibrant, fruit driven, and balanced. Classic Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 **Odfjell 2023 Orzada Carignan (Maule Valley).** Hibiscus, cherry, and cranberries emerge from the glass. This flavorful Carignan features tart berries and hints of licorice, followed by bay leaf flavors that mark the finish. It has excellent freshness and a fruit-driven character. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

91 **Polkura 2022 Malbec (Marchigüe).** Cherry and white pepper introduce this bold Malbec from the Marchigüe sub-region of the Colchagua Valley. It shows a rich character, with intense dark- and red-fruit flavors, a touch of chocolate, and herbs. Firm, chewy tannins support the ripe flavors throughout. Classic Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Altamana 2021 Grande Reserve Malbec (Maule Valley).** A peppery nose, followed by blueberries, introduces this fruit-driven wine from the Maule Valley. The palate is full of ripe dark-berry flavors, leading to a medium finish. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

RED BLENDS

95 **Casas del Bosque 2023 La Trampa Red Blend (Casablanca Valley).** For full review see page 4. Southern Starz, Inc. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

94 **Concha y Toro 2023 Carmín de Peumo Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Peumo).** This Carmenère wine hails from the Peumo Valley, one of the preferred regions for this variety in Chile. It shows an elegant structure and heightened freshness, evident in its bright character. Lively notes of cherries and bay leaf are balanced by subtle hints of clove. The wine features fine, velvety tannins that carry its delicate flavors through to a savory finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

94 **Odfjell 2020 Aliara Red Blend (Central Valley).** The producer makes expressive wines from organic vineyards in the Maule and Maipo Valleys. This aromatic blend, which usually includes Carignan, among other red grapes, shows freshness and fine tannins. Rich flavors of cranberries, nutmeg, licorice, and hints of cardamon shape its character. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

94 **Santa Ema 2022 Catalina Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Maipo Alto).** Sourced from high-altitude vineyards in the Maipo Valley, this elegant blend features cedar notes on both the nose and the firmly structured palate. Berry-jam flavors are balanced by lifting acidity. Enjoy this wine now through 2040. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 **Odfjell 2023 Capítulo Flying Fish Red Blend (Central Valley).** Cherries and other tart berries introduce this organic blend of Carignan, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, and Syrah. Fresh and fruit driven, this tasty blend shows a vibrant character through the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

BRAZIL

WHITE WINES

88 **Garibaldi NV Nature Blanc de Blanc Chardonnay (Brazil).** Lime and mild hints of peaches define the nose of this sparkling wine. The palate features fun bubbles, nice acidity, and subtle ripe stone-fruit flavors. L & W Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 **Garibaldi NV Moscatel (Serra Gaúcha).** Aromas of apricot introduce this sweet sparkling wine. The effervescent palate echoes the nose and shows pome-fruit flavors, accompanied by moderate acidity. L & W Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$9

ALSACE

RIESLING

93 **Domaine Hurst 2024 Vieilles Vignes Riesling (Alsace).** Flinty and sharply defined, with white raspberry lending a delicate lift alongside ginger and a faint hint of turmeric in the background. The palate shows impressive precision and layering, where vibrant acidity carries both fruit and spice in seamless balance. Mineral tension drives the wine through a long, complex finish, leaving a mouthwatering, saline impression that lingers with clarity and depth. *Editor's Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

93 **Domaine Paul Blanck 2019 Grand Cru Schlossberg Riesling (Alsace).** Full of flavor and confidently expressive, with guava and mango-steen lending an exotic edge to a core of yellow apple. The fruit is generous yet clearly defined, kept in check by bright, well-judged acidity that brings energy and structure. The finish is crunchy and precise, adding textural allure and extending the wine's vibrant, layered character. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

93 **Domaine Schoenheit 2023 Holder Riesling (Alsace).** Kiwi, mangosteen, and ripe peach unfold in a vibrant, juicy frame that feels both generous and tightly wound. The acidity is mouthwatering, driving the fruit forward, while keeping the palate energized and precise. A distinct flinty mineral edge adds tension and clarity, sharpening the contours through a long, focused finish. Expressive yet con-

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trolled, this is a beautifully balanced and dynamic Riesling. Roche-Mère Wine Selections. —A.Z.

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

93 Domaines Schlumberger 2022 Grand Cru Kessler Riesling (Alsace). Highly expressive from the outset, with vivid tangerine and white-raspberry aromas unfolding over a pronounced flinty minerality. The palate is smooth and sleek, yet charged with energy, balancing ripeness with precision. Layers of spice and floral nuance build steadily, adding dimension and lift. The finish is long and expansive, fanning out with mineral tension and aromatic persistence. Maison Marques et Domaines. —A.Z.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

92 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2023 Grand Cru Hengst Riesling (Alsace). A precise, structured expression, with grapefruit providing a firm citrus edge to the riper notes of quince and yellow plum. The palate is focused and energetic, driven by well-judged acidity that keeps the fruit tightly framed. It finishes long and linear, with mineral tension carrying the flavors in a clean, sustained line. Petit Pois Corp/Fleet Street Wine Merchants. —A.Z.

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

92 Domaine Loew 2023 Grand Cru Altenberg de Bergbieten Riesling (Alsace). Very well balanced, combining clementine brightness with subtle notes of cardamom and dandelion tea. The palate is poised and harmonious, with ripe citrus framed by gentle spice and a fine mineral undertone. Orchard-blossom nuances emerge on the finish, adding lift and aromatic persistence to a long, composed close. —A.Z.

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

92 Domaine Schoenheit 2023 Herrenreben Riesling (Alsace). Well crafted and expressive, with papaya and Meyer lemon at the forefront, lifted by floral tones and a fine thread of spice. A clear mineral streak gives definition and energy. The texture is crunchy and precise, adding tension to the ripe fruit profile. It finishes long, layered, and confident, combining vibrancy with structure. Roche-Mère Wine Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Domaine Specht 2022 Grand Cru Mandelberg White Riesling (Alsace). Sleek and elegant, with a crunchy, steely profile that immediately signals structure and precision. Citrus and crisp orchard fruit drive the palate, tightly framed by vibrant acidity. Focused and refined, it carries impressive length, finishing mouthwatering and taut, with lingering mineral energy. USA Wine West. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Dopff Au Moulin 2019 Grand Cru Schoenenbourg Riesling (Alsace). A singed lemon-peel nuance frames the wine from the outset, adding a lightly smoky citrus edge to a juicy core of peach and guava. The palate is structured and focused, with acidity giving it lift and direction. Long and vertical in feel, it finishes with tension and allure, the fruit and

mineral notes lingering in precise balance. Winedom. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Julien Schaal 2024 Grand Cru Rosacker Riesling (Alsace). Juicy and precise, with yellow apple and ripe nectarine unfolding over a clear limestone-driven backbone. The vibrant acidity keeps the fruit lifted and tightly framed, preserving freshness and definition. Energetic and well balanced, it carries its ripeness with control, finishing clean, persistent, and confidently structured. Vineyard Road Inc. —A.Z.

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

92 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2023 Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Riesling (Alsace). Velvety in texture, with beautifully integrated acidity that gives both flow and precision. Bergamot and quince provide brightness and structure, while papaya adds a gentle exotic note. The palate is layered yet harmonious, finishing long and inviting, with fruit and citrus zest lingering in poised balance. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 Cave de Ribeauvillé 2022 Grand Cru Osterberg Riesling (Alsace). Very well integrated, showing tropical tones of kumquat, passion fruit, and kiwi that bring brightness and lift. The acidity is vibrant and well judged, giving the wine structure and drive. Layers of spice add complexity, leading into a long, bracing finish that feels energetic and precise. Planet Wine. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Domaine Specht 2024 Riesling (Alsace). Expressive and well defined, with apple and peach at the forefront, lifted by a subtle thread of cardamom. The palate is vibrant and focused, driven by mouthwatering acidity that keeps the fruit crisp and intact. Balanced and energetic, it finishes clean with persistent orchard fruit and gentle spice. USA Wine West. —A.Z.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Domaines Schlumberger 2023 Grand Cru Saering Riesling (Alsace). Yellow apple and chamomile form the aromatic core, accented by a gentle touch of vanilla bean that adds roundness without masking the fruit. There's a quiet depth here, with layered flavors unfolding steadily across the palate. Balanced and composed, it builds toward a long, nuanced finish that underscores its Grand Cru pedigree. Maison Marques et Domaines. —A.Z.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$38

91 Domaines Schlumberger 2020 Grand Cru Kitterle Riesling (Alsace). A compelling interplay of freshness and early maturity. Kumquat and quince bring both brightness and gentle richness, while subtle floral, daisy notes add lift. The acidity remains firm and well balanced, driving the wine forward with mouthwatering precision. Layered and harmonious, it finishes clean and persistent, showing both development and structure in equal measure. Maison Marques et Domaines. —A.Z.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$75

91 Julien Schaal 2024 Grand Cru Schoenenbourg Riesling (Alsace). Bright orchard fruit takes center stage, crisp and fresh, with baking spice accents adding warmth and subtle complexity. The palate is well shaped, balancing ripeness with lively acidity. Structured and composed, it closes with a solid, persistent finish that reinforces its stature. Vineyard Road Inc. —A.Z.

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

90 Agathe Bursin 2024 Grand Cru Zinnkoepflé Riesling (Alsace). Meyer lemon and clementine zest lead with brightness and clarity, setting a vibrant tone. A Gala apple note emerges through the midpalate, adding roundness and gentle sweetness to the citrus-driven core. The acidity is lively and well judged, carrying the wine to a moderately long, mouthwatering finish that feels clean and precise. Prufrock Wines. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

90 Domaine Paul Blanck 2024 Classique Riesling (Alsace). Soft in acidity, giving the wine a rounder, more open feel. Peach and guava mingle at the core, lending a gently exotic touch. Pleasant and well balanced, it carries good length with a smooth, fruit-driven finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

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

90 Domaine Schoenheit 2023 Linsenberg Riesling (Alsace). A rounder, more supple expression, with orchard fruit and citrus at its core wrapped in gentle notes of cardamom and light vanilla spice. The texture is smooth yet supported by fresh acidity, giving the wine both shape and lift. It carries good length, finishing balanced and composed, with spice lingering subtly alongside the fruit. Roche-Mère Wine Selections. —A.Z.

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

90 Domaines Schlumberger 2023 Les Princes Abbes Riesling (Alsace). Fresh and zesty, with crisp apple and lime at the forefront. Subtle hints of eucalyptus weave beneath the fruit, adding lift and a cooling herbal nuance. Bright acidity keeps the profile lively and focused, finishing clean and well balanced, with a refreshing snap. Maison Marques et Domaines. —A.Z.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$21

90 Dopff Au Moulin 2024 Cuvée Europe Riesling (Alsace). Lively and well balanced, with bright acidity and clear minerality forming a savory backbone. Citrus notes dominate, complemented by hints of orchard blossom that add aromatic lift. Fresh and focused, it finishes clean with good energy and definition. Winedom. —A.Z.

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

90 Jean Bailly 2022 Les Eglantiers Riesling (Alsace). Baking spice frames a core of orchard fruit and Meyer lemon, adding warmth and lift. The palate is well structured and balanced, with lively acidity carrying the flavors forward. It finishes

long and composed, showing careful craftsmanship and clear definition. Planet Wine. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Lucien Albrecht 2023 Riesling (Alsace). For full review see page 13. Foley Family Wines and Spirits USA.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2023 Riesling (Alsace). Apple and green peach drive the profile, sharpened by piercing acidity that gives the wine clarity and direction. Mouthwatering and fresh, it shows an intense, linear character, finishing clean with focused citrus and orchard fruit persistence. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2023 Grand Cru Furstentum Riesling (Alsace). Hints of baking spice and chai add warmth and aromatic depth to a core of Gala apple and Meyer lemon. The palate is balanced and lively, with acidity providing structure and lift. It finishes long, with a slight tart edge that keeps the fruit focused and refreshing. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

89 Alsace Willm 2023 Grand Cru Kirchberg de Barr Riesling (Alsace). Juicy apple and peach sit at the center framed by gentle notes of cardamom and vanilla that add a soft spice accent. The profile is round and approachable, with balanced acidity keeping the fruit in check. Clean and well made, leaning toward a supple, easy style. Foley Family Wines and Spirits USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Cave de Ribeauvillé 2022 Lieu-dit Haguenau Riesling (Alsace). A subtle hint of cinnamon adds warmth to a core of apple and lime. The palate is fresh and balanced, with lively acidity giving shape and lift. Clean and straightforward, finishing with gentle spice and citrus persistence. Planet Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Domaine Bader 2023 Erdengott Riesling (Alsace). Classic in profile, showing yellow apple and a flicker of kumquat zest on the nose. The palate is fresh and straightforward, with bright acidity lending a slightly tart edge to the finish. Clean, balanced, and well executed, it delivers clarity and typicality without overcomplicating the picture. Rise Over Run Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Domaines Schlumberger 2024 Grand Cru Kitterle Riesling (Alsace). Broader in shape, with a round, open profile. Lemon and peach form the core, lightly framed by vanilla spice that adds softness. The acidity keeps it balanced, though the focus leans more toward texture than tension at this point. Needs more time to unravel. Maison Marques et Domaines. —A.Z.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$75

PINOT BLANC

92 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2024 Sand Pinot Blanc (Alsace). A strikingly mineral expression, with a sea-salt edge and pronounced stony character shaping the wine from the outset. Clementine, Bosc pear, and a touch of physalis bring both brightness and an exotic twist, all held in tension by the saline backbone. The palate is energetic yet composed, finishing long with lingering citrus, stone, and a subtle savory snap. Petit Pois Corp/Fleet Street Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Emile Beyer 2024 Les Prémices Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Refreshing citrus leads, supported by a clear mineral streak that gives the wine focus and precision. Hints of orchard blossom add aromatic lift. Crisp and well balanced, it finishes clean and lively, with a pleasing sense of clarity and energy. Michael Corso Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

89 Domaine Specht 2024 Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Crisp and clear in profile, with lime and kiwi delivering bright, zesty energy. Subtle orchard blossom notes add lift and aromatic charm. Fresh and straightforward, it finishes clean with good precision and balance. USA Wine West. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Domaines Schlumberger 2023 Les Princes Abbés Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Creamy apple and a touch of vanilla bean lead, brightened by a streak of lime that adds freshness and lift. The palate is smooth and approachable, with balanced acidity and moderate length. Clean, easygoing, and well made. Maison Marques et Domaines. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$15

89 Henri Ehrhart 2024 Réserve Particulière Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Subtle orchard and stone fruit notes unfold gently, giving this wine a clean, understated profile. Fresh and lively, the mouthwatering acidity provides structure and keeps the fruit focused. Balanced and easygoing, with a crisp, refreshing finish. Expressive Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

88 Domaine Paul Blanck 2023 Classique Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Quite classic and clean in style, offering straightforward orchard and citrus fruit notes. The palate is balanced and uncomplicated, with fresh acidity supporting the fruit. It shows decent length, finishing tidy and correct, if not particularly complex. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

PINOT GRIS

92 Cave de Ribeauvillé 2024 Silberberg de Rorschwihr Pinot Gris (Alsace). Bosc pear anchors the wine, joined by nuanced notes of beeswax and honeyed chamomile tea that add depth and

warmth. The palate is layered yet poised, balancing gentle richness with structure. It finishes long and composed, with fruit and savory undertones lingering in harmonious detail. Planet Wine. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

92 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2023 Grand Cru Schlossberg Pinot Gris (Alsace). Round and seamless, with impressive integration from start to finish. Stone and orchard fruit form the core, layered with spice and subtle floral tones. A deft interplay of bitter and sweet elements brings real balance and tension, giving the wine shape and depth. It closes long and composed, with complexity lingering gracefully. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 Cave de Ribeauvillé 2023 Schofweg Pinot Gris (Alsace). Gingerbread and anise cookie notes glide across the palate, adding warmth and spice to a core of lemon zest and fresh apple. The texture is rounded yet lively, with acidity keeping the flavors lifted and defined. It closes on a vibrant finish, where citrus and spice linger with energy and clarity. Planet Wine. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 Domaine Loew 2023 Bruderbach le Menhir Pinot Gris (Alsace). Vanilla custard and baked pear set a rich, rounded tone, joined by brioche and a hint of candied orange peel that adds lift and aromatic nuance. The texture is smooth and layered, carrying its warmth with control. It finishes long, with the interplay of sweetness, spice, and citrus lingering gracefully. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine Loew 2023 Cormier Pinot Gris (Alsace). Nicely vibrant, with lemongrass and ripe nectarine bringing both freshness and subtle richness. Baking spice is woven throughout, adding warmth and aromatic detail from start to finish. The palate is energetic yet rounded, finishing balanced and persistent with spice and citrus lingering in tandem. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaines Schlumberger 2022 Grand Cru Spiegel Pinot Gris (Alsace). Clear and attractive in profile, with ripe mirabelle plum and baked apple at the core. Notes of vanilla and a touch of light butterscotch add warmth and roundness without overwhelming the fruit. The texture is supple and polished, carrying the flavors smoothly through a balanced, lingering finish. Maison Marques et Domaines. —A.Z.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

91 Emile Beyer 2024 Les Prémices Pinot Gris (Alsace). A touch of light reduction adds intrigue at first pour, quickly giving way to apricot and gentle spice. Flinty notes bring definition and edge. The palate is textured yet precise, finishing salty and alluring, with mineral tension extending the fruit through a persistent close. Michael Corso Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Cave de Ribeauvillé 2024 Organic Pinot Gris (Alsace). Apple leads the profile, supported by hints of citrus and stone fruit that add brightness and dimension. Vibrant and vertical in feel, the acidity gives the wine lift and structure. Clean and focused, with a crisp, energetic finish. Planet Wine. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

90 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2023 Rosenberg Pinot Gris (Alsace). Lime zest gives this Pinot Gris a bright entry point, followed by subtle hints of dried coconut and ginger tea that add warmth and aromatic nuance. The palate is supple yet lively, balancing freshness with gentle texture. Harmonious and well composed, it finishes clean with spice and citrus lingering softly. Petit Pois Corp/Fleet Street Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Jean Bailly 2024 Colline d'Argent Pinot Gris (Alsace). Yellow apple and kumquat lead, giving the wine both brightness and subtle depth. There's impressive freshness and a sense of verticality that keeps the palate focused and lifted. Clean and well structured, it finishes precise and energetic. Planet Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2023 Pinot Gris (Alsace). Bright and fresh, showing a clean mix of orchard and stone fruit at the core. The acidity is soft but sufficient, providing balance and keeping the palate from feeling heavy. Harmonious and approachable, with a smooth, steady finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Wolfberger 2019 Grand Cru Rangen Pinot Gris (Alsace). Bright yellow fruit defines the profile, accented by ginger and warming spice that add depth and character. The texture is suave and rounded, carrying the flavors with ease. Subtle dandelion notes emerge on the finish, giving a lightly herbal lift to the polished, steady close. Foley Family Wines and Spirits USA. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

89 Domaine Paul Blanck 2020 Patergarten Pinot Gris (Alsace). A faint smoky note opens the wine, adding subtle intrigue before peach and apple come forward. The palate is rounded and gently textured, with balanced acidity supporting the fruit. Straightforward and harmonious, it finishes clean with a soft, lightly savory edge. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

89 Domaine Specht 2023 Pinot Gris (Alsace). Round and supple, with soft acidity shaping a smooth, approachable profile. Gingerbread and custard notes bring warmth and sweetness, while yellow apple and mirabelle add gentle fruit character. Balanced and easygoing, with a steady, lightly spiced finish. USA Wine West. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Dopff Au Moulin 2024 Pinot Gris (Alsace). Refreshing and vibrant, driven by bright, citrus-forward flavors. The palate is lively and clean, with crisp acidity keeping the profile focused. Straightforward and energetic, finishing fresh and zesty. Winedom. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

GEWURZTRAMINER

91 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2023 Grand Cru Steingrubler Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Orchid and orange-blossom honey shape the aromatic profile, giving it immediate floral intensity. Notes of lemon candy and fresh apple add brightness and lift, keeping the palate lively and focused. Moderately long, it finishes with a harmonious interplay of sweetness, spice, and citrus clarity. Petit Pois Corp/Fleet Street Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Domaines Schlumberger 2021 Grand Cru Kitterle Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Chrysanthemum and lychee lead, with mangosteen adding an exotic, tropical inflection. The palate is generous yet composed, balancing aromatic intensity with structure. Layers of spice unfold gradually, gaining depth toward a long, expressive finish that lingers with warmth and floral lift. Maison Marques et Domaines. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

90 Domaine Loew 2023 Westhoffen Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Round and supple, with melon at the core accented by notes of oolong tea and vanilla spice. The acidity is well integrated, providing quiet structure without disrupting the wine's smooth profile. Balanced and harmonious, it carries good length with a gently spiced, lingering finish. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Domaine Loew 2022 Ostenberg Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Baking-spice notes wrap around a core of ripe tropical fruit, giving the wine warmth and aromatic depth. The palate is supple yet balanced, with enough freshness to keep the profile focused. It finishes long and steady, the spice and fruit lingering in harmonious proportion. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Domaine Specht 2023 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Round and generous, with notes of vanilla cream and apple pie shaping the aromatic profile. A noticeable sweetness gives the wine richness, while well-judged acidity keeps it balanced and prevents it from feeling heavy. Smooth and harmonious, it carries good length with lingering spice and orchard fruit. USA Wine West. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Alsace Willm 2022 Grand Cru Kirchberg de Barr Clos Gaensbroennel Gewurztraminer (Alsace). High-toned mango and dragon fruit lead the aromatic profile, giving the wine an immediate, exotic lift. The palate is direct and expressive, with lively acidity providing structure. A subtle bitter grapefruit

note on the finish adds contrast and balance, keeping the tropical fruit in check and bringing definition to the close. Foley Family Wines and Spirits USA. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

89 Domaines Schlumberger 2023 Les Princes Abbes Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Melon and yellow apple form the core, framed by delicate notes of saffron and dandelion that add aromatic lift. The palate is gently textured, with enough freshness to keep the profile focused. A subtle wet-stone nuance appears on the finish, giving a touch of definition to this otherwise supple, approachable style. Maison Marques et Domaines. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Lucien Albrecht 2023 Spiegel Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Leaning to the sweeter side, with elderflower syrup shaping the aromatic profile. Melon and baked apple add roundness and depth. Despite the richness, it maintains nice balance, carrying moderate length with a smooth, gently floral finish. Foley Family Wines and Spirits USA. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

88 Dopff au Moulin 2023 Terre Epicee Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Subtle in style, with citrus and light tropical fruit at the forefront. A gentle touch of vanilla lingers in the background, adding softness without overwhelming the profile. Balanced and easygoing, it shows moderate length with a smooth, understated finish. Winedom. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

AUXERROIS

89 Domaine Hurst 2024 Lieu-Dit Rotenberg Auxerrois (Alsace). Peach yogurt notes appear on the nose, giving a creamy first impression. On the palate, the wine shifts toward fresh orchard fruit, with subtle hints of salted butter adding a savory touch. Balanced and approachable, it finishes smooth with gentle fruit and a soft, rounded texture. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$33

PINOT NOIR

93 Domaine Bader 2023 Fronholz Pinot Noir (Alsace). Bright red currant and plum lead the way, supported by a fine mineral backbone that keeps everything focused and precise. A touch of spice adds complexity without distracting from the purity of fruit. The texture is velvety, with beautifully shaped tannins that give structure and elegance. Balanced, refined, this is a polished expression of site and style. Rise Over Run Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

91 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2023 Grand Cru Hengst Pinot Noir (Alsace). A fuller-bodied, slightly more rustic expression, showing generous blueberry and damson plum at its core. The fruit is deep and well defined, giving the wine both presence and weight. Structured yet balanced, it carries

impressive depth through a long, steady finish, where the darker fruit tones linger with quiet persistence. Petit Pois Corp/Fleet Street Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 **Domaine Paul Blanck 2019 F Pinot Noir (Alsace).** There's a slight touch of overripeness, giving the fruit a mulled strawberry character with a warm, gently spiced edge. Hints of loamy earth add depth and grounding. The acidity remains solid, preserving freshness, while the tannins have melted into a smooth, integrated frame. Balanced and mature in feel, with a steady, savory finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Domaine Specht 2022 Cuvée Charles et Amélie Pinot Noir (Alsace).** Beautifully expressive fruit leads, with rosehip and hibiscus adding a floral, slightly tart nuance alongside gentle spice. The tannins show a light grip at first, but soften as the acidity moves through the palate, giving the wine flow and balance. Well structured and harmonious, with a refined, steady finish. USA Wine West. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

CHABLIS

95 **La Chablisienne 2023 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Opulent aromas of muddled golden apple, orange marmalade, and white peach drive the nose that runs barefoot across a late-summer meadow. The fulsome palate begins with freshly baked bread and moves into toasted citrus zest and dew-dusted forest floor. A decadent bottling. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$82

95 **William Fèvre 2023 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** This wine is elegance in a glass. Layered aromas of golden apple, toasted brioche, dried hay, field herbs, and forest floor charm the nose dusted with lemon zest. The palate is luxurious and richly textured with just-ripened orchard fruit riding a layer of stony acidity to the long finish. Vintus Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

94 **Domaine Besson 2023 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** This is an attractive bottling, opening with enticing aromas of toasted bread, yogurt, and spiced apple with hints of candied ginger and acacia. The palate is muscular yet lean with sinewy acidity that is enlivened by chalk and toasted lemon peel that reveals itself on the finish. New Last Bottle Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

94 **La Chablisienne 2023 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** This is a seductive wine. Elegant, bready aromas charm the nose that is a swirl of pear blossom, banana leaf, golden apple and orange

zest. The palate is firm and thoughtful with delicate orchard fruit that duels with pithy lemon peel that rests on a floor of dried hay. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

94 **La Chablisienne 2023 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Alluring aromas of white peach, golden apple and candied ginger skin open on the nose and draw you into the glass. The palate is a plush amalgam of orchard fruit, brioche, and honeysuckle with a persistent streak of minerality that runs throughout the length of the taste. Drink now; this wine will only continue to improve with age. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

94 **William Fèvre 2023 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Layered aromas of freshly baked pastry, Fuji apple, leather, and moist earth meld in the glass along with a whisper of acacia. The palate brings integrated flavors of lemon tart, freshly cut grass, and wet river stone to the fore. This wine favors more complex dishes that are its equal; think Quiche Lorraine, creamy sauces and anything kissed with butter. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$102

94 **William Fèvre 2023 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Delicate aromas of white blossom, brioche, freshly cut golden apple, and dried grass draw in the nose with feathery opulence. The palate is rich with citrusy acidity that plays second fiddle to fall-ripened orchard fruit that washes across wet stone on the finish. Vintus Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

94 **William Fèvre 2023 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Crushed stone and green apple mingle on a nose that rests against a wall of baby's breath and muddled white blossom. The steely palate accentuates purity of fruit while elevating freshness on the finish that is lifted by a nervy layer of acidity. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$103

93 **Domaine Besson 2023 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** This attractive bottling opens with a complex nose of muddled golden apple, wild field herbs, hay, and forest floor that gathers momentum the longer you swirl it in your glass. The palate brings feathery, chalky acidity to the fore with minerality that lingers and permeates throughout and encourages the next sip. New Last Bottle Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

93 **Maison Castel 2023 Séries Limitées Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Aromas of golden apple, white peach skin, and orange zest entice the nose with bread dough and dried white blossom. Well-integrated fruit on the palate is supple in texture with a balanced layer of acidity that empties into a bed of crushed seashells. Pair with salmon tartare, fried artichoke, and grilled anchovies. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$62

93 **Régnard 2022 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Ripe-fruit aromas ooze from the glass buttressed by flaky brioche, apple compote, and muddled yellow pear that rests in a pool of orange marmalade and white peach skin. The richly textured palate is plush and elegant with well-integrated fruit that tends toward lemon peel and dried hay. Pair with medium to heavier dishes including pasta alfredo, carbonara, and poached eggs. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc.. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

93 **William Fèvre 2023 Beauroy Premier Cru (Chablis).** This is a subdued stunner. Aromas of bread dough, dried hay and green apple tart waft from the glass joined by a touch of herb mélange and Mandarin orange blossom. Creamy in texture, the palate raises well-integrated fruit while respecting its core of acidity that permeates the long finish. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$98

93 **William Fèvre 2023 Vaulorent Premier Cru (Chablis).** Green apple, Bosc pear and white-peach skin aromas merge in the glass accentuated by hints of dried herbs and bread dough. The palate elevates fresh orchard fruit, toasted lemon peel, and crushed wet stone. Pair with grilled-cheese toast and lentil soup. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$136

92 **William Fèvre 2023 Les Lys Premier Cru (Chablis).** This is a particularly well-balanced Chablis. Aromas of green apple, lightly browned toast, and lilac open on the nose accented by dried white blossom. The saline-dusted palate washes across crushed shells and rides a wave of chalky acidity that becomes more emergent on the finish. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

90 **La Chablisienne 2023 La Pierrelée (Chablis).** Lemon in color, ripe-fruit flavors define the nose of this wine that draws in dried field grass, hay, and bruised golden apple. The palate is creamy in texture with notes of roasted lemon peel, caramel, and dried white blossom. Pair with oysters, calamari, and leek soup. Demeine Estate. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **La Chablisienne 2023 La Sereine (Chablis).** If you ever wondered what Kimmeridgian soil tastes like, then open a bottle of this Chablis. Bosc pear, golden apple, and wild field grass aromas lure the nose that situates itself on a foundation of morning-dew-dusted forest floor and white tea. The palate echoes the nose in equal intensity with a streak of hay and dried lemon peel filling out the chalk-dusted, lingering finish. Demeine Estate. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

MEURSAULT

94 **Xavier Monnot 2022 Les Chevalières (Meursault).** The nose reveals an elegant blend of fresh ripe white peach, Bartlett pear, acacia, and a

BUYINGGUIDE

hint of freshly scraped vanilla. The palate is precise and generous, showing restraint through the midpalate, leading to a crescendo of butter-roasted almond. While enjoyable now, this wine should show best after another year or two in bottle. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$104

93 Domaine des Riottes 2023 (Meursault). Just-ripe Anjou pear, white peach, and hay aromatics smell crisp and energetic. The palate is equally lively with good tension and saline minerality. Fine vanilla and delicate florals emerge on the long finish. Refreshing and elegant with shellfish or on its own. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

93 Joseph Drouhin 2023 (Meursault). “Everything in its place,” and that’s what this wine is. Perfectly ripe citrus and orchard fruits balanced with fresh honeysuckle create a refreshingly inviting nose. The palate is round and rich, vanilla coating the mouth before brisk acidity resets, introducing intense stony minerality trailing along the finish. Delicious and easy to enjoy now with tender pork or roasted chicken. Dreyfus Ashby & Co. —A.C.C.

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

93 Roux Père et Fils 2020 Les Grands Charrons (Meursault). Deep ripe nose of Bartlett pear, dandelions, citrus oil, and wet river rock. The palate is round and rich yet focused on stoniness with earthy-vanilla notes that grow along the finish. Pair with tender protein in butter-citrus sauce. Aerate and drink now. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$112

93 Xavier Monnot 2023 Le Limozin (Meursault). This wine has a freshness like fruit just peeled, with touches of marigold and wildflowers adding aromatic depth. The palate features precise, underripe orchard fruit, an edge of vanilla, and bright salinity with limestone minerality. It should pair brilliantly with meaty oysters or scallops. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

93 Xavier Monnot 2023 Les Chevalieres (Meursault). This wine embraces orchard and citrus fruit, built with tension and acidity that keeps the palate engaged and energized. It’s linear and bright, has a saline-limestone finish, and a light lactic edge. Let it aerate or cellar for a year or two before revisiting. It should pair well with grilled octopus or pulled pork. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

92 Domaine Jean Féry & Fils 2023 Le Sentier du Moulin (Meursault). Fresh aromas of lean pear, delicate acacia, dried chamomile, and sea breeze create an inviting bouquet that is both refreshing and crisp. Brisk acidity cleanses the palate, leaving notes of citrus pith, white tea, and warm hazelnut. Brilliant and round, it pairs beautifully with mushroom-stuffed baby squid or prosciutto-wrapped asparagus. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$137

92 Labouré-Roi 2023 (Meursault). Fresh pear and citrus oil aromatics are underpinned by white florals that lift the nose. Ample acidity magnifies its salinity and minerality that energizes the palate. Definitely one that should be versatile with oysters or grilled fish, but it easily stands on its own. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$116

92 Moillard 2023 Premier Cru (Meursault-Blagny). Bartlett pear, bergamot, and delicate acacia aromas keep this wine smelling dainty and fresh. The palate is textured, with bright acidity that highlights citrus pith, white peach, chamomile, and fresh vanilla. Approachable now. Advantage International Distributors, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$230

CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 La Maltroie Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Citrus, brioche, vanilla, and chamomile come together with striking clarity on an elegant, layered nose. The palate is finely textured and expansive, with citrus and oak spice seamlessly integrated. Bright acidity brings energy and precision, finishing long with almond and salted butter. Elegant with great dimension. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. *Editor’s Choice.* —A.C.C.

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

94 Xavier Monnot 2023 En Remilly Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). An intense floral bouquet, with layers of freshly peeled pear, baking spice and a saline-stone aromas. The palate is focused and textured, offering citrus, tale with a whisper of chamomille and vanilla. A fine thread of salinity carries through the finish. Refined and seductive. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

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

93 Domaine Chanson 2023 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). A concentrated bouquet of orchard fruit, led by white peach and Anjou pear, underpinned by lilac and limestone. Bright acidity intensifies its salinity, then highlights soft pear and a trace of chamomile. It finishes clean, with a lingering saline edge. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$168

93 Moillard 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Chassagne-Montrachet). A fresh, polished expression, with a bouquet of white peach, pear and acacia, lifted by hints of white tea and flaky salt. The palate is round, with zesty lemon citrus and a touch of vanilla bean, finishing clean with a stony, saline edge. Approachable now. Advantage International Distributors, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$133

92 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Les Caillerets Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This wine opens with an energetic bouquet of fresh citrus, crisp apple, almond, and a touch of salted butter. Lively acidity invigorates the palate, unveiling a nuanced clay-stone minerality that enriches the midpalate of

tart pear. The finish is soft and lingering, showcasing a beautifully balanced profile. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. *Editor’s Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$167

92 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This wine showcases a clean and open profile, bursting with fresh aromas of orchard fruit. On the palate, it’s round with a slight pithiness, revealing fleshy citrus notes. A light floral and saline finish makes it an effortless pairing with fleshy oysters. The vibrant acidity allows the oak to linger subtly, providing excellent support and length. Enjoy it now or consider revisiting after 2028. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$167

92 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Les Vergers Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This wine greets you with an alluring nose of freshly cut Korean pear, Madagascar vanilla, chamomile, and a hint of flaky salt, creating a sophisticated bouquet. Medium bodied yet vibrant, bright acidity energizes the palate, showcasing seamless flavors of vanilla and Bosc pear in a classic expression. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$167

92 Bader-Mimeur 2023 Château de Chassagne-Montrachet (Chassagne-Montrachet). A lifted, concentrated nose of honeysuckle, citrus, and bergamot, with hints of vanilla and salinity. The palate is quite floral, with white wildflowers, acacia, underripe pear, citrus pith, and trails with chamomile. It carries through a remarkably long, saline finish that stays bright and focused. Approachable in its youth. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$93

91 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 Les Chaumées Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). The nose is expressive, profuse with wildflowers and acacia, all framed by fresh almond slivers. It is medium bodied with mouthwatering acidity that highlights its long, saline finish. Great as an aperitif or alongside spicy dishes. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.

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

92 Xavier Monnot 2022 Le Limozin (Meursault). Aromas of fresh Korean pear, bergamot, hay, wet stone, and rose create an inviting bouquet. The palate is lively, featuring lean orchard fruits and delicate floral notes that linger on the finish, enhanced by mouthwatering acidity. Elegant and vibrant, this wine pairs beautifully with fresh greens and sautéed vegetables. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$109

90 Albert Bichot 2022 (Meursault). This wine exudes a wildness, reminiscent of freshly washed citrus and orchard fruit after a morning stroll in the garden. The palate is slightly tart and lean, with a light salinity that enhances the fruit’s freshness. Delightful and enjoyable now. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$134

BOURGOGNE ALIGOTÉ

92 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2022 (Bourgogne Aligoté). Pear, citrus, and almond set a clean, focused nose. The palate is round and fleshy, energized by brisk acidity that drives through a layer of citrus pith and chamomile. A pronounced saline edge emerges and makes this wine irresistible. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Domaine Jessiaume 2023 (Bourgogne Aligoté). A bright mix of lemon verbena, wildflowers, and soft clay-limestone defines the nose. The palate is medium bodied and fresh, showing crisp apple, flaky salt, chervil, and wet stone. Clean and saline through the finish, it stays lively and pairs easily with soft cheeses and fresh seafood. MS Walker. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

89 Famille Gueguen 2024 La Vigne de Marie Louise (Bourgogne Aligoté). A charming, fresh expression, with freshly squeezed Meyer lemon, wet pebble, peony, and dandelion shaping the nose. The palate is driven by mouthwatering acidity, providing lift and highlights salinity and crushed stone that persists through its subtle finish. Enjoy now. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

BURGUNDY RED WINES

BOURGOGNE HAUTES CÔTES DE NUITS

93 Chartron et Trébuchet 2022 (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). The nose is very floral, showcasing iris and violets layered over freshly picked cherries, creating a fresh and expressive profile. The palate features youthful, clingy tannins, with baking spice and clove pinned to a dark core of black cherry and wild strawberry, leading to a rich finish of fresh fruit and oak spice. Approachable now. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

93 Domaine Thevenot le Brun 2022 Les Renardes (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). The nose is heady and complex, ample rose underpinned with layers of cherry, white strawberry, exotic spice, and white pepper. The palate is round and textured, with fine tannins that melt, giving focus on pure fruit with a slight tartness. Best enjoyed after another year or two in bottle. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Edouard Delaunay 2022 Charmont (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). The nose offers a classic expression, featuring freshly picked rose petals and cherries, as if captured at just the right

moment. It displays a remarkable balance. The palate is charming, showcasing ripe strawberries that extend through a long finish. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Domaine Decelle et Fils 2022 (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). The nose reveals concentrated dark cherry and spiced plum, with intriguing hints of licorice, baking spice, and violet. The palate is rustic and robust, showcasing dark plum, blackberry, and blueberry notes, finishing with lingering garrigue, peppercorn, and black tea. This wine is easy to enjoy on its own or alongside spicy charcuterie. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Paul Aegerter 2023 Les Petites Corvées (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). A bright, inviting nose of ripe sour cherry and wild strawberry, layered with fresh rose, clove, and spice. The palate is balanced and approachable, with generous fruit. Versatile and ready to enjoy now. Lanval Wine Import LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Prosper Maufoux 2023 Domaine Vigne au Roy (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). A charming nose where red berries and fresh florals feel seamlessly intertwined. The palate is medium bodied, showing soft red fruit, clove and a light black-tea note on the finish. Approachable now, especially with tender chicken or pork. A reliable bottling to keep on hand. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 Domaine Nudant 2022 (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). The nose is rich and concentrated, with fresh red-cherry skin, black plum, white pepper, violet, fresh earth, and subtle vanilla aromas. The palate is medium bodied and robust, with oak spice that embraces a deep core of vibrant red fruit. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Paul Aegerter 2024 Les Petites Corvées (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). A deep crush of Morello cherry, violet, clove, and light baking spice shapes this charming nose. The palate is rich and textured, offering ripe cherry with a subtle pomegranate edge. Silky tannins carry spice across the palate and extend through a long finish. Elegant and approachable now. MISA Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$37

SANTENAY

92 Domaine Marguerite Carillon 2023 Pinot Noir (Santenay). The nose reveals bright, concentrated Bing cherry, pomegranate, white tea, iris, and a fine vein of spice. The palate is bright and balanced, currently showing rustic tannins that should meld beautifully with some aeration. It showcases pure red berries, leading to a finish of oak spice, fresh earth,

and a light, lasting note of rose. This wine is pretty and enjoyable now. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

92 Domaine Roger Belland 2022 Gravières Premier Cru (Santenay). The wine opens with a dense nose, revealing floral notes of iris, deep rose, and luscious strawberry aromas. The body is rich and well structured, balanced by refreshing acidity that energizes a core of pure red-berry fruit, lingering long through the finish. Its mineral cut adds depth and keeps the palate engaged. Enjoyable now. Ansonia Wines. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

92 Prosper Maufoux 2023 La Comme Premier Cru (Santenay). The nose showcases rich and classic notes of cherry, baking spice, and rose. The palate is beautifully balanced, revealing vibrant fruit and wild violets, finished with a gentle whisper of oak spice. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

90 Domaine Prieur-Brunet 2022 Maladière Premier Cru (Santenay). Dark cherry and warm spice create a straightforward, classic nose. The palate showcases vibrant, juicy fruit, with rich layers of black plum and delicate earthiness, beautifully complemented by lingering spice. Approachable now. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

BOURGOGNE HAUTES CÔTES DE BEAUNE

91 Domaine Jean Féry & Fils 2023 (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune). A dense yet pure nose of freshly pressed red berries, thyme, and violet petals. The palate is medium bodied with moderate tannins, supported by enough acidity to provide balance and length. A classic expression that's ready to enjoy now. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES VAL DE LOIRE

91 Thierry Delaunay 2024 Beauvisage Chenin Blanc (Val de Loire). This is an earthy wine with an attractive verdant character. Gentle aromas of white tea, crabapple, and bread dough lift from the glass guided by a dusting of acacia and honeysuckle. The palate echoes the nose bringing along flavors of wet river stone, dried meadow grass, and forest floor. Knows Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Loire Propriétés - Dumnacus Vignerons 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de Pays du Val de

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Loire). For full review see page 17. Ventura Selections. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Thierry Delaunay 2025 Le Grand Ballon Sauvignon Blanc (Val de Loire). Petrichor and field-grass aromas open on the nose along with lilac, forest floor and lemon zest. The palate follows the nose that raises citrus on the stony finish. Pair with oysters, calamari, and cobb salad. Michael Corso Sélection. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Thierry Delaunay 2024 Beauvisage Chenin Noir (Val de Loire). Pineaus d'Aunis is a treasure most people haven't experienced: Try this bottle and educate your palate. Dried herbs and spiced red-cherry aromas explode on the nose followed by hay bale and forest floor. Tender yet feisty in texture, the wine juxtaposes chalky acidity against grippy tannins that wander in a field of dried herbs. Knows Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

89 Thierry Delaunay 2025 Blanc de Lys Sauvignon Blanc (Loire). The wine opens with aromas of meadow blossom, dried field grass, and lilac which lean into nasturtium. The palate is a mélange of toasted lemon peel and rounded acidity that is steely in texture and refreshing. This is a solid wine for everyday meals. Knows Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

SANCERRE

92 SCEA du Château de L'Etang 2022 (Sancerre). For full review see page 11. Wine Wine Situation LLC.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

91 SCEA du Château de L'Etang 2023 (Sancerre). For full review see page 13. Wine Wine Situation LLC.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Gérard Bertrand 2025 French Flair L'Élégant (Sancerre). Aromas of white peach, lemon peel, and orange blossom open on the nose along with yellow apple and baby's breath. The palate is an amalgam of delicate floral aromas that ride atop a reserved layer of acidity and lilac. USA Wine West. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

TOURAINE

92 Guy Allion 2025 Domaine Du Vaux Saint Georges Sauvignon (Touraine). This wine is vibrant and refreshing. Gentle aromas of muddled golden apple, pastry dough, and citrus blossom swirl in the glass that also sees a whisper of Bosc pear and grated lemon peel. The palate is energetic with animated fruit that tangos with acidity to the long, mouthwatering finish. W. Direct Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Guy Allion 2024 Les Mazelles (Touraine Chenonceaux). Well-integrated aromas of acacia, dried meadow grass and Comice pear charm the nose. The palate adds additional flavors of toasted lemon peel and white blossom that frame relaxed acidity that extends the finish. A great bottling to enjoy any day of the week. W. Direct Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Maison de Madeleine 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine). For full review see page 10. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Thierry Delaunay 2024 La Voûte (Touraine Chenonceaux). Aromas of chalk-dusted green apple slice, lemongrass, and grapefruit zest slide into white blossom on the nose. Cheerful, fall-picked orchard fruit rides atop tangy acidity that crescendoes on the finish. This wine would flatter pan-roasted trout, shishito peppers, and toasted nuts. Wine Wise. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Domaine La Prevote 2025 Sauvignon (Touraine). This is a powerful wine with an attractive herbaceous nose that is a mélange of green apple, lemon curd, and dew-dusted forest floor in your glass. The palate is juicy with ripe fruit that is joyful in contrast with the more verdant nose. The wine is a bit of a chameleon, which makes it a versatile food-pairing partner. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Guy Allion 2025 Domaine Du Courtillet Sauvignon (Touraine). This is a classic Touraine Sauvignon Blanc. Green apple, citrus pith, and white blossom aromas drive the nose along with a whisper of starfruit. The palate is firm, with well-integrated flavors of Meyer lemon and river rock that rest upon a thin layer of saline that adds depth. W. Direct Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Guy Allion 2025 Domaine du Haut Perron Sauvignon (Touraine). A solid bottling from start to finish. Fruity aromas of white nectarine, tangerine zest, and orange blossom open on the nose accented with honeysuckle. Steely in texture, the palate washes across crushed stone before emptying into a pool of Meyer lemon and chalk. W. Direct Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Guy Allion 2025 Thésée La Romaine Sauvignon (Touraine). Aromas of freshly cut Golden Delicious apple skin, lemon peel, and baby's breath drive the nose accented with chamomile. Steely in texture, the palate also brings a touch of biscuit and bread dough to the fore. Pair with a baguette, cheese board, and ratatouille. W. Direct Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Loire Propriétés - Dumnacus Vignerons 2024 Sauvignon (Touraine). Freshly sliced Gala apple and gentle herbaceous aromas mingle in the glass and flatter the nose along with a touch of

orange blossom. Steely in texture with nervy, slightly-rounded acidity, the wine is mouthwatering and vibrant with an energetic edge. Ventura Selections. —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Thierry Delaunay 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine). Lilac, Bosc pear and meadow-grass aromas open on the nose and tread across dusty forest floor adding intrigue. The palate begins with tart acidity that immediately mellows and washes across wet river stone that is accented with honeysuckle. Knows Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Loire Propriétés - Dumnacus Vignerons 2025 Sauvignon (Touraine). Beach air, dried hay and crushed-stone aromas draw in the nose along with honeysuckle and citrus blossom. The palate delivers flavors of tart green apple dusted with a thin layer of chalk and lemon balm. This wine would pair well with shellfish. Ventura Selections. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

POUILLY-FUMÉ

92 Domaine Michel Redde et Fils 2023 La Moynerie (Pouilly-Fumé). Fragrant aromas of honeysuckle, chamomile and orange blossom charm the nose along with spiced apple and tangerine peel. The richly textured and layered palate is supple yet complex with well-integrated fruit that presents as a unified whole. This wine would be equally at home being served by the glass as it would be paired with a meal, especially braised pork. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

92 Domaine Michel Redde et Fils 2023 Majorum (Pouilly-Fumé). This wine is mellow and fully comfortable in its own skin. Restrained aromas of golden apple, orange zest, and white nectarine open on the nose followed by just-ripened orchard fruit on the palate that leans into pithy acidity that fills the lengthy finish. Pair with truffle-oiled French Fries, falafel, and sushi. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$108

91 Domaine Michel Redde et Fils 2023 Barre à Mine (Pouilly-Fumé). Comforting aromas of freshly baked brioche, pear compote, and white blossom open on the nose along with white rose petal. The palate is broad and rounded with whispers of forest floor and dried field grass. Pair with potato-leek soup, focaccia, and braised greens. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$92

91 Gérard Bertrand 2024 French Flair L'Harmonieux (Pouilly-Fumé). Golden apple and Comice pear mingle with lemongrass and dusty forest floor on a nose that has an attractive herbal character. The palate is firm with playful acidity that waltzes across a floor of dried lemon peel. USA Wine West. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 **Maison de Madeleine 2024 (Pouilly-Fumé).** For full review see page 13. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Maudry Père et Fils 2025 Domaine de Fontenille (Pouilly-Fumé).** This lively wine refreshes the palate. Just-ripened white peach, orange blossom and golden-apple aromas waft from the glass sprinkled with white blossom. Tart pear and chalky acidity open on the attack followed by more subdued green orchard-fruit aromas on the lengthy finish. Pair with goat cheese and charcuterie. *Best Buy.* —R.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

SAUMUR

93 **Domaine Frédéric Mabileau 2023 Chenin du Puy (Saumur).** Lemon-gold in color, the wine has a mix of just-ripened Fuji apple and Forelle pear aromas that present as a unified whole. The palate begins with honey-drizzled orchard fruit and resolves in orange zest and lilac blossom. This wine would pair well with asparagus and white meats including roasted chicken and pork tenderloin. Authentique Vin Selections. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$60

91 **Domaine de Montbrillais 2023 (Saumur).** Complex, layered aromas charm the nose with muddled golden apple, yogurt and toasted bread. The palate opens with rounded green fruit and a touch of pithy acidity that reveals a wave of steeliness on the finish. Pair with stuffed breads, quiche, and panini. Fruit of the Vines. —R.S. **abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$33

90 **Louis Roche 2024 (Saumur).** Fragrant aromas of freshly baked apple tart and pastry entice the nose along with spiced pear compote and honeysuckle. Creamy in texture, the palate opens with tart orchard fruit that becomes more bready and subdued on the orange-blossom-dusted finish. Fruit of the Vines. *Best Buy.* —R.S. **abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

VOUVRAY

91 **Barton & Guestier 2024 Les Petites Parcelles (Vouvray).** Perfumed aromas of honey-drizzled pear, bread dough, and yogurt dazzle on the nose. The palate rolls out the red carpet for smile-inducing, off-dry tanginess that is Vouvray's calling card. Serve as an aperitif or pair with charcuterie and salted, roasted nuts. BGPL USA. *Best Buy.* —R.S. **abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$17

91 **Clos du Gaimont 2023 (Vouvray).** This is a charming Vouvray. Fragrant aromas of golden apple, honeycomb, and acacia open on the nose along with bread dough and chamomile. Supple in texture, well-balanced orchard fruit fills the palate supported

by rounded acidity that adds a touch of stoniness on the finish. Cape Classics. —R.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Cave de Vouvray 2024 Les Armorés (Vouvray).** This is a soothing, mouthwatering Vouvray. Freshly baked brioche, Bosc pear and Fuji apple aromas open on the nose guided by white field blossom. Slightly rounded in texture, the wine begins with tart orchard fruit and tangy acidity and quickly moves into chalk-dusted dried lemon peel. Fruit of the Vines. —R.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 **Chateau de Bois Brinçon 2023 Le Clos des Cosses (Anjou).** An entrancing mélange of yellow apple and dried field-grass aromas open the nose guided by lemon zest and dusty forest floor. Chalk acidity frames orchard fruit on the palate that is brimming with minerality. This food-friendly wine would pair with many a meal. Schatzi Wines. —R.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Domaine Delaunay 2025 Le Val-Fleuri Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine).** This ripper-styled Muscadet delights. Cheerful aromas of golden apple, white peach, and quince open on the nose along with hints of young cedar and orange zest. The palate is firm with juicy fruit that rides off-wave of springy acidity. Wine Wine Situation LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.S. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

SPARKLING WINES

92 **Château de Fesles NV La Sorinière Brut (Crémant de Loire).** This versatile crémant should be in your cupboard. The nose is fresh with honey-drizzled green apple and caramel aromas that lean into white blossom. The palate is developed with more-refined flavors than suggested on the nose, which gather steam on the finish. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

90 **Désiré Soudrille NV Brut (Saumur).** This is a solid crémant. Lemon-gold in color, the wine has fresh-fruit flavors of white peach, pineapple rind, and dried jasmine blossom. The palate is equally lively with citrusy acidity that latches on to just-ripened stonefruit on the finish. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

90 **Loire Propriétés - Dumnacus Vignerons NV Brut (Crémant de Loire).** For full review see page 13. Ventura Selections. **abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Sauvion NV Brut (Crémant de Loire).** Orange blossom and honey-drizzled white peach aromas open on the nose followed by hints of lilac. The off-dry palate reveals flavors of red apple, lemon pith,

and tangerine skin that carry to the finish. Serve at the start of an evening with a fruit platter and charcuterie. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.S. **abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$22

ROSÉ

88 **Domaine des Nouvelles 2025 (Rosé d'Anjou).** Red cherry, cranberry, and pencil-lead aromas lift from the glass along with raspberry flakes and pomegranate. The off-dry palate is juicy and red-fruit filled. Pair with cobb salad, a cheese board, and scal-lion pancakes. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S. **abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$17

LOIRE VALLEY RED WINES

92 **Maison de Madeleine 2023 Rouge (Sancerre).** For full review see page 10. Tri Vin Imports Inc. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

91 **Domaine Girault 2023 (Sancerre).** This is a bright, still-energetic wine with structure. Ruby tending towards garnet in color, the wine has a reserved nose of raspberry, mushroom, and crushed red-cherry flakes. Chalky acidity leads on the palate followed by tart red fruit that shimmies towards the finish. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2028 onwards. HB Wine Merchants. —R.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

91 **Domaine Jean Wambergue 2022 Les Pointes Gamay (Loire).** Bready blackberry tart aromas open on the nose along with brioche, red raspberry and subtle hints of dried herbs in the background. The palate is layered with grippy tannins that yearn for a future year's resolution. Red fruit is in the lead now with chalky acidity that comforts. Enjoy from 2027 onwards and give the wine time to open in your glass. Old Creek Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

BEAUJOLAIS WHITE WINES

93 **D.Piron 2024 (Beaujolais Blanc).** This is a Beaujolais Blanc for foodies. Perfumed aromas of lilac, bread dough, and orange blossom charm the nose guided by green apple tart and a touch of dusty forest floor. Earthy, complex terroir-centric flavors ride a wave of rounded acidity that is somewhat subdued yet eminently characterful. Delicious. Baron Francois Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

91 **Domaine du Petit Pérou 2024 Terrain Rouge (Beaujolais).** One reason to get to know Beaujolais Blanc is to experience attractive bottlings like

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this. Bartlett pear, dried hay, and field-meadow grass aromas open on the nose accented by chamomile and white-rose petal. The palate is firm with moments of creaminess that wash across wet river stone and the faintest hints of pastry dough. Pierreclos Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8

BEAUJOLAIS RED WINES

BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES

92 **Domaine André Colonge et Fils 2024 (Beaujolais Villages).** This wine has a fragrant nose of black raspberry, dried cherry, pomegranate, and rosehip. The palate is stony in texture, with still-youthful fruit that washes across wet stone and brings along a subtle saline quality that affords added dimension on the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

92 **Laurent Perrachon et Fils 2024 Terre de Loyse (Beaujolais Villages).** Plump red cherry and black-plum aromas open on the nose along with hints of blackberry compote. The palate begins with supple tannins, black tea, and hibiscus before moving into a chalk-dusted finish. This is a solid Beaujolais Villages that would pair well with savory dishes, chicken Marbella, and roasted eggplant. French Libation c/o Elen-teny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 **Domaine Jancy 2023 Empreinte Quincié (Beaujolais Villages).** This is the bottle you open on a weeknight and enjoy during the week. Aromas of black cherry, forest floor, and red cherry flakes open on the reserved nose. The palate follows suit buttressed by chalky, grippy tannins that carry freshly picked red and black fruit to the finish. Sapere Originis. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 **Louis Raynald 2023 (Beaujolais Villages).** Raspberry and rhubarb aromas open on the nose along with crushed black plum, and boysenberry. Chalky in texture, the palate echoes the nose with velvety tannins and crushed seashells that fill the finish. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2027 onwards. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

90 **Nicolas Potel 2023 (Beaujolais Villages).** Charming aromas of red raspberry, field grass, and dried cherry open on the nose along with bread dough and violet blossom. Grippy tannins lead on the attack and soften towards the finish, giving black fruit an opportunity to decrescendo and then crescendo on the finish. Serve with savory dishes, grilled cheese, and leek soup. WinesU. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

BROUILLY

94 **Domaine d'Argenson 2023 Cuvée Brulhié (Côte de Brouilly).** A seductive blend of muddled black plum and dried field herbs opens on the nose along with raspberry compote and violet blossom. The mature palate joyfully flexes its muscles joined by a touch of black olive and briary fruit that gives added dimension. Drink now–2032 to experience this bottling at its height. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

94 **Domaine d'Argenson 2022 Cuvée Pater (Côte de Brouilly).** This is a bottle worth seeking out. Blackberry and rhubarb aromas entice the nose along with dried field grass, Darjeeling tea, and rosehip. Grippy tannins lead into red-fruit concentration on the palate that is supple in texture and that rides to the finish on a bed of freshly tilled earth. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

94 **Domaine Jancy 2023 Chavannes (Côte de Brouilly).** This is an impressive wine. Savory aromas of black plum, white-button mushroom and leather hike across a field of dew-dusted floor and dried black-cherry flakes on the nose. The palate is a lesson in what the benefit of time in bottle can yield with well-integrated fruit and feathery tannins that yearn for release in your glass. Sapere Originis. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

93 **Domaine d'Argenson 2023 Cuvée Pater (Côte de Brouilly).** This wine opens with fragrant aromas of boysenberry, red currant, forest floor, and spiced red-cherry flakes. Velvety in texture, chalk-dusted red fruit, and grippy tannins spar towards and resolve on the finish that sees a touch of just-ripened cranberry. Drink now–2031. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 **Domaine André Colonge et Fils 2024 (Brouilly).** Raspberry, rosehip, and strawberry jam aromas are accented by forest floor and black cherry flakes on the nose. The palate is delicate with slender red fruit that walks across a trail of chalk. This wine would pair well with a range of midweek dishes. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 **Domaine d'Argenson 2023 Cuvée Pierreux (Brouilly).** Reserved aromas of muddled blackberry, raspberry, and rosehip open on a nose that is accented with dried hay and field grass that add depth. Velvety tannins frame tart briary fruit that washes across chalk-dusted stone adding a distinctly mineral-driven wave of flavor. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

90 **Domaine d'Argenson 2023 Cuvée La Cadole (Brouilly).** Enticing aromas of black tea, raspberry, and meadow grass open on the nose that also has hints of dried mushroom flakes and red currant. Tart red fruit on the palate frames crushed stone and

velvety tannins followed by a wisp of toasted orange peel. Enjoy from 2027 onwards. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

FLEURIE

94 **Domaine André Colonge et fils 2024 (Fleurie).** This wine is dripping with finesse. Intoxicating aromas of red raspberry, muddled strawberry, and boysenberry open on the nose buttressed by pomegranate and dried violet blossom. Pillowry tannins recede into plush, mature red fruit that flirts with chalk on the finish. You can drink now, but this wine will continue to develop in bottle through 2031. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

93 **Domaine de Leyre-Loup 2023 (Fleurie).** This wine opens with aromas of cherry tart, bread dough, forest floor, and leather. The palate is awash with relaxed tannins that raise well-integrated briary fruit that dominates on the chalk-dusted finish. Decant and drink now, or enjoy from 2027 onwards to experience the bottling at its height. Grape Juice Group. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

93 **Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2024 Les Rampeaux (Fleurie).** A mix of grilled plum and blackberry aromas leads into cassis and rosehip tea on the nose that sees a touch of dried black-cherry flakes. Supple tannins on the attack give way to black fruit that washes up on a shore of wet chalk. Pair with filet mignon, chicken paillard, and roasted vegetables. PG Fine Wines. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

MORGON

93 **D. Piron 2023 Les Charmes (Morgon).** Reserved aromas of muddled black plum, raspberry, dried grass, and forest floor open on the nose that sees the faintest hint of violet blossom. Velvety tannins frame juicy black fruit that is also mouth-watering and pencil-shaving dusted. Enjoy now–2033. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

93 **Domaine Gaget 2024 (Morgon Côte du Py).** Fragrant aromas of black cherry, dark chocolate, and raspberry compote lean into dried meadow grass and black-plum skin on the nose. Still-youthful tannins gather around a black-fruit core that is framed by forest floor and crushed stone on the finish. Decant and drink now, and enjoy from 2027 onwards. Monsieur Touton Selection. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

93 **Domaine Gaget 2024 Cuvée Joseph (Morgon Côte du Py).** This wine is worthy of attention. Aromas of black raspberry, spiced blackberry, and boysenberry open in the glass joined by aromas of cola and dried cherry blossom. Sinewy, relaxed tannins

flow effortlessly into a pool of strawberry and rosehip, and reveal whispers of wet granite on the finish. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 **Domaine Gaget 2024 Grands Cras (Morgon).** Enticing, perfumed aromas of black tea, spiced strawberry, muddled plum, and red currant drive the nose. Dew-dusted forest floor, grape stalk and slightly grippy tannins parade towards a finish that perfectly combines the best elements of a cool vintage. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

93 **Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2024 Les Ram-paux (Morgon).** Muddled black cherry, toasted bread, pencil shavings, and hibiscus are accented by a sprig of crushed wild mint on the nose. The chalk-driven palate leans into a mix of red and black fruit with grippy tannins showing through to a tart finish. Decant for an hour and drink now, or enjoy from 2027 onwards. PG Fine Wines. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

92 **D. Piron 2024 La Chanaise (Morgon).** Black raspberry, pencil lead, and black-tea aromas are buttressed by black plum and hibiscus on the nose. Soft tannins dusted with crushed stone frame supple fruit that is delicate and persistent on the midpalate. Pair with lighter dishes, chicken, and thin cuts of beef and pork. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 **Domaine du Petit Pérou 2023 Indigène (Mor-gon Côte du Py).** This is an attractive bottling. Perfumed aromas of brioche, bread dough, and cherry tart open on the nose buttressed by raspberry blossom and red-currant flakes. Silky tannins lead into a svelte palate of red and black fruit that ride towards an elongated, chalk-dusted finish. Pierreclos Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

92 **Domaine du Petit Pérou 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Morgon).** This is an elegant Morgon. The wine has a cheerful nose of cassis, pencil shavings, strawberry, and cherry cola. The palate adds flavors of blackberry jam, black olive, and hibiscus tea that linger on the finish. Drink now–2030. Pierreclos Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

91 **Domaine de Leyre-Loup 2023 (Morgon).** Rich black cherry, cassis, and candied strawberry aromas swirl in the glass along with crushed pomegranate and red currant. Pillowey tannins frame well-integrated flavors of rhubarb, soy sauce, and blackberry. Grape Juice Group. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 **Laurent Perrachon et Fils 2024 Corcelette (Morgon).** The wine opens with aromas of black plum, pencil shavings, dried hay, and forest floor. A mineral-driven palate kicks off on the attack followed by tart, stony acidity that crescendoes on the

finish. Decant and drink now, or open 2028 onwards. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 **Domaine des Perelles 2024 (Morgon).** Plush black fruit fills the nose beginning with blackberry and boysenberry followed by a touch of black olive and dried cherry flakes. The muscular palate guides a mix of sinewy, red and black fruit across crushed stone supported by a wave of tart acidity. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 **Domaine du Petit Pérou 2024 Les Dryades (Morgon).** Muddled raspberry, pomegranate, pencil shavings, and black-tea aromas propel a nose that is dusted with purple blossoms. The steely palate is joined by chalky minerality that fills the length of the taste. Decant and drink now, or cellar and enjoy 2028 forward. Pierreclos Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$7

OTHER RED WINES

93 **D.Piron 2023 Quartz (Chénas).** Chénas is a hidden gem among Beaujolais Crus. Roasted raspberry and boysenberry aromas lean into rosehip and rhubarb on the nose along with purple blossom. The midpalate is mineral driven and lifted by well-integrated red fruit that is buttressed by springy tannins and black tea on the finish. Baron Francois Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 **Domaine Joncy 2023 Le Pont (Chiroubles).** Fresh, gentle aromas of black plum, mushroom, leather, and freshly tilled earth open on the nose along with bruised black cherry. The palate begins with a mix of black plum, black olive, and pencil shavings buttressed by youthful tannins that propel the finish. Decant now, or enjoy from 2028 onwards. Sapere Originis. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 **Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2024 Les Ram-paux (Chiroubles).** Fresh, gentle aromas of black plum, mushroom, leather, and freshly tilled earth open on the nose along with bruised black cherry. The palate begins with a mix of black plum, black olive, and pencil shavings buttressed by youthful tannins that propel the finish. Decant now, or enjoy from 2028 onwards. PG Fine Wines. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

91 **Domaine des Mouilles 2024 (Juliénas).** Pink rose petals tussle with blueberry, spiced plum, and dried cherry on the nose. Velvety tannins frame briary black fruit that has lengthy persistence buttressed by pencil lead and cranberry tea that empties into a puddle of cranberry. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 **Domaine des Perelles 2024 (Juliénas).** Reserved aromas of cranberry, blackberry,

black-olive skin, and black cherry open on the nose that is sprinkled with dried violet blossom. The palate is mineral driven with youthful tannins that frame briary fruit. Decant now, or drink from 2027 onwards. French Libation c/o Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

90 **Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2024 Les Ram-paux (Régnié).** Gentle, well-integrated aromas of black plum, grape stem, and strawberry open on the nose guided by rosehip tea and violet blossom. The earthy palate draws you in with red fruit that sings while bringing along additional flavors of dried hay and cranberry skin. Drink from 2027 onwards. PG Fine Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

RHÔNE VALLEY WHITE WINES

COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

92 **Château de Valcombe 2024 Les Sentiers de Septembre (Costières de Nîmes).** Elegant nose with Bosc pear, light honey, wildflowers, acacia, anise, and alluvial-stone aromas. The palate is all about pulverized stone and salt with a light framing of honeysuckle and pear flesh. Delicious and should pair great with briny oysters, cured meats or fried appetizers. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 **Domaine Gassier 2023 Nostre País (Costières de Nîmes).** Perfumed nose with acacia-honeysuckle, bergamot, white peach, chamomile, and salty aromas. The palate is layered with ripe to candied orchard fruit, showing nice balance of texture and acidity. Easy to drink by itself or pair with Tomme de Savoie. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 **Château de Valcombe 2024 Chateau Blanc (Costières de Nîmes).** Expressive nose with overripe green pear, white peach, wild white flowers, acacia honey, and wild grass. The palate is bright and brimming with acidity, where salinity enhances perfectly ripe orchard fruit. Nicely textured and layered, it pairs great with herb-panko encrusted cod. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 **Coste Arena 2023 (Costières de Nîmes).** Ripe white peach, cooked pear, a slight confectionary edge, chervil, and wet stone on the nose. Round in the mouth with rolling saline acidity that delivers a refreshing quality. Excellent by itself or with mild cheeses served alongside orchard fruit compote. WD Direct Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Domaine de Poulvarel 2023 Le Domaine Blanc (Costières de Nîmes).** Bright nose of candied Bosc pear, apple, peach, peony, and sea breeze aromas. The palate showcases orchard fruit lifted by

BUYINGGUIDE

vibrant acidity and saline minerality that coats the mouth, leaving an almost tingling sensation. This bottling is a natural pairing with oysters—start shucking faster. Easy to drink in its youth, it delivers refreshing quality with balanced texture throughout. New Last Bottle Inc. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$5

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Coste Arena 2023 (Vin de Pays du Gard). A seamless bouquet of orange zest, bergamot, toasted almond, acacia honey, and fine vanilla captivates the nose. The palate is round and lightly oily, with a delicious vanilla-toast note that frames fresh pears and Meyer lemon. It finishes with light citrus pith, stone, and salt. Delicious and should be enjoyed now. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$28

90 Domaine de Montine 2023 (Grignan-les-Adhémar). Bright aromas of Key lime, pink lady apple, jasmine and wet alluvial stone meld on the nose, creating a vibrant and fresh bouquet. The palate is lean with ample Meyer lemon zest, underripe white peach, with a layer of saline-stone minerality that trails into a soft vanilla finish. Approachable now and should be a great pairing alongside goat cheese salads or spicy noodles. Planet Wine. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

90 Domaine Martin Clerc 2023 (Collines Rhodaniennes). This wine opens with an elegant nose of underripe Bosc pear, tangerine, pear, and ocean-spray aromas. Orchard fruits pinned with bergamot stay poised on the midpalate, and gently lingers into a light white tea finish. Enjoy now with P'tit Basque cheese. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

89 Domaine Gassier 2024 Embruns de Viognier (Vin de Pays du Gard). An energetic nose with lime, white peach, honeysuckle, and peach blossom on the nose. The palate is lean and charming with acidity that helps linger delicate orchard fruits through the finish. This should be a great pairing with fresh bitter green salads. W. Direct. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

89 Halos de Jupiter 2024 (Vin de Pays du Gard). A fresh bouquet of lemon, lime zest, bergamot, peony, and sea-breeze aromas. The palate has a light oily texture, providing a soft runway for white peach, ginger, white pepper, and pulverized stone that trails into the finish. This should be a fun pairing with Saint-Marcellin cheese. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

DESSERT WINES

90 Domaine des Bernardins 2023 (Muscat de Beaumes de Venise). Fresh apricot, bergamot, and orchard fruit welcome the nose, underpinned with white florals adding lift. The palate is beautifully textured and remains balanced with bright acidity

that lengthens notes of ripe apricot and citrus notes. It finishes clean and stony, leaving a composed, mineral impression that keeps it refreshing and easy to revisit. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$38

88 Famille Quiot 2014 Château du Trignon (Muscat de Beaumes de Venise). Fresh apricot, bergamot, and orchard fruit welcome the nose, underpinned by white florals that add lift. The palate is beautifully textured, with bright acidity maintaining balance and persistence of ripe apricot and citrus notes. It finishes clean and stony, leaving a mineral edge that keeps the palate engaged. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$25/500ml

RHÔNE VALLEY ROSÉ WINES

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

92 Château La Nerthe 2024 Les Cassagnes (Côtes du Rhône). Salmon in color, this wine delights the senses with enticing aromas of brioche, rhubarb, and red cherry. Rich in texture, the palate gives way to additional, lingering flavors of strawberry tart and white blossom. This wine would be a perfect accompaniment to grilled fish, chicken pailard, and aged cheeses. Kobrand. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

90 Domaine Clavel 2025 Régulus (Côtes du Rhône). This is the low-alcohol afternoon sipper you've been looking for. The wine opens with pomegranate and red cherry guided by hibiscus, rosehip, and white-cherry blossom. The steely palate is bright and lively with moments of tart cranberry that glide to the finish. Advantage International. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

90 E. Guigal 2024 (Côtes du Rhône). Muddled red cherry and dried-cranberry aromas open on the nose accented by pencil shavings and wilted violet blossom. The palate is pleasantly bone dry with hints of soy sauce and forest floor. This rosé craves to be paired with food, especially seafood. Vintus Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$21

TAVEL

94 Brotte 2025 Les Églantiers (Tavel). Enticing aromas of red raspberry, dried red cherry, rosehip, and muddled cranberry fill the nose and dare you not to smile. The palate is fresh and teaming with richly textured summer red fruit that, with one sip, makes you feel the sunshine on your skin. Monsier Touton Selection Ltd. *Editor's Choice*. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

94 Cave de Tavel & Lirac 2022 Domaine de Chantepierre (Tavel). Aromas of muddled red cherry and flaky pastry waft from the glass guided

by a tinge of pomegranate molasses and dried cherry flakes. Rich and pillowy in texture, the palate rewards time in bottle with balance and elegance. *Editor's Choice*. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

93 Cave de Tavel & Lirac 2022 Domaine La Cabinière (Tavel). Pink-orange in color, the wine brings restrained aromas of dried red cherry, pomegranate, and hibiscus to the fore. The palate offers additional flavors of strawberry and cassis with punctuated moments of dried apricot on the finish. This rosé is the perfect wine to open when you're in the mood for a lighter-styled red. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

93 Cellier des Chartreux 2021 Domaine Les Hautes Roche (Tavel). The wine opens with fragrant aromas of strawberry, dried field grass, forest floor, and a touch of lilac. The savory palate combines briary fruit and hay and completes with an earthy finish that lingers in the best of ways. Pair with mushroom risotto, bulgogi, and beef short ribs. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25

92 Cave de Tavel & Lirac 2022 Les Lauzeraies (Tavel). Rosé from Tavel can have a longer life cycle than you might expect, as this aged bottling proves. Aromas of ripe red plum and cherry compote flirt with black olive and strawberry blossom on the nose. The palate is an amalgam of well-integrated fruit that presents as a whole rather than a sum of its component parts. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

92 Château de Ségriès 2021 (Tavel). Sweet cherry and muddled strawberry bathe in a pool of rosehip and red plum on the nose that is dusted with violet blossom. The palate presents well-integrated briary fruit with an unexpected yet welcome red-currant twist on the finish. Drink now and pair with rotisserie chicken and cobb salad. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

OTHER ROSÉS

92 Domaine de Fondrèche 2024 (Ventoux). Beautiful salmon in color, the wine has a fragrant nose of freshly picked red cherry, strawberry, and rosehip. The palate begins with a twist of blood-orange peel and quickly moves into stony, chalk-dusted minerality on the finish. Pair with a crispy chicken sandwich, charcuterie, and onion rings. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$24

91 Chêne Bleu 2023 Le Rosé (Vaucluse). Freshly picked cranberry and red-cherry aromas are buttressed by toast and bread dough. The palate is fresh, vibrant, and echoes the nose along with honeysuckle and dried-orange peel. Open on a Monday night or bring to a picnic. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$42

91 Coste Arena 2023 (Vin de Pays du Gard). Salmon in color, this wine has a nose of red

cherry, orange marmalade, rosehip, and peach blossom. The palate is supple in texture and more restrained than the nose. Understated undercurrents of cranberry and red raspberry percolate across the finish and resolve in sun-kissed strawberry. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château Pesquié 2024 Terrasses (Ventoux).** This wine is filled with attractive aromas that charm the nose including red raspberry, herb mélange, dried field grass, and cranberry skin. Round in texture, the palate reveals restrained red fruit that seeks absolution in dew-dusted forest floor. Grab two baguette sandwiches and enjoy with a friend. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 **Fabregues 2025 Château de la Tuilerie Rosé (Costières de Nîmes).** This rosé is no push-over. Vibrant aromas of pink rose petal, lemon peel, and crushed red cherry are accentuated by hibiscus tea. The palate is surprisingly fulsome with candied strawberry and subtle red-currant aromas that percolate across the finish. Advantage International. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

RHÔNE VALLEY

RED WINES

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

93 **Meridien 2025 Whispers of the Cellar Grande Reserve (Côtes du Rhône).** The wine opens with joyful aromas of blackberry, white-button mushroom, cranberry, and rhubarb. The palate is juicy with well-integrated fruit that is balanced with slightly velvety tannins that add depth to the umami-tilded finish. Tri Vin Imports Inc. *Editor's Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Meridien 2025 Whispers of the Cellar (Côtes du Rhône).** Smile-inducing aromas of spiced plum, blackberry, and crushed black cherry open on the nose followed by dried violet blossom. The palate is svelte with a lovely amalgam of red and black fruit that flirts with crushed stone. Pair with breaded chicken, grilled meats, and pasta Bolognese. Tri Vin Imports Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 **Meridien 2024 Whispers of the Cellar (Côtes du Rhône).** This wine combines the promise of youth with the confidence of experienced vintages behind it. Black plum and pomegranate aromas lure the nose followed by elderberry and bruised strawberry. The palate is a luxurious amalgam of chalk and red fruit that is lifted by velvety tannins that push the wine forward in your glass. MISA Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 **Chateau La Genestière 2022 (Côtes du Rhône).** Aromas of black plum, dark chocolate, cranberry stem, and dried cherry skin open on the nose. Age has softened the wine with now-silky tannins

that provide a red carpet for complex, well-integrated fruit that doesn't disappoint. Michael Corso Sélection. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 **Domaine Clavel 2025 Régulus (Côtes du Rhône).** For full review see page 16. Advantage International. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

91 **Domaine de Reveirolles 2023 (Côtes du Rhône).** This is an impressive wine with age that is ready to be enjoyed now. Well-integrated aromas of boysenberry, raspberry, and hibiscus leap from the glass showing the benefit that time in bottle has yielded. The palate is spiced red cherry and red currant with black tea, dried grass, and toasted orange peel. Cote d'Or Imports LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 **Jean Luc Colombo 2023 Les Forots (Côtes du Rhône).** Reserved aromas of dried cranberry, crushed violet blossom, and bacon fat open on the nose that brings along freshly-tilled earth. Red fruit has overtaken black fruit on the palate that now leans into leather and black tea. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

91 **Les vigneron de la Calade 2024 Maximilien Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône).** An attractive blend of spiced black fruit and savory aromas lead on the nose buttressed by hints of smoked meat and purple blossom. Ripe fruit sings and fills the midpalate with cherry-lollipop-coated tannins that draw you in. Pair with a cheeseburger, black bean soup, and rotisserie chicken. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

91 **Les Vignerons du Castelas 2024 Le Monarque (Côtes du Rhône).** Freshly crushed blackberry and muddled raspberry aromas draw in the nose accented by a light dusting of wild mint and black pepper. Well-integrated black fruit and relaxed tannins come together yielding a wine that is balanced and ready to drink now. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

91 **Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2024 Parallèle 45 (Côtes du Rhône).** Structured aromas of black raspberry, black olive, and pomegranate open on the nose accented by violet blossom. The palate performs as a Côtes du Rhône blend should, with balanced flavors that capture the spirit of the region. A tinge of leather adds to the finish. Pair with pork tenderloin, boiled peanuts, and hanger steak. Kobrand. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

91 **Pont du Rhône 2024 Passion Terroirs (Côtes du Rhône).** Alluring aromas of raspberry, black tea, dried coffee beans, and blackberry entice the nose along with wild mint and hibiscus. Mouthwatering, a black-fruit-dominated palate leans into chalk and a dusty acidity that rides in parallel. This is a versatile

wine that would pair with a range of dishes. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

90 **Les Vignerons du Castelas 2024 Domaine du Grand Belly (Côtes du Rhône).** Grilled meat and blackberry aromas drive the nose that also finds its way to raspberry and dried violet blossom. The wine is robust and self aware with flowy, silky tannins that whisper, "relax a little." This wine will flatter many a weekday meal. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 **Les Vignerons du Castelas 2024 Liscardin (Côtes du Rhône).** Black raspberry and spiced red cherry open on the nose followed by hints of black-tea leaf and hibiscus. The palate is wonderfully concentrated with black fruit that oozes blackberry and dried cranberry buttressed by velvety tannins. Pair with chicken shawarma, falafel, and beef Bourguigne. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Pont de Nyons 2024 (Côtes du Rhône).** Reserved aromas of red raspberry, leather, dried mushroom, and wet forest floor open on the nose. The palate brings ripe black fruit to the fore followed by grippy tannins that are beginning to mellow. Decant and drink now; this earthy wine will sing from 2028 onwards if you give it more time in bottle. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES

94 **Terre Rouge 2017 (Laudun).** Muddled blackberry, blueberry, and black-raspberry aromas open on the nose guided by cherry cola and forest floor. Richly textured, velvety tannins launch on the attack followed by cocoa and cassis that inform the finish. This aged wine is ready to enjoy now. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Brotte 2022 Bord Elegance (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** Fragrant aromas of blackberry, rhubarb compote, red cherry, and cola open on the nose that sees hints of umami and cranberry. Well-integrated fruit on the palate is supple in texture with youthful yet manicured tannins that lead into black fruit on the finish. Give this wine at least 20 minutes of air in your glass to experience it at its best. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

93 **Brotte 2021 Chateau de Bord Syrah Grenache Viognier (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** This wine delivers the delicious benefit of age. Ruby in color, the bottling has an elegant, understated nose of red raspberry, black plum, and dried red-cherry flakes. The palate follows suit with superb integration of fruit and tannins that fills the lengthy, chalk-infused finish that goes on and on. The bottling is worthy of a charcuterie board and an un-rushed evening. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Château La Nerthe 2023 Les Cassagnes (Côtes du Rhône Villages). Meaty aromas open on the nose along with bacon fat, blackberry jam, black-olive skin, and pomegranate. The palate shines with well-integrated black fruit that is buttressed by pillowy tannins that weave together on the unified finish. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

92 Domaine Clavel 2023 Clair de Lune (Côtes du Rhône Villages Saint-Gervais). This wine is a charmer. Perfumed aromas of eucalyptus, wild mint, and blackberry open on the nose, along with Darjeeling tea. Flavors of cola, red cherry, and dried field grass open on a palate that is framed by grippy tannins that flatter. Pair with grilled meats and breaded chicken. Advantage International. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Domaine Clavel 2023 Cordélia (Côtes du Rhône Villages Chusclan). This wine is elegant and attractive. Aromas of black cherry, dried meadow grass, and young leather open on the nose that sees a smattering of dusty forest floor. Soft tannins embrace integrated black fruit and lift the elongated finish. Advantage International. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

92 Domaine la Bouvaude 2022 L'Archipel (Côtes du Rhône Villages Rousset les Vignes). Fragrant aromas of black raspberry, dark chocolate, apricot skin, and red cherry entice the nose along with hibiscus and dried-orange peel. Supple in texture with silky tannins that slip past black fruit, the palate also brings along hay, black tea and forest floor. Pair with roasted meats, brisket, and bacon. DB Wine Selection. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Les Vignerons du Castelas 2023 Domaine Court de Censes (Côtes du Rhône Villages Signargues). The wine opens with inviting aromas of muddled black cherry, black raspberry, soy sauce, rosehip, and young leather. Ripe fruit opens on the palate followed by raspy, grippy tannins that exercise their resilience and power without overwhelming. Beef Bourguigne, roasted chicken, and grilled portobello mushroom welcome this bottling. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Chastel Samson 2022 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Saint-Maurice). Black plum and smoky raspberry lead into brioche and black cherry tart on the nose that also has a hint of leather. Velvety tannins and cocoa-dusted black fruit fill the palate that wallows in a light dusting of soy sauce and chalk that adds intrigue. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

91 Chastel Samson 2022 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Visan). Black plum and smoky raspberry lead into brioche and black cherry tart on the nose that also has a hint of leather. Velvety tannins and cocoa-dusted black fruit fill the palate that wallows in a light

dusting of soy sauce and chalk that adds intrigue. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

91 Domaine Clavel 2023 Syrius (Côtes du Rhône Villages Saint-Gervais). This is an attractive, complex wine. Aromas of black cherry, singed mint leaf, and dried field grass open on the nose that sees a hint of violet blossom. The palate is well balanced with juicy fruit and velvety tannins that are in perfect harmony. Advantage International. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Domaine Grand-Père-Jules 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu). Spiced black plum and muddled raspberry dip into black cherry and dark chocolate on the nose. Youthful yet relaxed tannins frame juicy red cherry and boysenberry accented by dried-orange peel. Pair with roasted game, lamb, and beef Bourguigne. W. Direct Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Domaine la Bouvaude 2023 L'Arène (Côtes du Rhône Villages Rousset les Vignes). Leather, blackberry, and dusty forest-floor aromas waft from the glass along with rhubarb and dried cherry. Supple in texture, the palate is a mélange of fresh rhubarb, balsamic raspberry and black plum. Pair with grilled cheese, beef stew, and mushroom risotto. DB Wine Selection. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Les Vignerons du Castelas 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône Villages Signargues). This wine is friendly and approachable. Blackberry, cassis and crushed-mint aromas open on the nose that leans into black olive and apricot skin. The palate begins with black tea and hibiscus and then moves into black plum that takes over the finish. Pair with BBQ ribs, turkey burgers, and mushroom risotto. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Domaine de Verquiere 2022 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Sablet). This wine has a reserved nose of blackberry, leather, rosehip, and dried cherry. The palate washes across wet river stone and quickly moves into a pool of velvety tannins that frame boysenberry and cranberry flakes. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

GIGONDAS

93 Domaine de Verquiere 2023 (Gigondas). Enticing aromas of bramble fruit leather, black cherry, wild strawberry, tarragon, thyme, and white pepper. Round tannins and vibrant acidity provides balance. Decant to coax out how juicy this wine is. An excellent match for aged Manchego. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Domaine de Font Sane 2022 Tradition (Gigondas). Fresh earthy aromas embrace fresh aro-

mas of dark plum, red licorice, and violets on the nose. The palate is rustic, with black cherry framed with an herbaceous note that trails into a soft granitic finish with a touch of black tea. Approachable now with a proper decant. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Halos de Jupiter 2022 (Gigondas). This wine opens with aromas of red-cherry skin, black plum, truffle, fresh earth, and baking spice. Round tannins frame a juicy dark-fruited midpalate, while its acidity gives length to a long fruit and granite-limestone finish. Delicious on its own or paired with tender lamb preparations. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

91 Les Alliés 2022 (Gigondas). For full review see page 12. Tri-Vin Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Maison Castel 2022 Séries Limitées (Gigondas). This wine opens with pronounced aromas of black cherry, cinnamon stick, cedar, white pepper, and warm baking spice. On the palate, silty tannins frame plump dark-plum fruit, underscored by notes of black licorice, dark chocolate, and black tea leaf on the finish. Full bodied with firm tannins, additional cellaring is recommended or properly aerate and pair with a hearty bison burger. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

BORDEAUX BLANC

90 Château Redon 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc). A ripe, herbal wine with a fine touch of perfume, this is an attractive blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sauvignon Gris. Its brightness and white, floral character are lifted by orange zest and final acidity. Drink now. BNP Distributing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Château Thieuley 2023 Cuvée Francis Cour-selle (Bordeaux). Named after the patriarch of the family, this lightly wooded wine is rich in white fruits. It has a quince and honey aroma that reveals a wine with a spicy and tangy texture. Drink the wine now. Fruit of the Vines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Château Briot 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc). A ripe, kiwi-flavored wine, this is tangy with lemon zest and brightly textured. Its grassy aroma is fresh and echoes the crispness of the wine. Drink now. Europvin USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Château Larroque 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc). A hazelnut aroma and a soft, rounded texture give this wine a fragrant, toasty character. With smoothness and spice, this is wine that is gently ready to drink now. BNP Distributing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Gérard Bertrand 2024 French Flair Le Charmeur (Bordeaux).** Bringing out a tropical fruit aspect to Sauvignon Blanc, this wine has a white-peach flavor freshened by kiwi. Its white fruit aroma and crisp final texture are lifted and crisp. Gerard Bertrand, a Languedoc negociant, brings his skill to his first Bordeaux white wine. Drink now. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Petite Sirène 2025 (Bordeaux).** A finely made wine, this is fresh while also with depth and layers of citrus and apple flavors. Its kiwi fruit aroma and balance between squeezed lemon and lime flavors is still young. Drink from later this year. Les Vins de Crus US, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Zéphyr 2022 Héritage (Bordeaux Blanc).** A fresh blend of Sauvignon Blanc with Sémillon, this is crisp and citrus. Its lemon aroma and touch of creaminess from the Sémillon give a wine that has filled out and is ready to drink. BCI. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 **Château d'Haurets 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This fresh green-apple-flavored wine is soft and full of fruit. It is a tangy wine with a pink grapefruit aroma and a textured aftertaste. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Chateau La Freynelle 2025 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This citrus-flavored wine with its lemon aroma, bright acidity, and crisp texture is bright and fruity. Drink it later this year for its refreshing fruitiness. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

87 **Château La Hargue 2025 Moelleux (Bordeaux Blanc).** This off-dry wine has a hint of honey alongside the ripe white peach and orange juice flavor. It is a soft wine, with a pear aroma and a light texture. Drink now. Laville Importer. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château Roquefort 2025 Les Roches Blanches (Bordeaux Blanc).** Lively organic wine from limestone soil, this pure Sauvignon Blanc is crisp with a touch of tropical fruits to balance against the citrus freshness. It is perfumed with a jasmine aroma. Drink from later this year. Duclot La Vinicole. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 **Famille Ducourt 2025 André et Léon (Bordeaux Blanc).** Ever fancy riding a wild boar? You can see how it looks on the label of this fresh, fruity wine. With its restrained herbal character and a lemon zest aroma, the wine's crispness makes it ready to drink now. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Famille Ducourt 2025 Le Blanc de Monsieur Henri (Bordeaux Blanc).** This soft wine shines with ripe white fruits and a grapefruit aroma.

It is light, full of sliced peppered apple and kiwi. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

ENTRE-DEUX-MERS

91 **Hugues Laborde 2024 Libre (Entre-deux-Mers).** This blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Sauvignon Gris, and Sémillon is enveloped in the toasty aroma and touches of wood. Ripe and full of white fruits with a delightful, smooth texture, the wine is worth waiting for. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château Roquefort 2024 Grand Blanc (Entre-deux-Mers).** Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc blend into a rounded and ripe wine. Wood-aged, its spice aroma and toasty edge add to the wine's richness. Organic. Drink now. Duclot La Vinicole. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 **Château de Beauregard-Ducourt 2025 (Entre-deux-Mers).** This ripe blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon has a mown-grass aroma and a tight citrus character. It is taut with a mineral texture. Drink now. Baystate Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Château Haut-Garriga 2024 (Entre-deux-Mers).** This lightly wood-aged wine has a finely blended combination of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon that gives ripeness and a burst of acidity. With a white-flower aroma and taut texture, the wine promises further aging. Drink from 2027. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

89 **Château Lestrille 2024 (Entre-deux-Mers).** This is a ripe wine, with a soft texture and a ripe white fruit character. Its toast and spice aroma brings out ripeness and a fresher side at the same time. This is an attractive, perfumed wine that is ready to drink. Organic. Avanelle Wine Co. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 **Bordeaux Families 2024 Excelium Réserve (Entre-deux-Mers).** A toasty aroma and a light touch of spice give this wine a rounded edge that brings out the wine's lively acidity and white fruit flavors. The wine is ready to drink. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Bordeaux Families 2023 Excelium Réserve (Entre-deux-Mers).** The wine's bright acidity is now rounded out and gently subdued. Find a jasmine aroma and kiwi and apple flavors with a toasty aftertaste. The wine has a perfumed character. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Roquefort 2025 Cuvée Rives (Entre-deux-Mers).** A rich blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, the wine shows minerality and a touch

of spice. It is a ripe, full wine, crisp with pink grapefruit flavors and a bright-yellow aroma. Drink now. Duclot La Vinicole. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 **Château La Rose du Pin 2025 (Entre-deux-Mers).** This is a light, poised wine, fresh with citrus and a bright quince jelly aroma. Its crisp texture comes from the wine's lemon aura. Drink now. Planet Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEUX

91 **Château Montfollet 2025 Le Valentin (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Bright and fruity, this ripe wine is spicy and full bodied. Its ripeness gives the wine a tropical character with an apricot flavor and a kiwi fruit aroma. Drink from 2027. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château Montfollet 2025 M Montfollet le Valentin (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A spicy aroma leads to a wine with juicy white fruits and a light texture. The wine is full, rich as well as tangy. Drink from later this year. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

BORDEAUX ROSÉ

87 **Château de Beauregard-Ducourt 2025 (Bordeaux rosé).** Bright, ripe red fruits and a spicy texture give a wine that is full and fruity. With its raspberry and orange-peel aroma, and a final layer of acidity, the wine is ready to drink. Baystate Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 **Atlantique 2025 (Bordeaux rosé).** This is a bright and crisp, lightly off-dry wine. A pale colored rosé, made principally from Cabernet Franc, it is fruity and light, ready to drink now. Well Oiled Wine. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

86 **Château d'Haurets 2025 (Bordeaux rosé).** A fresh, Merlot-based rosé with a light caramel edge is set against plenty of acidity. It is fruity; its strawberry aroma scintillating. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

CRÉMANT DE BORDEAUX

87 **Charles Louis NV Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux).** Lively and fresh with apple aromas and a light citrus flavor, this is an attractive wine. It is ready to drink. Bridge Imports/Avenue Terroir. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

87 **Charles Louis NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Bordeaux).** A crushed-strawberry aroma and fresh acidity give this sparkling wine its lively char-

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acter. It is fruity, lightly textured and ready to drink. Bridge Imports/Avenue Terroir. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

SAUTERNES

96 **Château Suduiraut 2023 (Sauternes).** The freshness of this wine combined with the honey-sugar density are just right. The taste of apricots, candied lemon zest, and a touch of spice are delicious, promising good aging. Drink from 2029. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

BORDEAUX RED WINES BORDEAUX

89 **Château Pépin 2023 (Bordeaux).** With black-pepper aroma and ripe, balanced character, the wine is rounded and already soft. Rich blackberry flavor and a core of soft tannins give it a fresh, juicy while full-bodied aftertaste. Drink from later this year. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château Daulibey 2024 (Bordeaux).** A ripe wine that has rounded black fruits and a creamy texture. Its licorice aroma is followed by ripe fruitiness, spice, and a chocolate aftertaste. Drink from later this year. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Le Mayne Turon 2023 La Réserve (Bordeaux).** This is a smoky, spicy wine with a touch of wood and ripe tannins. Its vanilla aroma reflects the wood aging and gives its texture a fine bite of youthful dryness. Drink from 2027. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château Mézain 2024 (Bordeaux).** A bright, balanced wine, this blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon is full of red-berry fruits. With a spicy aroma, this young wine should be ready from 2027. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 **Château Tazion 2024 (Bordeaux).** This is a soft, fruity wine with a chocolate flavor and a licorice aroma. It is lightly textured, the tannins playing across the wine, leaving plenty of black fruits. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Villotte 2023 (Bordeaux).** A ripe, soft wine with gentle tannins and layers of bright, juicy blackberry-fruit flavors. With a red-berry aroma and an open texture, the wine will be ready from later this year. Connecticut Distributors. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 **Gérard Bertrand 2022 French Flair Le Classique (Bordeaux).** Languedoc negociant and producer Gérard Bertrand has ventured into Bordeaux with a pair of wines, a red and a white. This red is soft, ripe and rounded. Its blackberry aroma and black-currant fruitiness give a wine that is ready to drink. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 **Petite Sirène 2022 (Bordeaux).** A warm, ripe wine, balanced between ripe black-currant fruits and rich tannins. The wine's black coffee aroma and its generous texture are showing well. Drink now. Les Vins de Crus US, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château Arnaucosse 2023 (Bordeaux).** The wine, with its black-currant aroma and spicy, rich texture, is solid and dense. It is full-bodied, blackberry fruit showing against the tannins. Drink from later this year. Tri Vin Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Château Grand Marchand 2023 (Bordeaux).** The wine is soft with a smoky edge and a touch of caramel. Its black-cherry aroma and gentle tannic texture suggest it will be ready later this year. Evaki Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Château Peynaud-Bagnac 2023 (Bordeaux).** From the east of the Entre-deux-Mers, this wine is rich with a dark-chocolate aroma and generous black fruits. It is developing quickly and should be ready later this year. Tri Vin Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

92 **Château Roquefort 2022 Cuvée Jean Belanger (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Named after the creator of this family estate, the wine is ripe and finely integrated. Its black-currant flavor and dark-chocolate aroma and character give richness and density. The wine will be ready from 2027. Duclot La Vinicole. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Château Roquefort 2022 Roca Forte (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Named after a rocky outcrop on the estate, the wine has a dark-chocolate aroma, rounded tannins and rich blackberry fruits. Its weight and concentration from the 100% Merlot gives the wine a solid character. Drink from 2027. Duclot La Vinicole. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château de Macard 2023 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine's black-coffee aroma and its rich texture lead to a density and concentration. Spice and ripe black-plum fruits give structure and a bright future. Drink from 2027. Serge Dore Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château de Ribebon 2023 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wood aging of

this wine gives it a polished feel and extra depth. Its spice and black-cherry aromas go with the wine's black currant fruits and generous tannins. Drink from 2027. Serge Dore Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Château Maison Noble Saint Martin 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A black-pepper aroma gives this fruity wine a fine touch of spice. Its black-currant flavors shine from the finishing acidity. Drink from 2027. SommsSelection. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Château Maison Noble Saint Martin 2022 Cuvée 1345 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A lush wine with generous black-plum fruits and a smoky aroma, this thrives on its ripe texture. Named after the founding year of the estate, the wine is rich, dense and ready to drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château Pascaud 2024 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This 100% Merlot is a solid, rich wine from the heart of the Entre-deux-Mers. Its generous spicy black-currant fruits and touch of fruitcake ripeness give the wine weight and density. Drink from 2027. Europvin USA. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 **Château de Ribebon 2023 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A wild-strawberry aroma leads to this freshly textured wine. It is ripe, balanced with a core of tannins laced with acidity. The wine is still young, still dry, so wait until 2027 to drink. Serge Dore Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château Maison Noble Saint Martin 2022 Cuvée Souvenir (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine's dense texture gives it weight. Tannins and black currant are balanced and full bodied. Drink this wine, with its dark chocolate aroma, from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Clos Perrault 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine's licorice aroma and juicy blackberry fruits give balance and ripeness. Layers of acidity, texture and a juicy aftertaste all have their place. Drink from later this year. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Haut-Bicou 2023 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine has a red-berry aroma and ripe, gentle tannins. Juicy acidity and blackberry fruit flavors give richness and promise. Drink from 2027. AHD Vintners. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Roc de Villepreux 2024 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This young wine shows fine blackberry flavors and light tannins. Its black-pepper aroma and its bright acidity are attractive. Drink the wine from 2027. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Sainte-Marie 2023 Source de Passion Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A fresh, juicy wine that has soft tannins and a tobacco and spice flavors. Its crushed blackberry aroma and layer of acidity add to the freshness of this wine from the heart of the Entre-deux-Mers. Drink later this year. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 **Zéphyr 2020 Héritage (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A rounded wine with a soft texture, this is now showing good development. Its black pepper and spice aroma and succulent black-currant fruits are soft and light. Drink from later this year. BCI. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 **Chateau Bois de Favereau 2023 Cuvée Jean-Jules (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine's black-plum flavors and soft tannins marry well with its texture and spicy aroma. This is a wine that is developing fast and steadily. Drink from 2027. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

92 **Château Montfollet 2023 Grand Vin (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** One of a range of wines from this estate, this is rich and balanced. It has a black-chocolate aroma that translates into a spicy, textured character. Drink the wine from 2029. Ventura Selections. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 **Château Terre Blanque 2023 Les Cailloux (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A licorice aroma and ripe black-plum fruit flavors give this wine weight and balance. There is a smoky backdrop that adds complexity to an old-vine wine that should be ready from 2027. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

89 **Château Haut Grela 2024 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine's cinnamon aroma and its generous black-currant fruits give it spice as well as black fruit. A core of tannins assures the wine's structure and provides a dry texture. Drink from 2028. Ventura Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

89 **Château Terre Blanque 2024 Les Cailloux (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Old vines from stony soil have given a richly structured wine with a black-plum aroma. Solid tannins and layered acidity and blackberry fruits give the wine freshness. Drink from 2028. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

89 **Château Terre Blanque 2024 Terre Grande (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Ripe tannins and attractive juicy black fruits offer a wine that is generous and balanced with a cinnamon aroma. The Merlot and Malbec blend has produced a structured wine. Drink from 2027. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

88 **Château Mayne Mazerolles 2024 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine's black-pepper aroma and light tannins have given a wine that is fresh as well as ripe. The balance is impeccable, fruit and texture lifted by final acidity. Drink from 2027. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

CÔTES DE BOURG

92 **Château Puybarbe 2022 Gaia (Côtes de Bourg).** A blend of four varieties—the two Cabernets, Merlot, and Malbec—is ripe, textured with a layer of firm tannins, and packed with blackberry fruits. The wine's black-chocolate aroma and its touch of spice are promising. Drink from 2027. Suitable for vegans. Votto Vines Importing. *Editor's Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

91 **Château Haut-Guiraud 2023 (Côtes de Bourg).** A firm wine, this has a solid texture with a dry core. That means the wine's blackberry fruits are going to take time to come through. Its licorice aroma reinforces this impression. Drink from 2028. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château Belair-Coubet 2022 (Côtes de Bourg).** This is a wine that's unusual for its 100% Malbec. That gives the wine density and structure with a black-coffee aroma, rich blackberry fruits and solid tannins. Drink the wine from 2027. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

89 **Château Castaing 2023 (Côtes de Bourg).** Blackberry aromas and a core of tannins set this balanced wine well on the way to maturity. Its vanilla and spice flavors, along with textured black-currant flavors complete a fine wine. Drink from 2027. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 **Belair-Coubet 2024 (Côtes de Bourg).** A fresh, juicy wine, this has crisp acidity set against a core of young tannins. Its black-currant fruit aroma sets the scene for this lightly structured wine. Drink from 2027. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 **Château Mérigot 2023 Grand Vin (Côtes de Bourg).** A solid wine with firm tannins and a dry core, this is rich and dense. It has a ripe blackberry character that gives promise of future balance. The wine's tobacco and toast aroma is in keeping with this wine's structured character. Drink from 2028. Ventura Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 **Château Puybarbe 2022 (Côtes de Bourg).** Finely textured with a black-cherry aroma and balanced tannins, this wine is powerful and dense. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc. The high alcohol leaves a burn to the black-

plum flavors. Drink from 2027. Suitable for vegans. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

MÉDOC

94 **Château Potensac 2023 (Médoc).** A fruity, fresh wine, with black-currant flavors, this has gentle tannins, full of spice and acidity. The wine, from an estate owned by Léoville las Cases, is richly textured and ready to drink from 2029. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 **Château Troussas 2019 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This is a finely textured wine with dusty tannins and layers of black-currant fruits. The wine has a tobacco and spice aroma along with a dry core and a density. The wine is ready to drink. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Château Cos d'Estournel 2023 G d'Estournel (Médoc).** This elegant wine offers succulent black fruits with integrated tannins. The licorice aroma and spicy aftertaste show well in this ripe wine. Drink from 2027. Duclot La Vinicole. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château le Vieux Fort 2022 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** The wine's blackberry aroma and the ripe, full-bodied character give a rich dense wine. Its blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon give both structure and powerful black-plum flavors. Drink from 2027. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

HAUT-MÉDOC

90 **Château Cap l'Ousteau 2022 (Haut-Médoc).** Blackberry aromas and a generous tannic structure are signs of a rich wine. This estate, in the town of Lamarque close to the Gironde estuary, has produced a solid wine, with a fine balance between Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, dense and full of black-currant fruits. Drink from 2027. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

90 **Château Peyredon Lagravette 2022 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This is a soft, fruity wine, its tannins and texture softened into the black-currant fruits and juicy acidity. With its cinnamon aroma and tangy texture, the wine should age further. Drink from 2027. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

90 **Château Troupian 2023 (Haut-Médoc).** Situated in the northern Haut-Médoc, this estate has produced a black-currant-flavored wine. Its balanced tannins and its black-pepper aroma are part of

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a ripe, structured wine to drink from 2027. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

89 **Château Moulin de la Mothe 2022 (Haut-Médoc).** With a vanilla aroma and a touch of spice, the wine exudes richness and a generous texture. The wine has ripe black tannins and structured black-currant fruits. Drink from later this year. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 **Domaine du Vieux Landat 2023 Rocks (Haut-Médoc).** Calling itself a rebel, this soft and fruity wine sings with fresh black-currant flavors. It's ripe, jammy texture—without wood or sulfites—gives the wine a round aftertaste. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

PAUILLAC

96 **Château Pichon Baron 2023 (Pauillac).** The wine's classic velvet Cabernet Sauvignon character is underlined by rich tannins and layers of beautiful black-currant fruit. Dark-chocolate aromas and great concentration are impressive. Drink from 2030. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$165

94 **Château Haut-Bages Libéral 2023 (Pauillac).** The pronounced yet velvety tannins contrast well with the ripe black fruits to produce a wine with sumptuous potential. Fine depth and a black-pepper aroma finish and start a wine for aging. Drink from 2029. Organic and biodynamic. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 **Château Pichon Baron 2023 Les Griffons de Pichon Baron (Pauillac).** A solid, textured wine with power from the Cabernet Sauvignon and black-currant fruit from the Merlot. Its black-coffee aroma and sense of potential are palpable. Drink this solid wine from 2030. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

93 **Château Pichon Baron 2023 Les Tourelles de Pichon Baron (Pauillac).** The wine, dominated by Merlot, is powerful and rounded. It has a velvet character, full of juiciness and acidity giving freshness. The wine's smoky aroma reflects this quality. Drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 **Château Haut de la Bécade 2016 (Pauillac).** A succulent just-now-mature wine, this has a ripe texture and solid black-currant flavors. The wine's Cabernet Sauvignon-inspired tannins give the wine structure alongside the balanced black cherry aroma. Drink now. Serge Dore Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

92 **Château Pibran 2023 (Pauillac).** The 46% Merlot brings softness, mitigated by the core of dryness from the Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. The juiciness of the wine shows well with its black-

currant fruits and smoky aroma. Drink from 2029. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$60

SAINT-JULIEN

97 **Château Léoville Barton 2023 (Saint-Julien).** An impressive wine from the Barton family, this is poised and classic. Its pure black-currant aroma and balance of spice and black-fruit flavors are fully integrated. This ripe mostly Cabernet Sauvignon wine is beautifully succulent and should be ready from 2029. Duclot La Vinicole USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

97 **Château Léoville Las Cases 2023 (Saint-Julien).** The wine has great power along with elegance. Its black-pepper aroma and juicy black-currant flavors are concentrated and dense. This is a powerful wine with a huge texture that will be ready from 2030 onward. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$200

95 **Clos du Marquis 2023 (Saint-Julien).** From a single, walled vineyard, the wine moves easily between density and juicy black fruits. It has both power and great fruitiness. The wine is full of promise with its dark-chocolate aroma. Drink from 2030. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

94 **Château Léoville Las Cases 2023 Le Petit Lion (Saint-Julien).** A fruity, fresh wine, with black-currant flavors, this has gentle tannins, full of spice and acidity. The wine, the second wine of Léoville Las Cases, is richly textured and ready to drink from 2030. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

MARGAUX

97 **Château Palmer 2023 (Margaux).** A black-coffee aroma gives a wine that is full of rich tannins. It has weight and structure that gives immense promise for a wine that should age well. It is dense, with a high proportion of Merlot as usual, with a fine juicy character. Drink from 2029. Monsier Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$300

96 **Château Durfort-Vivens 2023 (Margaux).** The tannins show strongly in this dense wine. It has power while also having charm, giving balance and texture. Mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, it is firm with a tobacco and spice aroma and the ability to age. Drink from 2030. Organic and biodynamic. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

93 **Château Ferrière 2023 (Margaux).** The richness of this wine and its generous fruit mask the serious structure that lies underneath. Its blackberry aroma and rounded black-currant freshness

suggest a wine to age. Drink from 2029. Organic and biodynamic. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 **Château Palmer 2023 Alter Ego (Margaux).** This is a ripe, smooth wine, impressively open and generous. Its black fruits and soft tannins allied to the smoky aroma are full of promise and richness. Drink from 2028. Monsier Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

93 **Château Siran 2023 S de Siran (Margaux).** The second wine of Château Siran is finely textured and balanced. It has a soft texture, a licorice aroma, ripe black-currant fruits and some elegant tannins. Drink from 2028. Monsier Touton Selection Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 **Château La Gurgue 2023 (Margaux).** The wine is soft and ripe with a black cherry aroma and juicy blackberry flavors that lie over a gentle core of tannins. The high level of acidity gives the wine freshness. Mostly Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, the wine is full of promise. Drink from 2029. Organic and biodynamic. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 **Château German 2023 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** A smoky aroma goes with the firm texture of this ripe wine. With wood aging come spice and a layer of rich tannins. It is a wine worth aging. Drink from 2027. Serge Dore Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Château Hyot 2023 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** This ripe wine shows structure as well as dark blackberry fruits. Its mushroom and spice aroma is a fine balance to the wine's tannins and juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Serge Dore Selections. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Domaine Gonzague Maurice 2019 Victor (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** Ripe and fruity, this wine, with its licorice aroma, is stylish. Black-currant fruits and a generous texture show well against the wine's dry core. Drink now. USA Wine West, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 **Château Bellevue-la-Ferrière 2023 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** A blackberry aroma sets the scene for a fruity, textured wine. Its generous tannins form a core along with dark plum fruits and a juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2028. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

MONTAGNE-SAINT-ÉMILION

92 Château Teyssier 2022 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien). From vineyards to the northeast of Saint-Émilien, this wine is a ripe, opulent Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Franc. Its licorice aroma and the dense black-currant fruits give a rich wine that will be ready from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Roc de Binet 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien). Big bold black fruits dominate this full-bodied wine. It has rich tannins that give a fine shape to the wine. Its black-chocolate aroma and a juicy character have created a satisfying wine. Drink from later this year. Advantage International Distributors Inc. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Château Rocher Gardat 2024 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien). Violet and black cherry aromas and ripe tannins have produced a generous Merlot-dominated wine. Its black-currant flavor and the potential of the smooth texture are already fresh and delicious. Drink from 2028. W. Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Château Bellevue de Bonneau 2022 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien). Dense and packed with fruit, the wine full of blackberry flavors. Its spicy aroma from wood aging highlights the wine's richness and juicy acidity. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château de Grandchamp 2022 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien). The wine's tannins give it a sense of richness as well as structure. It is a dense wine, powered by blackberry fruits and with a black-pepper aroma. Drink from 2027. USA Wine West, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Château Gardat 2024 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien). A toasty aroma leads to a wood-aged wine that needs time to bring out the black-currant fruits. The wine is spicy with black-currant fruit flavors and a layer of acidity. Drink from 2028. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Château Teyssier 2023 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien). An open, ripe and fruity wine, this has a black fruit aroma and youthful tannins. The wine is full, concentrated with layers of blackberry and spice. It is developing well, drink from 2028. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

SAINT-ÉMILION

94 Château de Ferrand 2023 Grand Cru Classé (Saint-Émilien). Blackberry aromas give the wine fruitiness as well as the solid tannins that are the

support. With a spicy aroma and ripeness, the wine has a fine future. Drink from 2030. Heidelberg Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Château Fonroque 2023 (Saint-Émilien). A juicy wine, smoothly textured and with a delicious ripeness. It is pure in its blackberry flavor and its spicy aroma. Drink this fine wine from 2030. Organic and biodynamic. Monsieur Touton Selection Importer. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

93 Château Chauvin 2023 (Saint-Émilien). The spicy aroma of the wine leads to rich generosity and bold tannins. It is balanced: The fruit shines through the wine's texture. Drink from 2029. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Château de Pressac 2023 (Saint-Émilien). This is a rich wine; its powerful structure gives weight to the black-currant flavors. It has a black-chocolate aroma that promises some fine aging. Drink from 2030. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Château Grand Corbin-Despaigne 2023 (Saint-Émilien). Smoothly textured with blackberry fruits mingling with some firm tannins, this is a finely wine. Its fruits and black pepper aroma are part of a ripe, balanced wine. Drink from 2030. Organic. Wegmans. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

93 Château la Croizille 2023 (Saint-Émilien). Ripe with black-plum flavors and brimming with fine balanced acidity and tannins, this is a bold wine. It has great richness, textured with a black-chocolate aroma. Drink from 2030. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 Château Laplagnotte Bellevue 2022 (Saint-Émilien). Ripe, fruity and rich, the wine with its dark coffee aroma and layers of black plum flavors is dense and full. It is concentrated with a juicy aftertaste and a core of firm tannins. Drink the wine from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

93 Château Tour Saint Christophe 2023 (Saint-Émilien). A spicy wine, with ripe tannins and the richness of Merlot, this has weight and concentration. A dark-chocolate aroma and rounded tannins join with the black-currant fruits to balance the wine. Drink from 2030. Serge Dore Selections, LTD. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Château Yon-Figeac 2023 (Saint-Émilien). Spicy with ripe tannins and black-currant flavors, the wine shines with its spicy aroma and layers of rich tannins. It is a balanced wine that should age well. Drink from 2029. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$51

92 Château Clos Des Abbesses 2019 La Grande Abbessé (Saint-Émilien). This is a generous, rich wine with smooth tannins and signs of maturity. It is ripe, with with smokiness and a licorice aroma. The black-fruit flavors are now balanced with the wine's dense texture. Drink now. Contrast Wines. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 Château Grand Corbin 2023 (Saint-Émilien). A black-coffee aroma and ripe tannins are the hallmarks of this textured wine. With its richness, blackberry flavors and final acidity, it is a wine with a fine future. Drink from 2029. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Château Haut-Gravet 2023 Grand Chemin Réserve (Saint-Émilien). This wine's game aroma gives a sense of richness. Tannins and ripe black-currant fruits are combined with polished wood aging and final acidity. The result is a fine blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc that will age. Drink from 2028. Serge Dore Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Château Martinet 2020 (Saint-Émilien). The wine's black-chocolate aroma and firm tannins show fine aging promise. Its a rich wine, with a luscious black-plum flavor, maturing well but still with plenty of potential. Drink from later this year. Monsieur Touton Selections, LTD. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Château Ripeau 2023 (Saint-Émilien). Bright and bursting with blackberry fruits, this is an enticing wine. It reveals a fine texture with ripe tannins, a black-cherry aroma, and a solid aftertaste. Drink from 2029. Joanne Bordeaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Château Tour Baladoz 2023 (Saint-Émilien). Situated on the eastern side of Saint-Émilien, the estate has produced a fine, ripe wine, tannins balanced with black-currant flavors. It has a white spice aroma and a textured aftertaste. Drink from 2030. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Château Clos Cormey 2023 (Saint-Émilien). The wine's spicy aroma from wood aging and its rich tannins point to a wine that needs aging. Its blackberry fruit and acidity are still behind this structure. When it comes forward from 2029, drink the wine. W. Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Château Clos Cormey 2022 (Saint-Émilien). This is a ripe, juicy wine with a spice and black-fruit aroma and a layer of wood aging. It is solid with a fine future. Drink from 2027. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 Château Clos Cormey 2020 (Saint-Émilien). The wine has a ripe spicy character. It is maturing well, showing a game aroma and dark-coffee fla-

BUYINGGUIDE

vors. The wine is solid with bold black fruits and tannins that are softening. Drink from later this year. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 **Château Clos Junet 2022 (Saint-Émilion).** This smooth, balanced wine is ripe and full of fruit. The backbone of tannins and dry core act as a contrast to the wine's ripe black-plum flavors. The introductory black-pepper aroma is enticing. Drink from 2028. New Last Bottle Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 **Château Rocher-Figeac 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** A Merlot and Cabernet Franc blend from the western end of Saint-Émilion, the wine is firm and structured. That texture is balanced with a licorice aroma, succulent black-currant fruits, and fragrant final acidity. Drink from 2028. AHD Vintners. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Bellefont-Belcier 2023 Grand Cru Classé (Saint-Émilion).** A juicy wine, with its firm tannins balancing the blackberry flavors of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and a bit of Cabernet Sauvignon. This is a dense wine, showing its alcohol in a touch of pepper. Drink from 2029. Serge Dore Selections, LTD. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Château de Monturon 2022 (Saint-Émilion).** A black-cherry aroma introduces a smoothly textured wine. Its generous tannins and dense black fruits flavor give this wine its richness and concentration. Drink from 2028. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Château Martinet 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** This structured blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot has produced a ripe wine with black-currant flavors and a juicy, smoky character. Drink this wine, with its black-coffee aroma, from 2028. Monsieur Touton Selections, LTD. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Vieux Pourret 2022 (Saint-Émilion).** The wine's rich, succulent texture is spoiled by a touch of pepper from the alcohol. In the hope that this will blow off, the wine's licorice aroma, rich tannins, and spice and black-currant flavors hang together well and with promise. Drink from 2027. Advantage International Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Paul Junet 2023 Cuvée Paul Junet (Saint-Émilion).** A blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot maturing gently, here is a wine with great precision and texture. It has a ripe, black-currant flavor along with a blueberry aroma and succulent acidity. Drink the wine from 2028. Continent Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 **Paul Junet 2023 Grand Mirande Bellescise (Saint-Émilion).** Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a rare wine for Saint-Émilion. It is

structured and ripely textured. Black-currant fruits shine through the tannins to give a wine with a black chocolate aroma and a spicy aftertaste. Drink from 2028. New Last Bottle Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 **Paul Junet 2023 Grand Mirande Berthonneau (Saint-Émilion).** A spicy blend of Merlot, Malbec, and Cabernet Franc gives a ripe, rounded wine. It is full of black-currant flavors, with a toasty edge with a generous texture. Drink from 2028. New Last Bottle Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 **Vieux Chantecaille 2024 (Saint-Émilion).** The wine, soft and ripe, has layers of spice and gentle tannins. Its vanilla aroma and texture act as a backdrop to the blackberry flavors. Balanced and succulent, drink from 2028. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

89 **Château Louvie 2023 (Saint-Émilion).** A blend with 20% Cabernet Franc and 80% Merlot gives a ripe, rounded, perfumed wine with a vanilla aroma. Its tannins, cushioned by the ripe black-currant fruits and lifted by acidity, are developing well. Drink the wine from 2027. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

PUISSEGUIN SAINT-ÉMILION

93 **Château Roc de Bécot 2023 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** Vivid black-fruit aromas give this wine a freshly ripe character. It has spice and black-currant fruits from the wine's Merlot. The wine is rich with a fine future. Owned by members of the Bécot family of Beauséjour Bécot in Saint-Émilion. Drink from 2027. Worldwide Libations. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 **Clos du Pavillon 2018 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** With its black-fruit aroma and its dense tannic texture, this is a solid wine. Its ripe black-currant fruit flavors, dominated by Merlot, give a wine that is structured and ready to drink. USA Wine West, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

POMEROL

93 **Château Maillet 2024 (Pomerol).** The wine, with its black-truffle aroma and generous tannins, is juicy, succulent and full bodied. Dense spice and black-currant flavors show well with the ripe texture and cushioned structure. Drink from 2029. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

93 **Château Nenin 2023 (Pomerol).** Structured and full of ripe black fruits, the wine has a core of firm tannins. It is spicy with juicy berry flavors and a

black-coffee aroma. Drink from 2029. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

92 **Château Gouprie 2024 (Pomerol).** This Merlot-dominated wine is rich and full. Its ripe tannins and spice flavors bring out blackberry fruits that are still young. Drink the wine, with its violet aroma and succulent aftertaste, from 2028. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 **Château Grange-Neuve 2023 (Pomerol).** A ripe truffle aroma leads to a wine that has rich black-currant fruits and a core of solid tannins. This Merlot-based wine is dense with a solid texture that will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2028. AP Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

92 **Château Rocher-Bonregard 2023 (Pomerol).** A blend dominated by Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Franc, the wine is warm and generous. Its tannins, fully integrated balance with the black-plum flavors illuminated by a black-coffee aroma. Drink from 2028. AHD Vintners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 **Château Nenin 2023 Fugue de Nenin (Pomerol).** The wine's attractive blackberry fruits are open with low tannins and spicy flavors. The wine's smoky aroma adds to its attractiveness. Drink from 2028. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

ENTRE-DEUX-MERS

91 **Château de L'Hoste 2023 Vieilles Vignes (Entre-deux-Mers).** This smooth, ripe wine, with its aroma of toast and licorice, is generous and full-bodied. It is solidly textured, the concentration from old vines shining through the layers of black-currant fruit and acidity. Drink from 2027 but worth cellaring. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Château Landereau 2023 Prestige (Entre-deux-Mers).** Owned by the Baylet family, this estate has produced a smoothly textured wine with ripe tannins and a fine juicy black-fruit character. Its licorice aroma and its touches of spice and toast from new oak give the wine complexity and a good future. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château Thieuley 2023 Génération III (Entre-deux-Mers).** The wine has a promising black-pepper aroma, with ripe tannins and a solid texture. It is finely structured with a firm core surrounded by succulent black fruits. Drink this fine wine from 2027. Fruit of the Vines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 **Château Tour de Bonnet 2023 La Courrège (Entre-deux-Mers).** The wine's blackberry aroma and ripe red-fruit flavors presage softness and

layers of acidity and fruit. From a single vineyard, the light wine is juicy and will be ready from 2026. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 **Château Haut-Meyreau 2023 L'Eclat (Entre-deux-Mers).** The wine has a cocoa aroma, giving richness on the palate. It is spicy and dense, with a wild-berry flavor that brings taut acidity. The wine will be ready from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Hugues Laborde 2023 Libre (Entre-deux-Mers).** The wine's white-pepper aroma and soft tannins are ripe and gentle. Bottled with little sulfur, the wine has a succulent character and finishing acidity. Drink the wine now. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

CADILLAC CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 **Château Langoiran 2023 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a soft wine, full of blackberry flavors and light tannins. It is fresh and crisp as well as juicy with a dark-chocolate aroma. Drink from 2027. MISA Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

91 **Château Tanesse 2023 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** The 135-acre estate has produced a ripe black-currant-flavored wine. Its integrated tannins and the juicy fruitiness go with the black-cherry aroma. Drink from 2027. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château de Lestiac 2023 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Licorice aroma and black-currant flavor give the wine richness as well as freshness. It is a ripe wine, still developing its shape and depth. Drink from 2027. MISA Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château de Marsan 2023 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** A blend of Merlot with Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine has depth and a texture that is rounded and soft. The spicy aroma and the juicy aftertaste are already delicious. Drink from 2027. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 **Château de Laville 2023 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** A ripe, balanced wine with fine proportions of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is rich with black fruits and black-currant aroma. The wine is already softening and should be ready from 2027. MISA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

OTHER RED WINES

94 **Château Cos d'Estournel 2023 Pagodes de Cos (Saint-Estèphe).** The second wine of Cos

d'Estournel, named after the pagodas of its Indian-inspired architecture, is ripe, full of black fruits. The black pepper and licorice aromas lead to a structured wine, balanced, with black-plum flavors and a poised texture. Drink from 2028. Duclot La Vinicole. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$47

94 **Château Cos Labory 2023 (Saint-Estèphe).** A cinnamon aroma and flavors of toast and spice give this wine a fruit and tannin character. The dry core and the juicy blackberry fruits are enticing, still firm and with aging potential. Drink this fine classed growth from 2028. Duclot La Vinicole. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 **Canon La Chapelle 2022 (Canon-Fronsac).** The wine's firm texture shows in its tannins and black fruits. With a dark coffee aroma and a dry core, the wine is solid and dense. Drink from 2027. USA Wine West, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

92 **Château Peyredon Lagravette 2023 Parcel-laire (Moulis-en-Médoc).** Blackberry flavors are matched with black plum and dark chocolate density to give a ripe, well-balanced wine. Its spice and integrated tannins are already promising. Drink from 2028. Polaner Selections. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Château Saint-Robert 2023 Poncet-Deville (Graves).** Produced from a selection of parcels and named after an owner of the estate, the wine is ripe, with soft and generous tannins. Its black-coffee aroma and ripeness give it a full, juicy character, emphasized by the smoky aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Advantage International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château La Grange Clinet 2023 Réserve (Côtes de Bordeaux).** A juicy black-currant-flavored wine with a light touch of wood aging to add spice. The black-fruit aroma adds a succulent aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Luneau USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Château Latour-Martillac 2021 Lacroix-Martillac (Pessac-Léognan).** This second wine of a Grand Cru comes from a classic vintage across Bordeaux: It shows in the gentle tannins and soft black-currant fruit. Its black-pepper aroma and juicy final acidity suggest the wine is ready to drink. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 **Château Petites Ranga 2023 Cuvée Jean-Jules (Lalande de Pomerol).** The wine's dominant Merlot gives this wine a plush character with rich black fruits and soft tannins. A licorice aroma and layers of fresh acidity top and tail this ripe wine. Drink from 2027. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château La Freynelle 2025 Clairet (Bordeaux Clairet).** A strawberry-jelly-flavored

wine, this is fruity with red fruit flavors. It has a touch of tannin and a dark rosé color. Drink now. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

87 **Château La Grange Clinet 2025 Grand Clairet (Bordeaux Clairet).** Described as a red for chilling, this is a new style for Bordeaux. Light in color and texture, the wine, with its red jelly aroma, is soft and full of strawberry fruits. Luneau USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON WHITE WINES

PAYS D'OC

93 **Domaine Saint-André 2025 Terroir Maritime (Pays d'Oc).** This unique blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Vermentino is quite interesting and enjoyable. Aromas of guava candy lead from the nose into a palate that zings with acidity and bursts with caviar lime flavors. DHI Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

91 **Les Caves Richemer 2025 Bistro Collection Sauvignon Blanc (Pays d'Oc).** The vibrant nose on this bottling is tightly wound, while revealing exciting aromas of jalapeno and crushed gravel. The palate tastes of rainy sidewalk, apple peel, and zesty lime peels. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

91 **Les Caves Richemer 2025 Domaine Saint Michel Sauvignon Blanc (Pays d'Oc).** Aromas of green apple and quince crisp splashed with lime show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is puckering with acidity, showing strong lime and grass flavors. Serve with briny shellfish. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

91 **SAS Les Vignes du Domaine de Belle Mare 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Pays d'Oc).** Sharp aromas of lime pith and passionfruit make for an exciting nose on this bottling. The palate snaps with sharp and vibrant flavors of lime juice and green pear peels. W. Direct. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 **SAS Les Vignes du Domaine de Belle Mare 2025 Rolle (Pays d'Oc).** Rounded mango and plumeria make for a tropical nose on this bottling. The palate shows a stony streak that cuts into the stone fruit and coconut-wax flavors. W. Direct. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Les Caves Richemer 2025 Bistro Collection Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc).** Sharp grapefruit aromas converge with hints of gardenia and jasmine on the nose of this bottling. There's a decent texture

BUYINGGUIDE

to the palate, where bold flavors of guava, white flower and lime arise. W. Direct. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

89 **SAS Les Vignes du Domaine de Belle Mare 2025 Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc).** Crisp melon and honeysuckle aromas are uplifting on the nose of this bottling. There's a decent grip to the palate, where a tight weave of lime opens toward a fatter coconut finish. W. Direct. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

88 **Le Fat Bastard 2024 (Pays d'Oc).** Lively aromas of citrus and coconut flesh show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is intensely sharp at first with strong citrus flavors and a chalky texture, proving much more racy and lean than fat, as the name otherwise suggests. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

88 **Les Caves Richemer 2025 Domaine de Onglous Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc).** Plumeria, orange blossoms, ripe melon, and vanilla cookie aromas make for a ripe nose on this bottling. The palate is broad and easygoing with apple and lime flavors. W. Direct. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

88 **Soline 2024 (Pays d'Oc).** There's a ton of smoke on the nose of this bottling, giving a savory, oaky tone to the apple aromas. The palate is also awash in smokiness. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 **SAS Les Vignes du Domaine de Belle Mare 2025 (Picpoul de Pinet).** This is really exciting Picpoul, starting with aromas of tart apple and peach blossom. The palate is much more fascinating, showing bright and tense flavors of pear and peach that are sliced through with persistent acidity. W. Direct. *Editor's Choice*. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

91 **Gérard Bertrand 2024 Castellum Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de Pays Cité de Carcassonne).** This is a richer, almost Bordelaise style of Sauv Blanc, starting with aromas of candied lime and passion-fruit, with the slightest hint of woody warmth. The palate is broadly textured, with citrus and baked apple flavors picking up a waxy grip by the finish. USA Wine West. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

91 **Jadix 2025 (Picpoul de Pinet).** Rounded aromas of peach and plumeria are leveled by crushed stone and chipped flint elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense with lime peel and a zesty acidity that cuts into the riper flavors of poached pear and guava. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —M.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$39

89 **Domaine Saint-André 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Thau).** Lime peel and grassy herb

aromas meet with a peachy backdrop on the nose of this bottling. The palate is easygoing with stone fruit and citrus flavors. DHI Selections. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

88 **Domaine Montrose 2025 Chardonnay (Côtes de Thongue).** Poached apple and pear aromas meet with sugared nuts on the nose of this bottling. Ripe apple flavors meet with flashes of tartness on the palate. Cream Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

ROSÉS

92 **Domaine Saint-André 2025 Folied'Ines (Pays d'Oc).** Clean aromas of wet stone cut into the bubblegum juiciness on the nose of this bottling. The palate is zesty and vibrant with more bubblegum flavors that are cut by a firm texture and persistently stony minerality. DHI Selections. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

92 **Villa Viva 2025 (Côtes de Thau).** This bottling is reminiscent of walks on the seashore, with wet rock and ocean breeze aromas most prevalent on the nose. The palate is also mineral-driven, picking up hints of pink-fleshed lemon and citrus pith. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —M.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$33

91 **Domaine Montrose 2025 Rose Mont Rose (Pays d'Oc).** A pale, yellowish pink in the glass, this bottling offers crushed rock and bubblegum aromas on the nose. The palate is tense with chalky edges that give a tight frame to those familiar red fruit and tropical-flower flavors. Cream Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

91 **Domaine Montrose 2024 1701 (Côtes de Thongue).** There's a very subtle pink tone to the color of this wine, which offers elegant aromas of jasmine, plumeria, and fresh banana on the nose. The palate blends those tropical tones with apple blossom and a tightly woven texture, almost more like a white wine than a rosé. Cream Wine & Spirits. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

91 **Sarl Select Vins 2025 Ambrine (Languedoc).** A pale pink in the glass, this bottling shows aromas of strawberry, cotton candy, and chalk on the nose. The palate is very grippy and full of light red-fruit flavors that cling to the background texture. Wine Wine Situation LLC. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

90 **Les Vins Aujoux 2025 Vine to Bottle Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** A very pale pink in the glass, this bottling of organic grapes offers bubblegum and citrus-peel aromas on the nose. The palate is texturally interesting with citrus and guava flavors. Bridge Imports/Avenue Terroir. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

89 **Domaine Montrose 2025 Bisou Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** A very pale pink in the glass, this bot-

tling smells of bubblegum and lime spray on the nose of this bottling. There's a tense line down the midpalate that opens in chalky cherry and strong banana flavors. Cream Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON RED WINES LANGUEDOC

92 **Maison Verchant 2024 (Languedoc).** Dark red to black fruit, charred meat, and pleasantly herbal thyme aromas show on the nose of this blend of Grenache and Syrah. The palate offers white peppercorn and zesty elderberry flavors, as lavender elements float into the finish. Winery Direct LLC. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

91 **Sarl Select Vins 2025 Ambrine (Languedoc).** Tarry aromas of seared garrigue and dark elderberry are quite savory on the nose of this bottling. The palate sprinkles thyme, oregano, and sage atop sappy, slightly tart fruits. Wine Wine Situation LLC. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

88 **Mas de Janiny 2025 Le Blason (Languedoc).** Dark, figgy, stewed-plum aromas meet with nutmeg and toasted grapeseed on the nose of this bottling. The palate is somewhat tart and layered in anise and plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

PAYS D'OC

91 **Le Fat Bastard 2023 Merlot (Pays d'Oc).** There's a generous blast of red fruit on the nose of this bottling alongside a hint of crushed chalk. The palate lands cleanly with dark red fruit flavors, lightly floral elements, and a dusty minerality. Winebow Imports. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

90 **Le Fat Bastard 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** Dark fruit and crushed rock aromas converge on the nose of this whimsically named wine. The palate zips with ample acidity while presenting easygoing and juicy flavors of blackberry, pepper, and wood ash. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

90 **Le Fat Bastard 2023 Syrah (Pays d'Oc).** Bright and fresh aromas of boysenberry, purple flowers, white pepper, and clean ash show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is easygoing with berry, pepper, and lavender flavors. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

89 **Le Fat Bastard 2024 Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc).** Dark-cherry aromas meet with mint on the

pleasant nose of this bottling. The palate is familiar with cherry, orange peel, and lightly herbal flavors. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

89 SAS Les Vignes du Domaine de Belle Mare 2025 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc). There's a brightness to the fruit on the nose of this bottling but also an earthy, reductive streak. The palate is tightly wound and quite young, offering dark soil and crisp red-fruit flavors. W. Direct. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

88 Mas de Janiny 2025 Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). Candied blackberry and cola aromas are very rich and spicy on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite ripe and without much texture. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

OTHER RED WINES

93 Domaine Saint-André 2025 Syrah (Côtes de Thau). For full review see page 14. DHI Selections. *Best Buy*.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

91 Château des Adouzes 2024 Le Tigre (Faugères). Lush blackberry and black-currant aromas meet with toasted walnut and lilac elements on the nose of this blend of Carignan, Grenache, and Syrah, grown on schist soils. There's a sizzle of acidity that cuts into the rich black-cherry sorbet, vanilla cream and nutmeg flavors. Cream Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

91 Domaine Montrose 2023 Salamandre (Côtes de Thongue). This Cab-Syrah blend offers black cherry, raspberry, vanilla, and cardamom on the nose. The palate is hearty and broad, showing likable red fruit and ample spice, making for a solid everyday sipper. Cream Wine & Spirits. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

SOUTHWEST FRANCE WHITE WINES CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

88 Domaine Guillaman 2025 (Côtes de Gascogne). A crisp, lightly herbal wine, this is full of green fruits. Its grapefruit aroma and tangy texture add to the freshness of this lower-alcohol wine. Drink later this year. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$13

87 Domaine Guillaman 2025 Colombard & Sauvignon (Côtes de Gascogne). A classic local blend of Colombard and Sauvignon Blanc, this is a crisp, herbal wine. Its green-fruit aroma and lively, light texture are vibrant and refreshing. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 11% Price: \$13

87 La Marina 2025 Cuvée Océane (Côtes de Gascogne). The touch of Gros Manseng in the blend of this wine gives it a ripe, lightly honeyed character. With a pepper aroma and crisp citrus and white fruits, the wine is both lively and dense. Drink now. Elite Wine Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 11% Price: \$13

87 Maison Gascó 2025 (Côtes de Gascogne). Light and fruity, this blend of Gros Manseng, Colombard, and Sauvignon Blanc is an open wine. Its crisp texture, honeyed and grapefruit flavor, and jasmine aroma hang together well. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

87 Maison Gascó 2025 (Côtes de Gascogne). A herbal wine this has a mown-grass aroma and light citrus flavors. It is crisp, green fruits and a layer of acidity are coming together comfortably. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

86 Domaine de Ménard 2025 Cuvée Marine (Côtes de Gascogne). This typical Gascon blend gives a light wine with a salty character and a citrus aroma. It is lively with fresh acidity and lemon flavors. Drink now. The Wine Company. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 11% Price: \$13

86 Maison Gascó 2025 Chardonnay Réserve (Côtes de Gascogne). This is a smooth, light wine with yellow-fruit flavors and layers of fine acidity. With a light texture, a hay aroma, and a touch of spice, this is a rounded wine to drink now. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Domaine Rotier 2023 Les Gravels Blanc (Gaillac). With an extra year's aging, this blend of Loin de l'Oeil and Sauvignon Blanc is ripe and creamy. Its mown-hay aroma and softly crisp texture lead to a wine that balances acidity and fragrant white fruits. Drink now. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

89 Château MontPlaisir 2023 (Bergerac Sec). A blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc, this is dry, lightly honeyed with a nutty aroma. Its lively acidity and freshness finish with a lemon tang texture. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

89 Domaine Girardel 2021 (Jurançon Sec). A semi-sweet wine with a lightly honey character. Freshness and ripe peach flavors follow on from the wine's honeysuckle aroma. Drink from later this year. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

SPARKLING WINE

90 Domaine Rotier 2024 Renaissance Brut Nature (Gaillac). Loin de l'Oeil grapes from the Rotier estate go into this crisp, fresh sparkling wine. Its bright citrus and light pepper aroma lead to a lively texture with a buoyant aftertaste. Drink now. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

ROSÉ

87 Domaine Guillaman 2025 Rosé de Pressée (Côtes de Gascogne). With its Cabernet Sauvignon texture, this is a dry rosé that is crisp and fruity. Its lightness, poise, and red-fruit aroma are all bright and light. The wine is ready to drink. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

SOUTHWEST FRANCE RED WINES BERGERAC

90 Château MontPlaisir 2022 Polychrome (Bergerac). Malbec gives this wine a firm structure and adds to the black-fruit aromas in this four-grape blend. It is solidly built with a core of tannins cushioned by rich blackberry fruits. Drink from 2027. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

88 Château MontPlaisir 2022 Cuvée ZK 121 (Bergerac). Cabernet Sauvignon predominates in the blend with Merlot and Cabernet Franc. This is a ripe, full wine. It has a stylish swing of black fruits and a smoky aroma. Drink this wine from 2027. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

87 Château Mautain 2024 (Bergerac). From the region to the east of Bordeaux, this ripe and fruity wine is light and already accessible. Its red-berry fruit aroma and spice and black-currant flavor will be ready to drink later this year. Advantage International Distributors Inc.. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$16

CAHORS

91 Paul Hobbs & Bertrand Gabriel Vigouroux 2022 L'Atelier Crocus (Cahors). This is a structured wine with rich tannins and layers of black plum fruits, the fruit of a partnership between Sebastopol Calif., winemaker Paul Hobbs and Cahors producer Bertrand Vigouroux. The wine is balanced with a cinnamon aroma and a fine final layer of acidity. Drink from 2028. Paul Hobbs Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

BUYINGGUIDE

89 **Château Lamartine 2023 (Cahors).** A traditional blend of Malbec with a touch of Merlot to soften. This wine is ripe and generously balanced. Its licorice aroma and touch of pepper go well with the wine's black-currant flavors and freshening acidity at the end. Drink from 2028. Organic. Europe Vins. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

GAILLAC

92 **Domaine Rotier 2022 Renaissance Rouge (Gaillac).** A panoply of the red varieties of Gaillac go into this wine: Braucol, Duras, Syrah, and Prunelard. The result is a vibrant wine, with a spicy aroma and a fine balance between tannins and dense black fruits. Drink from 2028. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Domaine Rotier 2022 Les Gravels (Gaillac).** A ripe wine with a dark-coffee aroma and rich tannins. It is a structured wine, the firm texture balanced against layers of blackberry fruits. Drink from 2028. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

CORSICA WHITE AND ROSÉ WINES WHITE WINE

88 **Domaine Vetriccie 2025 Vermentino (Ile de Beauté).** This is a ripe, fruity wine, with a honey aroma and bright white-fruit flavors. Its taut texture will soften over the next few months. Drink from 2027. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉS

90 **Domaine Vetriccie 2025 (Corse).** The wine is rich as well as fruity, with ripe red berry flavors and a touch of spice. It has a lemon zest aroma that indicate the freshness of this attractive wine. Drink from later this year. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 **Domaine Vetriccie 2025 (Ile de Beauté).** Made from local varieties Niellucciu and Sciaccarellu along with Grenache, the wine has ripeness following its raspberry aroma. Its crispness and bright red fruits give a delicious wine. Drink from later this year. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

VIN DE FRANCE WHITE WINES

92 **Gérard Bertrand NV Esprit de Cotes des Roses Sparkling Rosé (Vin de France).** For full review see page 10. USA Wine West. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 **Maison Julien 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de France).** Mellow aromas of pear kick off the nose of this bottling. The clean palate shows a flash of texture that fades into lime peel and green pear flavors. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 **Biscaye Baie 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de France).** This soft, gently herbal wine has fresh green and citrus fruits along with a mineral edged texture. The wine is appealing and ready to drink. Aquitaine Wine USA LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$39

87 **La Rosalie 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Atlantique).** While the wine is fresh and crisp, it also has ripe white fruits and a flowery aroma. The wine has a tight texture that gives it shape. Drink now. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 **Atlantique 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Atlantique).** This wine is fresh with a fine balance between green and tropical fruits. Its acidity and the white-fruit aroma give freshness at the end. Drink now. Well Oiled Wine. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

86 **Domaine Guillauman 2025 Cirrus Colombard (Vin de France).** A light, off-dry wine from Gascony, this is lively and refreshing. Its quince aroma and crisp texture make it totally ready to drink. —R.V.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉ

87 **La Rosalie 2025 (Atlantique).** A warm, while fresh wine, softly fruity that has red-currant fruit flavors. The orange-zest aroma leads to a crisp wine ready to drink now. French Libation / Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

VIN DE FRANCE RED WINE

87 **Vignobles Boissonneau NV BLR Blouge (Vin de France).** This blend of red and white wines, gives a soft, just lightly textured wine. Designed for easy drinking, it is fresh with a strawberry flavor and a red fruit aroma. Drink now. Organic and biodynamic. Grape Expectation Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

PIEMONTE

89 **Vite Colte 2025 Fosche (Piemonte).** Pops out of the glass with the immediacy of a just-sliced ripe pear dripping with juice, tuberose, and candied lemon adding lift and freshness to an already inviting nose. The pear follows through on the palate with pleasing grip and texture, the finish landing cleanly on chalk and salt. An easy and genuinely pleasurable Chardonnay. Lorbert Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 **Pico Maccario 2024 Vita Sauvignon Blanc (Piemonte).** Fresh lemon and cut grass play their cards close, revealing delicate floral notes only when pressed. Subtle herbs whisper through morning dew, creating a quiet conversation rather than a bold statement. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

88 **Viberti 2023 Filebasse (Piemonte).** Like finding a favorite book translated into a new language, familiar notes of golden apple and toasted almonds take on unexpected accents. The palate keeps you guessing in the best way, ripe pear and vanilla-laced texture speaking with a Piedmontese twist that makes this classic story feel fresh again. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

LANGHE

93 **Luca Marenco 2024 Nascetta Del Comune di Novello (Langhe).** Very floral and deeply pretty on the nose, where stone fruit and a delicate touch of green melon weave together with a seductive elegance that commands your full attention. The palate is textured and layered with a refined and silky presence that carries through with real grace, where every element feels considered and perfectly placed to a long and breathtaking finish. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 **Nada Giuseppe 2021 Tecum Riesling (Langhe).** Quince and green peach set a cool and precise opening tone before a sharp and complex mineral intensity arrives and pushes the nose into genuinely intriguing territory that rewards attention. The palate opens up into a fresher and more generous stone-fruit place, lifted and bright with a mineral backbone that keeps the whole frame honest and composed through a long and serious finish. Vintage '59 Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 **Nada Giuseppe 2025 Armonia Bianco (Langhe).** Fresh lemon and bright orange peel lead before pivoting cleanly into crushed gravel and cool minerality on a nose that gets to the point without fuss. The palate is crunchy and zippy with vibrant

acidity keeping everything sharp and alive. Arneis and Sauvignon Blanc find easy common ground here, making this a genuinely fun and refreshing white. Vintage '59 Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

91 Viberti 2023 Rinato (Langhe). Sometimes the best traditions are the new ones—here in Barolo country, ripe pears and warm bread crust create something unexpectedly beautiful. The palate proves this experiment worked perfectly, everything creamy yet fresh, rich yet refined, showing how Chardonnay can speak fluent Piedmontese. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

90 Arnaldo Rivera 2024 Nascetta Del Comune di Novello (Langhe). Acacia blossom and white peach set a classically pretty tone before apricot, fresh herb, and a delicate fennel note arrive and fill out the nose with the kind of botanical complexity that makes Nascetta such a compelling and characterful variety. The palate is clean and well balanced with a lightly waxy texture and bright acidity carrying through with real composure. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

90 Bajaj di Adriano Moretti 2024 (Langhe). Fresh green herb meets lime zest and pith on a nose that crackles with energy and a zippy floral brightness that immediately draws you in. The palate is clean and lively, where citrus and fresh herb move together with easy charm and a light refreshing grace that makes this a genuinely fun and easy glass. Doria Wines LLC. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$24

90 La Spinona 2024 Chardonnay (Langhe). A touch of roasted apple meets lemon oil on a nose that sits comfortably and assuredly in classic Chardonnay territory without trying to be anything other than exactly that. The palate is mid weight and well composed, where the fruit carries with easy confidence before a clean salty finish lifts the close with a welcome snap. Frederick Wildman. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$44

90 La Spinona 2023 Pier Chardonnay (Langhe). Apples just beginning to bake and delicate white flowers open with a warm and inviting gentleness before a hint of cream adds a soft and rounded richness to the nose. The palate carries that warmth before a cool and unexpected minty finish arrives with a pleasing tension that snaps everything back into focus and keeps you returning. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$65

90 Réva 2024 Grey (Langhe). A soft fresh bread dough warmth weaves through a bright and vibrant citrus core that crackles with energy and freshness from the very first sniff. The palate is lively and forward, where zesty citrus fruit drives everything along with punchy confidence and the gentle baked richness underneath gives the whole thing a

really satisfying and rounded edge. Classica Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$36

89 Bel Colle 2025 (Langhe). A bright and almost electric freshness sets the tone immediately before crisp apple and generous orchard fruit arrive with easy charm and real clarity on the nose. The palate picks up a fresh citrus thread that keeps everything lively and light on its feet, carrying through to a clean and effortlessly lifted finish. Quintessential. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$23

89 Cantina del Nebbiolo 2023 Riveverse Nascetta (Langhe). Acacia blossom and ripe white peach drift in with an easy and inviting warmth before apricot and a whisper of fresh herb add a quietly intriguing botanical twist that keeps your nose returning for more. The palate has real texture and presence, where everything lines up with a satisfying harmony and the fruit pushes through with genuine energy and a bright and lively finish. Monsieur Touton Selections. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

89 Punset 2024 Arneis (Langhe). Yellow pear and underripe nectarine open with a tart brightness that keeps the nose fresh and lively, where almond skin adds a gentle dry edge that gives the whole thing a little more to think about. The palate is light and soft with easy approachable fruit that glides through without any friction. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

89 Saracco 2022 Vicolodeisanti Chardonnay (Langhe). Roasted orchard fruit, vanilla, and a gentle hint of cream open with a warm and familiar richness that covers classic Chardonnay ground with real ease and honest intent. The palate follows that same well-charted course with composure, where the fruit carries through with satisfying weight to a clean and well-resolved finish. WinesU. —J.P.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$65

89 Tenuta Rocca 2024 Chardonnay (Langhe). Fresh apples and white flowers arranged with the precision of a Milanese storefront window display, oak notes adding just enough polish. The palate brings that same well-crafted restraint, everything serious and considered, flowing with quiet elegance rather than flash. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

88 Fontanabianca 2025 Arneis (Langhe). Nectarine and fresh apple come in bright and lively with honeysuckle adding a delicate floral thread that ties the nose together with easy grace. The palate is fruity and approachable with a light saline finish that gives a welcome lift to the close. Clean, vibrant, and genuinely enjoyable from start to finish. Ethica Wines. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

88 Tenuta Rocca 2022 Chiara (Langhe). Like finding ripe pears and roasted oranges in a

fresh-cut wooden bowl, everything well-crafted but still settling in. The palate brings that same measured approach, dried apricots and orchard fruits working to find their voice. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$43

87 Ca' Viola 2024 Sirena Arneis (Langhe). Fresh apple and pear blossom notes leading to crisp citrus, with a whisper of white flowers. The palate brings straightforward orchard fruits with mineral touches, creating the kind of wine that works for casual aperitivo moments on the patio. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$21

86 Az. Agr. La Trava 2024 Arneis (Langhe). Fresh and crunchy with bright apple and citrus fruit on the nose before a slight bitterness arrives on the palate, the kind that recalls citrus pith or the skin of a peach, where natural grape compounds leave a dry and slightly grippy edge. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$10

86 Mario Rivetti Cascina Serre 2022 Chardonnay (Langhe). Orchard fruit and a soft hint of lemon arrive with a pretty and reserved elegance that keeps everything light and gentle from nose to finish. The palate is easy and clean with fresh fruit and soft acidity moving along without fuss. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

86 Taverna 2023 Vigna Gaia-Principe Chardonnay (Langhe). Ripe Mandarin orange and tropical fruit arrive with juicy and plush energy that sets an inviting and generous tone on the nose. The palate picks up that same ripeness before softening and thinning on the finish, where the fruit fades a little sooner than you would hope and leaves you wanting more. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

ROERO ARNEIS

93 Paolo Manzone 2024 Reysù (Roero Arneis). Wafting flowers and crushed stone open with striking mineral clarity before citrus peel and a clean slice of white peach add freshness and real depth to the picture. The palate steps up with a pleasantly grippy bitterness, similar to the dry edge of peach skin, that gives this wine real presence and texture. Pour it with food and watch it come fully alive. HB Wine Merchants Import. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

92 Azienda Agricola Cà di Cairé di Rolfo Emanuele 2022 Menelic Riserva (Roero Arneis). Sun-warmed honeysuckle and ripe peach gummies open with a generous and almost playful richness before wild mint arrives and cuts through with a cool and invigorating freshness. The palate is fruity and solid on its feet, where the fruit weight and bright acidity work together to deliver a clean and confidently structured finish. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Bajaj di Adriano Moretti 2023 Gaiuccio (Roero Arneis). Heady pressed flowers, both white and yellow, open with real intensity before cooked yellow plum and warm peach arrive with weight and richness that sets this apart from the lighter Arneis crowd. The palate is rounded and lush with genuine Chardonnay-like volume, signing off with an almond skin dryness that gives the finish real grip and character. Doria Wines LLC. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

92 Bel Colle 2025 (Roero Arneis). Lime zest squeezed over ripe stone fruit opens with a brightness and energy that immediately commands attention, where a kiss of flaky sea salt lifts the whole nose with effortless freshness. The palate delivers great texture alongside zippy acidity and lively fruit that moves with purpose and genuine pleasure to a clean saline finish. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$23

92 Cascina Chicco 2024 Riserva Renesio Incisa (Roero Arneis). White peach, fresh pear, and honeysuckle open the nose with easy charm before a clean stony mineral thread pulls focus and sharpens everything into place. The palate is where the Riserva makes its case, with a genuine and satisfying texture that gives the fruit real grip and presence, carrying bright acidity and a clean almond finish with real composure. Vinifera Imports LTD. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

92 Francone 2025 Magia (Roero Arneis). Citrus blossom and fresh florals lift the nose with a prettiness and delicacy that immediately set the tone, lime and ripe peach arriving with bright energy and real clarity. The palate is superfresh and vibrant, where everything moves with effortless precision and a lively acidity that keeps the finish clean and singing. Krewe du Bizou Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

92 Pelassa 2023 Tucci (Roero Arneis). Lime spritz and fresh florals set a bright and lively tone before citrus blossom drifts in with delicate precision. The palate is clean and fresh with a pleasantly pithy texture that adds real purpose and grip. The kind of wine that was practically made for sushi or ceviche. Atlantic Beverage Distributors. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

91 Cantina del Nebbiolo 2025 (Roero Arneis). Classic white peach and tart Fuji apple arrive with generous floral layers that give the nose an effortless lift and genuine brightness. The palate follows cleanly before a bold hit of mountain salt steals the show and drives the finish with real energy and precision. This is Roero Arneis at its most assured and satisfying. Monsieur Touton Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

90 Careglio 2024 (Roero Arneis). White peach and honeysuckle arrive with generous and easy charm before the palate opens up with real fleshy fruit weight that gives the wine a satisfying and rounded presence. A kiss of salt on the finish adds

a welcome lift and brightness that pulls everything together with clean and simple grace. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

90 Diego Rivetti 2025 (Roero Arneis). Lifted florals set the tone immediately before white peach, ripe pear, and almond follow in easy and confident succession, covering every classic Arneis note with genuine charm and precision. The palate is fresh and light on its feet, where clean bright acidity carries the pretty fruit. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

90 Pelassa 2024 Montà San Vito (Roero Arneis). White peach and fresh pear cover the classic Arneis ground with ease before a welcome textural element arrives on the palate and pushes things just a little further than expected. Not a wine that overreaches but one that delivers on every promise and then adds something extra. Atlantic Beverage Distributors. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

89 Azienda Agricola Ponchione Maurizio 2024 Monfrini (Roero Arneis). All the classic Arneis markers arrive before crushed stone, salt, and delicate florals add real depth and mineral character to the nose. The palate is bright and fresh but relaxes into juicy ripe peach rather than the crisp and taut frame the opening suggested, landing in an easy and pleasant rather than electric place. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

87 Duchessa Lia 2024 (Roero Arneis). Ripe pears and white almonds meeting fresh stone fruits and spring herbs. The palate follows the traditional script, where orchard fruits and subtle minerals create something comfortably familiar. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

MOSCATO D'ASTI

93 Az. Agr. La Trava 2025 (Moscato d'Asti). Fresh mint and lime leaves take center stage, while green herbs keep things crisp and lively. The palate brings unexpected zip and brightness, where tart apples and nectarines show Moscato's edgier side. This is what happens when pretty meets precision. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 5% Price: \$10

91 Manfredi Aldo 2025 (Moscato d'Asti). Fresh apricots and jasmine petals dance with garden mint and fresh herbs, while soft bubbles carry each scent skyward. The palate stays light and engaging, where creamy fizz and stone-fruit sweetness finish with memories of perfect peach gummies. This is Moscato showing its charming side. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 5.5% Price: \$18

89 Az. Agr. Ferrero di Fabrizio Ferrero 2024 Teresina (Moscato d'Asti). Just-cut peaches, apples, and tart mango create perfect fruit salad vibes, while light florals add detail. The palate stays sweet

and friendly, where gentle bubbles and soft summer fruits turn every sip into a treat. —J.P.
abv: 5% Price: \$NA

88 Ca'Bianca 2024 (Moscato d'Asti). Ripe peaches and candied citrus surf those soft bubbles, while mint and honeysuckle keep it breezy. The palate sparkles with that signature Asti fizz, where fresh fruit and playful bubbles prove sometimes less pressure means more fun. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —J.P.
abv: 5% Price: \$22

86 Duchessa Lia 2024 (Moscato d'Asti). Ripe peaches and honeysuckle float through mixed citrus aromas adding a lift to the nose. The palate offers expected sweetness and clean fresh stone-fruit flavors, complemented by soft fizz and fresh charm. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 5.5% Price: \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Villa Sparina 2022 Monterotondo (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Mediterranean sun-dried lemons and pressed flowers meet mineral-rich stones with salt crystals. The textural depth shows up ready to impress, each sip building momentum like waves on shore. This is Gavi proving it can hang with the big guns of white wine. Time to clear cellar space. Drink now—2040 Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$60

92 Duchessa Lia 2024 (Gavi). Fresh-squeezed lemon and sea salt crystalize on sun-warmed stones. Bright citrus notes dance through with mouth-watering precision, making this the kind of wine that begs for a plate of grilled octopus with lemon and olive oil. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

89 Viberti Giovanni 2024 Timorasso (Dertona). Slightly underripe white peach and green pear open with cool restraint before a wave of chalk and stony minerality takes over and steers the nose with purpose. The palate delivers genuine texture but stays on the leaner end of the frame, where crisp acidity and mineral drive keep everything taut and precise to the close. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

SPARKLING WINE

90 Vite Colte 2022 Cinquecento (Alta Langa). Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grown at 500 meters overlooking the hills of Barolo, keep everything fresh and vibrant. Warm and flaky apple turnover on the nose with a bright lift of lemon pith, the palate rounded and creamy before apple skin and sea salt bring everything into clean and satisfying focus. Lorbert Imports LLC. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

ROSÉ

90 Marrone 2024 Dolce Vita Rosato (Langhe). Morning-gathered berries varying from ripe to tart, while trail herbs keep things wild and fresh. The palate brings crunchy brightness and natural energy, where fruit and herbs capture that perfect moment when you reach the summit, everything just tastes better outdoors. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

PIEDMONT RED WINES PIEMONTE

93 G.D. Vajra 2024 Barbera Freisa (Piemonte). A bouquet of flowers wrapped in ripe red fruits, bringing the kind of charm that makes everyone smile. The palate stays plump and juicy, where easy pleasure meets clever depth. Like that indie film that wins both critics' hearts and box office gold, this wine knows how to please everyone without selling out. MHW, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Cantine Volpi 2024 (Piemonte). Crunchy red berries bounce around the glass like they just heard their favorite song. The palate brings that same infectious energy, where fresh fruit and bright verve create pure joy in liquid form. Pour this one when you need a reminder that wine is supposed to make you smile. By the Glass, LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Saracco 2024 Pinot Nero (Piemonte). Free-sia notes and warmed raspberries meet wild herbs in the glass. The palate stays taut and energetic, where green herbs and firm young tannins ride waves of bright acidity. This is Pinot showing its youthful spirit. WinesU. —J.P.
abv: 25% **Price:** \$30

85 Villa Sparina 2024 Barbera (Piemonte). Fresh raspberries and red cherries bring that juicy Piedmont energy while violets keep the mood bright. The palate's got this succulent thing happening, where ripe red fruits and fresh acidity make you want to fire up the pasta machine. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

LANGHE

95 San Lorenzo Alto 2022 (Langhe). Fresh cherries mingle with rose buds along with crushed stones and mountain herbs hailing from an elevation of 600 meters. The palate expresses pristine fruit and noble tannins, with layers upon layers. For a debut release, this wine speaks with the wisdom of an old soul—a first chapter of a book that reads like a classic

novel. 2026–2050. Polaner Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Bosio 2025 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Raspberries and roses tumble out of the glass with a freshness and lift that feels like pure joy in liquid form. Bright, perfectly balanced and with a mouthwatering drinkability that simply does not quit, this is the kind of wine that belongs everywhere and suits every occasion without apology. Porch, pool, dinner table or boat. Just bring enough for everyone. Quintessential. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

93 Bricco Ciarla 2023 Treviglie Nebbiolo (Langhe). Elegant and pretty with every classic Nebbiolo note showing up exactly where it should be, nothing out of place and nothing missing. Fine tannins, beautiful balance and a depth that keeps revealing itself sip after sip like a song with more verses than you expected. This is the kind of wine that quietly raises the bar for everything poured alongside it. CD Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

93 G.D. Vajra 2023 Freisa Kyè (Langhe). Pure rose extract meets cherries and red currants, cooking down with orange peel. The palate stays focused and structured, where firm tannins play through the seasons—winter's mushroom shepherd's pie or summer's flame-kissed steaks (with a slight chill). MHW, Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Gian Luca Colombo 2024 (Langhe). Classic Pinot precision with cherries and raspberries meets turned earth and dried leaves, while subtle herbs float through. The palate brings tart red fruit energy and savory depth, where structured tannins remind us pretty wines can pack muscle. Duck dishes are already lining up. Classica Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

93 Livia Fontana 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). This wine showed up to the party with an armful of mixed red fruits and absolutely no intention of leaving early. Plush from start to finish with rounded tannins that make the whole thing feel like a warm handshake not a firm one. Tasty, generous and the kind of fun that needs zero explanation. Just pour it and get out of the way. Vera Food and Wine. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Pietro Rinaldi 2022 Argante Nebbiolo (Langhe). Cherry and spearmint with a floral lift so pretty and precisely defined it feels completely intentional. The fruit carries straight through to the palate before savory herbs and earth quietly step forward with elegant tannins tying everything together with a confidence that never overshoots. This is a wine that was born to sit at a dinner table: Clear your evening. Breakthru Beverage Group. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

93 Sordo Giovanni 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Elegant ripe red fruits, a breath of fresh flowers and a touch of herb coming together in a way that feels effortless and completely unforced. The palate is where this wine really makes its case, holding that same freshness all the way through with a transparency and purity that feels like Nebbiolo with the volume turned down and the clarity turned all the way up. Tita Italian Import & Export. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

93 Viberti Giovanni 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). A tone of elegant restraint is set right away in this wine, where the glass fills with cut strawberries, their interiors a vivid bright red, crushed raspberries and a quiet lift of chopped herbs and tea. Tart red fruit runs a focused and precise course with savory spices and a grounding earthiness, expansive tannins refined to something beautifully polished. Serious, considered and completely compelling from first sniff to the final sip. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

92 Adriano Marco e Vittorio 2022 Lince (Langhe). Warm cherries and ripe plums meet purple flowers and allspice, showing Freisa's generous side. The palate keeps that friendly fruit energy flowing, while gentle tannins provide enough structure to remind you this is still serious wine. This is a bottle that knows how to work and play. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Camparo 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). This one opens with wild rose, hard cherry candy, and a cinnamon and anise wave that immediately lets you know it is not here to blend into the background. The palate takes that energy and runs with it, expanding and building with a generosity and presence that punches well above its Langhe Nebbiolo weight class. Overachiever. Completely welcome. Vine Bar. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Cascina Krejberg 2023 Sori Eroi Nebbiolo (Langhe). Mixed red fruits dusted with the kind of sweet baking spices that fill a kitchen with warm aromatics so it's a place you never want to leave. The palate is easy, fun, and just lush enough to feel like a treat without overdoing it. Pretty from start to finish and absolutely built for a great burger. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Castello di Verduno 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). The nose goes straight to herbal tea and freeze-dried raspberries with a savory character that feels deliberate and completely confident. Bright and tart on the palate, with a freshness that snaps before slightly drying tannins and a dried rosemary finish take things somewhere genuinely interesting. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Diego Morra 2024 Nebbiolo Il Sarto (Langhe). The nose is pretty and almost delicate, strawberries that feel more like a memory of the fruit than the fruit itself, as if they were in the room just moments

BUYINGGUIDE

before you arrived. Then the palate shifts, savory and purposeful through the mid and finish with chalky tannins that leave a clean and quietly lasting impression. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

92 Diego Rivetti 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Smashed tart red berries and just-cut savory herbs make an immediate and very confident entrance. The palate stays completely true to that promise, fine tannins threading through with a transparency that says this is Nebbiolo exactly as it is right now and right now happens to be pretty great. No apology, no pretense. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

92 G.D. Vajra 2024 Pinot Nero (Langhe). Tart cherries lead a wild berry parade, while whole cloves and dried flowers drift through. The palate brings fine tannins and bright energy, where savory herbs and black-tea notes beg for mushroom-heavy dishes or anything rich in umami. This is Pinot channeling its earthy side. MHW, Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

92 Tenuta Ronzano 2023 (Langhe). Nebbiolo does not always need to be serious, and this one has no interest in being anything other than the best time at the table. Baked cherries and warm spice, dried roses and orange peel with a whisper of raspberry jam, fine polished tannins and a bright, mouth-watering finish. Throw a little chill on it and meet your spring and summer red for BBQs. Catamarca Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$27

91 Alberto Rizzo Winery 2022 Sa'Duzet Dolcetto (Langhe). Violet candies and ink-stained fingers meet cherry-plum compote and warm spices, like someone's been making preserves all afternoon. The palate keeps things deliciously uncomplicated, with juicy fruit. Doesn't need overthinking. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

91 Bel Colle 2025 (Langhe). Mint and wild red berries with freshly cut flowers drift through like someone just walked past with a bouquet. Strawberries and raspberries with all their seeds intact, fine tannins that barely graze the palate just enough to remind you they exist. Fresh, elegant, and exactly the kind of wine that makes an ordinary week feel considerably better. Quintessential. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

91 Brezza 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Like walking into a room where someone has just spritzed rose water, crushed fresh sage, and thyme together—light and lifted and completely pretty. Tart red fruits move through a delicate and dusty palate with an herbal finish that feels as ethereal and weightless as the nose that started it all. Coeur Wine Co. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

91 Broccardo 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Tart cherries and just slightly underripe strawberries meet turned earth and freshly cut herbs with a quiet and grounded character that feels like it has more to

say with a little time in the glass. Straightforward, earthy and herb driven with a freshness that rewards patience. Caput Mundi Wine Import. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$27

91 Dosio 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). There is a lovely swagger to this, dried rosebuds and tart red berries announcing themselves with quiet but assured confidence right from the start. Raspberry and sour cherry take over on the palate, bouncing around with vibrant acidity and fine tannins that wrap up in a clean and genuinely refreshing finish. Rubia di Bra LLC d.b.a. Wine Icons. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

91 Ghèddo 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). This wine has a savory and fruity argument going on inside the glass: stewed cherries and plums spiced with cinnamon and star anise on one side, medicinal herbs and roasted earth firmly planted on the other. Neither wins and that push and pull is genuinely captivating. Find something braised and equally complex and pull the cork immediately. The Piedmont Guy. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$38

91 Luca Marengo 2022 Nebbiolo (Langhe). That nose deserves its own moment, lifted and refined with warmed red fruits, sweet spices and a quietly mesmerizing sandalwood and incense depth that stops you mid conversation. The palate is classic and steady, tannins well behaved and everything in its right place. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$27

91 Nada Fiorenzo 2021 Seifile (Langhe). Ripe blackberries and red plums simmer with warm spices and star anise, like walking into a kitchen on jam-making day. The palate rolls out waves of fruit and cinnamon sweetness, while fine tannins and graphite notes suggest this bottle's calling for a good ribeye. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$90

90 Agnelli Viassone 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Dark spiced cherries wrapped in cinnamon and cassia with a rosewood warmth that gives the whole thing a brooding and serious depth. Firm and taut with tannins that mean business and a structure that feels less like a casual Langhe Nebbiolo and more like a Barolo still figuring out which passport to carry. A touch of warmth on the finish but nothing that slows this down. GD Import Giacomo di Lisi. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

90 Carlo Giacosa 2024 Maria Grazia Nebbiolo (Langhe). This is a mixed carton of cherries, some ripe and sweet, some not quite there yet, with green herbs and a cool thread of green tea weaving through. Tart red fruits take control of the palate while tannins strike quickly and cleanly before savory earth notes make their entrance on the finish. Skurnik Wines. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$29

90 Cascina Chicco 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Fresh ripe cherries with a cranberry lift that

keeps everything bright and beautifully classic. The palate follows through with generous fruit and fine tannins that feel polished and completely at ease. Pretty, solid, and the kind of wine that never needs an occasion to justify opening it. Vinifera Imports LTD. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

90 Gagliasso 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Strawberry preserves straight from the jar with a whisper of spice. The palate is lush, fruit forward and completely at ease with fine tannins that never get in the way of the good time this wine is clearly having. This is warm-vintage Nebbiolo doing exactly what it was born to do. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$18

90 La Spinona 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Roasted fruits and warmed cherry compote with the heady scent of rose petals being slowly coaxed into something more concentrated and essential. Soft and round on the palate with a generosity that makes this an absolute drink me now situation. A wine that lives entirely in the moment and asks you to do the same. Frederick Wildman. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$44

90 Pecchenino 2024 Botti Nebbiolo (Langhe). Shy at first, sending just enough signals to keep you curious, a whisper of cherry, a hint of flower and a breath of mint before slowly opening up. Light and taut with tannins that move quickly and cleanly across the palate, bright acidity and a savory herbal finish that is basically begging for a dish built around sage. Winebow Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$23

90 Quila 2022 Bric Bissarello (Langhe). Ripe berries simmer with sweet spices, creating the kind of warmth that turns strangers into friends. The palate brings that same generous spirit, where gentle tannins and hints of leather and cinnamon prove comfort food comes in liquid form too. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

90 Ratti 2023 Ochetti Nebbiolo (Langhe). For full review see page 14. Maze Row Wine Merchant.

abv: 14%

Price: \$32

89 Barale Fratelli 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Strawberry tops in all their green and white glory lead a lean and herbal nose that keeps things refreshingly understated. The palate is taut and precise, fine tannins tracing a clean and focused line from start to finish. No frills, no fuss, and exactly right alongside a simple herb-roasted chicken. Williams Corner Wine. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$12

89 Tenuta Rocca 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Raspberry candies and flower petals perform their morning ballet in the glass. Fresh herbs join bright fruits in a light-footed dance, with sinewy tannins and zippy acidity conducting this graceful performance. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$26

88 Andrea Cauda Viticoltore 2021 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Cool mint and fresh rosemary land alongside drying cherries with a medicinal thread that leans more apothecary than orchard and yest somehow completely works. The tannins show up with a firm and drying grip that tells you clearly this wine has a very specific idea of how it wants to be enjoyed. Find a hearty dish and commit. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 Marrone 2024 CheVale Nebbiolo (Langhe). Like the moment just before a match catches, cool and mineral and slightly electric, with savory green herbs following close behind and grounding everything in a lean and earthy direction. The palate is tightly wound with a precision and focus that makes it a natural and instinctive companion to food, you favorite pasta or just a simple grilled skirt steak. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

88 Nada Giuseppe 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). High toned and bright with cranberry and tart red fruits setting a crisp and lifted tone from the very first sniff. Lean and herbal with a taut palate that keeps everything focused and precise. This is Nebbiolo in its most unfiltered and honest expression, light, lifted, and built for those who love the grape in its purest form. Vintage '59 Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

88 Tenuta Cucco 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Green and herbal with sour white cherries carrying a tartness that keeps the nose lively if a little lean. Fresh and easy on the palate with a lightness that charms in the moment without asking too much of you or promising more than it delivers. Straightforward and uncomplicated, best enjoyed without overthinking it. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Az. Agr. La Trava 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Spiced cherries soak in a bath of clove and cinnamon with a spirit-soaked warmth that gives the nose a rich and generous character. Dried red fruits, roasted cherry, and plum flavors move through a full and grippy palate with a bitter savory finish that keeps everything grounded. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

87 Manfredi Aldo 2024 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Cherry hard candy and freshly snipped marjoram open things up with a bright and approachable character. Tart red fruits carry the palate with a light and easy touch, while chalky tannins and a clean herbal finish keep everything tidy and refreshingly simple. A breezy and effortless pour. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Pelassa 2022 Corte Enrichetta (Langhe). Bright red fruits and approachable character show exactly what a weeknight wine should be. The palate brings simple pleasure without pretense, where

soft edges make everything from pasta to pizza feel a bit more special. Atlantic Beverage Distributors. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Tenuta Montanello 2023 Nebbiolo (Langhe). Homemade red-fruit preserves, the kind that comes in a recycled jar with a handwritten label and tastes better than anything you could buy. Medicinal herbs add a wildness that feels straight from a hillside rather than a recipe. Rustic, honest, and completely genuine—and that is exactly enough. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

NEBBIOLO D'ALBA

94 Paolo Manzone 2024 Mirine (Nebbiolo d'Alba). This is what a great vintage looks like when a great producer is paying attention. Sandalwood and teak set a warm and beautifully aromatic stage before dried cherries and wild strawberries arrive with a spice that feels perfectly measured. Light and impossibly elegant on the palate, refined in a way that never tips into delicate, this is the kind of wine that makes you slow down and actually pay attention. HB Wine Merchants Import. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

94 Sandrone Luciano 2024 Valmaggione (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Lifted and pretty on the nose with dark spiced cherries that have a seriousness beneath all that prettiness, like something elegant, but with a firm handshake. The palate does not ease you in: It arrives with a bang, ripe fruit, and refined tannins with just enough grip to tell you this wine has places to go. Give it time and it will absolutely get there in style. Drink now–2040. Vintus Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Marchesi di Barolo 2023 Roccheri (Nebbiolo d'Alba). This confidence in a glass. Fine tannins, real balance, and a tastiness that never lets up, hitting every mark with the kind of quiet precision that only comes from knowing exactly what you are doing. No theatrics, no surprises, just a genuinely well made and deeply satisfying Nebbiolo d'Alba that delivers from start to finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$47

93 Sordo Giovanni 2023 Vigna Valmaggione (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Regal and completely sure of itself, this is an elevated wine that leads with a purity of fruit that is genuinely striking. Strawberry out front, fine acidity framing everything with precision, and a chewy quality on the palate that gives it just enough grip to feel substantial without ever losing its refinement. Pretty in the best and most serious sense of the word. Tita Italian Import & Export. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Manera Fratelli 2023 Serre Buatto (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Imagine splitting open a bowl of spiced cherries mid-maceration with cardamom and cinnamon dusted over the top like someone got a

little heavy handed in the best possible way. The palate brings lush fruit and real brightness while forest floor notes slide in quietly from the background like a guest who knows exactly when to show up. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

92 Mario Rivetti Cascina Serre 2022 (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Dark fruit and darker savory notes build something genuinely big and bold without ever tipping into brute force territory. This is the power-lifter who also reads—all that muscle and presence backed up by a real intelligence and depth that keeps everything controlled and purposeful. A lot of wine in the best possible sense, and smart enough to know it. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Alterris 2021 Superiore (Nebbiolo d'Alba). That lifted oak spice makes a confident opening statement before marasca cherry and darker fruits step forward with a juiciness and ripeness that carries all the way through the palate. Tannins build steadily toward the finish with just enough presence to give this real substance without tightening things up. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

91 Pelassa 2023 Sot (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Polished and crunchy with a solid core that leans into the fruit forward and rounded side of Nebbiolo rather than the brooding tar and rose end of the spectrum. This is the grape showing its approachable and generous personality, clean classic fruit with tannins that have been smoothed down to something completely inviting. Atlantic Beverage Distributors. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Marchesi di Barolo 2023 Michet (Nebbiolo d'Alba). That lifted floral opening is the first thing and it is genuinely pretty—the kind of nose that sets a tone and sticks to it. The palate takes a slight turn toward darker fruit territory with a chewy quality that gives the whole thing a satisfying grip and depth. Light on its feet at first and then quietly more serious than it looks. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Bruna Grimaldi 2024 Bonurei (Nebbiolo d'Alba). A lighter and more energetic expression of the vintage, tart fruits, and a herby freshness gives this a vibrancy that feels genuinely fun rather than serious. Easy drinking without being simple. Come back to the glass a little later and it quietly reveals more than the opening suggested, the kind of small surprise that makes a bottle disappear faster than expected. Massanois Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Cantina del Nebbiolo 2024 Vigna Valmaggione (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Shy and still finding its footing, red fruits and a whisper of roasted wood slowly make their way forward like a wine that knows it is not quite ready to show all its cards. The finish keeps things understated and quiet. Cellar this one

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and check back in when it has had a chance to properly wake up. Monsieur Touton Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Tenuta Rocca 2023 Vigna Sorì Ornati (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Classic young Nebbiolo strutting its stuff with rose petals and bright cherries. Firm tannins flex their muscles, making it clear this wine isn't here for small talk but wants to meet you at the table with a plate of braised short ribs. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$43

87 Carlo Casetta 2022 STIL (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Spiced woods and star anise wrap around cherries in syrup with a tart and bittersweet medicinal quality that leans more amaro than orchard. It is a specific and somewhat singular experience, the kind of wine that tastes like it has a strong opinion and is not looking for approval. Areni Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

ROERO

94 Cascina Chicco 2022 Valmaggior Riserva (Roero). Dried cherries awaken in the glass while warm baking spices and hints of five-spice build anticipation. The palate delivers on every promise, where fine tannins and precise balance show what happens when tradition meets talent. Drink now–2045. Vinifera Imports LTD. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

93 Bajaj di Adriano Moretti 2022 Bric Nota (Roero). Fresh cherries and tart raspberries create the kind of elegance that never needs to raise its voice, while subtle herbs add just the right complexity. The palate brings that same refined energy, where bright fruit and fine tannins prove grace and strength aren't mutually exclusive. Doria Wines LLC. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Nota Giuliano 2022 Runcajot (Roero). Hightoned red fruits and delicate florals dancing together with perfect poise, like spring decided to make a fancy appearance. The palate brings that same lifted elegance, where subtle toasted warmth and fine tannins lead to a cinnamon-kissed finish that feels just right. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

93 Pelassa 2022 Sterlotti Riserva (Roero). Red fruits and delicate flowers speak in whispers, creating the kind of quiet confidence that makes everyone lean in closer. The palate brings that same refined energy, where perfect balance reminds us sometimes the best conversations start with listening. Drink now–2045. Atlantic Beverage Distributors. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Careglio 2021 Valmezzana Riserva (Roero). Cherries warming in sweet spices, bringing the kind of polish that never tries too hard. The palate stays plump but precise, where fine tannins suggest

this bottle's perfect for Moroccan lamb tagine or that mushroom Wellington you've been wanting to try. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

90 Carlo Casetta 2022 FIL (Roero). Cranberries and red currants take a stroll through the herb garden, while rose petals drift on the breeze. The palate leans into that savory side, where bright fruit meets garden freshness and fine tannins create the kind of tension that keeps you coming back. Areni Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Quila 2023 Bric Sghijon (Roero). Candied cherries meet nutmeg, allspice, and cinnamon in the glass, bringing sweet lifted energy. The palate stays rich but fresh, where toasted vanilla notes and warming spice create layers of texture. This is like someone's baking project that got wonderfully sophisticated. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

BARBARESCO

95 Castello di Verduno 2021 Rabajà (Barbaresco). Red fruit is lifted and bright, grabs you immediately and won't let go, where tart cherry and strawberry give the nose a freshness and clarity. The palate follows with the kind of depth and dark complexity that belongs to writers who understand time, where refined tannins and structured earth build a story that is nowhere near its final chapter. Cellar this one with patience and intention. Drink now–2045. Polaner Selections. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

95 Manera Fratelli 2020 Riserva Rizzi (Barbaresco). Every detail here is accounted for, nothing left to interpretation or chance, where the purity of Rizzi's red cherry and crushed rose petal arrives with a focus and intensity. The palate is a masterclass in precision, where ripe tannins and bright acidity carry deep red fruit and warm spice through a finish that builds slowly and refuses to rush. This is a Riserva with complete command of itself and the kind of expression that makes the case for Barbaresco without needing to raise its voice. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

95 Sottimano 2023 Cottà (Barbaresco). Drying cherries steeping with black tea leaves while fresh mint and palo santo create an atmosphere that makes you slow down and pay attention. The palate reveals layers of tart red fruits carried on fine, dusty tannins that feel like silk scarves in the wind. This is what happens when a vineyard finds its perfect voice and a winemaker knows exactly how to listen. Here's a wine that bridges the gap between now and later, between pleasure and profundity. Drink now–2045. Giuliana Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

95 Sottimano 2023 Pajore (Barbaresco). Fresh-picked raspberries and wild strawberries

share space with garden mint and sage, while cardamom and star anise create layers that keep revealing themselves with each swirl. The palate moves with laser focus, where pristine fruit and polished tannins show what happens when everything lines up perfectly. This is the kind of wine that causes people to fall in love with Barbaresco, showing precision without austerity, power without weight, depth without darkness. Pure class in a glass. Giuliana Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

94 Antichi Poderi dei Gallina 2022 Gallina (Barbaresco). The Gallina vineyard delivers a nose of lifted cherries and red currants with a purity and quiet elegance that feels genuinely earned and impossible to rush. The palate is a study in balance, where fresh red fruit opens with real generosity before fine tannins and bright acidity move things forward with precision, and quiet earth notes settle into the finish with authority. Built for tonight and beyond. Drink now–2040. Cherio Holding & Trading. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Antico Monastero 2023 (Barbaresco). Cherries and red currants catch waves of fresh mint and clove through the glass like summer breeze through herb gardens. The palate flows in gentle swells, where red fruits, garden herbs, and fresh earth rise and fall through silky tannins. This is what grace tastes like. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

94 Carlo Giacosa 2023 Asili (Barbaresco). Split cherries and raspberry gels mingle with fresia flowers and fresh strawberry greens in one of Barbaresco's most revered corners. The palate shows why Asili turns juice into jewels, where bright fruit and supple tannins create layers that will keep unfolding for years. Dark spices whisper about patience. Drink now–2035. Skurnik Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

94 Cigliuti 2022 Serraboella (Barbaresco). Mint leaves float over plump plums and berries, while warming spices create the kind of richness that makes everyone at the table smile. The palate keeps that energy flowing, where rounded fruit and silky texture prove sometimes more is exactly right. Skurnik Wines. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

94 Manera Fratelli 2022 Rizzi (Barbaresco). Plump tart cherries and cranberry open the glass with generosity and spice, where sweet cinnamon and savory herbs create a layered backdrop that earns attention. The palate brings that same juicy energy forward with bright acidity keeping everything lively and fresh, while fine tannins frame the whole picture with enough structure to suggest this one has more to say in a few years. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

94 Nada Fiorenzo 2021 Rombone (Barbaresco). Cool menthol cherry and layers of savory spice build a nose that feels both bracing and purpose-

ful, where fresh herb and red fruit arrive with real character and clean precision. The palate deepens and darkens without losing its footing, where firm tannins and solid structure frame the fruit with a confidence that signals a wine built for time. Rombone earns its reputation quietly here and this vintage demonstrates that. Drink now–2040. Bacchanal Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$90

94 **Nada Giuseppe 2021 Casmar Riserva (Barbaresco).** Bright cranberry and dried rose petal create a nose of striking purity and floral precision, where high-toned red fruit arrives with effortless grace and genuine refinement. The palate builds on that same delicate foundation, where tannins are present and poised without ever crossing into harshness, carrying bright and pretty fruit through a finish that speaks softly but says everything worth hearing. Drink now–2045. Vintage '59 Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$80

94 **Sottimano 2023 Basarin (Barbaresco).** Red berries play between fresh and candied sweet while flowers and spices paint a picture of pure Basarin beauty. The palate brings that same thoughtful depth, where juicy fruit meets structure in a way that makes you understand why some vineyards earn their reputation. This is what happens when place, producer and vintage line up perfectly. Drink now–2045. Giuliana Imports. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

93 **Adriano Marco e Vittorio 2020 Basarin Riserva (Barbaresco).** Strawberry compote and plump cherries lead a warm and spiced nose that feels immediately generous and ready to go, where dark baking spice adds real depth without slowing anything down. The palate is juicy and forward with plenty of red-fruit energy and a lively warmth that keeps the experience vibrant from start to finish. This is Basarin and Barbaresco showing their fun side and making a compelling case for opening it tonight. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$70

93 **Bel Colle 2023 Convivio (Barbaresco).** This is black and white cinema in a glass, where spice-soaked cherries and black tea create the kind of atmosphere where you expect someone to walk in wearing a fedora. The palate keeps that moody energy with dark fruits floating through fine tannins. Enjoy after 2028. Quintessential. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

93 **Bel Colle 2023 Pajorè (Barbaresco).** Fresh cherries and wild mint catch the breeze from this high-perched vineyard, where elevation brings natural freshness to every bottle. The palate brings that same uplifting energy, where bright fruit and gentle structure flow together like they've found the perfect rhythm. Morning sun in liquid form. Quintessential. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

93 **Borgogno F.lli Serio e Battista 2023 (Barbaresco).** Juicy cherries and ripe berries bring pure joy without trying too hard, like someone who knows they nailed it but skips the victory lap. The palate keeps that easy confidence flowing through fine tannins. Classic Barbaresco that remembers wine should be fun and express the soul of this historic place in one glass. Drink now–2035. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

93 **Bricco Ciarla 2023 Ferrere (Barbaresco).** Morello cherries and macerated berries are throwing a party with citrus peel and cinnamon sticks, like your favorite craft cocktail bar went wine-first. The palate brings that same vibe, where bright fruit and polished tannins prove you can be serious without the suit and tie. CD Selections. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

93 **Ca' del Baio 2023 Vallegrande (Barbaresco).** Fresh and cooked berries play both sides, like someone's making pie filling while snacking on just-picked fruit. The nose weaves cardamom and star anise through dried rose petals, while the palate brings generous waves of juicy fruit before tannins step in to remind you patience pays off. You can drink it now, but buy more than two bottles. Drink now–2050. Omnivines. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

93 **Cascina Chicco 2022 Ovello (Barbaresco).** Red fruits and warming spices craft something as precise as vintage Japanese denim—no flash, just perfect details that reveal themselves over time. The palate brings that same refined character, where everything sits exactly where it should. Vinifera Imports LTD. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$60

93 **Elvio Cagno 2022 Bordini (Barbaresco).** Candied cherries and fresh herbs mix with a cherry-lozenge zing. The palate zips along all bright and lean, where tart red fruits bring a party-like energy. Think of it as your favorite indie band doing an acoustic set—same songs, just more nimble. Drink now–2040. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$72

93 **Manfredi Aldo 2022 (Barbaresco).** Ripe red cherries and wild strawberries lead a nose that is both confident and generous, the kind of opening that sets expectations and then meets every single one cleanly. The palate drives forward with bright red fruit and lively acidity while firm and present tannins keep everything properly in check. Well balanced from start to finish and solidly built. Drink now–2040. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$33

93 **Nada Giuseppe 2023 Marcarini (Barbaresco).** Bowl-fresh raspberries surrounded by climbing roses and sweet-pea blossoms deliver pure morning-garden vibes. The palate turns playfully tart with bright cherries and orange-peel bitterness, where

plump fruit and fine tannins keep the energy flowing right through the finish. Vintage '59 Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$45

93 **Produttori del Barbaresco 2022 (Barbaresco).** Dark fruits and firm structure remind us why this co-op has been the neighborhood's best dinner party secret for generations. The palate brings that same trusted pleasure, where depth and volume prove sometimes the best bottles come from many hands working as one. Vias Import Ltd. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$45

93 **Punset 2018 Basarin Riserva (Barbaresco).** Crushed cranberry and red currant open with a gentleness and precision that immediately signals something refined and unhurried, where a hint of blood orange brightens the picture before clove settles in with quiet warmth. The palate starts softly and builds with genuine elegance, where superfine tannins and subtle layering reveal more with every sip. Basarin in Riserva form is a patient wine that speaks in complete sentences. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

93 **Punset 2016 San Cristoforo Campo Quadro Riserva (Barbaresco).** Cherry-fruit leather and warm strawberry open with a quiet composure that signals something deeply settled and ready, where worn leather and soft earth add layers that only years in the bottle can provide. The palate carries that same elegant refinement throughout, with fine tannins and perfectly integrated acidity moving forward. This is a wine at exactly the right moment in its life. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

93 **Tenuta Ronzano 2022 Pepino (Barbaresco).** The moment the Pepino opens, something shifts. Incense, dried flowers, whole cinnamon, and star anise lift from the glass with a quiet grace that makes you stop whatever you were doing. Dried cherry, strawberry, and tart cranberry weave through soft tannins with a savory earthy finish that grounds everything beautifully. Contemplative enough for a quiet evening, bold enough for a soy-marinated flank steak off the hibachi. Drink now–2045. Catamarca Imports. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

92 **Adriano Marco e Vittorio 2023 Basarin (Barbaresco).** Black cherries and plums mingle with sage and incense while summer heat gets turned into something beautiful. The palate brings a meeting of stewed cherries and raspberry coulis, and black tea and herbs, where savory depth begs for five-spice duck breast or mushroom-crust lamb. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

92 **Bel Colle 2023 Gallina (Barbaresco).** Fresh cherries and raspberries mix with mint and allspice. The palate brings that same bright energy, where vibrancy and elegance remind us sometimes

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the best wines don't make you wait to have fun. Open now, thank yourself later. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 Borgo Castagni 2023 (Barbaresco). Wild strawberries and fresh cherries meet garden roses and dewy-morning soil, delivering exactly what you hope for when you pull the cork. The palate brings that same reliable pleasure, where fine tannins and bright fruit remind us classics become classics for good reasons. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

92 Bosio 2023 (Barbaresco). Bing cherries and black-tea leaves mingle with rosewood and incense. The palate layers dark fruit with nutmeg, allspice, and tellicherry pepper, where refined tannins prove good wine knows how to set the mood. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

92 Carlo Giacosa 2023 Ovello (Barbaresco). Cherry candy and wild roses float up with fresh spearmint and garden herbs. The palate shifts to red currants and wild strawberries with autumn leaves scattered in, where fine tannins let everything feel as easy as a summer breeze. Skurnik Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

92 Carlo Giacosa 2023 Montefico (Barbaresco). Fresh cherries and wild berries dance with garden roses and morning earth, like all your favorite Barbaresco memories getting together. The palate keeps things bright and breezy, where juicy fruit and fine tannins flow with pure drinkability. Skurnik Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Cascina Krejberg 2023 Gaia-Principe (Barbaresco). Dried cherries and wild berries are wrapped in fresh herbs while spices bring in a sweet heat, like a visit to the corner store of your childhood. The palate keeps that nostalgic kick alive, where bright fruit and warming cinnamon turn every sip into a flavor flashback. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Cascina Rabaglio 2021 Meruzzano (Barbaresco). Red berries and ripe cherries come in full and giving before a wave of dark herbs and layered spice pulls the nose toward something more serious and grounded. The palate stays true to that tension, where chewiness and ample tannins frame the fruit with genuine structure and intention. Not a wine that overpromises but one that absolutely delivers. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

92 Figli Luigi Oddero 2023 Rombone (Barbaresco). Strawberries and red currants mix with mint and star anise in your favorite vintage shop's back room. The palate keeps that untamed spirit alive with darker fruits and grippy tannins. The kind of wine that pairs with well-worn leather chairs and game bird stew. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$78

92 Fontanabianca 2023 Serraboella (Barbaresco). Cherries get friendly with fennel seeds and dried bay leaf, bringing a savory edge to the party. The palate keeps things light and approachable, where gentle red fruits and soft tannins create an easy-drinking Tuesday night Barbaresco. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 Francone 2022 Staderi (Barbaresco). Men-thol and hard-cherry candy create a nose that feels both bright and surprisingly fresh. The palate rounds things out with generous fruit that never tips into excess, where fine tannins and lively acidity keep everything well shaped and moving forward with quiet purpose. Krewe du Bizou Wines. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 Icardi 2022 Staderi (Barbaresco). Dried-herb tea and candied cherries open with earthy sweetness and real warmth, where palo santo drifts through the glass. The palate is solid and juicy with plenty of fruit and presence, where toasted warmth and dark cherry keep everything lush and well supported throughout. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 La Spinona 2022 Ronchi (Barbaresco). Red cherries and wild strawberries keep things soft and friendly. The palate flows with that same easy grace, where juicy berries and gentle tannins meet warming spices. A wine that can ease anyone into loving Nebbiolo. Frederick Wildman. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 La Spinona 2022 Secondine (Barbaresco). Red currants and tart cherries open cleanly with dried herbs keeping things grounded in a classic Barbaresco frame. The palate is structured and honest with tannins that lean slightly green and firm, giving the whole experience a crisp and angular quality that settles in nicely alongside braised meats and gives back more than it asks. Frederick Wildman. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 La Spinona 2021 Bricco Faset Riserva (Barbaresco). Red cherry and earth open with quiet restraint on a nose that speaks in measured tones rather than volume. The palate is solid and structured, where fine tannins and dark fruit hold steady with real purpose, making clear that what is here now is only part of the story. Drink now–2035. Frederick Wildman. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$98

92 Nada Giuseppe 2023 Casot (Barbaresco). Crushed raspberries and tart currants play through freesia petals like someone bottled spring's best moment. The palate keeps that juicy pleasure flowing through fine tannins, where fruit and flowers find their way to an herb-kissed ending. Vintage '59 Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Pasquale Pelissero 2022 Cascina Crosa (Barbaresco). Bright cranberry and tart cherry lead a nose that speaks with elegance rather than

volume, with dried thyme and sage keeping the whole picture clean and purposefully classic. The palate answers with fine and present tannins, where structure and red fruit stay in quiet but convincing conversation. This one is built for the long game. Drink from 2027. Massano Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Adriano Marco e Vittorio 2023 Sanadaive (Barbaresco). Raspberries and quiet flowers meet fresh herbs, creating the kind of welcome that makes everyone feel at home. The palate stays plump and friendly, where mixed berries and lively acidity dance through soft tannins. A bottle that knows comfort and style aren't opposites. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Alessandro Rivetto 2021 (Barbaresco). Lifted red cherries and dried rose petal open with a purity that feels almost crystalline, where everything arrives clean and precise without a note out of place. The palate carries that same pretty character forward with fine tannins and fresh acidity, but the finish steps back before the story is fully told. Conexport Italy. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Carlo Giacosa 2023 (Barbaresco). Fresh cherries and light spices checking all the basic boxes without trying to steal the show. The palate brings that same honest approach, where gentle tannins and bright red currants remind us sometimes wine just needs to be good company at dinner. Perfect alongside herb-crusted rack of lamb. Skurnik Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 La Spinona 2022 Bricco Faset (Barbaresco). Tart red cherries and cranberry open with a dried bramble edge that gives the whole nose a slightly wild and rustic character. The palate turns firm and tannic with a touch of dried fruit that pulls things toward the lean side, before a savory and herb-driven finish closes things out. Frederick Wildman. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

91 La Spinona 2022 Cars (Barbaresco). Ripe cherries and dark plums build a plush and rounded nose that feels polished and confident from the first pour. The palate follows with juicy depth and a soft texture before firm tannins step forward to remind you who is in charge here. This one is built for the dinner table and will reward you for respecting that. Frederick Wildman. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

91 Pasquale Pelissero 2022 Bricco San Giuliano (Barbaresco). Medicinal herbs and cherry hard candy open with the kind of purposeful intensity that makes you sit up and pay attention, with black tea threading quietly through the background. The palate turns dark and chewy with firm tannins that carry genuine grip, where spiced dark fruit holds steady throughout and leaves something worth thinking

about. Drink from 2027. Massanois Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

91 **Pietro Rinaldi 2021 San Cristoforo (Barbaresco).** Wild fennel frond and spearmint give the nose a cool and purposeful edge before warm allspice and cherry bring depth and gentle sweetness that rounds everything out. The palate stays true throughout, where fine tannins and bright acidity carry bright red fruit forward with real structural integrity to a clean and confident close. Breakthru Beverage Group. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

90 **Cascina Vano 2021 Rivetti Riserva Il Pilone (Barbaresco).** Toasted cedar and warm spice set the tone immediately on a nose that leans into its oak character from the start, with plum and ripe cherry adding juicy softness around the edges. The palate follows with round and plump fruit before firmer oak tannins arrive to anchor the finish. Drink now–2035. Golden Vines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

90 **Icardi 2022 Montubert (Barbaresco).** Dark plums and warm cedar spice show the modernist hand at work, where toasted warmth sits upfront without crowding out the lush Nebbiolo fruit beneath. The palate brings firm and chewy tannins with a real grip, where dark fruit holds its ground with conviction. Built for those who want their Barbaresco with some weight and intention behind every sip. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 **Nada Fiorenzo 2021 Manzola (Barbaresco).** Plump red cherries and ripe wild berries open with an easy generosity that makes the whole thing feel like a genuinely good time from the first pour. The palate follows with juicy depth and fine tannins that keep everything moving with purpose and pleasure. If you are looking for a wine for tonight with some style and grace, here it is. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 **Tenuta Ronzano 2022 Bricco di Neive (Barbaresco).** Sweet spices make themselves at home the moment the glass opens, liquored cherries and subtle herbal notes filling in close behind. The palate goes a little darker, with roasted mushroom and spiced fruit giving it an earthy, grounded edge that keeps things interesting. Fine tannins and those persistent sweet spices tie the whole story together from beginning to end. Catamarca Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

89 **Azienda Agricola Mustela 2022 Meruzzano Karmico (Barbaresco).** Red candy and sour-cherry jam arrive wrapped in cinnamon warmth, the kind of nose that earns a second consideration. The palate carries that same sweet and tart character through with steady structure, where spiced fruit stays true throughout before cool garden herbs bring

everything cleanly back to earth on the finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

89 **Cantina del Nebbiolo 2023 (Barbaresco).** Reserved dark fruits and earth tones lead a quiet nose. The palate shows basic Nebbiolo structure but struggles to express varietal character. Primary flavors remain muted, with limited depth or development through the finish. Monsieur Touton Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

88 **Fontanabianca 2023 Bordini (Barbaresco).** Wild herbs and bramble mix with stewed berries and warming spices, bringing more countryside than elegance to the glass. The palate stays grounded where others might soar. A straightforward companion for pasta with wild mushrooms. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

88 **Francone 2021 Albesani (Barbaresco).** Dried cherry and light herbs build a nose that checks the expected Barbaresco boxes without pushing beyond them. The palate stays true to that straightforward character, where fine tannins and modest red fruit move through cleanly without much fuss. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Duchessa Lia 2022 (Barbaresco).** Dried roses and forest floor do their traditional Barbaresco waltz with dark cherries. Firm tannins and earthy depth stick to the script, creating a straightforward wine that works best when there's a pan of osso buco in the kitchen. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

BARBERA D'ALBA

94 **Sandrone Luciano 2024 (Barbera d'Alba).** Damp earth, stewing plum, and cherry open with a lush and immediately seductive depth before thyme and rosemary arrive and give the nose a wild and aromatic lift that feels almost effortlessly Piedmontese. The palate delivers everything you could want from Barbera and then some, where the generous and lush fruit is threaded through with an unexpected vein of refinement and elegance that elevates this into genuinely serious territory. Vintus Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Cascina Chicco 2023 Bric Loira (Barbera d'Alba).** Bric Loira walks the line between serious and seriously fun with a rare and effortless confidence that very few wines at any price point manage to pull off. Juicy and vibrant with a depth and structure that rewards your full attention, this is Barbera that has done the work and shows every bit of it, where bright fruit and a firm and focused backbone come together in a way that makes this genuinely exciting. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

93 **Pelissero 2022 Tulin (Barbera d'Alba).** There are wines that ease you in gently and then there is Tulin, which grabs you by the collar from the very first sniff and refuses to let go. Super fresh and crackling with an almost electric vibrancy, the palate is laser focused with a bright and mouthwatering acidity that makes every sip feel urgent and alive. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

93 **Tenuta Montanello 2022 Crocetta (Barbera d'Alba).** Ripe plum and a stunning rush of violet announce Crocetta with a prettiness and floral elegance that is hard to look away from. The palate is where things get really serious, delivering a generous and full-bodied richness that could easily feel heavy in lesser hands, but a bright and laser-focused acidity keeps every single sip clean and fresh. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$40

93 **Viberti Giovanni 2024 La Gemella (Barbera d'Alba).** Sour plum and dried violets open with a vivid and immediately captivating energy before balsamic and herbal notes weave in and add a savoury intrigue that keeps the nose endlessly interesting. The palate is pure Barbera at its most thrilling, crackling with zippy acidity and a crunchy fruit energy that lifts everything skyward and refuses to let go. Opici Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

92 **Marchesi di Barolo 2023 Ruvei (Barbera d'Alba).** Classic Barbera done with real polish and a lush and pretty confidence that never tries too hard and never needs to. The palate is bright, juicy and driven by a zippy acidity that was basically born to cut through a great pizza or sit next to something smoking on the grill with good friends around the table. Frederick Wildman & Sons Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

91 **Az. Agr. La Trava 2023 Achivi (Barbera d'Alba).** Achivi announces itself with a rush of plump and spice-laced dark fruit that hits with the kind of joyful confidence that makes you smile before you even put the glass down. The palate is pure juicy pleasure, where fruit pops and spice dances together in a way that is simply very hard to argue with. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

91 **Luca Marengo 2023 (Barbera d'Alba).** Warmed plum and freshly cracked dark spices roll out of the glass with an effortless confidence that only Barbera at its best can pull off. The palate is rich, generous and completely in its element, where ripe fruit and bold spice lock arms and march through to a finish that makes you wish the bottle was bigger. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

91 **Tenuta Rocca 2024 (Barbera d'Alba).** Purple and red fruits bounce with the fresh energy you feel when the DJ just hit your favorite track. The palate keeps that same groove—crunchy berries and bright acidity making you want to throw this in the fridge to

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chill a moment before you pop the cork. Prestige Wine Imports. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$26

90 Ca' Viola 2023 Bric du Luv (Barbera d'Alba). Spiced cherries are soaking in vanilla extract while someone bakes the holiday cookies. The palate brings that same kitchen energy, tart fruits, and chewy texture creating the kind of wine that makes weeknight pasta feel more ambitious. This wine levels your meal up. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$51

89 Cascina Chicco 2024 Granera Alta (Barbera d'Alba). Tart blueberries and sour red fruits come crackling out of the glass with an infectious and zippy energy before a fresh herbal thread adds a lively and slightly wild edge. The touch of green keeps everything bright and on its toes, making this a crunchy and vibrant Barbera that drinks with real gusto and personality. Vinifera Imports Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$30

89 Punset 2024 (Barbera d'Alba). Rose petals and a generous bouquet of delicate florals open with a pretty and inviting charm before tart red fruits add a lively and freshening energy to the nose. A subtle green herbiness runs through and gives the wine a slightly wild edge, while the palate rounds out with plump and generous fruit that delivers a satisfying and easy close. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —J.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$25

88 Cascina Chicco 2023 Castellinaldo (Barbera d'Alba). Cooked berries and herbal balsamic weave together with sweet baking spices on a nose that is warm and generous with an easy and inviting richness. The palate follows that same rounded and comfortable path of plush and lush black-hued fruits. Vinifera Imports Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 15% Price: \$50

88 Broccardo 2024 (Barbera d'Alba). Frutti di bosco and a lifted bouquet of red and purple aromatic flowers arrive with real charm and a pretty and inviting freshness. The palate delivers easy and enjoyable fruit-driven pleasure before thinning a little towards the close, leaving you with a sense that there is more potential here waiting to be unlocked. Caput Mundi Wine Import. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$21

88 Marrone 2023 Carlot (Barbera d'Alba). Grilled cherries and a swirl of smoking sage drift from the glass with a warm and plush richness that feels like a long midsummer evening in the Langhe hills. The palate is lush and deeply juicy with blueberry and blackberry wrapped in a gentle licorice thread that makes this almost impossible to put down. The Sorting Table. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$25

87 Cantina del Nebbiolo 2022 Castellinaldo (Barbera d'Alba). The nose starts a little buttoned up, like a wine that hasn't quite decided to show up yet, with a slight struck-match quality that needs a few minutes in the glass to blow off. Behind that, tart

cherry and a brisk bitter herbal note do their thing, keeping everything lively and honest but just a touch short. Monsieur Touton Selections. —J.P.

abv: 15.5% Price: \$25

86 Az. Agr. Vecchio 2022 Castellinaldo (Barbera d'Alba). Rich, plush and almost over the top, this feels like Barbera that went on a luxury vacation and came back a little too relaxed. The palate is generous and deeply juicy before a bitter dark chocolate and coffee-ground finish arrives and shifts the attitude a bit too much. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

86 Villadoria 2023 Tardòc (Barbera d'Alba). Tart red berries show up for their usual Barbera shift. The palate keeps things moving along, bright acidity and classic fruit notes doing their job without trying to steal the spotlight. WinesU. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

BARBERA D'ALBA SUPERIORE

93 Brezza 2022 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Organically grown and completely delivering, this opens with a concentrated and deeply satisfying dark red fruit richness that feels more brooding and serious than your typical Barbera without ever losing its fun. The palate is polished, generous and hits that rare sweet spot where everyone at the table wins. Buy a case, share a bottle, and make some friends very happy. Coeur Wine Co. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 15% Price: \$35

93 Manera Fratelli 2023 Bricco Serafino (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Violet, tart purple plum, and a whisper of blueberry jam float out of the glass with a prettiness that feels almost too good to be true, until the balsam hint arrives and gives everything a beautiful earthy anchor. The palate matches the nose note for note—juicy, fresh, and so deeply tasty it borders on unfair. *Best Buy*. —J.P.

abv: 15% Price: \$18

92 Adriano Marco e Vittorio 2022 Tòiu (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Tòiu is the complete package—the kind of wine that scratches every itch at once by delivering genuine complexity and interest on the nose before the palate just takes over. It reminds you that at the end of the day, great wine should above all else taste absolutely incredible. Balanced, purposeful, and deeply satisfying from start to finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$30

92 Broccardo 2022 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). There is a real art to making a wine this good without going overboard, and whomever was in charge here clearly knew exactly where the line was, and had the discipline to stay on the right side of it. Fresh, structured, and loaded with natural fruit energy, this is winemaking with its ego firmly in check and all the better for it. Caput Mundi Wine Import. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$27

92 Paolo Manzone 2024 Fiorenza (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Fresh, plush, and wearing its purple-fruit personality like a badge of honor, this is the kind of wine that skips the formalities and goes straight to fun. Blueberry and ripe plum cruise through the palate with an easy and juicy confidence that feels effortless, like it was born knowing exactly how good it was going to be. HB Wine Merchants Import. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$25

92 Pelassa 2023 San Pancrazio (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Everything here is dialed in, from the gorgeous violet and dark plum opening to a spice warmth that feels perfectly measured and completely intentional. The palate is super plump and built with a real sense of purpose, rolling through to a long and generous finish that earns this wine a permanent spot on your short list. Atlantic Beverage Distributors. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

92 Podere Gagliassi 2023 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). This is Barbera doing exactly what Barbera was put on this earth to do, arriving with a pretty and lifted classic charm before the palate opens up into something plump, generous, and deeply satisfying. No tricks, no showing off—just a delicious and complete wine that makes you want to pour another glass immediately. Hootananny Wines. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

92 Saracco 2023 Per Sbaglio (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Dark cherry and blackberry arrive wrapped in licorice and anise before a gorgeous violet lift takes the whole thing somewhere really special. The palate is plump, juicy, and absolutely full of itself in the best possible way, where every sip delivers a fun and generous dark-fruit rush that keeps the glass moving. WinesU. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

92 Tenuta Rocca 2023 Vigna Ròca Neira (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Deep black fruits and dark depths show what happens when Barbera hits the gym. The palate flexes that same muscular energy, structured backbone, and focused intensity, creating the kind of wine that makes you rethink what Barbera can be. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$43

91 Bruna Grimaldi 2024 Scassa (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). No fuss, no detours—just pure and bright Barbera energy with tart cherry and crisp plum leading a fresh and herbal charge that stays laser focused from first sniff to last sip. Scassa is the kind of wine that reminds you why you fell for Italian reds in the first place, where freshness and personality are the whole point. Massanois Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

91 Ghèddo 2023 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). A gorgeous tumble of red and black plum alongside a bouquet of mixed florals and a bold crack of black pepper keeps you guessing in the best possible way. The palate delivers juicy and generous fruit before a bright and zippy acidity on the finish brings

the whole party to a very satisfying close. The Piedmont Guy. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 **Pietro Rinaldi 2022 Bricco Cichetta (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** Dark plum and blackberry come buried in a gloriously generous slurry of spice and licorice before a violet perfume lifts the whole thing somewhere unexpected and genuinely beautiful. The palate is big, juicy, and full of ambition, delivering layer after layer of dark fruit and spice that earns every drop of attention you give it. Breakthru Beverage Group. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28

90 **Francone 2022 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** Straightforward and confident with a fruity and fleshy generosity that hits like biting into a perfectly ripe plum straight from the tree, all juicy pulp and natural sweetness with no pretense whatsoever. Fine and silky tannins keep everything beautifully in check. Krewe du Bizou Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 **Réva 2023 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** Give this one a minute in the glass because the nose arrives a little closed and moody. Then it unleashes a wild rush of fresh cherry juice, singed herbs, and bitter cinchona bark that you genuinely did not see coming. The palate is fully amped up and generous, making this one of those wines that rewards just a little patience. Classica Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

88 **Mario Rivetti Cascina Serre 2022 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** No smoke and mirrors here—just an honest and straightforward Barbera delivering ripe plum and a comfortable warmth of spice with a chewy dried fruit edge that gives the finish a little extra grip and character. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Carlo Casetta 2022 NID (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** Sour plum and a bold hit of medicinal herbs, and balsam wood give this an untamed and wild personality that feels more forest floor than fruit bowl. The palate doubles down on the herbs with a rustic and earthy character that is genuinely unique and will absolutely reward the adventurous drinker willing to meet it halfway. Areni Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$9

BARBERA D'ASTI

93 **Cascina Krejberg 2023 (Barbera d'Asti).** Dark plum and a gorgeous violet lift arrive hand in hand with a warm and confident spice that sets the tone immediately and keeps you locked in. The palate is juicy, deep, and completely focused, delivering a rich and satisfying dark-fruit energy that makes this one of the more compelling reasons to explore Barbera d'Asti right now. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 **Ratti 2024 Battaglione (Barbera d'Asti).** For full review see page 9. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

93 **Tenuta Ronzano 2024 (Barbera d'Asti).** Three generations of the Ronzano family have been working the Costigliole d'Asti terroir since 1963, creating the kind of wine that explains why Barbera keeps winning hearts. The 2024 was not an easy vintage, but you would never know it from this bottling. Plump, tart cherry jam all over the nose and palate, those subtle savory notes arriving right on cue, and a mouthwatering finish that makes the next sip feel completely necessary. They took a tough year and made a banger. Catamarca Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 **Pico Maccario 2024 Lavignone (Barbera d'Asti).** Blueberry and boysenberry jam share space with violets in full bloom. The palate keeps that fresh energy flowing—lush berries and purple flowers creating the kind of mouthwatering finish that turns Tuesday takeout into something special. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 **Bel Colle 2024 (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Spiced plum and a gorgeous lifted floral note tumble out of the glass with a prettiness that is hard not to fall for, before a warm and elegant oak spice settles in and rounds everything out beautifully. The palate is juicy and deeply plummy, with a fine and graceful energy that makes this a seriously enjoyable pour. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

88 **Duchessa Lia 2022 Galanera (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Raspberry and strawberry jam meet fresh herbs in a summer garden. The palate keeps that bright morning vibe, tart red fruits and zippy acidity begging for a classic bowl of pasta and ragu. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Manfredi Aldo 2024 (Barbera d'Asti).** Plump and plummy, with a spice-driven warmth that wraps around you like a comfortable sweater on a cool evening. The palate is generous and easy with a touch of dusty tannins that give just enough grip and texture to keep things from feeling too easy, landing this squarely in the “pour it freely and enjoy” category. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

85 **Az. Agr. La Trava 2022 (Barbera d'Asti).** This one plays it loud and dark, piling on ripe and almost smoky fruit with an intensity that is undeniably bold and completely uninterested in holding back. If maximum ripeness, and a deep and brooding dark fruit presence is your thing, this delivers exactly that with zero apologies. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

NIZZA

92 **Aresca 2022 San Luigi (Nizza).** For full review see page 9. Tri Vin Imports Inc.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 **Amista 2021 (Nizza).** A mix of savory and roasted plum aromas meander out of the glass. The wine needs to unfurl, but once it does, violet and blackberry coulis aromas add another lift to the glass. The palate is rich and lush with fine tannins and flavors that are driven by roasted, grilled and dried black fruits. Vignaioli Selection. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

89 **Guasti Clemente 2021 Barcarato Riserva (Nizza).** Warmed mixed berries and plum with a touch of cinnamon and black pepper weave sweet and savory threads together. Well heeled and made by the numbers, polished dark fruits and loads of spice parade across the palate, but that pop of alcohol pushes the wine a touch too far, like a perfectly tailored suit with one button too many undone. Vintage Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

88 **Sette 2021 (Nizza).** A rush of drying cherries, freshly cut flowers, and sweet spices lift from the glass. The wine is juicy and plump with an entire bowl of berries at the core of the palate. Fine tannins and a pop of acidity keep the wine together on the finish. The Source. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

87 **Dogliotti 1870 2021 (Nizza).** Lifted and pretty aromas dance upward, showcasing pure black cherry and wild strawberry in their Sunday best. The palate takes an unexpected twist with more subtle notes of dried red berries and savory herbs. What begins with all fruity intentions turns brooding on the crunch finish. R.S. Lipman Co. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

87 **Tenute Neirano 2022 (Nizza).** Dark cherries and ripe plums slide through nutmeg and dried herbs, showing Barbera's everyday charm. The palate stays bright and approachable, where juicy acidity and gentle structure remind us some wines just want to keep dinner company. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

DOGLIANI

93 **Az. Agr. Valletti 2024 Pianezzo (Dogliani).** Violets and plums meet dark earth notes like a perfectly tended garden coming to life. The palate shows volume without weight, where fresh energy and rich depths prove serious wine can still make you smile. This is confidence in a glass. The Piedmont Guy. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

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92 Pecchenino 2024 San Luigi (Dogliani). Pure and polished red berries and plums create the kind of precision that comes from generations of getting it right. The palate stays bright and focused, where fine tannins and lifted energy prove heritage and freshness make perfect partners. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

92 Pecchenino 2023 Siri d'Jermu (Dogliani Superiore). Ripe berries mix with dried leaves and fresh earth, bringing harvest-season energy to the glass. The palate masters that sweet spot between power and poise, where controlled warmth begs for that depth only braising brings to the dish. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Manfredi Aldo 2024 Bricco Rosso (Dogliani). A florist's workspace meets a chef's prep station, heady blooms mixing with damson plum compote, cracked pepper, and fresh thyme. The palate plays with violet candies and wild cherries while rosemary adds depth and fine tannins keep the story flowing. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

DOLCETTO D'ALBA

93 Brezza 2024 (Dolcetto d'Alba). Bright red fruits mix with wild herbs like someone bottled that perfect moment when you find an unexpected patch of berries on a hike. The palate brings that same trail-side joy, where tart fruit and fine tannins turn every sip into a mini expedition. Coeur Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

92 Ghèddo 2024 (Dolcetto d'Alba). Dark fruits play hide and seek with savory herbs, like a garden taking over the fruit bowl. The palate leans into that green-edged character, where fruit meets herbs in a way that's begging for Korean BBQ lettuce wraps. This is Dolcetto's savory side stepping out. The Piedmont Guy. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Luca Marengo 2024 (Dolcetto d'Alba). Violets and delicate bellflowers mix with garden herbs before diving into crushed raspberries and tart plums. The palate keeps that zippy momentum, where bright fruit and firm tannins remind us sometimes the best outfits mix comfort with structure. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Paolo Manzone 2024 (Dolcetto d'Alba). Fresh raspberries and tart plums mix with iris flowers, bringing pure feel-good energy to the glass. The palate stays zippy and lifted, where crunchy fruit and bright acidity prove sometimes the best nights start with the right bottle. HB Wine Merchants Import. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Mario Rivetti Cascina Serre 2023 (Dolcetto d'Alba Superiore). Headly flowers and ripe

plums arrive all at once, creating the kind of entrance that makes everyone look up. The palate stays plump and friendly, where gentle structure proves you can be easygoing without losing your edge. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Tenuta Rocca 2024 (Dolcetto d'Alba). Ripe plums and dark berries show their fresh side while purple flowers add lift. The palate zips with nervous energy, where plump fruit and lively acidity prove some wines just nail the everyday drinking game. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

OTHER RED WINES

93 Cantine Volpi 2024 Cascina La Zerba (Colli Tortonesi). Plump dark fruits bring that classic Barbera generosity while bright acidity keeps everything dancing. The palate hits that perfect balance between weight and lift, where juicy depth meets fresh energy. From burger night to Sunday braises, this is the kind of wine that makes everything on the table taste better. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

92 Cantine Volpi 2024 Superiore (Colli Tortonesi). Fresh cherries, dark plums, and purple flowers hit all those perfect Barbera notes while vibrant acidity keeps everything humming. The palate zips along with pure joy, where everything feels exactly as it should. This bottle is like that friend who gets along with everyone at the table, including the food. Grantham Distributing Co. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Castello di Verduno 2024 Basadone (Verduno). Tart raspberries and cracked pepper dance through rose petals and sweet-pea blooms, creating instant charm with hidden depths. The palate brings that same bright spirit, where easy drinking meets quiet intelligence. This is how you make serious wine without losing the fun. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Cascina Valle Asinari 2023 Ciuchino (Monferrato). Black fruits and purple plums bring in that Sunday-lunch energy while bright acids cut through the richness. The palate delivers with generous spirit, where lush fruit and persistent verve turn smoked brisket into the perfect excuse. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28

88 Abrigo Fratelli 2022 Pietrìn Superiore (Diano d'Alba). Plums play both fresh and jammy roles alongside generous baking spices. The palate brings ripe blackberries and warming depth, while firm tannins suggest this wine's best stories will be told over a proper meal rather than casual sipping. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

TUSCANY WHITE WINES

TOSCANA

99 Petrolo 2023 Bòggina B (Toscana). Like caviar and potato chips, I could have this wine for every single meal and never grow tired of it, and never feel unsatisfied. A masterpiece that you can afford to take home and hang on your own wall. Vintus Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

91 Il Borro 2025 Lamelle (Chardonnay di Toscana). The nose shimmers with aromas of green apple, white flowers, and crushed shells, while the palate balances more tart green-apple elements with salted almonds. There is just a hint of slickness on the palate that makes this apparently simple wine more substantial than you'd expect. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$180

90 Casanuova-Thilo Besançon 2024 Senza-mare (Toscana). The floral, fresh nose billows with aromas of clean laundry, sweet citrus blossom, lilies, and herbs. On the umami, nutty palate, a blast of tart, bright citrus and abundant salt and acid push back against a slick, round mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$1

90 Fattoria di Valiano 2024 Donna di Valiano Chardonnay (Toscana). This Italian Chardonnay has notes of almond, limeade, jasmine, and white peach. The palate shows red pear, yellow apple skin, and some more jasmine florals. This is a balanced and very drinkable style with just enough buzz on the aromatics to make for an interesting pour. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Tenuta La Corneta 2024 (Toscana). The nose is a lemon iced tea with a sprig of wild rosemary, while the palate adds a denser ripe peach element to more citrus and herb notes. The mouthfeel is full and polished, even as acid and heat enliven the finish. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Uggiano 2024 Vermentino (Toscana). The nose expresses fresh papaya and white peach from the glass. Underripe pineapple, watercress, and peach appear on the palate as gentle acidity surrounds all the wine's tropical fruit. Marquee Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

VAL D'ARNO DI SOPRA

92 Tenuta San Jacopo 2024 Erboli (Val d'Arno di Sopra). The nose is both savory and sweet, with aromas of lemongrass, wild herbs, preserved lemon, white pepper, and new leather. A tart, tangy

sensation defines the palate, which is bouncy but with depth, and has a fierce, unrelenting current of acid that swells into a wave of salt and heat. Specialty Cellars. —D.C.

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

91 Eredi Benito Mantellini Az. Agraria S.S. 2024 Campo del Monte Malvasia Vigna Balza (Val d'Arno di Sopra). The nose presents aromas of white peach, Anjou pear, and salted almonds, while the palate adds lemon and lime elements to more delicate tree and stone fruit flavors. Fiery acid and salinity punch up the finish. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 La Salceta 2025 Orpicchio vigna Poggiolo (Val d'Arno di Sopra). The nose pops with aromas of star fruit, lime zest, white pepper, and wild herbs, while the palate presents slightly denser notes of lemon, lime, and white peach. A wine that starts salty and citrusy, and finishes deliciously nutty and savory. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$44

OTHER WHITE WINE

90 Geografico 2024 Borgo alla Terra (Vernaccia di San Gimignano). This Vernaccia has aromatics of papaya, cut hay, and underripe pineapple as the wine swirls inside the glass. Bright racy acidity appears with citrus curd, white peach, and bitter almond on the palate. The wine keeps going along quite nicely on the finish with those bitter-almond notes reminding us of classic Tuscan Vernaccia. Bacchus Cella South LLC dba Geografico USA. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

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

SPARKLING WINES

96 Il Borro 2019 Bolle di Borro (Toscana). Coppery pink in the glass with a lively perlage that lifts savory, warm aromas to the nose—blood orange, dried cranberries, wild herbs, toasted hazelnuts. Wild strawberry and sweet citrus dominate the palate, with depth from the nutty and savory notes that remind you of how long this wine took to construct. Taut and dense, but reactive. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$120

94 Il Borro 2023 Chiaro di Bolle (Toscana). Golden in the glass, with a steady, even perlage and a citrus, floral nose that opens ultrafresh, then adds hints of crushed herbs and salted nuts. Meyer lemons and white peaches tumble over the palate, while undertones of lime zest and salted almonds add pop. A sparkler that is rich, but still eminently refreshing. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

ROSÉS

91 La Salceta 2025 Osato (Val d'Arno di Sopra). A cloudy, coppery pink wine, with aromas of pink grapefruit, watermelon, wild strawberry, and pressed wildflowers. On the palate, wild cherries join more wild strawberries and watermelon candy for a wine that's punchy and fresh, as well as tart and tangy. —D.C.

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

90 PoderNuovo a Palazzone 2024 Aliki (Toscana). The nose starts with fresh thyme, raspberry, and fresh cream. As you taste, flavors of grapefruit pith, orange zest, and cherries accentuate your palate. The finish stays dry with vibrant acid that lingers with touches of salinity. Classic Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

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

90 Il Borro 2025 Borrerosa (Toscana). In the glass, this wine is barely rose pink, with a delicate nose of wild strawberries, candied orange peel, and rose petals. Raspberries and rhubarb star on the palate, alongside more citrus and a rush of salinity that blasts through the finish. Both salty and sweet, like all the best treats. USA Wine West. —D.C.

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

90 Tenuta La Corneta 2024 (Toscana). A rose-pink wine, with a savory, herbaceous nose of wild oregano, sage, fennel, and preserved citrus. The palate presented sugared pink-grapefruit slices and strawberry jam, before crushed rocks and more wild herbs come out on the finish. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

TUSCANY RED WINES TOSCANA

98 Podere Il Carnasciale 2022 Carnasciale Botte Grande+ (Toscana). It's hard to have a real adventure now when you travel—everyone has Google Maps and an AI translator and is so loaded with information and tools it's almost hard to get lost or confused even in a foreign country. And so it's hard to find that surge of excitement and tiny bit of fear that comes with realizing that you're really out of your element, about to have a totally new and unexpected experience. This bottle can take you there. Rare Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

97 Podere Il Carnasciale 2022 Il Caberlot (Toscana). Savory and sanguine on the nose with pepper, top soil, and graphite, then hints of spicy sweetness emerge, cardamom, and cinnamon, tamarind and dark chocolate. The palate is tense and poised, with chewy tannins and lively acid lifting up notes of black plum, pomegranate, bergamot, and cracked pepper. A wine seething with energy and dar-

ing, like riding a motorcycle down a cable stretched over a cavern. Rare Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$250

95 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2022 Sette (Toscana). A compelling nose unveils aromas of espresso, vanilla bean, candied orange peel, and Luxardo cherry. Ripe, dark, luxurious fruit elements and walnuts define the palate, with undertones of more warm, caramelized coffee, and sleek tannins enhancing the aura of sophistication. Kobrand. —D.C.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$140

94 Il Borro 2022 Il Borro (Toscana). The nose is flinty, earthy, cool, and peppery, and then the palate lights up with juicy, ripe dark berries, warm citrus, and savory herbs. Cool earth tones balance a finish of fierce acid and salinity. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$180

94 Il Borro 2021 Polissena (Toscana). The nose opens with blood orange, cranberry, and Mission fig, then offers up cardamom, clove, wild sage, and wild fennel. The palate sprinkles orange zest over wild cherries and strawberries to put the finishing touches on a wine that's warm, enveloping, and satisfying. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$89

94 Petrolo 2023 Torrone (Toscana). The nose is both sweet and spicy, with aromas of black cherries, black pepper, and black licorice. Blackberries and tea leaves lead the way on the palate, while crushed rocks and salinity provide balance. Solid but polished tannins provide an anchor on a finish of more salt and acid. Vintus Imports. —D.C.

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

94 Podere Forte 2019 Guardiavigna Orniello (Toscana). This Orcia DOC Cabernet Franc has balance and attractive aromatics showing charred red pepper, tabasco, black cherry, and seasoned with black-rock minerals. The palate is slightly smoked with black cherry, roasty earth, grilled Tuscan herbs, and some black olive. The wine is quite bold and intense at first but allowing its sharp finely tuned acidity come into play gives this wine its even keel. This wine and the fairly young DOC from which it comes shows quite a bit of promise. Winebow Imports. —M.R.L.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$250

94 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2021 Vigna dell'Impero (Toscana). The nose has the fresh, cool, earthy feel of crushed rocks, wild herbs, blood orange, and blackberry tea. Tart and sweet berries pop on the palate, while undertones of pepper and citrus add even more energy and acid soars overhead. Kobrand. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100/75ml

93 Fattoria di Valiano 2021 Pecchero Cabernet Franc (Toscana). The nose of Pecchero has ripe red cherry, roasted strawberry, and cut white mushrooms. This isn't a Cabernet Franc boasting bell pepper, but rather one with fresh red fruit, pops of pink peppercorn, and lively acidity in each sip. These

BUYINGGUIDE

tannins are polished with good use of oak, while remaining fine, and pleasantly soft. Aging a well-built Cabernet Franc is a classic move and this one could be exciting to wait five to 10 years for. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$350

93 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2023 Crognolo (Toscana). The nose has a peppery, warm, sanguine feel, with aromas of asphalt, leather, and tart blackberries. Ripe berries and cherries pop on the palate, while more pepper and earth provide balance, before a finish that vibrates with acid, salt, and heat. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 PoderNuovo a Palazzone 2021 Sotirio (Toscana). The wine has ripe sour cherry and aged balsamic on the nose while blood-orange zest frames the bouquet. The wine feels sharp with chalky tannins that release overripe tart red fruits with accents of lime. The acid races steadily as the wine finishes and keeps this wine fresh and balanced. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 Casanuova-Thilo Besançon 2021 Altoreggi (Toscana). The nose entices with aromas of black cherry, black plum, hot pavement, and black pepper. Ripe black cherries and blackberries tumble across the palate, while more earth and crushed rocks provide balance. Polished, dense tannins lead the way into a warm, peppery finish. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$1

92 Fattoria Bellosguardo 2023 Posta reale Vigna Casa Bellavista (Toscana). Aromas of damp soil, underbrush, and wild fennel glide from the glass first, followed by sweet, ripe berries, and vanilla for balance. The palate is a mix of tart and sweet berries and cherries, then a wave of rich mocha. Textured tannins and lively acid set up a finish lit up by heat and a crack of pepper. La Botte LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Fattoria Bellosguardo 2021 Corridore (Toscana). The nose opens juicy with ripe dark berry aromas, then turns spicy and earthy. Black cherries and blackberries lead the way on the palate, and are eventually joined by milk chocolate and candied orange peel. Solid tannins complement vibrant acid. La Botte LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Il Borro 2022 Pian di Nova (Toscana). The nose opens sweet, with ripe wild berries, then pivots to sanguine notes of damp earth. The palate is a riot of berries, cherries, citrus, and salt, but all anchored in cool, iron-rich earth. Substantial tannins keep lively acid in check. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 Petra 2022 Potenti (Toscana). The wine has dried black olive, cracked pepper, and fresh red currants. Flavors of ripe cherry, dried orange peel, and clove unveil with tannins that are tame and soft on the palate. The wine finishes quite dry but jolty acidity

rushes through to help keep the wine in balance. Liber USA. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Tenuta La Corneta 2023 (Toscana). The nose opens with the tang of blood orange and raspberry, then turns floral and heady with jasmine, hibiscus, and roses. On the palate, blackberries and more raspberries ride waves of sweet citrus and warm earth, as razor-sharp acid cuts down the tongue. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

91 Barbanera 2021 Otto Decenni (Rosso di Toscana). The accents of sour cherry, sundried peppers, vine tomato, and charcuterie make for a savory start to this Toscano rosso. The palate has golden plum, cracked green pepper, and crushed blue violet that stays persistent on the finish. The tannins are soft and powdery, and the wine relies on its jolty acidity to cut through its dark characteristics. I wouldn't wait too long to drink this wine, but a couple years can put this bottle into its happy place. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$59

91 Carpineto 2020 Farnito Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). The wine has cedar, charred red pepper, and roasted red berries that lift right out of the glass. Overly ripe dark fruit appear on the palate that has some macho tannins that emphasizes blackberry and plum onto the tongue. This wine likes to show a little muscle but the complete experience shows precision and balance. Opici Wines & Spirits. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

91 Castello del Terricio 2019 Tassinaia (Toscana). Cherries, char, and orange pepper emerge on a nose that is laced with eucalyptus. Roasted cherries, pepper jack, and pomegranate rush over the palate that has finely polished tannin. Bright acid comes out of the finish with well integrated oak. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

91 Fattoria Bellosguardo 2024 Pipillo Vigna Bellosguardo (Toscana). The nose intrigues with aromas of tea leaf, pencil shavings, crushed rocks, top soil, and Mission fig. Pomegranates and more figs lead the way on a palate that is warm and tangy with citrus, while sturdy, dense tannins provide an anchor. La Botte LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Geografico 2021 La Pevera (Toscana). The dark-ruby color stains the glass while tart pomegranate, spearmint, and blood orange appear out of the aromatics of this wine. Le Pevera feels brambly and fresh initially on the palate but the wine envelopes your tongue with plush dark cherry, hints of vanilla pod, and spice. The combination of fresh aromas that dance along with a different brooding palate gives the wine appeal. Bacchus Cella South LLC dba Geografico USA. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

91 Il Borro 2024 Boriggiano (Toscana). The nose is defined by the subtle energy of wild strawberries, raspberries, blood orange, warm brick, and top

soil. Raspberry jam and wild cherry candy star on a palate that is both sweet and tart, then the earth tones return, before a chili pepper heat and a sprinkle of salt finish things off. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 La Salceta 2022 La Nocetta (Toscana). The nose offers aromas of tart blackberry, bergamot, top soil, tea leaf, and wild fennel. Black cherries and more blackberries tumble over the palate, while warm, tangy citrus notes, and salt flakes are lifted by a buoyant acidity, anchored by structured tannins. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

91 Lamole di Lamole 2021 Lam'Oro (Toscana). Red fruits with mint and cut pine find their way out of the glass. The palate is ripe and has a tang that comes with red currant, raspberry, and earthy white mushroom. The tannins provide a beveled structure with a savory ripe fruit all along the finish. Herita USA. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

91 PoderNuovo a Palazzone 2024 Spiridio (Toscana). The glass gleams light-garnet red with aromas of ripe red fruit appearing from the glass with white mushroom and hibiscus accents. The palate is quite juicy and packed with juicy red cherries and a bit of earth tucked into its lean style. The acid lifts the wine really nicely while making the wine feel youthful and energetic with integrated plush tannin. Classic Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

91 PoderNuovo a Palazzone 2023 Argirio Cabernet Franc (Toscana). This is a Cabernet Franc showing typical aromas of orange bell pepper, pepper jack cheese, roasty red cherries, and pomegranate molasses. The palate is sharp and built with flavors of overripe cherry, chargrilled pepper, and black olive. The crystalline minerality is quite nice on each sip and the tannins are fine with fresh acidity. I would bring this to the dinner table with an Italian beef stew anytime. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

91 PoderNuovo a Palazzone 2023 Therra (Toscana). The aromatics of wild herb, fresh cherries, and just a whisp of tobacco and licorice leave the glass. The wine drinks clean and balanced with firm tannins that have a fresh fruit character. The acid adds lift and makes for a fresh style for a Super Tuscan. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Poggio al Tufo 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). This wine has bold velvety layers that show Bing cherry, green bell pepper, and wild herb. The palate feels soft and powerful with its tannins that hold onto flavors of bright cherry, roasted pepper, and savory spice. There is quality and finesse that you experience throughout the wine and fresh acidity makes it less intimidating to drink. —M.R.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Rocca di Castagnoli 2020 Buriano Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). The wine pops of red cherry, talcum powder, and black tea on the nose. Flavors of ripe raspberries and crumbled graphite flaunt on the palate followed by powdery dry tannins. A mild juiciness nudges its way into the wine with its bright citrusy acid across the finish. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Tolaini 2022 LEGIT (Toscana). Aromas spill from the glass showing granite, black cherry, and cracked black pepper. This wine has some torque to its bold tannins that are packed with black plum, tobacco leaf, and brambly blackberry. All the while, fresh acidity races through your palate leaving the wine balanced and pretty legit. Banville Wine Merchants. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Vallepiciola 2022 (Toscana). The nose starts with notes of barbecue, hoisin sauce, and blackberry with dried-violet undertones. The palate has blackberries, black cherry, and crushed white rock that ends with textured firm tannin. MS Walker. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$99

90 Barbanera 2021 Gigino Grande (Toscana). Subtle smokiness starts to slowly whisp from the layers of amarena syrup, dried cherry, and vintage leather in the Gigino Grande. The fruit on the palate are as if they rested on a sunny kitchen counter with its warm fig and black-cherry profiles. The tannins feel powdery with earth and touches of ash while you wait between sips. Enovation Brands. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

90 Cafaggio 2023 (Toscana). Spearmint, cacao, pine bark, and black cherry come out from the glass after a few swirls. The palate shows fresh black cherry, citrus, and a foresty fresh appeal. The tannins stick with a cherry sweetness and have a soft texture that finishes tame acid. Ethica Wines. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Castello Banfi 2022 Magna Cum Laude (Toscana). This classic from Banfi has notes of blackberry compote, cherry granita, along with a dried boquet of roses and stems. The wine tastes of fresh blackberries, light tobacco, and earthy cremini mushroom. Soft tannins and its vivid acidity give this wine fine potential. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Il Colombaio di Cencio 2020 Futuro (Toscana). Violets, stewed tomatoes, and dried black cherry work in sync on the nose. The palate holds a lot of ripe red cherry and black plum while damp forest floor folds into its layers. The wine finishes with powerful chalky tannin along with more woodsy flare. Ethica Wines. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

90 Tenuta Argentiera 2023 Poggio ai Ginepri (Toscana). Dark brambly fruit dominates the nose with touches of black minerality. The palate reveals jammy black and red fruit that is framed with bitter edges. The tannins are full and chalky with some more of that bitter jam on the back end. —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Uggiano 2023 Governo all'Uso Toscano (Toscana). The nose is brooding with purple plum and cracked walnut. The wine drinks leaner than the aromatics would lead you to believe as fresh acidity that intertwines with dark fruit and plush tannin helps create balance on the palate. Marquee Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Uggiano 2020 Falconeri Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). The wine has black cherry, red plum, and charred oak on the nose. The palate feels ripe with red fruit and spice. Tannins are integrated and the acid is keeping the wine in balance. Marquee Selections. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

89 Barbanera 2021 Gigino (Rosso di Toscana). There are aromas of purple plum, black olive, worn leather, and damp forest floor that are very upfront and out of the glass. Overripe blackberries, juicy cherry, and black-rope licorice showcase the palate with black-slate minerality. These tannins certainly appear firm as they persistently drive dark fruit onto your tongue. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

89 Barbanera NV 5/V (Rosso di Toscana). This wine has aromas that pop with black cherry, olive, and bacon fat out of the glass. The palate has very manageable tannins that have overripe black and blue fruits. A mix of the medium-powered acidity gives this dark-fruited wine a juicy quality. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Duca di Saragnano 2023 Vecciano (Rosso di Toscana). The nose shows black plum, cracked black pepper, and cherry jam. The soul of the wine has dark jammy fruit with tannins showing soft structure. On the finish there is just a bit of fresh acidity that allows the tannins to dissipate quickly. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

89 Fattoria di Valiano 2019 Vino in Musica (Toscana). The Vino in Musica's aromas remind you of baked cherry pastry and black-cherry chocolate biscotti. Sweet dark fruit appears to the nose and the palate sings the same tune. The finish has ripe black cherry and amarena juice that splash out of the powdery firm tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 Santa Cristina 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). On the nose the wine has dark cacao, new leather jacket, and black currant. The palate is fresh and juicy with black plum, blackberry yogurt, and blood-orange juice. Tannins surround

your mouth with leathery dark fruit and a fresh crystalline minerality. Vinattieri 1385. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Vallepiciola 2022 Pievasciata Rosso (Toscana). Fresh cherries and a crushed white-rock minerality appear on the nose of this wine with just a bit of black licorice that slips in and out of the bouquet. On the palate there is black-plum skin, subtle smoky cherry, and ashy tannin. The super dry tannins lift away with steady pulsing acidity. MS Walker. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Tenuta Monteti 2019 MONTETI (Toscana). There is black plum, and green and black pepper showing up on the nose with hints of wet cedar. The palate has a brooding appeal to it with wet forest, black fig, along with dashes of ginger and spice. The tannins are sharp and packed with more spicy dark fruit. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

CHIANTI

90 Cecchi 2023 (Chianti). Thyme, sweet hibiscus, and pops of cherry show on the nose. The palate has wild strawberry, roasted herb, and dusty tannins with a bit of white mushroom. The finish feels bright and lively from the wine's zesty acidity. —M.R.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Poggio Scudieri 2021 Benedicto Riserva (Chianti). Maraschino cherry and raspberry jam show up as you get into the glass. The palate feels very juicy with its plum, and ripe raspberry fruit working well alongside its bright character. Tannins are soft and they seem to diminish quick from the racy fresh acidity. Ventura Selections LLC. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Uggiano 2022 Riserva (Chianti). Red plums, Tuscan herb, and pomegranates lift from the wine's aromatics. Firm soft tannins are up front and packed with ripe cherries and fresh raspberry, while a lively acidity laces each sip. Marquee Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Molino del Piano 2021 Riserva (Chianti). The wine's bouquet brings you notes of blackberry, white mushroom, and earth. A pretty muscular Chianti with cherry flavors buried in between macho tannin and mild acidity. Tri Vin Imports Inc. —M.R.L.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

CHIANTI RUFINA

91 Marchesi Frescobaldi 2022 Vigna Montesodi Terraelectae Riserva (Chianti Rufina). The single-vineyard Montesodi shows itself with style and complexity. Bing cherry, fennel, and mushroom brodo expresses itself from the glass. Strong texture

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and jolts of acidity keep the wine in sync as you taste ripe plum, balsamic, and dried violet that work well together. The tannins are rich but surrender beautifully when you give it just a little time to open. Vintus Imports. —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

90 Fattoria di Basciano 2023 (Chianti Rufina).

The wine shows as almost opaque looking into the glass with a nose that pulses black olive, dark cherries, and classic black-rope licorice. The palate surprises you with finesse, wild cherry, bright berry, and just a bit of a dark minerality. The tannins have some heft but there is enough acid to give it an even keel. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$18

90 Fattoria di Basciano 2019 Riserva (Chianti Rufina).

The wine opens up with aromas of cherry, cedar, and cola. On the palate are notes of black cherry, grilled herb, and even more cherry cola. The tannins have a lot of structure that show a bit of earthiness with just a bit of lift from the acidity. HB Wine Merchants. —M.R.L.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

89 Marchesi Frescobaldi 2022 Nipozzano Riserva (Chianti Rufina).

There are notes of cedar with blood orange and cherry that seep from the glass. The palate has juicy cherry, plum, and touches of forest floor. The finish surrounds all the red fruit with bold tannin that holds on quite long. Vintus Imports. —M.R.L.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

89 Renzo Masi 2024 (Chianti Rufina). A chianti with darker fruit that appears as black cherry, blackberry, and blue violet on the nose. The palate seems to mimic the nose with its brooding character and the tannins showing up to be bold and semisweet. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 13%

Price: \$13

89 Renzo Masi 2022 Riserva (Chianti Rufina).

The nose has black cherry, crumbled slate, and gentle piney tones. There are lots of darker fruits that surround the palate with black cherry, black olive, and ripe plum. The wine has a pretty big tannic structure with mild acidity that just pokes through the bold appeal of the wine. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$18

CHIANTI SUPERIORE

90 Fattoria Fibbiano 2022 Casalini (Chianti Superiore).

There are notes of Bing cherry, enoki mushroom, and turned topsoil. The palate has a tang to it that is layered with sour cherry, vanilla, and ripe raspberries. Tannins are well rounded and surround the palate with more ripe tart red fruit. Artisanal Cellars. —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

90 Malenchini 2023 (Chianti Superiore).

There is a woody character that gives the wine's

aromatics sensation of cut pine and wild berries. As you jump into the palate, the wine feels lifted with a fresh pop of acid that gives it a lighthearted attitude. There are flavors of sun-soaked raspberry, white cherry, and white mushroom. The tannins are powdery and tame, making this wine pleasant and easy to drink. Grapevine Distributors. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

90 Poderi Melini 2023 San Lorenzo (Chianti Superiore).

This wine has raspberry, Bing cherry, and mushroom that lift from its garnet color. Red fruits such as bright fresh cherry and overripe raspberry saturate the palate with soft enjoyable tannin that provide edgy structure and fresh acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$16

88 Fattoria La Vialla 2022 Casa Conforto (Chianti Superiore).

The nose has light roast coffee, red plum, and notes of barbecue. As you sip, ripe blackberry, plum skin, and black lime appear. On the finish, the tannin feels firm but releases quickly with a spike of acidity. Haw River Wine Man. *Best Buy.* —M.R.L.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

VAL D'ARNO DI SOPRA

98 Petrolo 2023 Galatrona (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

The nose snaps with tart and sweet blackberries and black-plum skin, plus undertones of black licorice and wild herbs for balance. On the palate, berries and stone fruit sit at the point just before perfect ripeness, with snappy skin and tart juice still creating tension. The tannins on this wine are unlike anything I've experienced—they seem to have a sense of what your palate needs and to be able to respond to that, organizing themselves differently according to your taste. Vintus Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$130

98 Petrolo 2022 Boggina C Riserva (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

Savory, sanguine, and simmering with heat on the nose. At first, fresh and tart with pomegranate seeds and Cara Cara orange slices on the palate, then darker fruit and cool, deep earth tones emerge. Acid electrifies the palate. This wine had an unfair advantage because even though it's a new project and even though I taste blind, I could identify easily who made it, but in any case it's so well constructed and satisfying that there's little to quibble with. Vintus Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

96 Petrolo 2023 Boggina A (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

The bright, light nose presents just barely ripe wild strawberries growing in freshly tilled soil and surrounded by crushed herbs. The palate is a basket of cherries, raspberries, and wild strawberries, plus the depth of more earth and crushed rocks—all carried by waves of salinity and acid. Linear tannins and directed acid underscore the sensation that this wine has a very clear sense of itself, without being inflated. Vintus Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

96 Petrolo 2022 Campo Lusso (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

Black cherries, spices, and a whisper of vanilla bean lead off the nose, then savory aromas of new leather and crushed rocks emerge. The palate has a similar arc, with black cherries and blackberries coming first, followed by earthy, spicy flavors. Firm tannins usher in a fiery finish. Vintus Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$130

95 Il Borro 2019 Alessandro dal Borro (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

The nose is earthy, warm, and just slightly smoky, like coming inside to a roaring fire after a walk in the forest on a late winter afternoon. The palate has the energy of wild blueberries, bitter citrus, and cracked pepper, while sleek but monumental tannins provide an anchor. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$189/1.5L

94 Podere Il Carnasciale 2023 Ottantadue (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

The nose is intensely savory, spicy, herbaceous, and earthy. The palate is warm and alive with sunny citrus and tart red berries. Slim but muscular tannins enforce structure. Acid bubbles and pops on the finish. A wine that's so fun, so fresh, and so effortlessly elegant you'll be jealous of it. Rare Wine Company. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

93 Eredi Benito Mantellini Az. Agraria S.S. 2019 Rodos (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

Black cherries, figs, and plums kick off the nose, followed by emergent aromas of top soil and crushed wild herbs for balance. Sweet, ripe red and black-fruit flavors shine on the palate, which is anchored in earth but lifted by citrus and flaky salt. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

93 Tenuta San Jacopo 2020 Orma del Diavolo (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

The nose unfurls with earthy, peppery aromas of top soil, underbrush, black pepper, and mixed wild herbs. The palate squeezes citrus over raspberries and wild strawberries, before a mocha finish. A warm, inviting wine. Specialty Cellars. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

92 Eredi Benito Mantellini Az. Agraria S.S. 2020 ISEI (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

The nose has an autumnal feel, with pencil shavings, notebook paper, wild herbs, tilled soil, and dark berries. Blackberries and black cherries lead the way on the palate, before a riot of spices and herbs spill out. Tannins are slick, but firm. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$45

91 Tenuta San Jacopo 2022 Vigna Mulino (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

The nose has the sweetness of Bing cherry and milk chocolate, and the texture of orange peel and clove. On the palate, cherries and berries play with dark chocolate and more spices, while sturdy tannins keep insistent acid in check. Specialty Cellars. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

90 La Salceta 2021 Vigna Ruschieto Sangiovese (Val d'Arno di Sopra).

The nose is spicy, herbaceous, and floral, with aromas of wild fennel, sage,

blackberries, and lavender. Sweet, dark, juicy berries pop on the palate, while more spices ride a hot wave of cracked black pepper and chili pepper through the finish. Firm, textured tannins balance lively acid. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

OTHER RED WINES

91 Malenchini 2022 Vigna di Lappeggi Riserva (Chianti Colli Fiorentini). The wine's aromatics have strawberries that feel leather wrapped and dusted with cacao. The palate is fresh and alive with underripe black cherry, orange zest, and a clear dusty black minerality. The tannins linger as the wine finishes and feel persistently fine. Grapevine Distributors. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 Molino del Piano 2020 (Brunello di Montalcino). Iron-rich soil and tart blackberries set the stage for a tangy, earthy nose that in turn leads to a palate of ripe cherries and berries lifted by citrus peel and salinity, and anchored in sturdy tannins. Tri Vin Imports Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

DESSERT WINE

94 Eredi Benito Mantellini Az. Agraria S.S. 2024 Il Tardo Vendemmia Tardiva (Toscana). A deep, burnished-gold hue foreshadows sophisticated aromas of dried apricot, saffron, orange zest, candied walnuts, and milk chocolate. Bitter citrus and tea-leaf notes lead off the palate, followed by sweet, dried stone fruit, and finally a hint of nutty chocolate on the finish. A quiet evocation of sweetness. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$35/500ml

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES TERRE D'ABRUZZO

92 Torre Zambra 2025 Poggio Salaia (Terre d'Abruzzo). Green apples and white peaches kick off the nose, followed by crushed shells, and finally wild herbs, especially fennel and mint. A similarly layered palate sees Meyer lemon and green apple candy flavors emerge first, then the fresh, green notes of herbs return. A razor blade of acid zips down the tongue. MISA Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Idi di Marzo 2025 Sette Vizi (Terre d'Abruzzo). Aromas of lemon, lime, clean laundry, and tulips swirl on the nose, leading into a salty, bright palate defined by flavors of Meyer lemon and a hint of tangerine peel—at least until ripe melon and white-peach notes emerge. A lively, fresh wine that has always been a great deal and a very fine way to experience Treb-

biano, and which is only getting better to boot. DLY Enterprise, LCC. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Torre Zambra 2025 Incastro Bianco (Terre d'Abruzzo). The density of lemon icing and almond paste kicks off the nose, followed by the energy of wild herbs and white pepper. The palate is again both sweet and nutty, but fierce acid punches through to usher in a sophisticated, bitter bite of citrus pith on the finish. MISA Imports. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

91 Valle Martello 2025 Brado (Terre d'Abruzzo). The nose has a cool, saline, herbaceous feel, with aromas of white flowers and lemon zest. Ripe peach and honeydew flavors define a denser palate, then more citrus zest ushers in a finish of fizzy acid and hints of salted almond. Dionysos Imports Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

89 Palazzo Battaglini 2025 (Abruzzo). On the nose, aromas of yellow apple, salted almond, lemon, and pine needles pop from the glass. The palate brings more tree fruit and nuts, plus a dusting of wild herbs, while undertones of crushed sea shells and umami balance a creeping heat on the finish. Wine Affairs Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

UMBRIA

93 Antinori 2024 Bramito della Sala Chardonnay (Umbria). Baked apples and hazelnut brittle weave through notes of crème fraîche and wet stones. The palate delivers substance with style, where generous fruit meets mineral tension and a refreshing tart finish. Here's Chardonnay finding perfect balance between richness and restraint. Vinattieri 1385. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Antinori 2024 Conte della Vipera (Umbria). Pink grapefruit and ripe pear dance through lime zest while fresh pineapple brings the sunshine. The palate flows with elegant precision, where bright fruit and crisp focus turn seafood crudo or zucchini carpaccio into an event. Vinattieri 1385. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Santa Cristina 2024 (Umbria). Fresh-cut green apples and white almonds show their style while white flowers add their subtle charm. The palate brings that same effortless elegance, everything crunchy and bright. Vinattieri 1385. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$10

MONTEFALCO BIANCO

93 Scacciadiavoli 2024 (Montefalco Bianco). Somewhere between a beach postcard and a Bangkok street corner, this wine refuses to stay in one place. Warmed tropical flowers, mango, and coconut cream on the nose, then a sharp and zippy gear change

on the palate—crunchy, electric and alive with citrus. Have with steamed fish with lime leaf and a touch of heat. Vinity Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

93 Terre de la Custodia 2022 Plentis (Montefalco Bianco). Sliced apples fresh and baked, preserved lemon and wet slate—the whole thing feeling more like a quarry than a vineyard in the best possible way. Real texture and volume but with the acidity to keep it sharp, salty and popping with a spritz of lemon oil on the finish. This wine is landlocked, and it is absolutely the move with oysters. Tita Italian Import & Export. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Tenuta Di Saragano 2024 (Montefalco Bianco). Honey drizzled over white pineapple sets the tone—ripe and tropical with a tart citrus blast and heady floral lift right behind it. Fresh and lively on the palate with a singed orange-peel note arriving at the finish. South Italy Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

97 Bucci 2021 Villa Bucci Riserva (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). Green-appleskin and Asian pear meet Meyer lemon with the kind of precision that defines greatness. Fresh herbs and stone notes build a framework for complexity that keeps revealing itself, sip after sip. The palate delivers profound depth without showing off, this is white wine operating at its highest level, as compelling now with Dover sole as it will be in 2045 and beyond. This one shows why Italian white wine deserves your cellar's best real estate. Enovation Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Torre Zambra 2024 Piana Marina (Trebiano d'Abruzzo). The nose gleams with aromas of daffodils, freshly cut grass, new sneakers, and lime zest. Lemons, limes, and crushed stones tumble over the palate, followed by white peaches and melons, before a quiet, white-pepper heat ushers in a sophisticated, bitter almond note. Acid and warmth linger on a long finish. MISA Imports. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$68

93 Bucci 2023 (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore). This is architecture in a glass, with salt-etched stones creating a framework where texture tells the story. This is Verdicchio flexing its serious muscles, each sip building momentum through layers of minerality and mouthwatering depth. The kind of white wine that makes you rethink your seafood pairing game. Drink now—2035. Enovation Brands. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 La Veneranda 2024 (Montefalco Grechetto). Magnolia, baked pineapple, ripe yellow peach, and gravel announce themselves with real confidence before the palate takes a sharp and delicious turn

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toward salt and citrus crispness. Tropical and fresh all at once, this is a food wine that thinks outside the Mediterranean: Try it with an al pastor taco and smiles will ensue. Vivino Selections. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

92 Valle Martello 2025 Brado (Colline Teatine).

The nose pops with aromas of ripe peach, apricot, green apple, and lime zest. On the palate, more tree-fruit notes are balanced by nuttiness and warm citrus, creating a mouthfeel that is round and full, but still buzzy with acid and salinity. Dionysos Imports Inc. *Hidden Gem*. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$55

91 Antinori 2024 San Giovanni della Sala (Orvieto Classico Superiore).

Crunchy green apples meet white peaches, while four grapes show how tradition learns new tricks. The palate rides with textured grace, where Grechetto's cut and Viognier's curves prove Orvieto knows when to shake things up. Vinattieri 1385. —J.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

91 Castello di Luzzano 2024 Tasto di Seta Malvasia (Colli Piacentini).

Like walking through an Asian night market where lychee and jasmine vendors compete for your attention. The palate brings that same exotic energy but keeps it refined, tropical flowers, and sweet fruits floating by with runway model grace rather than market bustle. Vias Imports Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$24

90 Idi di Marzo 2025 Oro del Mare (Terre di Chieti).

The nose gusts with aromas of lemon, lime, honeysuckle, and abundant wild herbs, especially mint and fennel. Bright, simultaneously tart and sweet citrus defines the palate and is accentuated by tart green-apple undertones, vibrant acid, and a crushed-shell salinity. DLY Enterprise, LLC. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

88 Fratelli Raguzzoni 2023 Bianco della Sassola (Emilia).

Oxidized apple cider and pressed yellow flowers share space with warming spices, channeling that hip cider-house energy. This is Trebbiano showing its feral side without going full hippie—perfect for when the charcuterie board hits the table. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 11%

Price: \$79

87 Santa Cristina 2023 Campogrande (Orvieto Classico).

Green apples and lemon oil mingle with spring flowers, showing Orvieto's everyday charm. The palate delivers with salty precision, with blanched almonds and crisp edges. Vinattieri 1385. *Best Buy*. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

ROSÉS

90 Torre Zambra 2025 Incastro Rosa (Terre d'Abruzzo).

On the nose, leading aromas of wild cherry, wild strawberry, and citrus blossom

are balanced by undertones of crushed shells. Ripe peaches and raspberries define the palate, before a finish of tangy citrus and more salty minerals restores balance. MISA Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$25

90 Torre Zambra 2025 Passo Sacro (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).

This dark-rose pink wine presents a nose of strawberry shortcake and watermelon candy, then a palate of freshly sliced watermelon, raspberry, and wild strawberry, before a salty, tangy, tart finish wraps it all up with a twist. MISA Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

DESSERT WINE

93 Antinori 2022 Muffato della Sala (Umbria).

Morning fog turned Sauvignon Blanc, Grechetto, Traminer, Sémillon, and Riesling into something beyond the sum of parts, where dried apples and peaches meet fresh magnolia. The palate delivers liquid honey, toasted nuts, and candied citrus. Have this with cheese courses. Drink now–2050. Vinattieri 1385. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$60/500ml

CENTRAL ITALY

RED WINES

MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO

92 Torre Zambra 2024 Colle Maggio Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).

On the nose, the energy of Bing and black cherries and Mission figs is balanced by the texture of malted chocolate and coffee grinds. The palate brings more tart and sweet cherries, alongside berries and balancing notes of orange peel and mocha. Lots of heat and firm tannins carry the finish. MISA Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

92 Valle Martello 2025 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).

The nose is raspberries, pomegranates, and figs strewn across iron-rich soil, and the palate has a similarly invigorating feel, with black cherries and more pomegranates providing more of that tart, lively fruit element, even as the overall feel remains sanguine and earthy. Chalky tannins balance vibrant acid. Dionysos Imports Inc. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$55

91 Cascina del Colle 2021 Negus (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).

The nose gusts with sanguine, umami, peppery aromas of mesquite, tart berries, earth, and citrus. Sour cherries and wild strawberries open the palate, before more of those warm citrus and hot, peppery elements return on the finish. Firm but chalky tannins provide just enough structure. Capital Wines, LLC. —D.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$62

90 Cascina del Colle 2024 Mastromauro (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).

The nose invigorates

with aromas of pencil shavings, wild herbs, and red and black plums, and the palate has a similarly enticing feel, with flavors of blackberries, raspberries, and damp earth, all beneath a squeeze of citrus. Chewy, dense tannins provide an anchor throughout. Capital Wines, LLC. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

VILLAMAGNA

93 Torre Zambra 2024 (Villamagna).

The earthy, umami nose unveils aromas of damp soil, underbrush, pepper, and crushed blackberries. On the palate, sweet blackberries and wild blueberries are balanced by bitter dark chocolate and bergamot, before taut tannins usher in a finish with abundant heat, plus a sprinkle of salt. MISA Imports. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$45

92 Cascina del Colle 2021 (Villamagna).

On the nose, leading aromas of Mission figs, pomegranate, and black plums are balanced by pencil shavings, damp soil, and underbrush. On the palate, sweet, ripe berries burst as the earth undertones grow warm and peppery on the back of the tongue, before that heat ignites on the finish. Solid tannins provide an anchor throughout. Capital Wines, LLC. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

92 Cascina del Colle 2019 Riserva (Villamagna).

The nose invigorates with aromas of black cherry, black plum, bergamot, and pepper. A mix of tart and sweet blackberries and black plums leads the way on the palate, before bolts of cracked black pepper and citrus light up the finish. Very lively, but without sacrificing depth. Capital Wines, LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

92 Valle Martello 2022 Riserva (Villamagna).

Fresh, playful aromas of black cherry, wild mint, wild fennel, orange peel, and top soil prance across the nose, and the palate is cohesive with blackberries, figs, more wild herbs, pepper, and earth. Taut tannins structure a warm finish. Dionysos Imports Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$90

91 Palazzo Battaglini 2020 Riserva (Villamagna).

The nose intrigues with aromas of plums, pomegranates, espresso, and anise, and the palate has a similar feel of enchanting sophistication, with notes of black cherry, black plum, dark chocolate, and licorice. Dense, chewy tannins usher in an abundantly hot and peppery finish. Wine Affairs Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

90 Palazzo Battaglini 2021 Palazzo Battaglini (Villamagna).

The nose has the sanguine, umami, spicy feel of mesquite, sour cherry, and chili pepper. Balance comes on a sweet palate of milk chocolate and wild strawberry, but fierce tannins keep you sitting up straight. Grape Juice Group. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$100

ROSSO PICENO

89 Terra Fageto 2023 (Rosso Piceno). Purple fruits and candied violets bring that Saturday night energy. Lush and plush waves keep rolling through, creating the kind of generous wine that makes you want to add one more pasta course to dinner. This bottle came out to play. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

88 Bucci 2022 Pongelli (Rosso Piceno). Roasted red and black fruits with a hint of char, like berries that got a little too friendly with the grill. The tannins kick in on the finish, creating the kind of honest Tuesday night wine that pairs perfectly with pizza delivery and zero pretense. Enovation Brands. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Terra Fageto 2022 Colle Del Buffo (Rosso Piceno). Plums and black cherries meet nutmeg and dried herbs in a simple melody. Fine tannins keep the rhythm steady, creating the kind of easy-drinking red that makes weeknight pasta just a bit better. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

ROSSO PICENO SUPERIORE

90 Il Conte Villa Prandone 2023 Marinus (Rosso Piceno Superiore). Black plums and crushed blackberries weave through notes of cocoa and sweet baking spices. The palate brings that same measured boldness, where generous black fruits and mocha notes find balance without holding back. This bottle knows exactly what it wants to be. Parker Wolf Selections Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Velenosi 2023 Brecciarolo (Rosso Piceno Superiore). Black fruits and licorice swim in ink-dark depths while wood smoke curls through the glass. Lush fruit meets chewy tannins like velvet with muscle, while sweet spices keep everything interesting without losing its cool. Perfect for when the grill master brings out the porterhouse. Vias Import Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Velenosi 2021 Roggio del Filare (Rosso Piceno Superiore). Plums simmer with licorice while sage smoke drifts through the kitchen. The palate brings that same cozy luxury, plush fruit and rich texture creating the perfect partner for a winter evening's braised lamb shanks with herbs. Vias Import Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$41

89 Terra Fageto 2022 Rusus (Rosso Piceno Superiore). Blackberry preserves and dark plums take a walk on the savory side with dried herbs and forest floor. The brooding palate delivers both power and earthiness, where rich fruit meets Mediterranean herbs and hints of olive tapenade. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76

MONTEFALCO

95 Arnaldo Caprai 2022 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). Sangiovese and Sagrantino feel less like a blend here and more like a conversation between two old friends who bring out the very best in each other. Warmed cherries, violet, and a savory soul carry the Sangiovese elegance while Sagrantino answers with Umbrian weight and tannins that are firm yet polished and deeply satisfying. Rich, lush, and powerful but always graceful. Drink now–2040. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

95 Montioni 2022 (Montefalco Rosso). For full review see page 4. Saranty Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

94 Moretti Omero 2023 (Montefalco Rosso). Warm and deeply inviting with baked cherry and red plum, whole spices, and finely chopped dried herbs threading through sun-roasted earth in a way that feels entirely at home in Montefalco. Fine tannins drawn from the plum skin itself, savory and yummy with a rusticity that honors its roots without ever feeling out of fashion. Carb Meyer. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$1

93 Agricola Mevante 2022 (Montefalco Rosso). Plump and freshly split cherries sit in their own juices, dusted with sweet spices with warmed, cut herbs and dried brush giving the nose a wild and inviting lift. Sangiovese leads the charge with confidence, the bright fruit of the nose shifting on the palate toward something more savory and primal with hints of blood and game. This wine is practically begging for a steaming bowl of pasta. House of Burgundy. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

93 Goretti 2021 Le Mura Saracene (Montefalco). Dark-chocolate cherries, violet, and a deeply savory backbone of red and black peppercorn announce a wine that means serious business without ever raising its voice. Cooked black plum and blackberry coulis roll through with sweet spice and pliant tannins that give generously without ever losing their grip. There is a lot of wine here, and that is entirely the point. Drink now–2040. Impero Wine Dist.. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$44

93 Lungarotti 2022 (Montefalco Rosso). The cork barely hits the table before the perfumes are already filling the room. Warmed plum, black cherry, fig jam, dried wild mint, and licorice pull you in deep before a bright and brilliant Sangiovese swerve delivers tart cherry, a whisper of blood and savory warmed earth on the finish. Rich, complex and completely alive. USA Wine West. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

93 Scacciadiavoli 2023 (Montefalco Rosso). Some wines are built around a showstopper note. This one is built around a live wire of acidity

running clean through the center, with lifted cherry and raspberry jam, bay leaf, and warm dusty crushed stone orbiting confidently around it. Pretty, high toned and completely self-assured. The kind of wine that makes you reach for the glass again immediately. Vinity Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

93 Valdangius 2021 Pippinello (Montefalco Rosso). There is something unhurried and beautiful about this wine—sandalwood and dried roses float on top, with warmed cherry jam and dried scrub brush finding their way through underneath. Tart cherry, dried thyme, and dusty warm earth on the palate, along with fine tannins and a lively acidity that refuses to let the wine get heavy. Pasta or barbecue, it does not matter, this one shows up ready. Q1 Wines LLC. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Arnaldo Caprai 2023 (Montefalco Rosso). The nose carries dried cherry, wild rose and a dusting of nutmeg with a clarity and lift that could only come from the sun-warmed hillsides of Umbria. Elegant and soft on the palate, fresh acidity holds everything together while the tannins stay polite and inviting. This is the kind of wine you open on a Tuesday night and finish before you even sit down to dinner. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Tenute Lunelli 2023 Ziggurat (Montefalco Rosso). Stewed cranberries are wrapped in star anise, clove, and cinnamon stick with a savory, meaty backbone that feels uncompromisingly old school and completely unapologetic about it. Tart plum and earthy game notes thread through with a firm and classic grip that calls to mind a great country steakhouse, where there is exactly one thing on the menu and it is perfect. Palm Bay International Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28

92 Tenute Lunelli 2022 Lampante Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). Plum and violet drift in on a warm breeze across a sun-soaked herb garden, this is a wine that arrives with an effortless and rounded generosity. Plump and juicy mixed berries fill the palate before a savory and earthy finish calls to mind a great bowl of pasta. Simple, perfect and completely satisfying. Palm Bay International Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$44

91 Goretti 2023 Le Mura Saracene (Montefalco Rosso). Cherry jam and mixed herbs arrive in perfect and equal measure, the nose undulating like the golden-brown rolling hills of Umbria in the height of summer. Bright and vibrant on the palate, tart red fruits bounce with energy while fine and knowing tannins hold their ground without overstepping. Beautifully balanced and honestly just needs a great burger. Impero Wine Distributors. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 La Veneranda 2022 (Montefalco Rosso). There is a lovely tension at work here between

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the deep-purple fruit expressed on the nose and the savory, herb-edged palate that follows. Plum, boysenberry, and warmed violets give way to grilled herbs, tart cherry, and a dark earthy finish, and fine tannins weave through the whole thing with a light and confident hand. Vivino Selections. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

90 Còlpetrone 2023 (Montefalco Rosso). High toned and juicy all at once—the kind of contradiction only Umbria seems to pull off without breaking a sweat. Bright boysenberry, loads of violet, and a savory gravel and cedar edge on the nose give way to a palate that is tart, zippy, and genuinely fun. Fine tannins keep things moving and the finish practically orders the pizza for you. Vias Import Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Tenuta Bellafonte 2022 Pomentino (Montefalco). Dried sour cherry, rosemary, and thyme with rose petals, there is something beautifully feral about this wine that pulls you back to the glass again and again just to see what shows up next. Tart and almost crunchy on the palate with fine tannins that keep it bright and lifted. Grilled lamb chops with herbs off the barbecue were made for this. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Terre de la Custodia 2019 Rubium (Montefalco Rosso). Deep, dark, and dressed to impress. Black-plum jam and blackberry liqueur roll in thick with baking spices—the kind of wine that takes up the whole room without apologizing. The palate is plush and fruit forward, a bright acidity cutting through the richness before cracked black pepper closes things out with a little attitude. Tita Italian Import & Export. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Bocale 2023 (Montefalco Rosso). The nose is like finding a pot of plums and boysenberries slowly cooking down on the stove with sweet spices, with a vase of day-old violets sitting nearby, adding something warm and soft to the air. The palate is plump and easy until the Sangiovese reminds you it is still in the room, a lift of acidity and tart cherry pulling everything into focus. Tradizione Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Cesarini Sartori 2022 Terrebianche (Montefalco Rosso). Think berry pie still warm from the oven with a little thyme and dried brush sneaking in through the back. The palate goes lush and generous, red and purple plums at the core with sweet and savory spices running alongside, then one sharp crack of fresh pepper lands right at the end and makes you smile. Tannins are easy, the whole thing just works. Vero USA. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Tenuta Bellafonte 2021 Maestà Quattro Chivi (Montefalco Rosso). Split ripe cherries, sweet spice, and dried green herbs give this wine a rustic, old-world charm that is hard not to like. The palate is bright and tart with tannins that lean in firmly, the

kind of wine that needs a plate of food to truly open up and show its best self. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Tenuta Di Saragano 2018 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). Inky purple in the glass, opening with a heady rush of tar, grilled, and roasted black-hued fruits dipped in liquor. Plush plum and fig jam settle in alongside reduced cola, a shaving of bitter chocolate and dusty tannins that carry the whole thing to a finish that lands squarely on chocolate-covered blueberry. South Italy Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$40

MONTEFALCO SAGRANTINO

98 Antonelli 2020 Molino dell'Attone (Montefalco Sagrantino). For full review see page 3. Omniwines Distribution. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$72

97 Antonelli 2020 Chiusa di Pannone (Montefalco Sagrantino). For full review see page 3. Omniwines Distribution. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$54

96 Moretti Omero 2021 Vignalonga (Montefalco Sagrantino). Certified organic since 1992 and produced only in the finest vintages, the Vignalonga is a single-vineyard cru where 30-year-old spur-trained vines grow in clay soils up to 450 meters in elevation. This is Sagrantino at its most profound and purposeful, expressing violets drying in the sun, black plums, turned earth, dried hay, and balsam, all arriving in a rush of warmth and layered complexity. Tobacco and savory herbs thread through liquored blackberries as generous tannins coat the mouth without ever drying it. This is a wine built for time. Drink now–2050. Carb Meyer. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

95 Arnaldo Caprai 2021 25 Anni (Montefalco Sagrantino). This wine enters a room like it owns it. Roasted fig and blackberry compote pour from the glass with a depth that feels almost gravitational—black plum, licorice, and a warm savory darkness moving beneath layers of clove and black pepper. The oak is flashy and fully absorbed while the tannins work as a foundation rather than a feature, holding everything together in quiet and confident reserve. Drink from 2028. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$112

95 Tenute Lunelli - Carapace 2018 Carapace Lunga Attesa (Montefalco Sagrantino). Seven years of patience plus time in barrel and terracotta gives us a wine of generosity and immediate pleasure. Opening with aromas of dried and cooked black plums, sweet spice, and licorice layered beneath bittersweet cocoa. The palate fills generously with blackberry jam and spice, rounded tannins, and a lush and juicy frame that makes the long wait feel like the whole point. Drink now–2040. Palm Bay International Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

94 Antonelli 2021 (Montefalco Sagrantino). Imagine someone took a fig spice cake, convinced it to become a liquid and then talked it into being the most elegant version of itself. Stewed plums, star anise, clove, cinnamon, and pink and red peppercorns all rise together, the texture as rich as dried fig skin and just as memorable. Lush but light on its feet. Omniwines Distribution. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

94 Antonelli 2020 (Montefalco Sagrantino). Some wines want to be everywhere at once, but this one knows exactly where it is. Sun-drenched clay and limestone hills in the heart of Umbria, grown without intervention, and every sip feels like proof of that commitment. Tart red fruits and dark sour plum arrive with dried violets and a whisper of balsam, the tannins giving the whole thing shape like a well-cut suit. The finish turns savory and meaty, the acidity keeping it all razor sharp. Drink now–2045. Omniwines Distribution. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$47

94 Bocale 2020 Passito (Montefalco Sagrantino). This is the wine that started it all in Montefalco, and this version picks up that torch and runs. Baked plums and blackberry fruit leather, violet candy billowing out of the glass like a dessert shop crossed with a spice market. The palate is deep and lush, purple and blue-fruit jam with clove, cinnamon, star anise, and allspice all the way through. Sweet but grounded. Pour it late into the evening. Drink now–2050. Tradizione Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$41

94 Lungarotti 2021 (Montefalco Sagrantino). The vinous equivalent of an old forest cabin, woodsy, and richly nostalgic with dried cherry, black-plum tart, licorice root and roasted coffee arriving with a lush and deeply satisfying complexity. Blackberry-pie filling and savory summer herbs pull in opposite directions and somehow make the whole thing feel utterly complete. The tannins know exactly when to step back and let the fruit do the talking. Drink now–2040. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Scacciadiavoli 2020 (Montefalco Sagrantino). This is like a warm afternoon under ripe plum trees, violets, and iris all around, fresh herbs being chopped by a nearby grill. Elegant and composed, red and black currant with tobacco and coffee before a bright lifted finish over impossibly fine tannins. Lamb, entrécôte or mushroom pasta all earn their place here. Drink now–2040. Vinity Wine Company. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Tenuta Lunelli 2021 Carapace (Montefalco Sagrantino). Slow to open, but patient attendance is rewarded as black cherry, plum, and violet build into a beautiful crescendo with gravel and herbs providing the grounding harmony beneath. The palate is loaded with dark fruit that walks right to the edge before earth and fine tannins step in to frame the whole picture with quiet authority. Drink now–2045.

Palm Bay International Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

94 Terre de la Custodia 2020 Melanto (Montefalco Sagrantino). Blackberry and blueberry marmalade settle into the glass alongside spiced orange peel and a gentle warmth that recalls pine forest after a winter rain. Melanto is rich and deeply sweet, perfect with chocolate or spiced cake but honestly best saved for yourself and an evening worth remembering. Drink now–2050. Tita Italian Import & Export. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30/375ml

93 Arnaldo Caprai 2021 Collepiano (Montefalco Sagrantino). Collepiano is Sagrantino at its most essential. Wild blackberry and raspberry jam lead with full and unguarded intensity, fresh-cut mint and drying leaves add a wild edge while warmed iris lifts the whole thing into something almost poetic. The tannins are firm, the fruit is bold and the sun and earth of Umbria feel present in every sip. Drink Now–2045. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$53

93 Bocale 2020 Ennio (Montefalco Sagrantino). Summer afternoon, picnic table, blackberries and raspberries that have been sitting in the sun just long enough. Violets compressed into something deeper and more serious. The palate moves into black-cherry pie then makes a sharp left turn, cola, sage, and rosemary showing up and making it all more interesting than you expected. Tannins like good leather, a dusty road running underneath, and then the finish lifts clean and bright. Nobody saw that coming. Drink now–2045. Tradizione Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Còlpetrone 2016 Memoira (Montefalco Sagrantino). This wine opens in waves, each one more rewarding than the last. Red fruit and dried roses drift over black tea, tobacco, and a whisper of game before nearly a decade in bottle reveals its true hand: dried cherry, cola spice, turned earth, and dried forest leaves threaded with fine herbs and spice. The tannins are elegant and composed and the wine is ready to earn its place at your next dinner party table. Vias Import Ltd. *Editor's Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$29

93 La Veneranda 2021 (Montefalco Sagrantino). This is a wine that rewards patience. Give it time in the glass and it opens from a whisper into something bold and expansive—plum and blackberry compote emerging alongside cherry wood smoke and rosemary. The palate is rich, loaded with cherry jam and crunchy garden herbs rolling over cracked black pepper with tannins that are present but never demanding. Drink now–2045. Vivino Selections. —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$60

93 Tenuta Bellafonte 2018 Collenottolo (Montefalco Sagrantino). There is something

almost untamed about this wine, like stumbling into a sun-drenched hillside in late summer where the air is thick with wild flowers and ripe fruit and someone nearby is cooking over an open fire. The palate is generous, then earthy, then gripping, each layer arriving on its own terms. Worth every minute of the wait. Drink now–2045. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

93 Valdangius 2020 Fortunato (Montefalco Sagrantino). Dried plum and jam build for a savory dish, with pencil lead, roasted coffee, and dried violets layered underneath. The palate is bold and lush but never once loses its footing. This wine likes the spotlight and has earned it, with super-fine tannins and a balance that surprises you every sip. Pair with something primal. Drink now–2045. Q1 Wines LLC. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$49

92 Agricola Mevante 2021 (Montefalco Sagrantino). Blackberries, dried wildflowers, clove, cinnamon, and allspice billow out of the glass with impressive volume and presence. Bold and rich with oak playing a confident role today, the fruit more than holds its own and carries through to a juicy and forward finish across fine tannins. Pair with a deeply spiced Moroccan vegetable tagine and let the two find each other. Drink now–2040. House of Burgundy. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

92 Bocale 2021 (Montefalco Sagrantino). Blackberry compote off the stove with a handful of red currants thrown in at the last second just to wake it up, fresh earth and graphite drifting underneath. The palate goes dark and generous—black-plum jam and a sticky pomegranate gummy hit, but the tannins are round and easy, the acidity keeping it alive. There is a deeper savory story still to come. Drink now–2040. Tradizione Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

92 Còlpetrone 2019 Ò di Còlpetrone (Montefalco Sagrantino). Black-plum jam, black currant and concentrated violet arrive with singed sage and rosemary smoldering beneath, and with clove, cinnamon, and vanilla pulling everything into focus. Bold and richly fruited with firm tannins and a bright acidity that keeps it honest on the finish. This is a Sagrantino for the Napa lover who is ready to think bigger. Drink now–2045. Vias Import Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

91 Fattoria Colsanto 2019 (Montefalco Sagrantino). Stewed cranberries wrapped in star anise, clove, and cinnamon stick with a savory, meaty backbone that feels uncompromisingly old school and completely unapologetic about it. Tart plum and earthy game notes thread through with a firm and classic grip that calls to mind a historic steakhouse with one perfect signature dish on the menu. Siema LLC. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Terre de la Custodia 2018 Exubera (Montefalco Sagrantino). Warmed blackberry, cassis, savory herbs, and cedar come barreling out of the glass with pressed rose and violet riding close behind, all of it turned up to full volume. The palate matches the intensity but the tannins play jockey here, reins in hand, keeping this big and bold Sagrantino from galloping off entirely. Ready now–2040. Tita Italian Import & Export. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

90 Montioni 2021 (Montefalco Sagrantino). Deeply purple and proud of it, dried violets, iris, desiccated plums, and blueberries lead with an almost otherworldly fruit intensity that feels lifted straight from a Willy Wonka fever dream. Savory notes make a quiet effort to surface but the fruit holds the floor, rustic tannins arriving at the finish to remind you this is Sagrantino. Saranty Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Montioni 2021 Ma.Gia (Montefalco Sagrantino). Think of Amarone but with an Umbrian soul. Fig jam and melted dark chocolate pour out of the glass with a lush and blood-rich depth that fills every corner of the mouth. Dried and concentrated fruit rolls over round tannins before a whisper of roasted coffee and earth closes out the finish. Saranty Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$95

89 Cesarini Sartori 2020 Villarode (Sagrantino di Montefalco). Roasted blackberry, sun-baked tar, smoking sage, singed cinnamon, and licorice set a bold and dramatic tone, with candied blueberry and vanilla rounding everything into a palate that is both juicy and firmly tannic. A fruit-forward and richly styled Sagrantino that will find its audience among lovers of powerful and generous reds. Vero USA. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

88 Cantine le Cimate 2018 (Montefalco Sagrantino). An expressive and fruit-driven take on Sagrantino with black figs, cassis liqueur, pencil shavings, and wild mushrooms giving way to mixed-berry compote and sweet baking spices across fine tannins. The fruit is generous, and the wine invites you in with ease. Those looking for the deeper, savory, and earthy complexity of the variety may find themselves wanting a little more. Spaghetti Western Imports, LLC. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$70

OTHER RED WINES

93 Idi di Marzo 2024 Perdizione (Terre d'Abruzzo). The nose refreshes and enlivens with aromas of black cherry, blackberry, wild fennel, wild mint, and crushed rocks. On the palate, ripe black cherries and macerated blackberries are joined by bergamot and mixed wild herbs for balance, and structured tannins and heat bring depth before a salty, fresh finish washes everything down. DLY Enterprise, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

92 Canneto 2019 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). The aromas unleash subtle smoky cherries and brown mushrooms with dried Tuscan herbs as some oak grazes the nose. Big tannin and bold flavors give you ripened blackberry and wet black stone with a foresty flare. As the wine finishes, it feels sophisticated and minerally with some spice that likes to linger. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Cotarella 2020 Montiano (Lazio). Rich blackberries and dark plums mingle with graphite while clove, cinnamon, and bay leaf build in layers. The palate expands with structured luxury, where fine tannins and broad fruit show how Merlot handles power without losing grace. Drink now–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

91 Canneto 2019 (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). On the nose, expect alluring aromas of black cherry that are weaved with menthol and touches of cedar. The medium-bodied palate has a leathery texture that is layered with dark chocolate, blackberry, and black walnuts. The wine finishes with gentle spices and a wet black stone feel folded into the velvety firm tannins. —M.R.L.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Lucci NV Lambrusco Secco (Reggiano). Like finding plum concentrate that somehow got even darker, while cracked pepper and salumi notes start planning the menu. The palate keeps that food-friendly focus, juicy dark fruits and savory depth making it clear this wine was built for Memphis dry-rub ribs and smoky baked beans. Ethica Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

91 Velenosi NV Querci'antica Visciole (Marche). Mulling spices and simmering cherries creating pure winter comfort in a glass. The lush palate strikes a perfect balance between sweet red fruits and warming spices, never tipping into excess. This is desert wine that makes chocolate seem like its destiny. Vias Import Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Il Conte Villa Prandone 2022 Zipolo (Marche). Sweet spices and star anise float through blackberry compote and blueberry preserves. The palate delivers that same generous spirit, where black plums and soft tannins create waves of pleasure. Perfect when there's Moroccan-spiced lamb on the table. Parker Wolf Selections Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

88 CESARINI SARTORI 2023 Rossobastardo (Rosso dell'Umbria). Blackberry jam, fig, and sweet baking spices, pressed violets filling the glass and making the whole thing feel heady and generous before you even take a sip. The palate is lush and soft, blue and black fruits exploding in every direction, cassis and black currant leading the charge, then a clean vein of acidity lifts the whole thing right at the end. Vero USA. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

SOUTHERN ITALY WHITE WINES

SPOLETO

93 Antonelli 2024 Trebium (Spoleto). The quiet ones always surprise you. This wine does not walk into the room announcing itself, it simply sits there until you lean in and suddenly you are somewhere warm, with tropical flowers and dried mango, Meyer lemon peel, wet gravel with a breath of balsam underneath. The body has enough weight to carry a main course and the finish lands like actual sunshine. Omniwines Distribution. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Bocale 2024 Luciana (Spoleto). Thirty days on the skins and six months in amphora will do things to a wine and here, it did good things. Deep gold in the glass, dried apricot, and pressed yellow flowers, wild honey and dehydrated orange slices, the whole thing feeling ancient and alive at the same time. The palate pushes back, undulating with citrus, fine tannins and a long salty finish that just keeps pulling you in. Exotic and completely mouthwatering. Tradizione Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Scacciadiavoli 2023 (Spoleto). Gold in the glass like afternoon light through an old window. Baked peaches and dried apricots, dusty earth, the whole nose pointing you straight toward the kitchen. The palate is lean, salty, and savory with preserved lemon running the length of it. Pull some pork, hit it with honey mustard, pour this alongside and call it a perfect Sunday. Vinity Wine Company. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Bocale 2024 (Spoleto). There's something wild from the first sniff, like broom flowers and roasted lemon giving way to yellow peach drying in the sun. The palate is plush and warm, honey, baked walnut and tangerine cream woven into something exotic and fun. Skip the safe pairings and take this to Thai food or an Indian dish with spicy sweet chutney. Tradizione Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Valdangius 2023 Filium (Spoleto). Give this a few minutes to express itself. Dried peach, white pineapple, and pressed yellow flowers come first, then dried orange and orange blossom quietly appear, and the nose becomes something else entirely. The palate follows with preserved lemon and a bright vibrant acidity, crushed chalk pulling the finish into sharp focus. Patient and rewarding from start to finish. Q1 Wines LLC. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

SPARKLING WINES

94 Antonelli 2021 Spumante (Spoleto). Nobody told Trebbiano Spoletino it was supposed to be forgotten and this wine is the proof. Dried mango,

candied lemon peel, summer magnolia, and pastries filled with tropical cream, heady but held in check by a tension you can feel from the first sip. The acidity cuts through like a zip of star fruit, the texture builds and the chalky finish lingers. A grape that came back better than ever. Omniwines Distribution. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 Scacciadiavoli 2020 Spumante (Spoleto). Thirty six months on the lees, but Trebbiano Spoletino just raised its hand and said "watch this." Ripe peach, pineapple, and warm brioche straight out of the gate, the palate salty and lemon driven with a crunchy restless acidity. The finish lifts clean and keeps going long after you expected it to stop. Hot chicken was made for this moment. Drink now–2035. Vinity Wine Company. *Editor's Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES

PRIMITIVO DI MANDURIA

94 Masseria Cuturi 2020 Monte Diavoli (Primitivo di Manduria). An impressive Primitivo that has finesse and appeal. The wine shows red plum, fresh blood-orange juice, dried herbs, and subdued menthol as you swirl the glass. The fruit almost wants to come secondary on the palate, which is unique for Primitivo. The tannins are stylish—front row, but polished with flavors of black stone minerality, dried red berries, and nuanced with French oak. The acid is easily detectable and welcomed as the wine is uniquely lean. Crack a bottle now and bring out the good cheese. *Editor's Choice.* —M.R.L.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$40

92 Masseria Cuturi 2021 Chidro (Primitivo di Manduria). Refined but evocative, the nose goes through loops of strawberry, raspberry, and cedar. On the palate there are red berries, candied strawberry, and extra-dark chocolate with fresh herb. Chidro has all the aggression and punk rock that Primitivo usually shows, but in an "I use to be a punk rocker" way. The wine remains tame and subtly sweet with tannin that is soft and fruity. —M.R.L.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 Masseria Cuturi 2021 Licuturi (Primitivo di Manduria). This wine plays out to be charismatic and cool with candied strawberry, ripe blueberry, and sweet mint that appear on the nose. Powerful berry flavors persist on the palate but feel tame from its leaner approach that make the wine easier to drink or understand. The finish has finesse and defined minerality along with some nice powdery tannin. —M.R.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Masseria Surani 2021 (Primitivo di Manduria). This Primitivo was born lighthearted, having a style showing fruits that feel fresher than the usual while being pleasantly underripe as you catch fig and

strawberry leaving the glass. The palate is lean with roasted strawberry and appears to be a bit bloody. The tannins are mild and have a lot of help from the snappy acidity. Vintus Imports. *Best Buy*. —M.R.L.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

89 **Varvaglione 2021 Papale (Primitivo di Manduria).** The nose comes right at you with orange zest and roasted berries that came off a charcoal grill. Rhubarb pastry and strawberry glaze saturate the tongue while your cheeks fill with tannins that are macho and sweet. Underneath the layers of wine there is subtle acidity that helps hold these bold flavors together. WinesU. —M.R.L.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$29

SALENTO

90 **Azienda Agricola Rocca 2022 Podere don Cataldo Negroamaro (Salento).** The nose shows Mission figs and cherry with just a hint of flint. Dried blueberries, herbs, and wild cherries give the palate a saccharine-dominated but powerful character and bright acidity helps keep the wine light on its feet. Lanval Wine Imports. *Best Buy*. —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$9

90 **Masseria Cuturi 2024 Zacinto Negroamaro (Salento).** This wine has blueberry pastry, light coffee, and a black-rock minerality packed inside its bouquet. The palate has plum and black cherries that are seasoned with just a bit of crushed wet rock. The tannins feel small and precise with juicy acidity that adds lift. *Best Buy*. —M.R.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$14

89 **Castello Monaci 2023 Maru Negroamaro (Salento).** On the nose, the wine feels sun-soaked with roasted cherry and dried herbs. Overripe cherries and fresh cream appear along with a chalky white minerality on the palate. Small-grained tannin help drive the roasty flavors of this wine continuously on the finish. *Best Buy*. —M.R.L.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

89 **San Marzano 2021 F Negroamaro (Salento).** The aromatics are spun together with coffee, dried blueberry, and blood. The depth of flavors show roasted strawberry and fresh orange peel. Sticky-sweet tannins appear, giving the wine a deep rich feel that's layered with cacao and spice. Ethica Wines. —M.R.L.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38

88 **Tormaresca 2022 Masseria Maime (Salento).** Tormaresca is a wine that is bold and built with aromatics that remind you of blueberry scone, baked rhubarb, and dark chocolate. The palate has small berries that wear velvety tannins that keep packing a tart berry punch. Vinattieri 1385. —M.R.L.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

SICILY WHITE WINES TERRE SICILIANE

91 **Peri Peri 2025 Ninì (Terre Siciliane).** The nose shines with aromas of clean laundry, lemon, lime, and jasmine. The palate layers tart and sweet citrus over ripe, juicy peaches, and melons, before a salty, crisp finish. MISA Imports. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$19

91 **Peri Peri 2025 Vicerè (Terre Siciliane).** Aromas of honey dew, pink grapefruit, and green apple tumble over the nose, and the cohesive palate brings flavors of ripe melon, warm citrus, and a green-apple candy kick. Savory, nutty notes on the finish are lifted by searing acid. MISA Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$27

90 **Peri Peri 2025 Liolà (Terre Siciliane).** Vanilla, sweet almonds, and apricots kick things off on the nose, followed by wild oregano and fennel for balance. The citrus, floral palate combines more almonds with developing flavors of dense, ripe stone fruit to create a slick, full mouthfeel. MISA Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$27

ITALIAN WHITE WINE

90 **Idi di Marzo 2025 White Scandal (Vino Biancod'Italia).** The nose sprinkles lime zest, white flowers, and wild herbs over a basket of Anjou pears, and the palate stays fresh and fun with green apples, fresh green pears and a finish of nutty herbaceousness. Lively acid adds even more energy. DLY Enterprise, LCC. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$35

ITALIAN ROSÉ WINES

90 **Idi di Marzo 2025 Amabilis (Vino Rosato d'Italia).** A rose-pink wine with striking aromas of blood orange, hibiscus, and pink grapefruit. The palate sweetens with flavors of ripe peach, apricot, and sugared pink grapefruit, creating a mouthfeel that is full, but also tangy and tart on the finish. DLY Enterprise, LCC. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

90 **Idi di Marzo 2025 Perfectly Imperfect (Vino Rosato d'Italia).** This rosato has a rose-pink hue and an energizing nose of tart citrus, minerals, and wild strawberries and cherries. A mix of tart berries, some sweet and ripe, others tart, defines the palate, while overtones of warm citrus create a round, full mouthfeel that is balanced by lively acid and a healthy sprinkle of salt. DLY Enterprise, LCC. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$35

ITALIAN RED WINES

92 **Idi di Marzo 2024 Atto Finale Appassimento (Vino Rosso d'Italia).** The nose refreshes with aromas of black cherries, blackberries, top soil, wild fennel, and wild mint. Sweet, ripe, macerated berries and cherries lead the way on the palate, followed by figs, plums, and dark chocolate, before a finish of warm citrus and spices. DLY Enterprise, LCC. —D.C.

abv: 17%

Price: \$42

92 **Idi di Marzo 2024 Passionale (Vino Rosso d'Italia).** The nose feels like a day in early spring, with aromas of tea leaf, blackberry, black plum, bergamot, and top soil. On the palate, the dark fruit oscillates between tangy tartness and sweet ripeness, while undertones of candied citrus peel and dark chocolate provide balance. Insistent tannins intensify a simmering heat. DLY Enterprise, LCC. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$45

92 **Tenuta del Pajaru 2024 Meridionale Tre Tenute (Vino Rosso d'Italia).** On the nose, leading aromas of dark, macerated stone fruit and berries are joined by undertones of chocolate and spices that add nuance. The palate leads with dried figs, wild blueberries, and chocolate, then a bolt of piquant black pepper illuminates firm, grippy tannins and a hot earthiness that carries through the finish even as the fruit stays rich and dense. MISA Imports. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$50

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES VINHO VERDE

91 **Aveleda 2024 Solos de Granito (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 15. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy*.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

91 **Aveleda 2024 Solos de Xisto (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 15. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy*.

abv: 12%

Price: \$19

90 **Aveleda 2025 (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 16. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy*.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

90 **Cícero 2024 (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço).** Aromas of Asian pear and peach are underscored by notes of white flowers, almond, and wet rock. There's a salty note that offers a counterpoint to the zesty, linear fruit. This will go exceptionally well with salt-cured meats and chilled shellfish. The wine should drink well over the next several years. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$10

89 **Aveleda 2025 (Vinho Verde).** A juxtaposition of green apple and apricot brings appealing

BUYINGGUIDE

fruit tension to this white, with orange-blossom aromatics and a river-stone minerality, all while showing forward fruit and still maintaining a degree of classy poise. Great now and over the next couple years. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 12% Price: \$15

89 Encosta da Capela 2025 Reserva (Vinho Verde Monção e Melgaço). This is zippy and expressive in fruit, with mango, pear, and honeydew melon offset by accents of nut husk and white tea. A river-stone minerality adds some grounding on the nose and the finish. This will be great with all sorts of cheeses, and it's ready to drink over the next couple years. —J.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 Aveleda 2025 (Vinho Verde). A slightly salty oceanic note underpins notes of green apple, white peach, white pepper, and rising dough in this bright and crisp wine. Fresh and versatile, with a relatively long finish, it'll be great with hard sheep cheeses and all sorts of snacking fare. Drink over the next year or two. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

88 Twin Vines 2025 (Vinho Verde). This wine offers soft elegance, with grilled peach, jasmine, candied lime, and orange zest all coming into play. Enticing on the nose and charming on the palate, it'll be a nice pickup for weekend brunch over the next two years. Share a Splash Wine Co.. —J.S.

abv: 10% Price: \$34

87 Aveleda NV Casal Garcia (Vinho Verde). This is always just a fun and easy wine to crush, with kiwi, peach, citrus, and apple flavors all doing their part. Some white flowers chime in on the nose to add interest. Juicy, slightly effervescent, and killer for a hot day or as an aperitif. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 9.5% Price: \$10

87 Twin Vines 2024 (Vinho Verde). This is slightly fizzy, with freshly focused fruit and a rounded texture giving near-term enjoyment. Aromas of brioche, white pepper, and wet rock hover over a core of white peach and green apple, suggesting a pairing with simply grilled whitefish or cold potato salad. Share a Splash Wine Co.. —J.S.

abv: 10% Price: \$34

PENÍNSULA DE SETÚBAL

87 João Pires 2025 (Península de Setúbal). An assertive pop of jasmine, peach, and bright citrus makes a gregarious impression on the nose, underpinned by a subtle mineral note. The peachy, citrusy, and floral-tea flavors are well proportioned and straightforward. This is good to go now and would do well with a diverse charcuterie board. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.S.

abv: 12% Price: \$34

86 Albis 2025 (Península de Setúbal). This white has an overtly perfumy nose of chamomile and rosewater, underscored by mixed citrus, can-

taloupe rind, and wet rock. There's a drying mineral element grounding the wine. Though it's a bit rustic, it'd do solid service when well chilled. Drink now. —J.S.

abv: 12% Price: \$34

85 Periquita 2025 (Península de Setúbal). Generous aromatics of kiwi, apples, white peach, and honeysuckle give a pleasant opening impression. Though the acidity has a slightly hard, rindy edge, it'll be helped out by pairing it up with creamy cheeses or rotisserie chicken. Drink now. M Imports LLC. —J.S.

abv: 12% Price: \$34

84 Duque de Palmella 2025 (Península de Setúbal). A distinct note of cake batter joins peach blossom, mixed apples, and lime on the nose of this white, while somewhat hard acidity and a saline note runs through the core of the flavors. Cleanly made, though somewhat disjointed, some creamy cheese will help this along. Drink now. —J.S.

abv: 12% Price: \$36

TEJO

92 Companhia das Lezírias 2021 Séries Singulares Colheita Tardia Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo). The essence of peach, orange marmalade, and bananas Foster all burst from the glass in this unctuous dessert white. Tea leaf and subtle spice give welcoming contrast to the lip-smacking sweetness. A decadent sip, it would be just the thing for crème brûlée, rice pudding, or with blue cheeses. This can likely age for many years, but it's irresistible now. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. *Hidden Gem*. —J.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$85

90 Companhia das Lezírias 2023 Séries Singulares (Tejo). This uncommon and well-made varietal wine is fresh and direct on the palate, with a mineral undercurrent. Notes of green apple, kiwi, and citrus team up with raw hazelnut, brioche, and white flowers on the nose, as a floral pop also adds charm on the finish. Drink this over the next two-to-three years. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$49

88 Companhia das Lezírias 2023 Tyto Alba (Tejo). A citrusy freshness centers flavors of peach chutney and pie crust in this white, while the aromatics entice with additional notes of green apple, subtle white flowers, and macadamia nut. Overall quite attractive, and it'll be a lot of fun with a white pizza. Drink over the next two years. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Quinta de Paços 2022 Casa de Paços Reserva (Minho). This wine has irresistibly electric acidity and river-stone minerality at its core, allowing the flavors of lime curd, tangerine zest, and roasted hazelnut to surge to the finish, where subtle notes of white pepper and butterscotch add to the complex

package. Long and rather Chablis-esque in structure, this'll be a dandy with baked halibut. Drink over the next three-to-four years. Carb Meyer. *Hidden Gem*. —J.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

91 Cabrita Wines 2023 Reserva (Algarve). This offers opulent texture as well as lots of freshness, as peach-pie, apple, and tangerine aromas play with roasted hazelnut, honeysuckle, and beeswax. It has both the richness and driving focus to go with all sorts of buttery, creamy dishes and nutty cheeses. Hints of coconut and butterscotch add flair to the finish. Drink over the next two-to-four years. —J.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

91 Golpe 2023 Reserva (Douro). This very well-structured white is citrus-driven and long, with aromas of lime and baked Granny Smith apple complemented by almond, rising sourdough, and a mineral core. Excellent now for its freshness and minerality, and it should evolve positively over the next few years and be at its peak from 2029 to 2031. Weygandt-Metzler Importing Ltd. —J.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$29

91 Quinta do Lagar Novo 2024 (Lisboa). Deep richness on the nose contrasts with bright focus on the palate, as pineapple, baked green apple, macadamia nut, and chamomile are tempered by citrusy acidity and wet rock undertones. This lingers on the palate, with a repeat of the chamomile note. A delight to drink now and over the next few years. It'll pair well with seafood pot pie or *bacalhau com natas*. Credo Imports LLC. —J.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

91 Quinta do Lagar Novo 2022 (Alenquer). There is excellent concentration and persistence to the bright, zippy fruit, with secondary notes of Marcona almond and salty minerality carrying the finish. The aromas bring an enticing suggestion of pineapple soufflé, salt-preserved lemon, chamomile tea, and beeswax. Baked fish is a great way to go with this, and it's ready to drink over the next few years. Credo Imports LLC. —J.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

89 Quinta do Vallado 2024 Reserva (Douro). This white is richly flavored while texturally crisp, with lemon curd and green-apple fruit layered with scents of coconut meringue, toasted hazelnut, and orange blossom. This will make a fine dinner white or cocktail-hour pour over the next three years or so. Quintessential Wines. —J.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$60

89 Vinos Atlântico 2025 Nortico (Minho). It's hard not to like this wine both for pairing and as a sunshine sipper. A fruit salad of peach, pear, cantaloupe, and citrus is topped with brioche and white-tea aromas. Drink it over the near term for its buoyant fruit. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$17

89 Vinos Atlântico 2024 Vinos Sin Ley (Minho). An expressive perfume of honeydew melon,

fresh apricot, and Asian pear aromas are complemented by white pepper, white rose, and lime zest. Forthcoming and lip-smacking in juicy fruit, it still has just enough acidity and river-stone character to anchor it. Rather long, it would be very nice with prosciutto and melon. Drink over the next couple years. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

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

88 Trevo 2025 (Lisboa). Sweet aromas of ripe melon, peach, golden apple, and orange blossom find crisp, lively harmony on the palate of this little charmer. A dash of lemon-lime citrus on the finish keeps the overall impression foodworthy and refreshing. It's a great wine for raw bar shellfish or a Greek salad. Drink over the next couple years. —J.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$34

SPARKLING WINE

90 Real Cave do Cedro NV Aleixo Family Collection 86 Brut Nature (Bairrada). It's hard to put a score on something this intentionally unusual. With 39 years aging on the lees, it's now a sort of "sparkling Manzanilla Sherry." Almond-brittle, black-tea, grilled preserved lemon, and dark-honey aromatics compliment a supersavory, salty, bone-dry, and umami-packed profile. Long and mineral, the wine comes with some fizz still holding on. It wants anchovy *pintxos*. Drink now. *Hidden Gem*. —J.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$82

ROSÉS

87 Trevo 2025 (Lisboa). Fuji apple and white peach lead the way, as orange blossom and a wet rock component add a second layer of interest. It's lively, flavorful, and well balanced, and will make a nice choice for sunny summertime snacking with mild, creamy cheeses. Drink over the next couple years. —J.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$34

86 Periquita 2025 (Península de Setúbal). A burst of bubblegum, bright strawberry, and red apple pops on the nose, with accents of white rose and white pepper. It's fun and flavorful, with a hint of cranberry and drying mineral tying up the finish. There's a lot of juicy fruit, so chill well and crush it at a picnic or poolside over the near-term. M Imports LLC. —J.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$34

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DOURO

90 Golpe 2022 Reserva (Douro). This wine is firm and gripping with its crushed-stone tannins, but underneath lies a core of dark-berry reduction, leather, mint, vanilla, and clove. This wants

several more years in bottle to soften and integrate. Ideally drink from 2029 at the earliest, but if popping now, lots of air and pairing with fatty stews or roasts will help it open. Weygandt-Metzler Importing Ltd. —J.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Golpe 2023 (Douro). Rich boysenberry fruit is anchored by dark aromas of espresso, jerky, earthy spice, and a hint of bell pepper in this concentrated red. It offers an overall enjoyable package, and it'd make a particularly great wine for outdoor grilling. Drink over the next three-to-four years. Weygandt-Metzler Importing Ltd. —J.S.

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

88 Quinta do Vallado 2023 Superior (Douro). Savory dried herbs are dusted over ripe forest berries on the nose of this wine, with licorice root, coconut, and allspice contributing. The wine has both good concentration and a longer finish. Another year or two in bottle—or plenty of air—will help this fully come together. It should drink well through 2031. Quintessential Wines. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

DÃO

93 Quinta de Lemos 2016 (Dão). This has compelling tension between the deep-black fruit, driving mineral tone, and fresh acidity. Coffee grounds, star anise, tobacco, and dusty graphite tannins all do their part to create a complex and polished representation of the central mountain region. This'll be great over the next few years with chargrilled pork. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

93 Quinta de Lemos 2015 (Dão). Palate-coating fruit and sweet-natured tannins are lifted by good acidity and an underlying mineral component in this structured and enticing bottling. Cassis and blueberry come together with subtle mint, cigar box, leather, and mulling spices. The flavors surge to a long and driving finish. Excellent now, it should continue to evolve positively for the next three or so years. —J.S.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$32

93 Quinta de Lemos 2013 (Dão). This is in an absolutely perfect place right now, with decadent aromas of blackberry pie, melted licorice, and violets held in check by savory notes of coffee grounds, tobacco leaf, leather, and balsamic. There's excellent concentration and mineral intensity on the palate, giving an overall very harmonious package. A wine for luxurious dinners, it'll continue to drink well through 2029. *Editor's Choice*. —J.S.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

92 Quinta de Lemos 2012 (Dão). This wine conveys its sense of place distinctly with its pinpoint focus, very good concentration, and fine structural tannins. Aromas of baked black fig, blueberry, leather, and mint meet licorice and allspice. Long and

built to pair with rich meat dishes, it'll continue to drink well through 2028 or so. —J.S.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$33

TEJO

91 Companhia das Lezírias 2022 Séries Singulares (Tejo). Ripe red berries, rooty spices, and toffee notes are joined by vanilla and tobacco in this concentrated, focused red. Showing some substantial class, fine-grain tannins and purity of fruit give an overall impression of structured poise. This is nice on its own, though it'll really shine at the table with roasted and grilled fare. Drink through 2030. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.

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

91 Companhia das Lezírias 2021 Tyto Alba (Tejo). There's a lot to delight over in this darkly rounded and silky red. Muddled blueberry, cassis, violets, and a complex array of oak tones are kept in check with good balancing acidity. Sweet tobacco lingers on the attractive send-off. This'd be great for a pan-seared sirloin, filet, or a thick slice of prime rib. Drink over the next four-to-five years. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. *Editor's Choice*. —J.S.

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

90 Fiuzza 2024 Ducado do Infante Reserva (Tejo). This is ripe and rounded without being heavy, as boysenberry and toasted Mission fig are joined by enticing aromas of violets, tobacco, mulling spices, and leather. It finishes rather long, with the vanilla, and tobacco making an encore along with a dash of dark chocolate. Rather impressive, it should drink well through 2029. A nice choice for roast beef. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Companhia das Lezírias 2023 Tyto Alba (Tejo). This wine is rich in fruit and full bodied, as deep red currants and black raspberry mingle with white tea, baking spices, and a hint of tomato leaf. Silky textured and quite long, some tannins come into play on the finish to add structure. Overall, it's a nice pour for the next few years. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.

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

87 Companhia das Lezírias 2023 Herdade de Catapereiro Reserva (Tejo). There's a slight herbal edge here that's smothered by ripe red-fruit character, with baked boysenberry laced with oregano, white pepper, tobacco leaf, and vanilla wafer. This'll be a good choice for weekday rustic roasts and meaty stews. Drink over the next few years. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.

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

86 Companhia das Lezírias 2023 Herdade de Catapereiro (Tejo). Juicy fruit meets leafy spice in this brightly focused red wine. Raspberry-strawberry jam comes up against Thai basil, tea leaf, underlying spice, and some vanilla wafer. The acidity pops out of the texture a bit, but it's solidly made and

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would go well with bean chili. Drink over the next couple years. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

OTHER RED WINES

94 Cabrita Wines 2019 Reserva (Algarve). An absolute banger of the region as berry preserves, old leather, violets, and oak-centric spice on the nose open to a silky blue- and black-fruited palate. Elegant acidity runs down the center, giving an overall concentrated and sophisticated composure. It finishes long, with a hint of vanilla framing fine berry-skin tannins. The wine will be fabulous over the next three-to-four years. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 José de Sousa 2024 (Alentejo). A bright pop of forest berries is sliced with brisk acidity in this forward yet structured offering. Hints of sage, earthy spice, vanilla, and tobacco leaf are lined with a subtle mineral character. This will make a nice choice for rich stews and the like over the next three-to-four years. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

SPAIN WHITE WINES RÍAS BAIXAS

93 Bodegas La Caña 2023 La Caña Navia Albariño (Rías Baixas). A full, robust nose accented by oceanic nuances carries onto a palate that remains somewhat tightly wound. The wine is certainly pleasurable now, though it feels destined to show at its best a few years down the road. Remember folks: don't be afraid to age your Albariño! Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Serra da Estrela 2024 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Pronounced herbaceous notes dominate the nose, with the palate offering enough energy to keep pace. Fruit and minerality come together in a fairly solid frame, carried by a firm, chiseled acidity through the finish. This is enjoyable now with room to grow. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Bodegas La Caña 2023 O'bariño (Rías Baixas). A fresh, lightly tropical nose marked by gooseberry and a hint of smoke gives way to a fairly smooth palate, finishing with a pleasant line of lingering acidity. Complexity may not be the aim, but there remains plenty to appreciate. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Bodegas Pazo de Villarei 2023 Abadia Do Seixo (Rías Baixas). A distinctly green, herbaceous edge greets the nose, interwoven with overt tropical-fruit tones. The palate shows some prom-

ise, though it feels a touch restrained at the moment. —B.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

NAVARRA

93 Viña Zorzal 2024 Blanco Señora de las Alturas (Navarra). Crisp orchard fruits, a squeeze of mixed citrus, blanched almonds, and a sprinkle of spice makes for a layered, textural and attractive wine with a vibrant finish. Part of a trio of wines named Señora de las Alturas, from Zorzal, this Viura with a dollop of Garnacha Blanca serves as the white. David Bowler Wine. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2023 Oxo (Navarra). Honeysuckle, citrus blossom and lavender lift from flavors of white stone fruits, crisp quince, and a sea-fresh finish. Subtle texture continues through a long finish, keeping the palate watering and ready for another sip. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

92 Inurrieta 2025 Orchidea (Navarra). Mouth-watering and attractive, this now-classic Sauvignon Blanc from Inurrieta delivers a fresh waft of aromatics leading into succulent flavor, with crisp acidity and a lightly textural mouthfeel. Citrus blossoms, a slice of orchard fruits, mountain sage and a sprinkle of refreshing sea salt come through the closing notes to complete the wine. Vinaio Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Inurrieta 2023 Orchidea Cuvée (Navarra). An almost opulent texture spun through with glittering acidity makes this barrel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc an attractive combination of aromatic citrus and apple blossoms and honeysuckle, combined with flavors of lightly spiced citrus pith and white sage. It's mouthwatering and satisfying, with a lengthy finish. Vinaio Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Bodegas Nekeas 2024 25 Vendimias (Navarra). Surprisingly nuanced and satisfying, this Garnacha Blanca is poised and refreshing while gaining detail with air. A step up in interest from previous vintages, it continues to showcase verve and texture. Fresh quince, white peach, a zest of ginger and grapefruit carry nose through finish. A mix of white herbs and something close to mint peek from the glass with further sipping. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

91 Bodegas Nekeas 2024 Vega Sindoa Odaiza (Navarra). Energetic, and nicely balanced, this Chardonnay from Nekeas captures the refreshment common to Navarra whites, with aromas of grapefruit blossom, white nectarine, and toasted almonds, leading into a wash of citrus pith, quince and persistent length. Oak spices are subtle and well integrated, carrying with them a silken mouthfeel. The wine's refreshing style prepares the palate for food and will

serve aperitifs, *pintxos*, and seafood beautifully. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Amatria Vinos y Viñedos 2024 La Rocha (Navarra). Amatria is a relatively new winery, already establishing itself successfully and working to revive lost vineyards. This Viura is made from previously abandoned old vines and is aromatic and flavorful, with a pleasingly textural palate and lots of length. It offers white stone fruits, lemongrass, a hint of ginger and sage, with a mouthwatering finish. Farley Brothers Selection. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2024 Blanco Lías (Navarra). Combining the alluring texture of Chardonnay with the aromatic verve of Viura, this white blend captures the energetic freshness of its region, with aromas and flavors of quince, white nectarine, and citrus blossom. A palate-cleansing structure sets this wine very well alongside food. Wine Bridge Imports. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Bodegas Nekeas 2025 Vega Sindoa Chardonnay (Navarra). Fresh, lifted aromatics and crisp flavors of quince and apple (with a squeeze of pineapple and lemon) linger through a lengthy finish. Built for refreshment, there is also plenty of charm. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Castillo de Monjardin 2025 (Navarra). Youthful and fresh, this Chardonnay offers charm, reliability and a balance of crisp fruits, refreshing acidity, and a hint of sweet flavor (not sugar) through the midpalate. Firm quince and pear, a light bite of mango and a squeeze of sweet citrus provide appeal and freshness. It's perfect for a picnic, a meal with friends or a lazy afternoon. Monjardin USA. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Doña Isabella White 2025 (Navarra). Juicy and refreshing, this Garnacha Blanca captures a wash of white nectarine, white cherry, and a hint of guava, with a lift of honeysuckle. Mouthwatering and approachable. Enjoy this as an aperitif or while spending the afternoon on a porch. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Le Naturel 2024 Le Naturel White (Navarra). This Garnacha Blanca offers purity and transparency, with an intriguing complex of honeysuckle, lemongrass, a squeeze of grapefruit, zest of orange and persistent texture. Hinting at new directions in Navarra, this white wine was made from organically farmed grapes and with no added preservatives. Vintae USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

87 Señorío de Sarria 2025 Chardonnay (Navarra). Fruit forward and direct, the wine gives juicy stone fruits, an accent of melon, and citrus

blossoms. The palate is crisp and lengthy with a pithy, flinty finish. Beviame International. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 RedThumb Natural Wine 2023 Unoaked Charodnnay (Navarra). Though a bit short, this offers up an honest profile of red apple, preserved lime, white flowers, and river stone. A nice chill will help it find focus and lengthen. It closes out with a dash of white pepper and wooden toothpick. Straightforward and solidly made. Drink now. USA Wine West. —J.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$19

RIOJA

93 Bodegas Montecillo 2019 Viña Monty Reserva (Rioja). The wine exhibits superb density to the flavors, while staying poised and classy. Peach reduction, lemon meringue pie, toasted Marcona almond, and Early Grey tea all play a part, while orange zest really ties the room together. Diverse elements work to create a complex and irresistible profile. It's a standout for crab cakes or sauteed shrimp and is in a great place now and through 2028. Evaton, Inc. *Editor's Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 Bodegas Corral 2024 Los Corrales de Montcalvillo (Rioja). Bruised golden apple and lime meet white flowers, Marcona almond, and fennel bulb in this highly compelling white. There's a bright zest cutting through the layered texture. Admirably complex and somewhat unique, this will be perfectly at home with grilled fish or hard sheep cheeses. Drink over the next two-to-three years. Cuddihy Wine Importers. *Hidden Gem.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

92 Bodegas Montecillo 2023 Edición Limitada (Rioja). A wave of lush exotica hits, as passion fruit, chamomile, apple chutney, butterscotch, and jasmine all partner up in this fascinating white. Hints of fennel bulb and bitter lemon pith help corset the opulence, and a dash of white pepper closes out the finish. Captivating now, it should continue to drink well over two-to-four years. Pair baked white fish and fruit salsa. Evaton, Inc. *Editor's Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

92 Bodegas Montecillo 2018 Viña Monty Reserva (Rioja). Rounded and almost decadent, this is very pretty, with lemon curd, lime zest, and baked apple fruit offset by toasted hazelnut, vanilla, and brioche. A long and luxurious finish is graced by a touch of butterscotch. It is an indulgent joy to drink right now and over the next few years. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

91 Bodegas Leza García 2024 Orange by Leza García (Rioja). A perky pop of star fruit, melon, and passion fruit is topped with balancing bitter-savory hints of tangerine pith and coriander seed. Compelling right out of the gate. The gregarious fruit is balanced by bright acidity, making this full-flavored but

light on its feet. It should be outstanding with baked or smoked ham. Drink now for its immediate appeal. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$49

89 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2021 Límite Norte Tempranillo Blanco-Maturana Blanca (Rioja). A rounded texture and refreshing acidity carry flavors of peach, mango, brioche, and almond. A hint of butterscotch chimes in on the finish. An attractive wine, this will prove equally adept at both porch sipping and lighter meals. Drink now. Zamora Company USA. —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Nivarius 2020 Edición Limitada (Rioja). Crisp acidity carries flavors of baked green apple and ripe lemon-lime, with aromatic notes of pie crust, toasted hazelnut, and wet rock creating a secondary layer of complexity. A hint of butterscotch chimes in on the finish. This should prove itself adept at fine dinners as well as front-porch sipping and backyard cookouts. Drink through 2028 or so. Cynthia Hurley French Wines. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Nivarius 2025 (Rioja). This is soft textured while well focused, as mixed melon and green apple are given a lift by orange blossom, cardamom, and brioche. It'd be a fine pour against a classic Cobb salad or with Greek seafood dishes. Drink over the next few years. Cynthia Hurley French Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Bodegas Leza García 2024 Crianza (Rioja). This is assertively flavorful and richly fruit driven, as toasted melon and lemon cream pie team up with aromas of bubblegum, raw hazelnut, and white rose. While not subtle, this bottling will satisfy those looking for a bouncy, buoyant style. Drink over the next couple years. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

87 Campo Viejo 2024 Blanco (Rioja). The agreeable profile includes baked green apple, white peach, and lime dusted with white pepper, nut husk, and parsley. Balanced, there is a river-stone minerality on the finish. Perfectly sippable, though it could have more concentration and length. Drink now. Vinarchy. —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

COSTERS DEL SEGRE

88 Raimat 2025 (Costers del Segre). Bright and fresh, it delivers generous tones of cantaloupe, white peach, brioche, lemon zest, and hint of white flowers on the nose. Medium bodied and rounded in texture, this is overall balanced and harmonious. Serve it with baked seafood and drink over the next two to three years. Raventós Codorniu North America. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

87 Raimat 2025 Montviu (Costers del Segre). Despite showing ripeness to its melon and apricot fruit, there is still some tart strawberry giving a lift. White pepper and a pleasantly drying mineral note come in on the finish. The wine has enough acidity to keep the profile perky enough. Well made, it will do nicely for a weekend lunch over the next couple years. Raventós Codorniu North America. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Raimat 2025 (Costers del Segre). This is a big burst of juicy apricot, honeydew melon, tangerine, and mango. While quite ripe, a little white pepper and mineral underpinning keep this from veering into too much of a good thing. A floral note of jasmine lingers on the finish. Fun to drink when well-chilled, this should be tasty paired up with *presunto* or *jamón*. Drink now. Raventós Codorniu North America. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Pago del Vicario 2025 Blanco de Tempranillo (El Vicario). For full review see page 8. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

92 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2024 Uva Doble (Spain). Alluring, distinctive, and aromatic, this Viognier from Ochoa captures a sophisticated, refined expression of the variety. Aromas of peach blossom, ginger, and a squeeze of pink grapefruit carry into a luxurious while mouthwatering palate. Delicious. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —E.C.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2024 Moscato de Ochoa (Spain). A lovely demonstration of why Moscato continues to be so popular: subtle, almost delicate, with a complex of aromatics and a persistent palate. White sage, flowering Mediterranean herbs, and a bite of white peach and fennel seed lift from the glass, carrying into a palate well balanced between a kiss of sweetness, persistent acidity, and a palate-cleansing finish. Fresh and pleasing. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —E.C.B.
abv: LA **Price:** \$30

91 Cabrita Wines 2024 Goat (Algarve). Ripe and clean, as the mix of peaches, quince paste, and orange marmalade is kept compelling by accents of sage, beeswax, and honeysuckle. There's intense freshness on the long finish, held together by a touch of white tea and river stone. Great with a charcuterie board or any sort of pork dish. Drink over the next couple years. —J.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

91 Txakoli Primo 2025 Zarautz (Spain). This is flashy and fun on the nose, with peach ring candy, mixed melon, and Asian pear centered by oceanic minerality. The buoyant fruit is more restrained on the palate, as snappy acidity keeps the overall

BUYINGGUIDE

impression zesty and food-worthy. It'll be an outstanding counterpoint to *jamón ibérico* or cracked crab. Drink now. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Bodegas Tarima 2025 Tarima Hill Sauvignon Blanc (Alicante). Delicate aromas of peach blossom, nectarine, and white rose petal draw in the nose guided by a whisper of gardenia and baby's breath. Bright acidity kicks off on the attack, followed by Gala apple, white tea and a hint of kumquat zest. This versatile wine would flatter many a dish. Wine-sellers, Ltd.. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Caballito de Mar 2024 (Rueda). A grassy nose shaped by lemon and grapefruit carries through to a focused, streamlined palate. A subtle creamy undertone emerges in the background, lending a touch of cohesion to the whole. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —B.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

90 Txakoli Primo 2025 Côte Basque (Spain). This is a no-brainer for sushi, crudo, and all sorts of tapas and *pintxos*, as zippy green apple, tart kiwi, ginger, and wet stone combine to form a distinctly gastronomic wine. Of course, it'll be equally as adept at poolside sipping and sunny picnics. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Vinos Sierra Norte 2025 Fuenteseca Macabeo Sauvignon Blanc (Utiel-Requena). This is a vibrant, refreshing wine. Aromas of freshly tilled earth, Bosc pear, and dried field grass open on the nose that leans into muddled golden-apple skin. The palate is filled with a squeeze of bright citrus that carries to the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

89 Nave Sur 2023 (Rueda). Green, grassy aromatics are layered with a pronounced tropical streak. The palate is juicy and exuberant, delivering a few pleasurable moments along the way. Cynthia Hurley. *Best Buy.* —B.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

CAVA

90 Vinos Atlántico NV Mas Vida Brut (Cava). This bubbly is lively while richly textured with excellent focus. Lemon-meringue tart, green apple, and pineapple core are topped by toasted hazelnut and tangerine zest. A mineral note underscores the long finish. Good density without heaviness mean this should be a charmer with baked Brie. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Castell d'Or NV Castell d'Or Brut (Cava). Lime curd, fresh green apple, and orange blossom are supported by additional notes of rising dough and river stone on the nose. It shows palate-coating, freshly mixed citrus and lively bubbles, complete with

an underlying mineral note on the persistent finish. The wine conveys quite a bit of class, and it'll be a surefire match for trout amandine. Vinaio Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Rondel NV Blue Brut (Cava). Excellent bang for the buck, as pure tangerine-peach and lemon-lime citrus are accented by toasted brioche and orange blossom. There's nice elegance to the texture, with finer bubbles. Serve this up with baked fish or even chicken pot pie. Raventós Codorniu North America. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

89 Rondel NV Gold Brut (Cava). Crisp lemon, green apple, and kumquat are lifted by creamy effervescence and underpinned by wet rock in this charming bubbly. Accents of raw almond, rose petal, and brioche add some complexity. Clean and rather neatly composed with fine balance, this'll be as good with food as it will be an aperitif wine. Raventós Codorniu North America. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Castell d'Or NV Castell d'Or Brut Nature (Cava). This gives an appealing profile of bruised green apple and lime fruit on the nose, with toasted pumpkin seed and sourdough chiming in. The flavors offer up tart green apple and mixed citrus that carry well though the frothy texture. Some lingering citrus pith comes in on the finish. It should be a dandy with quiche. Vinaio Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

85 Rondel NV Rosado Semi Seco (Cava). This fizz is softly sweet-edged, with mild acidity, as fresh raspberry, watermelon rind, and red apple are infused with tea leaf and fennel bulb. Delicate effervescence gives some lift. This would be well served by pouring it with goat-cheese appetizers. Raventós Codorniu North America. —J.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

85 Rondel NV Semi Seco (Cava). Juicy, sweet fruit is tethered to just enough acidity to hold things together in this straightforward fizz. It just pops with mixed melon, baked green apple, and citrus-zest aromatics. Frothy and softly textured, this would easily pair with sweeter brunch dishes and salty cured meats. Raventós Codorniu North America. —J.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

ROSÉS

93 Viña Zorzal 2023 Rosado Señora de las Alturas (Navarra). Pale in the glass, this comes with aromas, flavors, and texture that are simply standouts, plus honeysuckle, peach blossom, pink-grapefruit pith and a lengthy mineral finish. A favorite. David Bowler Wine. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 Amatria Vinos y Viñedos 2024 Son de La Guarda (Navarra). This is rosé with character and freshness from a newer winery, Amatria, in

Navarra. Made from old vines of Garnacha that have been revived after decades of neglect, the natural concentration of flavor and texture is compelling. Wild cherry, mountain thyme, and sage, and a fresh mineral finish carry enlivening acidity in pleasing balance and length. Farley Brothers Selection. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

92 Bodegas Maximo Abete 2025 Casalsierra (Navarra). This is a serious rosé that is both detailed and a pleasure. Made of Garnacha in a cool, high-elevation area of Navarra surrounded by forest and garrigue. Mouthquenching aromas and flavors call to mind wild berries, pink-grapefruit juice and pith, orange zest, and mountain thyme. A crisp finish keeps the palate refreshed. Enticing. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Bodegas Maximo Abete 2023 La Rosa (Navarra). Crisp, charming, and energetic, this Garnacha rosé combines nuanced aromatics of crisp berries, fresh herbs, and a mineral finish with palate-stimulating acidity and an almost silky mouthfeel. Nicely done. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Inurrieta 2025 Inurrieta Mediodía (Navarra). Rich berry-pink in the glass, this is a rosado made by local tradition to be deeply colored from a blend of red varieties. This serves as an example of the pleasing flavor (with a dry finish) offered by the best of these darker rosés. Firm alpine strawberry, pink grapefruit, crushed blossoms, and a crack of mixed pepper lift from the glass, carrying into a mouthwatering palate of flavor. A crisp finish with a sprinkle of sea salt completes the wine. Vinaio Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Ruth Fernandez 2024 Rosé (Ribera del Júcar). Sweet red-cherry and spiced cranberry aromas glide across the nose accented by candied ginger peel and red-currant skin. Round in texture, gentle acidity uplifts and provides a landing pad for the orange peel. Sandalo Organic Estates. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Vinos Sierra Norte 2025 Paraje Fuenteseca Bobal Cabernet Sauvignon (Utiel-Requena). This wine reactivates your senses. Cherry tart and muddled strawberry aromas open on the nose that raises brioche and dried cranberry skin. Tart red cherry and rose hip ride a wave of tangy acidity that is mouthwatering and refreshing. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

89 Doña Isabella Rosé 2025 (Navarra). Salmon pink and glittering in the glass, this gives effusive aromatics and a crisp palate of flavor. White nectarine and crisp watermelon join crunchy red berries with a mineral finish creating a gulpable, versatile rosé. MISA Imports. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

89 Pago de Larraizar 2024 Rosado de Larraizar (Navarra). This is deeply toned salmon-rose pink in the glass, with fresh and jovial flavors of wild strawberries, wild flowers, lavender, and thyme, and a mineral, mouthwatering finish. Almost silken in texture. The oomph here remains cheerful while also offering a heartier-than typical-rosé character. Novovino Wine Company. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Señorío de Sarria 2025 Viñedo CINCO Viñas Viejas (Navarra). Glittering raspberry pink in the glass, this is a classic style of Navarro rosado meant to be hearty and expressive. Juicy red berries and cherries join wild herbs, grapefruit blossoms, and a lightly pithy finish. This comes with the structure and length to enjoy on its own or with a meal. Beviemo International. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2024 (Rioja). Lively and inviting scents of cotton candy, golden apple, and peach rings offer immediate appeal, as a note of unbuttered popcorn whispers in the background. It's flavorful and very well-focused, if straightforward—a classic beach rosado to drink over the next two years. Zamora Company USA. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2024 Lalomba Finca Lalinde (Rioja). Bruised red apple and peach layer over nut husk, white pepper, and a hint of tar. Certainly tasty, but lacking a little complexity and polish. The savory notes come across a touch rustic, though they don't derail what is otherwise a solid wine. Drink now and through 2027. Zamora Company USA. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

SPAIN

RED WINES

NAVARRA

94 Compañía Vitivinícola Tandem S.A. 2024 Incolume (Navarra). Fresh red berries, garigue, and a mineral finish offer both transparency and intensity. It is made from 100+ year-old Garnacha vines, which provide only a few hundred bottles. A glimpse at the history of Navarra wine with intrigue and length. Aviva Vino. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Pago de Larraizar 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Navarra). Known for its long aging red blends, Larraizar makes this 100% Cabernet only in the best vintages. It's elegant and subtle, with a silken palate worth slowing down to enjoy. Dark fruits, forest aromatics, and a light crunch of cacao are fully integrated from extended aging in bottle, leading to a finessed balsamic finish. Novovino Wine Company. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Pago de Larraizar 2014 Reserva Especial (Navarra). Unusual in the world of wine, Larraizar holds its wines for extended aging in bottle before release. The result in the Reserva Especial spins together black-plum skin, fig, dried tobacco, and cedar brightened by juicy currants and a silky, balsamic finish. Tannins are robust while succulent, balanced by surprising freshness through the close. Novovino Wine Company. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Viña Zorzal 2024 Tinto Golerga (Navarra). Firm, red berries and black plums spun through with a wildflower lift offer pleasing purity and length. Grown along the cooling slopes of local mountains, the tannins are lightly tactile, providing energy for this flavorful Garnacha. Further sipping continues to reveal nuance and detail with a long, stimulating finish. David Bowler Wine. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

94 Viña Zorzal 2023 Tinto Señora de las Alturas (Navarra). Wildflowers and cherry blossom, fresh red berries, and an energizing zest of mixed citrus carry nose through finish. Enticing and hard to put down, this mountain Garnacha provides mouthwatering length and a burst of fresh flavor through the close. David Bowler Wine. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Amatria Vinos y Viñedos 2022 Zarapuz (Navarra). This is seductive and flavorful, with the oomph of older vines and distinctive freshness of Navarra. This Garnacha is made by the newer winery Amatria to help revitalize older vineyards of the region. Crunchy red and black fruits, fresh herbs, and cracked pepper deliver purity and finesse with nuance that emerges with further sipping. Most of all, it's delicious, energetic, and compelling. Farley Brothers Selection. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Bodegas Nekeas 2024 Cepa por Cepa (Navarra). Made from a careful vine-by-vine replanting of a very old Garnacha vineyard in the hills of Navarra, this red wine reveals the nuanced, almost delicate side of the variety. Energetic, transparent, and subtle, this is a standout wine. Plums, pomegranate, and red cherry set the backdrop for surprisingly detailed layers of white tea, a waft of tobacco, and a pleasing powder-fine earthiness. Savory qualities emerge with further sipping. A pleasure. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

93 Familia Escudero 2019 Logos Selección (Navarra). Selected from older vines of Cabernet, Merlot, and Garnacha tucked along the cooling influence of the mountains, this red blend reveals Familia Escudero's venture from Rioja into Navarra. Deep cherry in the glass with concentrated aromatics of violet, black fruits, a complex of spices, and a fresh waft of Mediterranean herbs continue into the palate and through the finish. Full bodied and mouthfilling,

this is a generous and bold red. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

93 Logos 2019 II (Navarra). Delivering power and intensity, this red blend brings together Garnacha and Tempranillo with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of black fruits and coffee carry into flavors of spiced cream, and a bite of dark chocolate, with candied lavender and violet. Abundant tannins coat the palate while remaining powdery fine. Lavish and persistent gaining savory character with further sipping. Enjoy alongside a meal. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Pago de Larraizar 2018 Merlot (Navarra). This is Merlot, with a silken texture almost as if it melts in the mouth, and yet it is also combination of freshness and ageability. With dark fruits softened into tobacco leaf, mixed herbs, and an almost pithy finish, this is subtle and worth enjoying slowly over the course of an evening. Novovino Wine Company. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Señorío de Sarria 2019 Reserva Especial (Navarra). Deep ruby in the glass, with generous aromatics and opulent flavors, the wine also presents restraint and plenty of length. This is a polished and layered Cabernet Sauvignon carrying aromas and flavors of ripe fig, black plum, tobacco, fresh and toasted spices, and a balsamic finish. It's upright, with supple tannins and length. Beviemo International. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Viña Zorzal 2024 Tinto Bakan (Navarra). With impressive intensity of aromas, bursting flavors, it's still mouthwatering refreshment. Wild berries and bramble, mountain herbs, crushed cacao, and a pleasing dusty-earth finish are carried by succulent while ample tannins and a long finish. It's a unique look at one of the less common heritage varieties, Mazuelo. David Bowler Wine. *Editor's Choice.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Bodegas Manzanos 2024 Reino de Altuzarra Cabernet Sauvignon (Navarra). Subdued aromatics gain expression as the wine opens with air leading to dark plums and currants, wild berries, spiced mocha, and a bite of fresh date carrying long into the finish. Cracked pepper emerges in the close. Juicy, with tactile tannins, this wine has the structure to hold several more years, and will serve a meal with decanting. W. Direct Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Bodegas Maximo Abete 2023 La Abejera (Navarra). The Garnacha comes from older vines rediscovered in the mountains of Navarra around a hundred years after planting. This is blessed with natural concentration from a still mouthwatering palate, tannins with an open weave, and a lengthy finish. It comes with plenty of depth for serious wine lov-

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ers captured by old-vine mountain wines. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Bodegas Maximo Abete 2023 Lurralde (Navarra). This was made from a once-abandoned vineyard of Garnacha previously lost in the mountains and resuscitated by the second generation of the Abete family in Navarra. The effort delivers natural intensity and depth while retaining a feeling of transparency and deft balance. Mountain tannins remain fine and textural, carrying a complex mix of savory herbs, juicy red fruits, cherry bark, and an earthy, mineral finish. Compelling. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Bodegas Maximo Abete 2022 Navasentero (Navarra). Delivering the darker fruits with the lithe, mouthwatering structure of Graciano grown at higher elevation, this red wine combines floral and herbal aromatics with energetic flavors and a refreshing palate. Dark cherries and red plum with savory thyme, and mineral lines float across the palate into a satisfying finish. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Bodegas Nekeas 2023 El Chaparral de Vega Sindoa (Navarra). With intensity and svelte length, this Garnacha delivers pert red fruits and fresh Mediterranean herbs with a careful integration of oak spices. Tannins are abundant while succulent, bringing a light while stimulating structure to the wine all the way through its mineral finish. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$16

92 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2022 Labrit Tinto (Navarra). For full review see page 9. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2015 Ochoa Gran Reserva (Navarra). For full review see page 9. Wine Bridge Imports.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Compañía Vitivinícola Tandem S.A. 2018 Ars Nova (Navarra). Aromas of ripe berries, fennel, fresh herbs and cocoa carry into a palate full of flavor without weight that melts into a long, graphite finish. The region's classic, Tempranillo, is blended here with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Though more well known in France, both have a long history in Navarra as well. A pleasing example. Aviva Vino. *Hidden Gem.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Familia Escudero 2021 Logos II (Navarra). This is built with concentration and bold flavor to allow for continued aging in cellar. There is a concentration of mixed cherries and plums with tobacco, spice, and cocoa powder carrying from nose through finish on a palate of melting tannins. Enjoy now with decanting or the next ten years. Lovemark

Advanced Trading Holding LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Familia Escudero 2019 Logos Cabernet (Navarra). The wine is almost inky in the glass, with depth of aroma and flavor. Black fruits join red and black cherries, tobacco, mixed spices, and a lift of flowering herbs. Full of intensity and might, this is a Cabernet for enjoying beside generous foods and rich flavors. Palate-coating tannins beg for a meal while remaining succulent through the finish. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Familia Escudero 2015 Logos II (Navarra). This is a Garnacha-based blend bringing in Tempranillo with a dollop of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot for breadth, depth, and structure. Almost inky in the glass, with concentrated red, purple and dark fruits layered in oak spices, this is a red blend of power, and intensity carried by palate-coating (yet supple) tannins and a long finish. It will benefit from decanting and a meal. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Inurrieta 2024 Inurrieta Mimao (Navarra). Deep ruby-garnet in the glass, there are pleasing aromas and flavors of red and black fruits, mountain herbs, and crunchy seed spice. Lightly textural and silken this Garnacha delivers the approachability with interest of the variety. Vinaio Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Bodegas Manzanos 2024 Primi Cabernet Sauvignon Navarra (Navarra). Inky red in the glass with aromas of bramble, cassis, and espresso that carry into flavors of baked berries and plums sprinkled with baking spice and a crunchy seed-spice finish. Tannins melt and spread through the mouth, persisting into a savory, lightly tactile finish. W. Direct Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2021 Mil Gracias (Navarra). Organically farmed Graciano speaks to the history of Navarra with this poised, flavorful, and mouthwatering example of the variety. This red wine delivers a combination of red and dark fruits, cracked pepper, freshly cut herbs, and a refreshing, lightly textural mineral finish, as well as a stimulating balance of flavor, structure, and silken palate textural. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

91 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2016 Ochoa Reserva (Navarra). Spiced, juicy ripe fruits stay fresh through the mouth, with a good balance of acidity leading into cocoa and balsamic flavors through the finish. Tannins are supple and persistent with a pithy balance of acidity and mineral length. Rich flavors avoid heaviness and a pleasing accompaniment for a hearty meal. Wine Bridge Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

91 Compañía Vitivinícola Tandem S.A. 2024 Inmune (Navarra). Juicy and refreshing, this is a thirst-quenching Garnacha to enjoy with friends, or boost a challenging day. It's fruit forward, with a mix of fresh herbs, fennel and a mineral finish. Energizing with attractive purity. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

91 Inurrieta 2021 Altos de Inurrieta (Navarra). Inky purple in the glass with glittering accents, the wine's aromas of black fruits and mountain herbs carry into flavors of tobacco, integrated spices and a savory finish. Tannins are abundant while almost creamy, creating an alluring mouthfeel that carries into a persistent and mineral finish. Vinaio Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 Bodegas Manzanos 2024 Reino de Altuzarra Tempranillo (Navarra). Youthful and direct, this Tempranillo from Navarra delivers aromas of red fruits while picking up savory, spiced flavors of tobacco and fresh herbs, even as the wine remains fruit forward. Lightly grippy tannins join a long, mineral finish. W. Direct Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Bodegas Manzanos 2024 Reino de Altuzarra Graciano (Navarra). Juicy and well balanced, it delivers a mix dark fruits, Mediterranean herbs, and spiced cocoa leading into a balsamic finish. Tannins are lightly tactile while remaining approachable joining mouthwatering acidity in a long finish. It represents a more robust, while still medium-bodied wine for more structure than Garnacha without the heft of Cabernet. W. Direct Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Bodegas Maximo Abete 2023 Tres Partes (Navarra). Purity and freshness lead the way in this mountain Garnacha, grown on slopes surrounded by wild forest. Dried roses, thyme, and lavender spin through firm red fruits, followed by a mineral finish. Supple tannins carry the wine with lengthy, satisfying flavor and texture. A gem. Copa Fina Wine Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2022 Crianza Origen (Navarra). For full review see page 16. Wine Bridge Imports.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Compañía Vitivinícola Tandem S.A. 2024 Invoca (Navarra). Grown in the hillsides, this Garnacha provides poise and restraint, with layers of texture and a light integration of spice. Cherry-blossom aromas continue into a crunchy red fruits, Mediterranean herbs, and a savory finish. Supple tannins and a persistent finish complete this medium-bodied Navarra red. Aviva Vino. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Doña Isabella Tinto 2024 (Navarra). Poised, nuanced and lengthy, Viña Dona offers quality and affordability with their Garnacha Tinto. The 2024 shines ruby in the glass, with aromas and flavors

of fresh and warm red berries and cherries, toasted almonds, and spiced mocha. Powdery fine tannins carry the wine into a lengthy finish. MISA Imports. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

90 Familia Escudero 2024 Logos Origen (Navarra). Approachable, delicious, and hearty, this Origen red blend from the Escudero project in Navarra brings together a balance of Tempranillo and Garnacha for a balanced wine of intensity and charm. It's versatile for a meal and ready to enjoy alongside an easygoing smash burger, outdoor grill, or family meal. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Familia Escudero 2022 Logos Garnacha (Navarra). Made from older vineyards in Navarra, this Garnacha starts deep ruby in the glass, with aromatic intensity and concentrated flavors that open significantly with food. A lift of wildflowers and lavender joins red and black fruits layered with oak spices. Full bodied and bold, this is a hearty wine from the Escudero family project in Navarra. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$30

90 Familia Escudero 2004 Pedro de Ivar Prestigio Reserva (Navarra). A unique find at this age, this red blend brings together the three classic red varieties of this part of Spain: Tempranillo, Garnacha, and Mazuelo. Aromas of dried cherries and oak spices continue into flavors of white fig, cracked pepper, and a balsamic finish. It's balanced and lengthy with the benefits of extended age in bottle. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

90 Faustino Rivero Ulecia Crianza 2021 (Navarra). The glittering cherry-ruby tone in the glass leads to the charm and approachability of the wine itself. A balanced delivery of red fruits, lightly toasted spices, and savory herbs is carried by juicy tannins making for a go-to red wine for popping open on a weeknight. MISA Imports. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

90 RedThumb Natural Wine 2023 (Navarra). Lively aromatics of Red Vines candy, vanilla, rosewater, and dried herbs lead into a medium-bodied, red-fruited wine. A graceful finish suggests it should be a delightful companion with grilled salmon. It will drink well over the next three-to-four years. USA Wine West. *Best Buy*. —J.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$19

89 Bodegas Nekeas 2022 Vega Sindoa Marain (Navarra). The quality here exceeds the wine's expectations with a combination of juicy ripe dark plums and berries drizzled with dark chocolate leading into a finish of orange zest and balsamic. It's friendly and fruit forward, with supple tannins that

bring the structure for food, and a lengthy finish. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

89 Castillo Monjardin 2021 Los Altos (Navarra). Aromas of musk and mushroom broth lead into flavors of plush cherries and plums. Spiced chocolate and cocoa (with a sprinkle with espresso grounds) broaden the midpalate. Polished, and balanced tannins complete the wine. Monjardin USA. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Le Naturel 2024 (Navarra). Fresh, charming, and direct, this Garnacha Tinta captures bursting red fruits with fresh herbs and a mineral finish. Fruit forward while light and mouthwatering, the Le Naturel points to new styles emerging from the region. Made with an older selection of Garnacha organically farmed and made without added preservatives. Vintae USA, Inc. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Pago de Larrainzar 2020 Angel de Larrainzar (Navarra). Direct and fruit forward, this wine delivers red fruits sprinkled with spice carrying into a pithy finish. Fresh, youthful, and an easy drinking pleasure, pop this open with friends or with an easy afternoon meal. Novovino Wine Company. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Señorío de Sarria 2021 Viñedo UNO (Navarra). Mixed berries, pomegranate, dried and flowering herbs, and an earthy finish, this Garnacha from Navarra offers a full-bodied, juicy and flavorful expression of the variety. There's plenty of structure while remaining approachable. Enjoy it with grilled meats, ratatouille, and hearty mushroom dishes. Beviame International. —E.C.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Bodegas Nekeas 2023 El Camino (Navarra). Aromatics waft from the glass while a combination of sour cherry, bramble, and a sprinkle of spices leads into flavors of blackberry and dark cherry, with a crunch of bitter cacao nibs. Tannins are polished and persist through a lengthy finish. Fine Estates From Spain. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

88 Castillo Monjardin 2023 (Navarra). Aromas of black plum, mushroom broth, and baked dark berries join with flavors of cocoa, flint, and a savory finish. Melting tannins spread across the palate keeping the wine approachable for immediate enjoyment. Monjardin USA. *Best Buy*. —E.C.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

RIOJA

95 Altanza Artistas Españoles 2016 Reserva Juan Gris (Rioja). This is a wine of tremendous class and refined structure, with rich currant and cherry fruit framed by subtle savory dried herbs, licorice, leather, tobacco, and pie crust. A beam of

perfectly ripe acidity runs down the center and leads into a long finish of sweet, chalky tannins. It should continue to be marvelous through 2031. Consortium Wine and Spirits. *Editor's Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

95 Bodegas La Eraltta 2017 Señorío De La Eraltta Gran Reserva (Rioja). Sandalwood, tobacco, and dill give this an immediate aromatic pop. Rich blackberry and black plum hold center stage, as lots of woody spice acts as seasoning. Tremendous purity to the dark fruit defines a wine that never seems to feel overbearing despite its size. Fabulous now, it'll continue to drink spectacularly over the next six-to-eight years. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editor's Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2019 Mirto (Rioja). This is a prime example of rounded decadence meeting graceful focus, as blueberry and poached black plum layer over licorice, violets, and expressive baking spices. It's long, deftly balanced, and already drinking fabulously. The rich purity of the fruit is impressive. It should improve further over the next few years and drink well through 2036. Zamora Company USA. *Editor's Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

95 Hacienda El Olmo 2017 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This is deep and concentrated, as blueberry, fig paste, and dates support earthy root tones, mocha, and a mineral core. It's a big wine while still impeccably balanced. Immensely enjoyable already, but it should be at its best from 2028 to 2035. Fans of burly Napa wines would find a lot to love here. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

95 Marqués de Riscal 2019 150 Aniversario Gran Reserva (Rioja). A steakhouse wine if there ever was one, this is muscular, flavor packed, and brimming with cherry pie, baked fig, cassis, and baking chocolate. There's plenty of savory counterpoint as well, with licorice root, mint, leather, and damp soil making for an impactful overall statement. Likely in its prime from 2030 to 2035, but this is already so much fun to drink. Vintus Imports. *Editor's Choice*. —J.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$160

95 Monte Real El Bagazo 2020 Reserva Colección Larrendant (Rioja). Concentrated notes of black raspberry coulis, purple flowers, hazelnut, and melted licorice pop on the nose. This has stunning composure and class, with focus, freshness, and structure that suggest a few more years may bring even more pleasure. A spectacular wine for classic Basque *chuletón* steak. Cellar until 2029 and drink through 2034. Bodegas Riojanas USA Corp. *Cellar Selection*. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

94 Bodegas Corral 2017 Don Jacobo Gran Reserva (Rioja). Opulent and palate-coating red-fruit flavors are given a sturdy tannic framework, while vanilla, coffee bean, and wood-spice charac-

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ter complete the picture. Rich without becoming overtly heavy, and already a joy to drink now, it should improve even further over the next three-to-four years and show well through 2034. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —J.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$48

94 Bodegas La Eralta 2017 Altos De Bergasa Gran Reserva (Rioja). This oozes structure and class, with a river-stone note adding tension below. Up front, dried red fruit and aromatic spice lead, backed up by baked fig, tobacco, and rose petal. The wine maintains a certain air of restrained refinement throughout, and it should get even better with a few more years in the cellar. Ideal from 2028 to 2033. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$85

94 Bodegas Obalo 2018 Reserva Las Arenas (Rioja). Already a knockout, this has the stuffing to evolve further over the next five-to-seven years. Waves of cherry bowl and cassis anchor notes of leather, mint, vanilla wafer, and woody spices. The fine-grain, sweet-natured tannins and integrated acidity offer a distinctive harmony to the profile. Drink now through 2036. Aviva Vino. —J.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38

94 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2019 Lalomba Finca Ladero (Rioja). This is a class act, with dill and dried herbs lightly dusted over plum tart, black fig, cassis, and violets. Some oak adds another layer, and the whole package feels harmonious and quite complex. Its upright, focused structure calls for some decanter time or cellaring for another two years. This should continue to evolve positively well into the 2030s. Zamora Company USA. *Cellar Selection.* —J.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$125

93 Altanza 2017 Club Reserva (Rioja). Superb focus and silky dark berries provide a brilliant core for accents of tobacco, baking spice, and dates. There's quite a bit of underlying grip as fine-grain chalky tannins provide structure for the rich texture. It really picks up steam with air, so splash it in a decanter for an hour or two and drink through 2032. Schneider's of Capitol Hill. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

93 Bodegas Franco Españolas 2015 Excelso Gran Reserva (Rioja). Rounded with good focus and crunchy tannins, its boysenberry and cherry-compote fruit are just begging for a roasted pork chop. Overlying floral notes and baking spices set up contrast between themselves, the fruit, and a submerged thread of mineral tension. Drink over the next four-to-five years. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$72

93 Bodegas Franco Españolas 2015 Royal Gran Reserva (Rioja). Aromatically beautiful, throwing off everything from grilled black plum, to ripe boysenberry, strawberry compote, cinnamon stick, basil, and clove. Layered red fruit awaits on the palate, showing a fair measure of both opulence and

elegance. Fine red-fruit tannins linger on the finish. Drink now through 2030. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$78

93 Bodegas Montecillo 2019 Bodega Centenaria Edición Limitada (Rioja). For full review see page 7. Evaton, Inc.

abv: 14%

Price: \$33

93 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2019 Reserva (Rioja). A bit of airing allows this wine to bloom into full glory. Red and black berries underpin intriguing accents of dried herbs, red rose, and pink peppercorn. There's a lot of poise and complexity to be had here, and a few years in the cellar (or a good decanting) will help it shine. Pair with roast duck. Drink through 2035. Zamora Company USA. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$27

93 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This is a wine ideally suited for roasted meats, as black-cherry compote and black-berry combine with baking spices, leather, and a fat-cutting stony quality to the tannins. It's already drinking well, but should continue to open up over the next few years and drink well through 2034. Zamora Company USA. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$37

93 Hacienda El Olmo 2019 Reserva (Rioja). An overarching elegance defines this bottling, as dried red berries set off complex notes of brick dust, nettle, rose, sassafras, and judicious oak. It finishes long, with a superb purity of fruit. Gorgeous already, it should continue to evolve and drink well through 2034. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

93 Marqués de Riscal 2022 Frank Gehry Selection (Rioja). A structured and cerebral expression of Rioja, the wine offers red and black berries nudged by vanilla over a background of tea leaf, rose, leather, and mineral tones. This warrants some time in the cellar for the pieces to really begin singing together, but it's clearly a worthy and compelling bottling already. Drink 2029 through 2038. Vintus Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.S.

abv: 15%

Price: \$638

93 Monte Real 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). There's gorgeous texture and focus to the dark opulence and earthy spice of this wine, as blueberry and black raspberry are coated with oak spice, tobacco, and anchored by damp earth. Chocolatey tannins on the finish suggest this would be ready to go with beef stew or grilled meats. It will continue to unfold and drink well through 2033. Bodegas Riojanas USA Corp. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$55

93 Rioja Vega 2019 Venta Jalón Reserva Especial (Rioja). I'm loving the savory complexity and tension here, with black raspberry and dried currants interwoven with pumpnickel, fennel, leather, and coffee-toffee aromatics. There's great energy and concentration to the fruit, and it finishes fresh and long, with a sturdy tannic backbone. A beauty right now, it

should pick up steam over the next couple years and drink well through 2033. EcoValley. *Editor's Choice.* —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$170

93 Rioja Vega 2016 140 Aniversario Reserva (Rioja). Dark blue and black berries center this wine on the nose as violets, dark chocolate, black olive, and licorice root add to the aromatic appeal. On the palate, sappy black raspberry is underpinned by espresso, spice, and crushed rock tannins. Broad shouldered, the wine wants fat to counter the tannins. Drink through 2029 with a dry-aged rib eye. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$170

93 Viña Albina 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This bottling is master class in high-toned acidity carrying concentrated fruit, as mashed cherries and black fig swirl with baking chocolate, leather, and cedary spice. Poised and already well-integrated, it'll continue to evolve positively over the next three years and drink well through 2033. Bodegas Riojanas USA Corp. *Editor's Choice.* —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

92 Altanza 2020 Familia (Rioja). Fine, sweet-natured tannins and a fresh focus keep the ripe blackberry and blueberry-reduction flavors nicely in nicely, and an aromatic surge of licorice root, purple flowers, coffee grounds, and vanilla wafer is immediately inviting. It finishes long, with lingering pencil shavings and would be killer with an artfully prepared bacon-Swiss burger. Already very tasty, it should drink great through 2030. Consortium Wine and Spirits. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

92 Beronia 2021 Vareia (Rioja). Power and structure are the themes here, with black currant, charred black fig, licorice, and thyme-dusted black olive popping on the nose. It finishes with baking chocolate and a touch of vanilla. This is built for herb-crusted beef or similar rich, meaty dishes. Very satisfying now, it will continue to develop well through 2030. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$80

92 Beronia 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark and plummy, as Mission fig, soy sauce, and leather underpin aromatic nutmeg and peppercorn. Rich while well-focused, its solid tannins give it some structural muscle. Dusty pencil lead tapers off into the finish. Layered and delicious. Drink through 2031. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

92 Bodega Imperante 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). A spice-and-earth core runs down the center of this wine, as strawberry-rhubarb pie meets root-beer bark, allspice, leather, and pomegranate. This will play exceedingly well with the likes of herb-crusted lamb chops and roasted mushroom dishes. Drink now through 2031. MISA Imports. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

92 Bodegas Burgo Viejo 2022 Perseverance Crianza (Rioja). An undeniably inviting nose of plum sauce, ripe black cherry, nutmeg, violets, and vanilla bean leads into a silky-spicy sip. It's long, layered, and rich without being overtly heavy, and displays a note of root-beer bark chiming in on the finish. Delicious now and over the next five years. Tri Vin Imports Inc. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Bodegas Casa Primicia 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dried herbs, cinnamon, and tobacco overlay baked cherry and strawberry licorice with a modest dash of vanilla. There's an elegant, lifted character to the fruit while still displaying plenty of concentration and persistence. This will prove a versatile wine for an array of fine dinner pairings. Drink through 2031. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Bodegas Corral 2024 Los Corrales de Moncalvillo (Rioja). There's a fresh blast of focused blue fruit on the palate that forms the delicious centerpiece of this wine, framed by lavender, mulling spices, and a slight mineral component. Unique and very appealing in structure and texture, this is almost like a softer, blue-fruited Carignan. It would be sensational with grilled sausages. Drink over the next three-to-four years. Cuddihy Wine Importers. *Hidden Gem.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Bodegas Franco Españolas 2019 Royal Reserva (Rioja). Soft, plummy fruit with strawberry overtones give this almost a Pinot Noir-like texture and finish, while opening with accents of mint, licorice root, mulling spices, and an earthy-floral element. The polished sophistication and seamless integration of the acidity here is noteworthy. Ready to drink, it should continue to delight over the next four-to-five years. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Bodegas La Eralta 2020 Altos De Bergasa Crianza (Rioja). Generous, concentrated, and persistent in fruit, this offers a bilberry and plum galette layer over sweet-natured tannins through a long finish. The wine is already lovely, and its oak, tobacco, and mineral accents should further integrate over the next few years. Drink through 2031. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Bodegas La Eralta 2019 Altos De Bergasa Reserva (Rioja). Ripe red fruit is the main theme of this delicious wine. Mulling spices, crushed rock, pink pepper, and tobacco offer secondary complexity, and the sturdy structure will make it a fine match with roasted pork tenderloin. It should round out over the next couple years and drink well through 2033. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Bodegas La Eralta 2019 Señorío De La Eralta Reserva (Rioja). A beguiling overtone of ginger snaps and cinnamon float above a core of black

raspberry, muddled cherry, and lavender in this poised yet open-knit wine. Sweet, fine-grained fruit tannins linger on the finish. It should be an excellent dinner companion through 2032. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Bodegas Montecillo 2017 Bodega Centenaria Gran Reserva (Rioja). A higher tone of red apple floats above focused blackberry and black fig, as oak notes of vanilla, mocha, and tobacco compliment the fruit. Lifted acidity carries finesse through a long finish, with lingering pencil shavings. Drinking well now, it should continue to show nicely through 2031. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Lealtanza 2021 Único Crianza (Rioja). Ripe and palate-coating, the wine's plum pie teams up with violets, tobacco, and a sprinkling of mulling spices. A framework of tannins keeps the balance on point, and polished oak tones finish it off. It brings the yum factor without becoming tiresome. I'd love to see this with broiled filet mignon sizzling in butter. Drink through 2030. Schneider's of Capitol Hill. *Editor's Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Señorial 2020 Reserva (Rioja). There's tension and power to the dense but bright fruit, as rich blackberry and cassis are accompanied by sweet tobacco leaf, anise, clove, and vanilla. Opulent and intense, without ever feeling burdensome, the wine has a long finish to boot. Already very impressive, and it should gain more complexity over the next couple years and drink well through 2033. 4Front Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

92 Vinos Atlántico 2021 Cortijo (Rioja). For full review see page 15. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

91 Altanza 2017 Edulis Gran Reserva (Rioja). Expansive, rich notes of black plum galette and Amarena cherry are framed by licorice root, leather, black olive, and a pop of Sichuan peppercorn. I'm liking the concentration here, and it's well balanced for its opulence. This finishes long and deliciously, and it'll be dreamy with chateaubriand. Drink over the next four years. Maverick Beverage Co. Texas. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

91 Beronia 2021 Reserva (Rioja). The fruit here is saturated while lively, as black cherry and crème de cassis marry baking spices, vanilla wafer, and licorice. Fine-grained, berry-skin tannins frame the rather long finish. Drink from now through 2029 alongside a marinated and roasted pork shoulder. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Bodega Imperante 2022 Crianza (Rioja). A nose of ripe black cherry, blueberry compote, and vanilla bean gives this wine an opulent character right off the bat. Secondary notes of leather, mint,

toffee, and Sichuan peppercorn chime in to cut the richness and keep things compelling. There's quite a lot going on, but it'll pair well with braised short rib. Drink now through 2030. MISA Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Bodegas Corral 2020 Don Jacobo Reserva (Rioja). An abundance of dried red berry leads the way, with oak tones, violets, and tobacco in support. A blackberry note surges on the finish, creating a harmonious interplay between the fruit and oak worlds. Grilled flank steak would be a great call. Drink over the next five-to-seven years. Cuddihy Wine Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Bodegas Escudero NV Serna Imperial Tempranillo (Rioja). A ripe nose of black fig, Amarena cherry, and mulling spices make for an appealing first impression. This one picks up steam after a few sips, with lavender and chocolate-covered licorice coming into play. Rounded in texture and quite long, the wine is ideal now, but should hold together well over the next four years. —J.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 Bodegas Leza García 2018 Leza García Gran Reserva (Rioja). A dark and intensely focused black-fruit character dominates here, but it's overlaid by damp earth, black olive, old leather, and a hint of Thai basil. Nice integration and energy bring some refinement into play, and it's right in the sweet spot of its drinking window. Herb-dusted grilled meats would make a fine companion. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$69

91 Bodegas Montecillo 2021 Bodega Centenaria Crianza (Rioja). For full review see page 16. Evaton, Inc. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

91 Bodegas Obalo 2023 San Roque (Rioja). Grilled plum and dark berries are layered with anise, vanilla, and baking chocolate in this generous wine. Subtle savory herb components add interest and will allow it to pair well with grilled meats and the like. Drink through 2029. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Jolaseta 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This is in a great place right now, with tobacco, coffee grounds, roasted herbs, and a subtle mineral note overlaying baked black fruit. It's palate coating and intense, and it should continue to develop a bit and drink well through 2030. 4Front Imports. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

91 Rioja Vega 2020 (Rioja). This has a complex aromatic interplay between dried dark berries and accents of fresh green herbs, rooty spice, leather, and a lift of rose petals. Rounded and persistent on the palate, there is a sturdy tannin-acid structure carrying lingering graphite and mulling spice. It will be at

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its best at the dinner table with hearty dishes. Drink through 2031 or so. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$170

91 Viña Cerrada 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). An inviting aromatic profile of fig paste and dried dark berries is accented by licorice root, clove, and leather in this concentrated yet freshly focused red. Overall excellent, it'll prove itself a worthy partner for rich and savory dishes. It should drink well through 2031. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$134

91 Viña Pomal 2018 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Rounded, with dark berries and baked plum surging forward, this wine is drinking beautifully now. Accents of root-beer bark, toffee, tobacco, and vanilla add plenty of interest to the fruit, and it has old-school, focused acidity providing backbone. The long finish echoes with spice and plum skin tannins. It should remain delicious through 2030 at least. Raventós Codorniu North America. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

90 Altanza 2020 Reserva (Rioja). While the nose offers rich muddled black cherries, baked fig, leather, and cedary-rooty spices, there's contrasting brighter poise and red-fruited focus on the palate. Well-balanced and refined in structure, its subtle tobacco leaf lingers. It'll be a great matchup with dry-rubbed pork ribs. Drink through 2030. Consortium Wine and Spirits. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$26

90 Altanza 2017 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This has a compact core of red currant and red-cherry compote spiced up by cinnamon stick, red rose, dill, and licorice root on an oaked canvas. Well focused, it's a fun interplay between red fruit and savory notes. This is prime pork-chop material, and it'll drink well through 2029. Consortium Wine and Spirits. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$26

90 Bianai 2020 Reserva (Rioja). The Amarena cherry and juicy red-currant fruit has excellent concentration and focus as tobacco and earthy spice add accents. Crushed stone tannins help support the overall profile, and tobacco and spice chime in on the finish. Grilled pork would be a great call here. Drink over the next four-to-five years. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$90

90 Bodega Imperante 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Despite the assertively rich oak, this comes together quite well. Red currant and baked red plum form the fruit canvas, with licorice root giving earthy spice. I suspect another year or two might help the oak integrate further, but it's already tasty for those who are fans of the style. Drink through 2031. MISA Imports. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$29

90 Bodegas Casa Primicia 2023 Joven (Rioja). Rounded, plummy fruit with balancing tannin and acid is set off by a nose of Amarena cherry, lavender pastille, vanilla, cinnamon, and allspice.

Though the finish is a touch clipped, it's nonetheless quite an attractive wine to enjoy over the next two-to-four years. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$24

90 Bodegas Casa Primicia 2021 Carravalseca Crianza (Rioja). While needing a bit of time to fully wake up, a pastry-like nose of plum galette, black cherry, and vanilla eventually entices, studded with floral spice, leather, tobacco, and dusty graphite tannins lingering on the finish. Splash it in a decanter to assist, or forget it in the cellar for a year. Drink through 2030. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$46

90 Bodegas Casa Primicia 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Crunchy red and black cherry meet blood orange and rose petal in this unique bottling. It shows good focus and freshness, while notes of black fig, vanilla, and tobacco lend a subtle anchor. This is a wine built for roasted pork dishes, and should drink well over the next three to four years. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$42

90 Bodegas Franco Españolas 2020 Royal Crianza (Rioja). Bright, juicy black fruit is layered with a light dusting of dried herbs and vanilla in this well-made wine. Enticing floral-spice notes of cardamom and violets provide aromatic complexity. A sturdy companion at the dinner table, it'll drink well through 2029. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$28

90 Bodegas La Eralta 2020 Señorío De La Eralta Crianza (Rioja). Sweet aromatics of dates, new leather, vanilla, and currants give way to spicy cedar and star anise accents. The overlying oak profile, while definitely present, plays well with the focused black and red fruit. This would do well paired with hearty stews or on its own as a weekend-evening pour. Drink through 2030. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

90 Bodegas Montecillo 2020 Bodega Centenaria Reserva (Rioja). There's a sturdy frame of focused black fruit and oak spice here that will benefit from a bit of air. Black raspberry and cassis form the core, with leather, mint, vanilla, and cedar filling out the flavors. With some time in the glass, the texture opens up further and reveals quite a lot to appreciate. Drink now through 2031. Evaton, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

90 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Delicate tea leaf and pink peppercorn accent the juicy, red-fruited profile. This packs in a lot of fresh, assertive flavor while still maintaining some elegance. It could be longer, but overall, it's rather tasty and quite versatile. Drink now through 2029. Zamora Company USA. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$17

90 Jolaseta 2020 Reserva (Rioja). An enticing note of dry autumn leaves hovers above notes

of assorted black berries, leather, and woodsy spice. It's silky and freshly focused, and shows quite a bit of class. The finish is long, with the dried leaf and leafy tobacco notes making an encore. Drink over the next three-to-five years. 4Front Imports. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

90 Rioja Vega 2020 Reserva (Rioja). There's a vibrant intensity to the fruit and herb profile, as baked plum and dried cranberry are tossed with black tea, dill, coffee bean, and vanilla wafer. A concentrated and focused package, the dried leaf element makes an encore on the finish. Overall, it's well done, with appealing herbal edges. Drink over the next three-to-four years. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$80

90 Rioja Vega 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This is distinctly red-fruited, as dried red currants and crab-apple syrup support herbal notes of Thai basil, pink peppercorn, and cedar. Very well focused, it finishes quite long with some black-tea tannins. Fire up a pan-seared sirloin and enjoy over the next four years. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$130

90 Vinos Atlántico 2017 Monte Alto Reserva (Rioja). Dark berries, dates, violets, and vanilla all come together with more savory notes of Thai basil and tobacco in this fuller-bodied red. It maintains a certain elegance, as mocha and pencil shavings give the finish a rounded harmony. It's in a great place for drinking now and over the next few years. Olé & Obrigado. —J.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

89 Altanza 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Baked spiced black fruits are topped with tones of leather, vanilla wafer, black tea, and soy sauce in this generous offering. While there's quite a bit of dark richness here, it lingers with the black-tea note providing a nice finishing contrast. Drink through 2028. Consortium Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$19

89 Altanza 2022 Edulis Crianza (Rioja). Juicy and silky texture is the main theme, as Amarena cherry and cassis dance with black tea, mocha, pie crust, and clove. Quite attractive, it is a delightful drink right out of the gate. This'll be a crowd-pleaser at a casual dinner party. Drink over the next three years. Maverick Beverage Co. Texas. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

89 Altanza 2020 Edulis Reserva (Rioja). Generous black raspberry and blueberry fruit is set off by tones of red-apple skin, flint, and dried herbs. A little more refinement could push this higher, but overall, it is quite attractive, especially its textural appeal. A dusting of black tea adds a savory counterpoint on the finish. Drink this over the next three years. Maverick Beverage Co. Texas. —J.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

89 Bianai 2019 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Chewy fruit and rustic savory elements give a nice complexity to this wine, as dark berries, fennel-dill,

sweet dried tobacco, and dates make for a fine dinner red. It's ready now, and should drink well over the next three-to-four years. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$130

89 Bodegas Corral 2023 Don Jacobo Crianza (Rioja). Savory tones of clove, mint, leather, and tobacco are topped with juicy red cherry and plum in this well-balanced offering. There's a well-integrated freshness to the acidity that lends a particular food-friendliness. Drink over the next three years. Cuddihy Wine Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Bodegas Leza García 2023 Crianza (Rioja). An intriguing spicy note of caraway seed floats above muddled dark berries, root-beer bark, violets, and baking spices. Dark chocolate and black-tea tannins wrap up the finish on an attractive, savory theme. There's a nice duality between polished fruit and rustic earthy elements. Drink over the next three-to-four years. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —J.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$59

89 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2021 Edición Limitada (Rioja). The wine serves up a candied nose of strawberry bubblegum, red-cherry syrup, and white chocolate. Pink peppercorn and red rose add some interest to the mix, while the palate maintains enough acidity to tie the room together. Not without a dash of elegance, it is mostly enjoyable for its ebullient fruit. Drink over the next two years. Zamora Company USA. —J.S.

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

89 Bodegas Ugalde 2024 (Rioja). There's plenty to like here, as grilled red plum and blueberry support notes of licorice root, tobacco, and violets. Ripe, but still bright berry fruit leads the way. It has some chewy tannins on the finish that'll keep this neatly balanced for dinner. It'll drink well through 2028 at least. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Bodegas Ugalde 2020 Reserva (Rioja). There's bright focus to the dried dark-berry fruit, as licorice, leather, violets, and dark chocolate also come into play. More old-school in character, it may gain more complexity over the next year or so. Drink now through 2029. EcoValley. —J.S.

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

89 Finca El Roble 2022 Crianza (Rioja). This wine offers nice intensity to its fresh and ripe raspberry and blackberry fruit. Licorice root, clove, vanilla, and violets frame out the aromatic profile, and the texture suggests it has enough body to hold up to heavier fare without sacrificing sufficient elegance to play with lighter cuisine as well. Drink through 2029. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.

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

89 Jolaseta 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Graceful and focused, with medium body, this wine carries flavors of ripe red currant, boysenberry, and oak spice.

Date and tobacco tones add aromatic interest. It's well balanced and will drink well over the next three-to-four years. Fire it up with some grilled sausages. 4Front Imports. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Proelio 2021 (Rioja). There's good depth of flavor, fresh focus, and some structural crushed rock tannins in this red. Aromas of toasted black fig, boysenberry, licorice root, and a hint of fresh green herb all come together nicely with a dash of vanilla-toffee oak. It'd play well with pork rilletes and cornichons, and may develop further complexity over the next two to three years. Cynthia Hurley French Wines. —J.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Rioja Vega 2022 Crianza (Rioja). This has a classic, poised structure to it, as dark-red berries meet cedar, tobacco, leather, and anise. A dash of peppercorn and black tea comes in on the finish. Pairing it up with a rich herb-roasted mushroom dish would be a good call. Drink through 2029. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Rioja Vega 2022 Crianza Edición Limitada (Rioja). There's quite a bit of depth and focused intensity on the palate, while aromas of rich cassis, root-beer bark, tobacco, and mulling spices offer an appealing introduction. With a lingering touch of oak on the finish, it has enough stuffing to pair with richer dishes, but it's easygoing enough to be a pleasant solo sipper over the next three-to-four years. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

89 Rioja Vega 2021 (Rioja). There's a distinctively attractive, if assertive, green thread of tomato leaf and pepper-herb underlying the rich dark-berry fruit and oak tones in this relatively complex wine. Lifted acidity keeps the profile focused, and it finishes off with a dusting of cocoa and rooty spice. It's a good wine for herb-centric roasts and grilling. Drink through 2030. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$170

89 Señorial 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Subtle toasty oak character is cut by zesty fruit in this well-made red, with muddled cherries, black raspberry, tobacco, and star anise all playing a role. There's a relatively long finish as some cocoa lingers. This would go great with seared duck breast. Drink over the next three years. 4Front Imports. —J.S.

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

89 Viña Pomal 2019 Reserva (Rioja). There's a lot to like in the complex interplay of baked berries, licorice, dried herbs, and soy sauce in its aromatic character. It's concentrated with a savory edge and well focused. A touch burly, so it'll do great with hearty roasts and grilled sausages. Drink over the next three-to-five years. Raventós Codorniu North America. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Beronia 2022 Crianza (Rioja). On the nose, cassis and strawberry candy are interwoven with dill, licorice root, and vanilla wafer. There's a friendly zip to the fruit, while mulling spices chime in on the finish with some mild tannins holding things in check. Enjoy through 2028. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy.* —J.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Bianai 2022 Crianza (Rioja). There's a fresh and lively core to this wine, as juicy black cherry as black raspberry are accented by allspice and star anise. It has no hard edges and is an overall versatile wine. Ready to drink, it should go well with all sorts of lighter fare. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Bodegas Corral 2021 Altos de Corral (Rioja). The wine is rich in oaky-fruity character, with melted chocolate, vanilla bean, and oak spice married to blueberry pie and ripe black fig, but it still has enough balance to be an enjoyable sip. This will likely be best over the next two-to-three years. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —J.S.

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

88 Bodegas Leza García 2023 Crianza (Rioja). This comes with a fruit profile of crème de cassis, fig paste, and dried black cherry, with underlying rooty spices, vanilla, and dill. Almost too brash, the wine's savory accents save the day. Quite a long finish, so it'll do worthy service to chargrilled sausages at backyard cookouts over the next couple years. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$59

88 Bodegas Montecillo 2016 Viña Monty Reserva (Rioja). There's a somewhat feral element to this wine, with eucalyptus, leather, cedar, and pungent mulling spices overlaying blue- and black-fruit tones. Crushed-rock tannins add to the grounded, earthy feel. It's a particularly distinctive style, but it should go well with lamb dishes and stewed goat. Drink over the next two-to-three years. Evaton, Inc. —J.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

88 Bodegas Ugalde 2022 Crianza (Rioja). This is bright yet rounded, as dried cherries and cranberries mingle with rose petal, cedary spices, tobacco, and vanilla. There's an attractively silky texture (with supporting chalky tannins) on the finish. Food-versatile, it's good to go over the next two-to-three years. EcoValley. —J.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Campo Viejo 2024 Ecológico (Rioja). Jammy black raspberry and blueberry are reinforced by a hint of strawberry bubblegum, along with licorice and a slightly smoky mineral aspect. Fuller bodied, with plenty of primary fruit, the wine is a solid, well-priced pour for weekday dinner or after-work sipping. Drink over the next couple years. Vinarchy. —J.S.

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

BUYINGGUIDE

88 Finca El Roble 2020 Reserva (Rioja). Black raspberry married with vanilla wafer, baking spices, tobacco leaf, and white tea give this wine a pleasant overall character. It has an appealing texture and freshness, and it'll be quite tasty now and over the next three years. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

88 Proelio 2023 Finca La Esperilla (Rioja). This is suave, focused, and straightforward, with anise, wood spice, and purple flowers framing dark berries. A dash of cocoa powder comes in on the finish. Very well-balanced, it will be quite enjoyable over the next couple years. Cynthia Hurley French Wines. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Rioja Vega 2024 (Rioja). This wine comes across lifted and pretty, with a genteel texture offering notes of red-cherry compote, strawberry, woodsy spice, and white pepper. It's very easy-sipping and should be just the thing with cedar-plank salmon or assorted charcuterie. Ready to drink now. EcoValley. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Viña Cerrada 2020 Reserva (Rioja). This wine is well balanced, attractive, and has the versatility for both casual meals and social sipping. Its profile of juicy boysenberry, pie crust, dates, and leather is topped with a hint of dill. It should drink well over the next few years. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$72

88 Viña Pomal 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Blueberry compote and black-raspberry fruit is charmingly framed by mulling spices in this nicely rounded, fresh Rioja. Some cocoa-tinged tannins come into play, adding some depth, and lingering with tobacco and vanilla on the finish. This'll drink well over the next three years. Raventós Codorniu North America. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

88 Viñas Leizaola 2022 Caminos de Sacramento (Rioja). Earthy tones of sassafras, peppercorn, and damp soil are underpinned by black raspberry and touches of vanilla and anise. It comes off a bit compact and shy at the moment, though time may assist. Overall, this is a tasty, savory bottling that should play well with herbal-spiced meat dishes. Give it some air and drink over the next three-to-four years. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

88 Vinos Atlántico 2023 Monte Alto Joven (Rioja). Youthful on the nose, this is juicy as red berries, watermelon bubblegum, and red roses segue into a silky, perky sip. It's straightforward and tasty, and should go well with a wide variety of summertime dishes. Drink over the next few years. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Vinos Atlántico 2020 Vinos Sin Ley Crianza (Rioja). Juicy red-berry fruit and red roses lead from the front on this freshly balanced offering, with notes of tobacco-tea, vanilla, and white pepper all enmeshed. It should prove a friendly wine at the dinner table, with lighter fowl and pork dishes. It's ready to drink over the next few years. Olé & Obrigado. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Beronia 2024 (Rioja). Linear, clean, dark fruit gets some depth from aromatic notes of leather, tobacco, and baking spices, with cocoa powder and berry-skin tannins rounding out the finish. Honest and versatile. This would go nicely with beef tenderloin. Drink over the next two-to-four years. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 Finca El Roble 2022 Edición Limitada Crianza (Rioja). Medium bodied, juicy, and fresh, this wine gives attractive blueberry and red-currant fruit, with additional notes of fennel frond, pink peppercorn, and oak spice. A touch of blood-orange zest joins in on the finish. It's well made and ready for drinking over the next few years. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$105

87 Viña Cerrada 2022 Crianza (Rioja). Attractive, medium-bodied, and straightforward in style, with dried dark berry, toasted fig, and oaky spice, this well-made bottling will make a nice weekday dinner wine. Ready to drink now and over the next few years. City Moonlight Wines & Liquors LLC. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$46

86 Vinos Atlántico 2020 Monte Alto Crianza (Rioja). This bottling gives a blast of strawberry jam, tomato leaf, green peppercorn, and vanilla on the nose. There's enough concentration of rich, vibrant red fruit laying over the herbal elements to find balance. While there's some green edge here, it delivers an enjoyable overall sip. Pair it up with lamb chops and drink over the next couple years. Olé & Obrigado. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

84 Bodegas Leza García 2022 Valdepalacios Crianza (Rioja). A stewed, blocky quality runs through this wine, as roasted pecan, salted licorice, and oil-cured black-olive notes dominate. Pushing past the aromas reveals some depth and structure to the fruit, but it's admittedly feeling a bit tired. Pairing it with a hunk of blue cheese could help perk it up. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

RIBERA DEL DUERO

95 Vizcarra 2021 Celia (Ribera del Duero). A subtle, composed nose reveals understated notes of dark black and purple fruit. The palate mirrors this restraint, delivering a strong sense of harmony and integration. Precision and tension are both

clearly present, pointing to a wine with a very promising future ahead. Olé & Obrigado. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$165

92 Bodegas Vilano 2021 Terra Incógnita (Ribera del Duero). Pronounced sandalwood aromatics dominate the nose, while smooth red and black fruits shape the palate. A firm underlying structure restores balance, lending a welcome sense of flow and cohesion. Those who favor velvety, polished reds should find plenty to admire here. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Bosque De Matasnos 2021 Etiqueta Blanca (Ribera del Duero). Fragrant lavender, layered with green, herbaceous tones, defines the nose before yielding to a dense, purple-fruited palate. There's a subtle syrupy undercurrent that will likely appeal to those who favor this richer style. —B.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

90 Bodegas López Cristóbal 2021 La Colorada (Ribera del Duero). Overripe plum, edged with a touch of earthy funk, sets the tone on the nose. The palate leans toward the riper, sweeter end of the spectrum, with the elements arriving all at once. Those drawn to more overtly lush expressions may still find something to appreciate. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

90 Bodegas Vilano 2021 Vilano (Ribera del Duero). Mature aromatics shaped by black cherry and a restrained touch of oak carry through to a palate that leans slightly tart. The balance wavers somewhat, though there is an appealing lightness. W. Direct Imports. —B.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

CARIÑENA

91 Particular 2023 Viñas Centenarias (Carriñena). Initial notes of raspberry pie and crème de cassis are brought into check by savory-floral spice and a mineral core, showing quite a bit of class as the persistent finish gains focus. There's a lot to like between the ripe texture, sturdy structure, and savory accents. This will be superb with roasted pork dishes now and through 2030 Majuelos America Corporation. *Editor's Choice.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Manadero 2023 (Carriñena). It's a textural delight, as fresh blackberry and plum sauce are seasoned by sage, bay leaf, clove, and star anise. There's plenty of complexity on the nose and just enough acidity on the finish to balance out the silky fruit. Drink through 2030. Majuelos America Corporation. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

90 Vaquerizas 2023 Old Vines (Carriñena). Sichuan peppercorn pops over ripe black fruits, licorice, violets, and bay leaf. There's a layer of rich oak draped over the fruity-spicy profile that

integrates after a little time in the glass. I can see this working well with lamb chops in a berry reduction. Drink through 2030. Majuelos America Corporation. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Celsum 2023 (Cariñena). This bottling shows opulence through a refined lens, as black-raspberry reduction and fresh blueberry are accented by dried herbs, pink peppercorns, and roses. It finishes with a dusting of dark chocolate and focused acidity. It'll be tasty now and through 2029. Majuelos America Corporation. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

88 Cierzo 2025 Nueva (Cariñena). This wine is bright, fresh, and fruity, with flavors of strawberry, raspberry, and watermelon bubble gum out front. It finds some balancing restraint on the palate, as beeswax and rose petal keep the profile from being all fruit. There's some surprising grace to this, and it should make a good foil for baked salmon. Drink through 2028. Majuelos America Corporation. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$9

87 Plano Alto 2023 (Cariñena). Currant jam, blueberry muffin, and pasty-centric spices on the nose portend a wine of confected richness. It has some balance on the palate, though, as rich blue fruit and a swipe of vanilla-laden oak are kept from going aggressively over-the-top. It's of a certain style, but solidly drinkable within that context. Drink now. Majuelos America Corporation. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

84 Particular 2024 Parcela 300-11-66/68 (Cariñena). There's some underlying herbal complexity, structure, and nice fruit concentration to this, but it's hidden behind a veil of bitter dried walnut and rough, rustic edges. Serve with a fatty roast or hearty beef stew to help it along. Drink now. Majuelos America Corporation. —J.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA

92 Bodegas Mano a Mano 2020 Venta La Ossa Cabernet Sauvignon (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). This wine deserves contemplation and a cheese board. Ruby in color with garnet edges, the wine has aromas of black cherry, dried plum, cola and strawberry preserves finished with a dusting of dried red-rose petal. The palate is svelte, manicured and confident with integrated fruit that shows the benefit of age. Aviva Vino. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

91 Bodegas Mano a Mano 2022 (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Muddled boysenberry, smoky black plum and red-currant-skin aromas lift from the glass, buttressed by dried field grass and red cherry. The palate bathes in grippy tannins and seeks release

in black-cherry puree and red currant. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Bodegas Mano a Mano 2023 Venta la Ossa Joven y Dichosa (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). This wine was meant to be enjoyed at your leisure. Smoky black-cherry and soft, red-cherry aromas open on a nose that revolves around a full-on, black-fruit core. The nose fully complements the velvety palate that devours red currant while revealing hints of hibiscus. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

YECLA

93 Bodegas La Purísima 2024 Premium (Yecla). This wine has attractive balance and verve. Concentrated aromas of muddled raspberry and blackberry open on the nose, along with pomegranate molasses and dried red-currant flakes. Flavors of briary fruit and freshly sliced mushroom rub up against velvety tannins that flirt with cranberry and forest floor on the finish. W. Direct Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

92 Bodegas La Purísima 2024 Monastrell (-Yecla). Aromas of blackberry, cola and roasted cherry open on the nose accented by bread dough and cranberry skin. Still-youthful, grippy tannins open on the attack, followed by subtle flavors of black raspberry and hibiscus tea. W. Direct Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 Bodegas La Purísima 2024 Senda del Molino Garnacha Syrah Monastrell (Yecla). This wine is truly a product of its terroir. It boasts earthy aromas of dried mushroom, blackberry, red cherry flakes, forest floor and hay. Flavors on the palate follow suit from the nose, bringing along black olive, leather, and crushed stone. Pair with grilled meats, roasted potatoes and lamb. W. Direct Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Bodegas La Purísima 2022 Old Vines Expression Monastrell Syrah Garnacha (Yecla). Well-integrated aromas of red raspberry, black plum, and dried cherry take a walk through dew-topped forest floor on the nose. The palate brings together chalk-dusted blackberry and black tea that rests on a bed of velvety tannins, delighting on the finish. W. Direct Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

91 Bodegas La Purísima 2023 Consentido Monastrell Barrica (Yecla). Muddled blackberry and boysenberry aromas open on a nose buttressed by additional hints of black olive and bread dough. A red-fruit-dominated palate rests on a backdrop of youthful tannins and black plum. Decant and drink now, and enjoy this wine from 2028 onwards. W. Direct Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

DOMINIO DE VALDEPUSA

93 Marques de Griñon 2021 Syrah (Dominio de Valdepusa). Raspberry jam, black tea and dried cherry aromas draw in a nose accented with leather and dried orange peel. Silky tannins lead into a supple red-and-black fruit mélange that brings along delicious hints of soy sauce and fig skin that delight. Vinamericas Inc.. —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

93 Marqués De Griñon 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dominio de Valdepusa). Blackberry-pie, spiced rhubarb and dried cranberry aromas open on the nose, followed by forest floor and dried strawberry. The palate is concentrated, layered, and complex with impressive dried fruit that dips its toe into a pool of black-olive tapenade and dark chocolate. Vinamericas Inc. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Marqués De Griñon 2021 Graciano (Dominio de Valdepusa). Rustic aromas of black cherry and raspberry open on the nose and nudge into a pot of black tea. Velvety tannins start on the attack and then move into a moment of chalk that finishes in a pool of red currant and muddled black plum that intensifies on the finish. Vinamericas Inc. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

90 Marqués De Griñon 2021 Summa Varietalis Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon-Petit Verdot (Dominio de Valdepusa). Everyone needs a wine that hits like this for everyday enjoyment. Deep-purple in color, this bottling has a nose of red plum, hibiscus, cranberry and cassis. On the palate, the wine is concentrated and verbose with red fruit and slothful tannins that seek to lift the fruit core. Vinamericas Inc. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

OTHER RED WINES

92 Raices Ibericas 2023 Las Pizarras Fbla 506 (Calatayud). This has an irresistible combination of layered fruit with underlying complexity and structural class. Red and black berries are complemented by leather, blood-orange zest, rose, and clove. The wine maintains a fine balance through its long, mineral-inflected finish. It should drink well through 2030. Vineyard Road. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

91 Bodegas Breca 2019 Vandea (Calatayud). Possessing both high tones and bass notes, the wine's baked red berries, fresh cream, and rose petals combine harmoniously with licorice, coffee-toffee, and fig paste. Downright fun to drink over the next couple years, and it should prove excellent with grilled pork ribs. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Bodegas Aragonesas 2023 Madame Garnacha (Campo de Borja). This wine

BUYINGGUIDE

delivers a perfumed nose and lusciousness on the palate, all while not being over the top. Almost candied red berries meet a slice of blood orange, with white chocolate, clove, dates, and leather offsetting the fruity character. It's well focused, with dried herbs making an appearance on the back end. This would be a dream with duck dishes. Drink through 2029. W. Direct Imports. —J.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Raimat 2022 (Costers del Segre). There's plenty to like about the black-currant, ripe strawberry, leather, and espresso profile, and a note of subtle black olive adds interest. Well-integrated, chalky tannins frame out a relatively long finish. Structured for roasted dishes and such, it's good to go over the next three-to-four years. Nice bang for the buck. Raventós Codorniu North America. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

87 Vinos Atlántico 2024 Vinos Sin Ley (Campo de Borja). This brings a bright zing of raspberry, dried cranberry, and strawberry to the table. It's linear and fresh, with some sandalwood adding appeal. This is a good wine for drinking over the near-term with charcuterie or tapas. Olé & Obligado. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

93 Ego Bodegas 2022 El Goru 38 Barrels Monastrell Cabernet Sauvignon (Jumilla). For full review see page 8. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editor's Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Ego Bodegas 2022 El Goru Gold Monastrell Syrah Cabernet Sauvignon (Jumilla). For full review see page 9. Tri-Vin Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 San Antonio Abad 2024 Delicioso Tempranillo (La Mancha). Dark-cherry and rose hip aromas lift from the glass, along with fresh strawberry and dried cranberry. The palate begins with black tea, rhubarb, and grippy tannins followed by a light dusting of dried orange zest and rose water. This versatile wine is one you can open on a Monday and enjoy with a range of dishes throughout the week. Vinamericas Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

91 Uribes Madero 2019 Opta (Pago Calzadilla). Grilled-and-roasted meats will be flattered by this bottling. The wine has a nose of black cherry, apricot, wild field grass, and damp forest floor. The palate is concentrated yet svelte, with black fruit predominating on the finish. Table 31 Imports. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Ruth Fernandez 2022 Clásico (Ribera del Júcar). Aromas of spiced dark chocolate and black raspberry open on a nose that is accented by rhubarb and red-cherry flakes. Grippy tannins on the palate lead into strawberry and rose hip. Pair with pork

chops, grilled meats and roasted portobello mushroom. Sandalo Organic Estates. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Vinos Atlántico 2021 Ludovicus (Terra Alta). There's decadent appeal to the strawberry-raspberry compote and white flowers that are held in check by bay leaf and pink peppercorn counterpoints. They deliver a cutting grip and focus, lending a framework of seriousness to the otherwise playful profile. It's impressively balanced for such a flashy wine. Roast up some pork chops and drink this through 2029. Olé & Obligado. *Best Buy.* —J.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Vinos Sierra Norte 2024 Fuenteseca Bobal-Cabernet Sauvignon (Utiel-Requena). Made with organic grapes, this red blend can handle any weekday dinner you throw at it. Concentrated aromas of blackberry and red raspberry unite on the nose. Velvety tannins guide red cherry towards a black-fruit core. Great quality especially for the price. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Vinos Atlántico 2023 Flaco Tempranillo (Vinos de Madrid). The wine has an earthy nose of raspberry, blackberry puree, and red currant complimented by dried violet blossom. Velvety yet supple in texture, the wine presents well-integrated fruit and stealthy tannins that bolster the fruit core. Olé & Obligado. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

DESSERT WINES

92 Bodegas Ochoa, S.A. 2024 Ochoa Moscatel Vendimia Tardía (Navarra). Fresh aromas of flowering lavender and rosemary, honeysuckle, and peach blossom become textural in the mouth, joining flavors of well-integrated spice, grapefruit pith, and a zest of bitter orange. This is aromatic and fresh, with plenty of length and a pleasing balance of palate presence, mouthwatering character and just enough sweetness. Wine Bridge Imports. —E.C.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

91 Orleans Borbón NV Pago Balbaina Manzanilla Fina (Manzanilla-Sanlúcar de Barrameda). Gold in color, this wine has a crystalline nose of bread dough, yeast, and caramel. The palate opens with a streak of salinity that is complemented by flavors of brioche and almond skin. It's a great bottling with which to open a meal. —R.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$16/375ml

ARMENIA WHITE WINE

89 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2022 Aghavnadzor Dry Voskehat (Vayots Dzor). Fuller in body and subtly textured, this has nutty undertones framing baked apple and lanolin notes. The palate is rounded yet balanced by a gentle lift of acidity, giving the wine

a composed, savory finish that lingers with quiet elegance. Paul Hobbs Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

RED WINES

91 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2022 Sarpina Areni (Vayots Dzor). This is rich and suave, with layers of blueberry parfait, damson, and a hint of cocoa. The tannins are melting and refined, giving the wine a seamless texture. Long and expressive on the finish, it shows both depth and finesse. This is for the fans of the polished style. Paul Hobbs Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

90 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2022 Areni (Vayots Dzor). Velvety and refined, it has black cherry and plum at the core. The palate is fruit forward yet balanced, showing smooth tannins and a touch of spice. Medium bodied with moderate length, it delivers both charm and poise. Paul Hobbs Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

HUNGARY TOKAJI

98 Royal Tokaji 2017 Essencia Furmint (Tokaj). A master class in balance, this stunning dessert wine makes it easy to understand why Tokaj was nicknamed the wine of kings and king of wines. Richly fruited, its depth of flavor spans fresh and stewed stone fruits, black tea, tart tangerines, and subtly herbaceous notes. Drink this with a top-tier friend or all on your own (you deserve it). Wilson Daniels Ltd. —E.S.
abv: 2% **Price:** \$1425/375ml

95 Disznókő 2019 Aszú 6 Puttonyos Furmint (Tokaji). The bright sweetness of stewed yellow peaches and juicy apricots meets ultrafresh acidity and fresh ginger in this golden dessert wine. Drink it now or put it in your cellar for a decade. Either way, it's guaranteed to impress. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$100/500ml

95 Disznókő 2014 Dorgó Vineyard Aszú 5 Puttonyos Furmint (Tokaji). With stewed stone fruit, sliced ginger, and tart citrus, this richly fruited, copper-colored wine has incredible depth of flavor. The finish is bright, balanced, and epically long. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$100/500ml

94 Disznókő 2018 Dorgó Vineyard Édes Szamorodni Furmint (Tokaji). Juicy pears, apricots, and peaches plus lightning-fresh acidity provide layers of complexity before a long, bright finish. Serve it with oozy cheeses, spicy noodles, or delicate fruit desserts. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$100/500ml

ROMANIA

WHITE BLEND

91 Cramele Recas 2023 Amber Natural Wine Dry White Blend (Romania). Perfumed aromas of blood-orange peel and red cherry open on the nose followed by cherry blossom. The palate presents silky aromatics against a backdrop of mouthwatering acidity that tends toward jovial red fruit. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

ISRAEL

RED BLEND

92 Jezreel 2023 Megiddo Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Galilee). This is an elegant wine with panache. The red blend of Syrah (70%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (30%) pulls you in and doesn't let go. Supple blackberry and black-plum fruit converge in the glass supported by an underlayer of baking spice. The palate is luxurious with flavors of dark chocolate, red plum, and boysenberry. Royal Wine Corporation. *Editor's Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

AUSTRALIA

RIESLING

95 Grosset 2025 Polish Hill Riesling (Clare Valley). Waxy lime, ground ginger, lamp oil, and beeswax characters lead to a zesty fresh palate that balances a subtly pithy texture with mouthwatering acidity. It all equates to a dry, refreshing, and harmonious Clare Riesling that's easy to drink now, particularly with sashimi, but could age a decade or more. One of Australia's great unsung wine styles and producers. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$60

95 Jim Barry 2023 LoosenBarry Slate Hill Riesling (Clare Valley). The little sibling wine in this cross-continental venture between German producer Ernst Loosen and the Barry family in Clare Valley, Australia, "Slate Hill" is generous and distinctive: Chamomile, lavender, jasmine petal, lemon peel, and scrubby herbal notes open on the nose. There's a lovely ease and textural plushness to the palate, the acidity is refreshing but not searing, flavors bright, lingering long and juicy in the mouth. Strikes a perfect balance between Aussie vibrancy and German textural prowess. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$25

95 Jim Barry 2023 LoosenBarry Wolta Wolta Riesling (Clare Valley). A joint venture between famed German producer Ernst Loosen and equally renowned Clare Valley producer, Jim Barry, this premium Riesling offers heady aromas of honey, fresh ginger, and candied lime. There's mouthwater-

ing acidity, a lovely slippery texture, a mineral core, and fleshy fruit that lingers to a finish that makes another sip easy and welcome. Drink now and over the next few decades. Loosen Bros. USA. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$75

94 Kenny Wine 2025 Riesling (Watervale). From a promising newcomer passionate about Riesling, this is a punchy yet complex bottling laced with flinty minerals, subtle white peach, and lime. Racy acidity and a pithy texture equate to a young, taut, even slightly austere wine, but there's enough flesh on its bones to mean this very grown-up wine will go the distance. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$24

94 Kilikanoon 2024 Mort's Block Riesling (Watervale). There's a creamy roundness to this modern, oh-so-Clare Valley Riesling that adds generosity and approachability to the more classic citrus and lavender notes. Acidity is bright and fresh and there's a long lemony finish. It's a food friendly drop now, while also being age-worthy. —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$28

94 Mount Horrocks 2025 Riesling (Clare Valley). Bright and fruity, there's lovely ripeness here in the form of fresh pineapple, a lime juice note drizzled in honey, and ginger spice; at the edges lurk cream and white florals. Textural—even a little pithy—yet mouthwateringly fresh, those appealing fruity flavors linger on the finish, making another sip an easy endeavor. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$45

94 Rieslingfreak 2025 No.2 Polish Hill River Riesling (Polish Hill River). This is classic Clare Valley from one of the region's longstanding culty producers. There's a hint of lamp oil reduction mingled with pithy lemon-lime and lavender. Dry with a big lift of bright, lemony acidity, pithy texture, there's mouthwatering appeal straight from first sip, with clear ability to evolve over several decades. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 25% **Price:** \$25

94 Vickery 2022 The Reserve Watervale Riesling (Clare Valley). Flint and toasted walnuts are at the fore of this '22 Riesling. Lavender and citrus trail just behind. The palate is wonderfully complete; the acidity subtle (comparatively speaking), with a beautiful generosity, length and layers of flavor. Drink now and over the next few years. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

93 Grosset 2025 Springvale Riesling (Watervale). This is a tightly wound, young flinty—almost smokey—style of Clare Valley Riesling from one of the region's longstanding cheerleaders. There's delicate lavender and stone fruit characteristics riding atop a core of minerality to start. The palate strikes a lovely balance between pithy texture and crunchiness, a lemony freshness lingering on the finish. Hudson Wine Brokers. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$47

93 Hill River Wines 2024 Riesling (Polish Hill River). There's lovely honey and kerosene elements to this Clare Riesling, helped by the extra year in bottle. It mingles with waxy citrus and scrubby Aussie herbs, even a touch of eucalypt. The palate shows a hint of residual sugar which, rather than sweetness, adds texture and heightens flavor, riding along on a wave of mouthwatering acidity to a long finish. Yum. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Miss Zilm 2025 Riesling (Clare Valley). Beeswax and kerosene aromas are woven into fresh lemon-lime, white blossom and honeysuckle. There's lovely harmony between the crisp crunch of acidity and the rounder textural weight on the palate. A lovely example that's complete wine now but also has plenty of years ahead of it. —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

93 Skillogee Estate 2025 Trevarrick Riesling (Clare Valley). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$46

93 Shut The Gate Wines 2023 Estate Block Riesling (Clare Valley). There's a honey and kerosene note here with lime sorbet, green tea, lemongrass, even a scrubby herbal note. The palate offers lovely texture to balance the ping of acidity, and depth of flavor and complexity throughout. It's just beginning to show what it's capable of. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Hill River Wines 2025 Riesling (Polish Hill River). Honeysuckle, lemongrass and jasmine petal make for a pretty, flowery start to this Clare Riesling, with some minerality and spice on the underbelly. There's some creamy weight to the palate with a rush of cheek-sucking acidity. Still young, this should evolve nicely over the next several years. —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$35

92 Knappstein 2025 Estate Riesling (Clare Valley). There's a lovely open approachability to this affordable Riesling from first inhale. Heady florals and pineapple rind aromas give way to a juicy, mouth-watering palate that offers a generous amount of yum-factor, like lime sorbet on a hot summer's day. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

92 Reillys 2017 Museum Release Riesling (Watervale). At nine years of age (at the time of tasting), this '17 Riesling is showing flinty, honeyed, nutty characters, even a little mushroom. The ripe fruit is there too. The palate is lengthy with curves and plush texture, lifted by zippy citrusy fruit. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Rieslingfreak 2025 No.14 Watervale Riesling (Clare Valley). A high toned nose reminiscent of apple skins backed by white spice and citrus leads to a palate of mouth-filling acidity. It's bone dry but tempered by some textural weight, with a pithy, lemony grip to the finish. It's somewhat outside the traditional

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Clare canon, but is an intriguing drop nonetheless—one that should last the ages. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.

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

92 Tope Wines 2024 Dual Citizen Riesling (Clare Valley). A delicate, fragrant nose of white flowers and citrus, that, on the surface feels like a fresh and fruity crowd-pleaser. But dig deeper and you'll find a well-balanced wine with textural complexity and lovely freshness that will take this well into the future, should you the patience to let it age. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

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

91 Atlas 2024 172° Riesling (Clare Valley). There's a volatile tinge to this wine. It lifts the aromas, but it also adds an acetone note that may be divisive. The palate is fresh with tongue-tingling acidity, slippery texture and open, easy-going nature. Characterful, scribbles outside the lines in a quite charming way. —C.P.

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

91 Wakefield Wines 2025 Estate Riesling (Clare Valley). White flowers, lime blossom and stone fruit open on this crowd-pleasing Riesling. There's a wee bit of textural richness and tempered acidity—by Clare Riesling standards—that makes this a white fish-friendly tippie that could also evolve with several years of bottle age. —C.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$22

90 Adelina Wines 2025 Smith Riesling (Polish Hill River). A classic Clare Riesling nose of white florals and honeyed lime lends a prettiness this organic bottling. There's some weight to the palate: a tight line of cheek-sucking acidity and citrus flavors to the end. Still young, this should be a knockout with spicy tuna sushi. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 10.7% **Price:** \$28

90 Claymore Wines 2025 Superstition Reserve Riesling (Watervale). Quite a reductive style, the kerosene and flint notes are woven with brighter lemon-lime ones. Laser-like acidic sears the middle of the tongue. This is a young, flinty, quite austere style right now, but give this several more years in bottle and it should unravel. —C.P.

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

90 Pikes 2025 Hills & Valleys Riesling (Clare Valley). Heady honey, fruity, floral aromas—with a touch of reductive kerosene—lead to palate that's dry overall, even with a whisper of residual sugar poking its head out. Nevertheless, acidity wins the race and this ends on a slightly grippy but refreshing, citrusy note. Winebow. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Pikes 2025 Traditionale Riesling (Clare Valley). On the riper end of the spectrum by Clare standards, there's green apple and pear along with fresh squeezed lime. A richness to the palate is lifted by razor blade lemony acidity. The sulphur is a little prominent at the moment; a young style that will

benefit from a little more time in bottle. Winebow. —C.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$27

90 Vickery 2025 Riesling (Clare Valley). Honeyed, creamy richness lends generosity to the fleshy fruit and floral notes. While not your typical zippy, zesty Clare Riesling, it's a food friendly drop with the ability to age into a more honeyed, complex specimen with time. —C.P.

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

CHARDONNAY

97 Vasse Felix 2024 Heytesbury Chardonnay (Margaret River). Melon and lemon rind headline, backed by flint, toasted nuts, salted cream and subtle saline notes on this complex-yet-approachable top Chard from Margaret River's founding estate. There's a lip-smacking lemony freshness to the fruit, even with the subtle weight of the toasty oak and lees influence, and it lingers long and bright on the palate. A tightrope of power and elegance, this is a seriously well made Chardy from one of the region's top players. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$138

96 Howard Park 2024 Allingham Chardonnay (Margaret River). Bright, appealing melon and citrus aromas are etched in salty seashell and subtle toasty nutty nuances. There's a core of minerality here that adds complexity. The palate is buoyed by vibrant acidity with juicy, fleshy fruit. There's length and persistency. It strikes a balance between being a serious age-worthy Chard and totally approachable now. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$110

96 Windows Estate 2023 Petit Lot Chardonnay (Margaret River). Grilled pineapple and lemon rind, roast walnuts and the sulphuric aftermath of a struck match: this is a rich, reductive style of Chardy, but thanks to the famously salty, crunchy power of acidity inherent in the "gin gin" clone that prevails in Margaret River, it never feels heavy or buttery, but instead is powerful, poised and age worthy, while also being a classy and delicious drop now. Zuma Goods. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

95 Fraser Gallop Estate 2023 Palladian Chardonnay (Margaret River). Gun smoke, roasted nut and toast aromas are well woven with the melon and citrus fruit. There's lovely acidity: a pulsing line of lemony freshness atop the subtle textural weight. That tingly acidity is what makes it easy to take another sip—and how joyful that is! Delicious now, this also should evolve gracefully over many years in bottle. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$155

95 Lenton Brae 2024 Wilyabrup Chardonnay (Margaret River). Oodles of bright, ripe peach and melony goodness from first sniff, with a toaster, salted cream underbelly. There's a mouth-filling richness to the palate that's lifted by tongue-tingling acid-

ity. Full figured enough to pair with anything from poultry to creamy pastas, it's also a quite delicious, lip-smacking drop all on its own. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

94 Cape Mentelle 2023 Chardonnay (Margaret River). An appealing, high-toned perfume of pineapple and lemon underpinned by flinty, salted cream notes flows to a palate that is both fresh and powerful, luxurious in texture, but pert and perky too, thanks to a lovely line of acidity. A classy, oh-so-Margs Chardy. VINO Logics. —C.P.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$50

94 Juniper 2024 Cornerstone Karridale Chardonnay (Margaret River). Roast nuts, struck match and grilled pineapple all add up to a rich, toasty style of Chard. But, thanks to a line of zingy acidity, it always feels fresh and focused. There's length, texture and power here. Still young, it should age beautifully. Gives fine Burgundy a run for its money, and a fraction of the price. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 Snake and Herring 2024 Corduroy Chardonnay (Margaret River). There's a lovely bright lemony lift to the nose of this Margaret River Chard, with melon, brine and toasty, cashew notes tucked behind. A line of salt-flecked acidity rushes straight down the middle of the tongue. Modern and approachable, yet also unmistakably "Margs" in style. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

93 Domaine Naturaliste 2024 Artus Chardonnay (Margaret River). A flinty, opulent style, by "Margs" standards. Matchstick reduction resides alongside toasted nuts and melon-lemon fruit. On the palate, any toasty richness is washed away by a lovely, palate-cleansing line of acidity. It retains power but a lovely drinkability, too. DJK Imports. —C.P.

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

89 Peccavi 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Margaret River). A full throttle style, this is all gun smoke, toasted nuts and butter—with some melon and tropical fruit too. The palate is mouth-filling with oodles of oak and lees influence in the form of a toasty richness that coats the tongue. The region's signature acidity keeps things fresh, but the winemaking is a little heavy-handed for this reviewer. Classic Wine Imports, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Byron & Harold 2025 Rags to Riches Sauvignon Blanc (Margaret River). There are touches of the fresh, grassy Savvy B style so famed by Aus's little sibling in the Pacific, here, but there's more texture and tropical fruit weight on the palate, giving this a food friendly appeal that's a step up from your every day porch pounder. —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Moss Brothers 2025 Moses Rock Sauvignon Blanc (Margaret River). Young and ultra fresh, this Savvy B offers all the green garden herb and veg aromas we've come to expect from this crisp style in the Southern Hemisphere, with a lick of West Aussie sunshine thrown in for fleshy topical fruit goodness amidst the crisp acidity and pithy texture. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Willespie Estate 2024 Wilyabrup Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Margaret River). A fragrant combo of pineapple, pear and lemon fruit still hanging ripe on their respective trees mingles with honeysuckle, basil and some toasty sweet oak for a summery bottling that's weighty enough to pair with a wide variety of foods (thanks to the oak), but mouthwatering enough to be sipped solo. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Shut The Gate Wines 2024 For Freedom Gewurztraminer (Clare Valley). This is a lovely example of this aromatic grape variety, offering musky, heady aromas of Nashi pear, ground ginger and lychee. Dry and never cloying (as this variety tends towards), it strikes seamless balance between tingly fresh acidity and textural weight. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

92 Amato Vino 2025 space girls Savagnin (Margaret River). Lemon pith, nectarine and white florals rush forth from the glass of this Savagnin, from a boutique purveyor of off-beat varieties in Margaret River. There's a salty, flinty, slightly toasty underbelly and, on the palate, a rush of citrusy acidity on the palate that's tempered by an almost waxy, pithy texture. Food friendly, with the potential to age, this is an intriguing wine right now, too. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Subsea Estate 2024 Pure Ocean Semillon (Margaret River). Submerged for nine months below the Indian Ocean in a polyethylene "barrel" is one way to age. This "underwater" Semillon has undergone just that. It's quite an intensely herbaceous bottling, full of the scents of a summer garden, from basil and fennel fronds to green beans and tomatillos, the waxy brightness of fresh lemons just behind. There's texture and roundness to the palate, with crisp acidity, too, that makes this a versatile food pairing wine—and, for the pure novelty—a fun prospect. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$85

90 Matriarch and Rogue 2025 Bob Wakefield Valley Vineyard Fiano (Clare Valley). Peach, lemon, white flower, green tea and a little cream all present themselves on the nose—a charming start to this Fiano, a southern Italian grape variety gaining traction Down Under. The palate is textural, slippery, with just enough acidity to prop it up. A food friendly drop. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

SPARKLING WINES

93 Idée Fixe 2023 Premier Brut Blanc de Blanc Chardonnay (Margaret River). Made from an oddball clone of Chardonnay in the cool southern corners of Margaret River, this premium sparkling project—run by the same group that owns the renowned Vasse Felix winery—offers a nose of fresh apple, lemon pith and pear with hints of ginger and a toasty, shortcrust note. It's mouthwateringly fresh a lovely bead of bubbles and just a kiss of sweetness that pops up towards the finish. A project to watch. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

91 Idée Fixe 2023 Premier Brut Rosé Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Margaret River). Pale peach in color, this Brut Rosé from an exciting new Margaret River sparkling label by the group behind Vasse Felix winery, is made from Chardonnay with a bit of Pinot for color. It's fresh and fruity while remaining delicate, with a level of yeasty complexity, too. The fresh red berry and watermelon rind characters pop on the palate, which is (mostly) dry with fine beads of vigorous bubble and a delicate, refreshing appeal. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

98 Vasse Felix 2022 Tom Cullity Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). This vintage of Cullity—the top red from the oldest commercial winery in Margaret River—is singing. Oh-so-Margs aromas of currant and black cherry fruit is threaded with heady, scrubby bush smells: native herbs and flowers growing beneath towering eucalyptus and fragrant peppermint trees; a salt-and-iodine note adding another dimension. There's lovely freshness and silky texture; cat's tongue tannins are fine, well-woven, letting the supple red and black fruit shine. In a beautiful place now, this will last the decades if you've the patience. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$165

96 Fraser Gallop Estate 2023 Palladian Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). A beautifully aromatic and modern style of Cab from one of Margaret River's leading producers. Heady strawberry and cassis cordial notes are underpinned by anise, bay leaf and other fragrant herbs and spices. The palate offers lightness and brightness on what is normally a hefty variety, thanks to silky fine tannins and exceptional balance. A lovely drop now, it could also last the ages. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$155

96 Xanadu 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's a density of dark berry fruit to start on this classic Margaret River Cab. It's etched in earthy spice, herbs and tobacco, with a saline, beach shell streak. There's power to the mouth-filling fruit on the palate, but it remains harmonious and shapely, a line of acidity giving lift and drive; cat's

tongue tannins fine and supportive. Still a baby, this is set to go the distance. RWG USA. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

95 Domaine Naturaliste 2022 Morus Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Plump dark berry fruit is threaded with iodine, camphor, bay and tobacco, with a lovely sweet floral note in the mix, too. It's a rich, heady, hard-to-stop-smelling, mouth-filling wine with enough succulence to makes it approachable now, and the power to suggest it'll hold up for another decade at least. DJK Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

95 Leeuwin Estate 2022 Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Plush juicy blackberry and cassis fruit is laced with heady eucalypt, sweet spice and herbs, graphite and iodine aromas; a sweet vanillin oak streak alongside. It's super fresh, almost bracingly so—its cooler southerly locale shining through—with slightly raspy tannins. Still quite young and a touch austere, this is structured for the long haul and should evolve gracefully. Total Beverage Solution. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

95 Xanadu 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Supple blackberry and currant fruit is woven with savory, winter-warming spices and herbs, violets and a hint of graphite. It's hard to stop smelling. There's plushness and a core of ripe dark fruit on the palate, supported by fine tannins. A food friendly drop now, this will age gracefully for several more years, RWG USA. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

94 Cape Mentelle 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Quite delightful aromas of sweet cherry-cassis fruit and heady spice and herbs are hard to stop smelling. There's lovely freshness amidst the sappy tannins, and a satiny quality to the fruit that make this a modern, approachable style now, and also capable of cellaring for several more years. Vino Logics. —C.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

94 Churchview Estate 2024 SOLI Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's a lot going on in this little glass of Cab. Heady aromas of eucalyptus, rosemary, tobacco, graphite and a warm terra cotta nuance mingle with macerated red currants that flow to a palate that doesn't hide this variety's inherent power, but manages to do so with restraint and transparency. Chiseled, sappy tannins thread the fruit and savory herbs into a wine that was made for a lamb roast or grilled portobello mushrooms. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

94 Juniper 2022 Cornerstone Wilyabrup Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Plump blackberry and cassis fruit is framed in savory scrubby herbs, graphite and a saline-and-iodine character that adds interest. Comfortable in its own skin, this is well-

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balanced with ripe but still-powerful tannins that are well woven into the herb-flecked juicy fruit. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Windows Estate 2021 Petit Lot Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's a charred edge here, like grilled blackcurrants, that, alongside eucalypt, bay, black cherry and salty beach spray nuances, makes for an intriguing, hard-to-stop-sniffing start. The palate starts with a rush of acidity, taking the fruit and spice flavors along for the ride. Tannins creep in mid-way, big but ripe, leaving room for succulent fruit to the finish. It's in a lovely place now, walking a tightrope of both classic and modern. Zuma Goods. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Corymbia 2024 Calgardup Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). From a small producer with multiple generations of history in West Aussie winemaking, this Cab is classically Margaret River in style. It opens with a lovely combo of dried eucalypt and scrubby native herbs and florals woven into soft plum and currant fruit. There's a fine chalk dust tannin that, typical to this variety, is prominent, but never overwhelming. Drink now and over the next decade or more. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

93 Thompson Estate 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's licorice, cassis, florals, licorice and scrubby herb notes on this oh-so-Margaret River Cab. It's full figured yet juicy, maintaining succulence amidst ripe, well-placed tannins. Should age well, but there's an approachability now, too, especially beside a slab of protein. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

93 Wills Domain 2023 Eightfold Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). A nose-full of sweet plums and cassis is woven with camphor, heady, winter-warming spice, and sweet scrubby herbs. It's in a good place now: open-knit and comfy in its own skin. Cab's inherent power is here but it finds a juicy approachability beside a plate of protein. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Altus Rise 2024 Ascension Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's black cherry and currant fruit succulence to this plush Cab. It's backed by subtle sweet toasty oak, anise and bay leaf. A rich, quite powerful bottling, framed in fine, chalky tannins. Still young and primary, it should unravel over decades. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Corymbia 2023 Calgardup Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's an appealing licorice-anise character to this Cab, made by the Manns, a historic winemaking family in Western Australia. Dried flowers and a savory herb and iodine combo add complexity to the plump plum and vanillin aromas. There's a lovely juicy lift to the palate at first sip. In rush the tannins. They're a touch chewy and drying for the moment, but should settle into the wine with time (and, boy, will this age!). For the

moment though, a plate of protein is needed. Legend Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$65

92 Moss Brothers 2023 Moses Rock Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). A supple, open-knit wine with plump cherry and red currant aromas and appealing baking spice, potpourri and chocolate nuances. The palate shows the typical iron fist-in-velvet glove tightrope that Margaret River walks so well, with dusty, sculpted tannins and tightly wound acidity. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Skillogalee Estate 2022 Trevarrick Cabernet Sauvignon (Clare Valley). Chocolate mint, ground pepper, and bay leaf aromas thread plush dark fruit. This is a big, powerful wine but one that finds its way to restraint and balance. Tannins are chiseled; acidity lifts a core of blackberry fruit. Still a babe, this will last the ages. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

92 Thompson Estate 2023 Four Chambers Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's a lucid savory lift of green peppercorn, iodine, red and black currant and a sweet native spice and herb combo at the back on this modern Cab. The palate offers a silky, fruity approachability now, with a frame of fine, slightly raspy, sandpapery tannins that means it could age, but not for forever. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Yallingup Estate 2022 100 Caves Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Lifted red currant, sage, licorice, those sun-soaked, oh-so-Aussie scrubby herbs are all on display here. The slight bottle age has settled things nicely. It's fresh and shapely, with a line of well-integrated tannins that are firm but not overpowering. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Credaro 2024 Kinship Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's a comforting level of plump currant and cassis fruit here that's underpinned by more savory, earthy notes reminiscent of black olive, sweet dried tobacco and scrubby, sage-and-bay leaf-like herbs—with a lick of chocolate, too. Tannins are sappy and mouth-filling, countered by plush fruit and lifted acidity. A slightly warm, still-young style, but a solid one for big red-loving meat eaters. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Howard Park 2023 Abercrombie Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). A grilled, smokey character—like blackberries grilled over charred wood and sprinkled with dried mint, violet and eucalypt—opens. The palate is rich and powerful, tightly wound with muscular tannins that frame plush dark fruit. Still young, this could evolve nicely for the next few decades. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$165

91 Snake and Herring 2023 Cannonball Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Lovely violets and blue fruit compliment the native herb and spice characters on this modern Margaret River Cab. It's

full figured but with freshness and verve. Tannins are a little chalky and austere, but should loosen their grip with another few years in bottle. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

90 Credaro 2024 1000 Crowns Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Powerful cassis, licorice, beet root and eucalypt aromas flow to a rich, mouth-filling palate. Sappy tannins envelop the tongue, but there's enough fruit density to hold it. Young and quite the beast now, it's missing some of the iron-fisted elegance of this region, but it should stand the test of time quite well. Drink from 2028 onwards. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$100

90 Kirrihill Wines 2021 Partner Cabernet Sauvignon (Clare Valley). There's charm amidst the muscle here thanks to the pop of ripe dark fruit and violet-like floral notes, with some bay leaf and peppery spice tucked beneath. Cab's inherent power abounds. It's a holds-no-prisoners style complete with powerful tannins and oodles of fruit, but it retains freshness and shape. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Peccavi 2020 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Heady aromas of cassis, licorice, tobacco and bay leaf, with saline seaweed notes underpinning, open this now six-year-old Cab. In spite of its age, it's still ultra fresh with plump fruit and powerful, somewhat raspy, drying tannins. Classic Wine Imports, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Knapstein 2023 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Clare Valley). Heaps of spice-sprinkled dark fruit, graphite, black peppercorn, cedar, and mint chocolate open this powerful, rich red. Tannins are chiseled, chalky and sculpted. Alongside the elevated acidity and rich blackberry and cassis fruit, it makes for a full throttle wine that's regionally expressive but a little full on. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Wakefield Wines 2022 St Andrews Cabernet Sauvignon (Clare Valley). There's an appealing cherry-blueberry dessert quality here with a little black pepper, warming baking spice and chocolate aromas. It's powerful with a lovely lift of freshening acidity, more blue and black fruit and spice wrapped up in quite taut, saliva-sucking tannins. There's quite a bit of oak influence and extraction here which might settle with time, but overall this is a beast of a wine that could be cut with a steak knife. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

88 Anthologist Wines 2023 The Keeper of the Flame Cabernet Sauvignon (Clare Valley). Fragrant succulent dark berry fruit, cracked black pepper, black olive and graphite and chocolate characters are woven with intense tannins and lifted acidity. It's a powerful, quite extracted and muscular wine that will benefit from another few years in bottle. —C.P.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$25

87 Reillys 2019 Dry Land Cabernet Sauvignon (Clare Valley). Fragrant mint-flecked blackberry and blueberry fruit wafts from the glass, succeeded by eucalypt, bay leaf and a lick of chocolatey wood, too. The palate has power and curves. Tannins are quite massive and raspy. There's plenty of fruit and freshness here, too, but the blocky muscle overwhelms. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

SHIRAZ

93 Byron & Harold 2024 Rags to Riches Shiraz (Margaret River). Plums, cassis, savory spice and iodine are the opening act to this supple, fragrant Shiraz. There's a quiet power here thanks to a good lick of chalky tannin, but there's also nice freshness and restraint. In a warm, dry year, this achieves lovely elegance restraint; a modern, every-day drinking style that bucks the big-and-bold Shiraz stereotype. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

93 Kilikanoon 2024 Covenant Shiraz (Clare Valley). This modern, oh-so-Clare Valley Shiraz opens with plump purple and blue fruit laced with white pepper and dried herbs. It's refreshingly mid-weight, avoiding bulk in favor of juicy fruit, a lovely freshening line of acidity, and fine, savory, sandpaper-y tannins. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Leeuwin Estate 2023 Art Series Shiraz (Margaret River). In true Leeuwin style, this southern Margaret River Shiraz offers a fragrant, pleasing pop of spiced red berry fruit reminiscent of a raspberry cordial, with fistfuls of fragrant herbs and spices. Things get a little more serious on the palate, thanks to a tug of quite powerful, spicy tannins. But this is, overall, a fresh, approachable Shiraz in a distinctive house style. Total Beverage Solution. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Altus Rise 2024 Ascension Shiraz (Margaret River). A lifted, appealing perfume of raspberry, strawberry, vanilla with a soft anise and peppercorn behind. This offers supple, juicy, drink-now appeal, with a frame of sappy tannins that also make it firm enough for a plate of protein. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Churchview Estate 2024 SOLI Shiraz (Margaret River). Dried herbs and spices lead on this Margaret River Shiraz. Green peppercorn and sassafras notes add interest to the strawberry fruit. It's light and bright (by Shiraz standards) with a raspy tannin that's balanced by a crunch of acidity. A modern, approachable style. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

91 Kenny Wine 2023 Auburn Shiraz (Clare Valley). There's a ferrous, dusty earth quality here, which, along with dried green herbs, is woven into cassis and blueberry fruit. It's juicy and full figured

but with the region's signature acidity keeping it fresh. The savory, fine grained tannins keep it sculpted. It's solid, modern example of Clare Shiraz that's quite young and taut now—a touch green as well—but it should unravel nicely with bottle age. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Subsea Estate 2024 2nd Immersion Shiraz (Margaret River). As the name implies, this wine was aged in polyethylene "barrels" beneath the Indian Ocean for nine months. Perhaps due to the total inertness, it's a bit reductive to start, but those beefjerky notes add a smoky, savory dimension to the berry fruit and spice. There's plenty of mouth-coating tannins but it's cut through with acidity and fruit power. Should age in bottle for years to come. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

91 Wills Domain 2024 Eightfold Shiraz (Margaret River). Plum and cassis rush from the glass, followed by cedar and savory spices, a black olive, and slight charred pan scrapings note. It's a full figured, fruit-forward Shiraz, but a food friendly, crowd-pleasing one that ticks the Aussie red wine boxes. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Yallingup Estate 2024 100 Caves Shiraz (Margaret River). Fragrant and fruity, this oozes blackberry jam aromas (without feeling confected), with a lick of cedar and spice. It's a rich, mouth-filling drop but it retains freshness and winter warming appeal. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Miss Zilm 2022 Skilly Hills Shiraz (Clare Valley). Tightly wound, this benefits from some swirling in glass and then offers luscious dark berry fruit, peppery spice, a minty note and some toasty oak influence. It's a big wine with broad shoulders in the form of chiseled, slightly drying tannins that cut through rich dark fruit flavor and lifted acidity. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Atlas 2021 Andromeda Shiraz (Clare Valley). This is a rich, powerful wine with oodles of blackberry and cassis fruit, mint chocolate and spice. It's luscious and mouth coating, the ripe dark fruit propped up by muscular tannins, and freshened with a lift of acidity. It's quite an extracted style; one your could cut with a steak knife. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

94 Matriarch and Rogue 2025 Maurie Rose Alberts Vineyard Grenache (Clare Valley). Fragrant, crowd-pleasing aromas of red and blueberry fruit with white pepper, fresh violets—and ferrous character that is distinct to the Clare Valley—opens. It's light and easy-going in nature, while still expressing a sense of place, with juicy fruit and fine, cat's tongue tannins. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

92 Adelina Wines 2023 Estate Grenache (Clare Valley). Quite ripe heady strawberry and blueberry fruit flecked in white pepper spice. It's light to mid-weight with a silky round mouthfeel and just enough acidity too freshen. Drink slightly chilled just as you would a Pinot Noir. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$54

92 Tope Wines 2023 Haus of Warr Mataro (Clare Valley). True to variety, this is a spicy, ultra peppery Mataro (aka Mourvèdre) with juicy cherry and cassis fruit and dried herbal aromas. Mid to full figured, there's supple fruit within a spicy frame of sappy tannins, and a crunch of acidity. There's nice restraint and freshness here, while avoiding the hulking muscles this variety can sometime exhibit. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

91 Amato Vino 2025 the stars baby, the stars Trousseau (Margaret River). A pale strawberry juice hue, this small batch Trousseau, from a single row of vines in southern Margaret River, bursts like a firecracker from the glass with heady just-pressed raspberry juice aromas. It's a lightweight, soft-around-the-edges wine to chill right down and glug on a warm summer's day. —C.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$42

91 Anthologist Wines 2024 The Plot Twist Saperavi (Clare Valley). A rare bird of a variety in these parts, this Saperavi offers a heady nose-full of ground pepper, terra cotta and graphite threaded through succulent dark berry fruit. Those sandpapery tannins are muscular but tempered by the juicy fruit and lifted acidity. It's powerful, but it never feels overblown. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Willespie Estate 2023 Wilyabrup Reserve Cabernet Franc (Margaret River). There's a volatile acetone tinge here that somewhat overpowers the red and dark berry fruit and spice. Tannins are raspy, chalky, drying the mouth and overpowering the fruit. A rustic style. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

RED BLENDS

94 Lenton Brae 2023 Wilyabrup Bordeaux-Style Red Blend (Margaret River). Made in an aromatic, downright pretty style, this opens with heady plump red fruit, cedar, tobacco and florals, with a meaty note underneath. It's juicy with lovely freshness that counters this variety's inherently powerful tannins. A modern, lucid wine that could be drunk now or cellared for a decade or more. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Claymore Wines 2023 London Calling Cabernet-Malbec (Clare Valley). Oodles of fragrant dark cherry and blackberry fruit is framed by lovely peppery spice, dried herbs, graphite, and ferrous character, too. There's plenty of power here, but it

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never feels muscular or hulking thanks to well-placed, textural tannins and seamless acidity. Will age gracefully, or could be drunk now with a plate of protein. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

91 Kirrihill Wines 2021 Leasingham Cabernet-Malbec (Clare Valley). Cherry and cassis fruit open, with black olive and earthy herbal notes following. There's a lovely black pepper lift, to boot, which continues on the palate. Tannins are powerful, chalky and a little drying, but the juicy dark fruit and spice hold their own. Needs a rare steak to drink now but could keep aging several more years. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$24

NEW ZEALAND

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Te Pa 2024 Oke Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This oak-aged wine, from unique, ultramaritime blocks owned by the Māori family, the MacDonalds, drinks more like a white Bordeaux than your typical Marlborough Savvy B. It's nutty and smoky, with a mineral thread through the lemon and grapefruit. It all comes together on the palate where a rush of mouthwatering, salted, citric acidity is padded out by the creamier, toastier textural elements. With beautiful linearity and tautness, this should age gracefully for another seven-to-eight years. But why wait? It's drinking deliciously now. Banville Wine Merchants. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

92 Rapaura Springs 2025 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). With all the feistiness you've come to know and love from Marlborough Savvy B, this explodes with aromas of passion fruit, lime, lemongrass, jalapeño and bell pepper. There's a lovely textural element on the palate that nicely pads out the zippy acidity, taking this up a notch in quality—just as a good reserve-level wine should. Shaw-Ross International Importers. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

90 Ten Sisters 2025 Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). All the hallmark Marlborough Savvy B characteristics are on display here, from bold passion fruit, grapefruit, green-pepper aromas to racy, mouthwatering acidity. There's a slightly creamy textural element that adds some food friendly appeal. Bartow Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

89 Earthsong 2025 Dillons Point Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Punchy, pungent aromas of green beans, bell pepper, and lime popsicle fill the nostrils. There's a slight creaminess to the palate that balances the crunch of acidity. It ticks the Savvy B boxes, with length and balance. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

89 Eradus Wines 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley). The unmistakable pun-

gency and lucidity of Marlborough Savvy B is out in full force here in the form of tomato stem, green bell pepper, waxy lime peel and white grapefruit. Dry—even a little pithy—on the palate, it's a crisp drop beside summer, salad, grilled veg fare. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

89 Framingham 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A bright, fragrant combo of passion fruit, grass and citrusy hotel soap fills the senses. It's crisp and slippery; mostly dry, but with a tingle of sweetness overlaying the fruity acidity towards the finish, like sugar sprinkled over pink grapefruit. Evaton, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

89 The Introvert 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). An extra year in bottle has done this Savvy B good. Heady floral notes like hyacinth and honeysuckle weave between greener, herbal ones, with tropical and passion fruit aplenty, too. It's rushes over the tongue with a fruity acidity that gets the saliva flowing, making another sip an easy endeavor. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$17

89 Wonderland 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Lemongrass, tomato leaf, lime pith, and grass are layered and lucid. There's mouthwatering acidity and enough textural weight to the palate to make this food friendly, yet refreshingly fruity enough to sip solo. An extra year in bottle has mellowed this into a balanced drop. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

88 Eradus Wines 2025 Ana Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A lightly honeyed, herbal note underpins the punchy bell pepper, citrus, and tropical-fruit notes on this young Marlborough SB. It's more subdued on the palate, with a slippery texture that suggests food-friendly, crowd-pleasing sipping. Little Peacock Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

88 Koha 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 19. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

87 Miha 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). The bombastic fruit here leans towards the canned, confected end of the spectrum. Passion fruit, tinned pears, lime sorbet, and lemongrass open this crowd-pleaser. It's a slippery, straightforward drop, with a gentle line of citric acidity to make it easy to take another sip. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

87 Taonga 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A straightforward—and still quite young—Savvy B, this offers notes of peach and passion fruit with a hint of something greener, before heading into poolside sipping territory, with zingy acidity and punchy fruit on the palate. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

87 Tui 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). An abundance of citrus, tropical-fruit and passion fruit aromas mingle with green veg and dried herbal ones. Prickly acidity leads to a tart finish with oodles of fruit throughout. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$16

87 Wairau River 2024 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Jasmine flower, lemongrass, and green tea are backed by something greener and more herbal. There's a rush of acidity straight down the middle of the tongue from first sip. It gives a tartness to the fruit flavor. Drink just slightly chilled beside a creamy cheese to balance all that acid. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

86 Capitello 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Pungent grapefruit, green veg, and herbs—and something more feline in aroma—flow to a palate that's fresh and slippery, with some residual sugar showing just enough to pad out the texture and soften the acidity. Capitello. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

86 Mount Fishtail 2025 Sur Lie Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This somewhat quiet Sauvignon—especially by the standards of this normally bombastic variety—offers delicate fragrances of passion fruit, citrus, and white flowers. They lead to a slippery, textured palate that's overall lightweight, dry, and refreshing in a straightforward way. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

86 Vinafore 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Like smelling a bowl full of Jolly Ranchers candy, this confected, fruity—but ultimately dry overall—Sauvignon is an easy-sipping crowd-pleaser, with floral, stone-fruit and lemongrass characters abounding. Chill right down for the most refreshment. Mach Flynt, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

86 Wairau River 2025 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). It checks the Savvy B boxes with a pungent combo of grapefruit, passion fruit, grass and snow-pea aromas. There's a big lift of acidity here that seems to mask the residual sugar, although it sticks out a little at the finish. A young, straightforward style. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

85 Lismore 2025 The Retreat Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). There's a canned green beans, yeast and fruit-cocktail combo from first sniff. It's mostly dry and crisp, ticking the NZ Savvy B boxes, but with a slightly sour finish and the heavy hand of winemaking throughout. Tri-Vin Wine & Spirits. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$24

85 Ribbonwood 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is more in the stone- and tropical-fruit spectrum than the citrus one. A fragrant honeysuckle note makes an appearance. There's a sourness to the palate that throws the balance off a bit. Evaton, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

84 **Toi Toi 2024 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** There's a little oniony reduction over the top of the pungent green-veg and citrus-fruit notes. Acidity is quite enamel-stripping. It may settle with time, but for now it's tough to take another sip. Galaxy Marketing Associates. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

83 **Kim Crawford 2023 Illuminate Sauvignon Blanc (New Zealand).** This fizzy, low-cal offering from wine giant, Kim Crawford, is bright yellow in color. Punchy aromas of yeasty apple, peach, and lime skins lead to palate that's crisp with a little sweetness amidst the fizz, with a confected, quite synthetic finish. —C.P.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

97 **Neudorf Vineyards 2024 Home Block Moutere Chardonnay (Nelson).** This wine, from a stellar family-run winery at the top of the South Island, walks that oh-so-Chardonnay (and oh-so-hard-to-achieve) line between reduction and vibrancy that makes the best Chardys such a joy to drink. Between the folds of lemon peel, roast chestnut, and salty, nougaty goodness, there's a waxy texture and saline acidity that evokes the sun-soaked hills of the Moutere Valley and the maritime influence of Tasman Bay. What a beauty. *Editor's Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

96 **Neudorf Vineyards 2024 Rosie's Block Moutere Chardonnay (Nelson).** Vibrant and deceptively complex: here a whiff of seashell, there a wildflower meadow; honeydew melon; something nutty and citrusy, like a half grapefruit sprinkled with cashew dust, all running along a spine of mouthwatering acidity and padded with in a satiny texture. Drink closer to room temperature and don't be afraid to aerate, then watch this beautiful wine—from an equally beautiful part of New Zealand's South Island—shine. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 **Te Pa 2025 Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** The nose on this heady, fruity Marlborough Pinot Gris is reminiscent of a green-apple Jolly Rancher candy, sprinkled with a bit of dried oregano. It's light and refreshing, but with a slight creaminess to the texture that suggests it'd be a knockout with summer seafood fare. A crowd-pleaser if there ever was one. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 **Capitello 2025 Escaroth Vineyard Sauvignon Gris (Marlborough).** This Sauvignon Gris offers all the grassy, herbal, bell pepper pungency of its Blanc cousin—along with a helping of green apple sprinkled with ground aniseed. It's on the palate where this distinguishes itself from a traditional SB. There's some textural weight and a core of green and yellow orchard fruit, a sturdy backbone, and more

food friendliness, perhaps, with spiced apple flavor to finish. Capitello. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 **Wairau River 2024 Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** Fireworks of tropical fruit, citrus, and bell pepper fragrance explode from the glass of this Marlborough Pinot Gris. The palate is fresh and zippy. It remains on terra firma thanks to a plump, almost waxy texture. Sip well chilled, with spicy fish tacos or a Thai curry. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

PINOT NOIR

95 **Neudorf Vineyards 2023 Tom's Block Moutere Pinot Noir (Nelson).** After a few minutes of swirling in glass this unfurls like a moon flower at nightfall to reveal potpourri-like aromas of dried florals, herbs, spices, and red berries, plus a mineral note tucked into the folds. It's structured for aging, with fine yet powerful cat's tongue tannins and lovely acidity. Sure, it'll go the distance, but it's also a complete wine now that, with a bit of patience, will reward in spades. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 **Te Pa 2024 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Brambly red and black berries are underpinned by crushed rose petals, cloves, peppercorn, and aniseed. It's midweight, with a lovely balance of juicy purple-fruited freshness and an earthy cat's tongue tannin structure that makes this an elegant, approachable Pinot now, with or without food. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Framingham 2022 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Fresh supple cherry and strawberry fruit is woven with a myriad baking spice, dried herbs, and florals, with licorice and vanilla bass notes. The palate is medium bodied, with pert acidity and tart red-berry fruit, with that ever-present spice-and-herb combo riding on a wave of cat's tongue tannins. Drink now beside a plate of protein or age across the next five-to-seven years. Evaton, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Wairau River 2024 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** An enticing perfumed bouquet of blueberry and black cherry—with a floral and spice component—flows towards a midweight palate. There's a subtle frame of savory tannins and a crunch of acidity that make this an easy drop for solo or dinnertime sipping. Stock up. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 **River Farm 2023 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Oodles of fragrant red fruit, baking spice, and herbs waft from the glass from the very first sniff. It all flows into a slightly more subdued, light-on-it-feet palate where lovely freshening acidity framed with powdery tannins adds structure and food friendliness. Vino Del Sol. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Astrolabe 2022 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Heady aromas are reminiscent of a farmhouse kitchen, with twine-tied bunches of herbs, fruit, and flowers drying from the ceiling beams. There's structure and freshness on the palate, but it feels as though it's aging quite quickly, and it finishes on the short side. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

87 **Koha 2023 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** There's a reductive funk at first sniff that gives mushroomy, forest-floor vibes. It's fairly lightweight at first; calm before a powerful wave of chalky tannins sweeps in. The fruit is there but well tucked behind those earthy, herbal characters. It finishes a touch astrigent. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 **Ribbonwood 2023 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** There's a lick of mushroomy reduction at first pour, here, but it's not too intrusive. Subtle black cherry and raspberry, with some florals and spice, come next. There's a big lift of acidity that shoots straight down the middle of the tongue, making the palate feel a bit tart when paired with the sappy tannins, but it should be more forgiving if paired with a plate of protein. Evaton, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

SPIRITS



98 Barrell Bourbon Cigar Blend (USA; Barrell Craft Spirits, Louisville, KY). An excellent example of the rising crop of “cigar whiskeys” meant to pair with cigars – but truly, no cigar is required to enjoy this pour. It’s silky and light, with a relatively dry, nutty flavor that suggests walnut and chestnut, layered with char and wisps of campfire smoke. Flashes of dried fig and vanilla peek through midpalate, finishing with espresso and clove.
abv: 55.6% **Price:** \$85



94 Charles Goodnight Texas Bourbon (USA; Goodnight Distillery, Mira Loma, CA). This is a high-rye Texas bourbon, bottled in California. Look for rich caramel and toffee aromas, while the palate is bold and distinctly nutty. Almond and maple lead into a long, cayenne-fueled finish.
abv: 57.5% **Price:** \$90



94 Gambit No. 6 Bourbon (USA; Ampersand Distilling, Minden, NV). This six-year-old bourbon is finished in six types of casks, previously holding Sonoma Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, apple brandy, Oloroso Sherry, Muscatel, and Tokaji. The end result is an aroma mixing sweet and savory spices, and a drying, grippy palate showing dried cherry and blackberry mixed with mocha, leather, and oak. Cinnamon and cayenne warm the finish.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$70

BOURBON

America’s signature spirit continues to innovate.

It’s potentially a big year for bourbon: As celebrations for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence get underway, so will toasts with America’s homegrown, corn-based whiskey in hand.

But much is also shifting for bourbon right now. That was abundantly clear at the Bourbon Classic, an annual conference held in February in Louisville, KY, dedicated to the iconic brown spirit.

As always, thirsty revellers flocked to sample the newest releases. But producers acknowledged that much has changed recently: Tariffs have nudged prices higher for everything from distilling staples such as grain and yeast to glass bottles, cork closures—even paper and ink used to print labels. Profit margins are the slimmest in recent memory.

Meanwhile, sales have declined, and bourbon warehouses remain full of well-aged stock. Some distilleries have pulled back on producing more until some of those barrels empty and prices stabilize.

But, that doesn’t mean it’s time to count bourbon out, producers said.

Some are seizing the “drinking less, but better” moment to release special bottlings, from single-barrel picks to longer-aged whiskeys.

Meanwhile, others are pinning hopes on innovation to capture attention. That was well in evidence at the Classic, as well as in this month’s crop of reviews. Look to unusual cask finishes, some inspired by flavors found well outside the traditional bourbon canon (I’m still thinking about a not-yet-released sample aged in a cask that previously held blackberry wine, meant to evoke the flavors of blackberry pie) and the rise of “cigar bourbons” (and “cigar ryes” too) muscling in on Scotch’s “cigar malt” turf.

Some are seizing the “drinking less, but better” moment to release special bottlings, from single-barrel picks to longer-aged whiskeys.

Either way, these efforts are yielding a bumper crop of new bourbons worth pouring—for the nation’s special anniversary or whatever you’re celebrating right now. —Kara Newman



93 Shortbarrel Four Grain Bourbon (USA; Shortbarrel Bourbon, Norcross, GA). Soft brown sugar on nose and palate is pepped up with black pepper and clove. A curl of lemon peel adds racy acidity. Made with a mix of corn, rye, wheat, and malted barley, distilled in Kentucky and bottled in Georgia. *Best Buy.*
abv: 46% **Price:** \$40



90 Ampersand Opimus Bourbon (USA; Ampersand Distilling, Minden, NV). This 15-year-old bourbon is finished in Tokaji wine casks. Expect a deep amber hue and concentrated toffee aroma accented by dried cherry. The bold, plush palate opens with dried cherry, dark raisin, and oak. Even lightened with water, the cinnamon fireball finish lingers into a final earthy exhale.
abv: 58.3% **Price:** \$150

98 Barrell Bourbon Cigar Blend (USA; Barrell Craft Spirits, Louisville, KY). For full review see page 134.
abv: 55.6% **Price:** \$85

96 Joseph Magnus Cigar Blend Bourbon (USA; Jos. A. Magnus & Co., Holland, MI). Concentrated vanilla and caramel aromas carry over to the complex palate, mingling with tinges of dried cherry, mocha, and clove. The long, enticing finish layers on oak and orange peel. Sip or mix into Old Fashioneds. Finished in Armagnac, Sherry, and Cognac casks.
abv: 56.08% **Price:** \$200

95 Moonlight Mayhem! 2 The White Port Wolf Bourbon (USA; Filmland Spirits, Frankfort, KY). What's in the bottle is a high-rye bourbon distilled in Indiana, aged at least seven years, and finished in white port casks. The end result is bold oak framed by prune and caraway, finishing with lingering, pleasant toastiness. Fun film motif on label.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$65

95 Bondstone Cask Strength Bourbon (USA; Kentucky Whiskey Bottling, Harrodsburg, KY). Add an ice cube and sip slowly. This high-octane bourbon offers outsized vanilla wafer, orange peel, and clove flavors. A splash of water coaxes roasted grain and toasted almond, winding into a fiery finish. *Best Buy.*
abv: 61.8% **Price:** \$45

94 Charles Goodnight Texas Bourbon (USA; Goodnight Distillery, Mira Loma, CA). For full review see page 134.
abv: 57.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Buzzard's Roost Signature Double Oak Bourbon (USA; Buzzard's Roost, Bardstown, KY). The bright, lightly fruity aroma shows caramelized apple and pear. Maple, baked pear, and butterscotch linger pleasantly into a baking spice-laced finish enlivened by faint lemon-peel acidity. Distilled in Indiana. *Best Buy.*
abv: 50% **Price:** \$49

94 Shortbarrel Toasted Bourbon (USA; Shortbarrel Bourbon, Chamblee, GA). Vanilla and caramel scents lead into a relatively dry palate tinged with tobacco, cigar wrapper, and espresso, winding into a long allspice finish plus a hint of caraway. Kentucky bourbon bottled in Atlanta. Batch 25.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$60

94 Gambit No. 6 Bourbon (USA; Ampersand Distilling, Minden, NV). For full review see page 134.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$59

94 Taconic Distillery Dutchess Private Reserve Bourbon (USA; Taconic Distillery, Stanfordville, NY). Comforting caramel and maple lead into a lip-smacking finish. Think chestnut cream sprinkled with nutmeg and tingly cinnamon, plus a mellow vanilla exhale. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45% **Price:** \$40

94 Kentucky Legend Bourbon (USA; Kentucky Whiskey Bottling, Harrodsburg, KY). The inviting vanilla scent leads to luscious brown sugar and cookie-dough flavors. Each sip lands gently with clove, black pepper, and a hint of anise. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45% **Price:** \$45

93 River Oak Kentucky Straight Bourbon (USA; IJW, Louisville, KY). A nutty buddy of a bourbon, each sip opens with marzipan, chestnut, candied pecan, and roasted grain. The long, warming finish spotlights espresso and clove. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45% **Price:** \$45

93 Wight's Old Reserve Bourbon (USA; Wights Co. Distillers, Bardstown, KY). Toasty and nutty, light and bright, this bourbon offers mild almond on nose and palate, plus a distinct cherry note. The exhale includes lemon peel and a sprinkle of nutmeg.
abv: 46.5% **Price:** \$53

93 Shortbarrel Four Grain Bourbon (USA; Shortbarrel Bourbon, Norcross, GA). For full review see page 134. *Best Buy.*
abv: 46% **Price:** \$40

93 Horse & Jockey Bourbon (USA; Taconic Distillery, Stanfordville, NY). Bold caramel mixes with dried cherry and orange peel, alongside cinnamon and clove sizzle. A splash of water tames some of the spicy heat, winding into a long toffee finish spiked with black pepper. Single barrel bourbon, aged six years.
abv: 62.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Coppercraft Distillery Bourbon 9 Year (USA; Coppercraft Distillery, Holland, MI). A bold marzipan aroma introduces this bourbon. The silky palate intertwines cinnamon, almond, and oak, finishing long and warming with ginger tingle. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45.3% **Price:** \$38

92 Fox & Oden Double Oaked Bourbon (USA; Fox & Oden, Holland, MI). Tinges of anise and chestnut sweetness soften the oaky core of this bourbon. Black pepper sparks fade into the long and mouthwatering finish. Batch No. 3. Distilled in Indiana.
abv: 49.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Buzzard's Roost Double Oak Cigar Blend Bourbon (USA; Buzzard's Roost, Bardstown, KY). Aged in toasted and charred casks, this bourbon is designed to pair with a cigar. Oak and vanilla couples with a faint smoky waft on nose and palate. A splash of water unlocks hints of sarsaparilla and allspice, plus a brambly blackberry note. Espresso and anise mark the exhale. Distilled in Indiana.
abv: 52.5% **Price:** \$85

92 Unsinkable Bourbon (USA; Sausalito Liquor, Rohnert Park, CA). Finished in California Cabernet Sauvignon casks, this whiskey offers rich caramel and toffee on nose and palate. A splash of

water brings out touches of raspberry jam, espresso, and dark chocolate, finishing dry with oak and clove.
abv: 49.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Taconic Distillery Double Barrel Maple Bourbon (USA; Taconic Distillery, Stanfordville, NY). What's in the bottle: a New York state bourbon barreled with New York maple syrup. It smells a little like maple, plus whiffs of cedar and eucalyptus. The first sips open with maple and vanilla sweetness, but that pulls back before it can become cloying, drying to a leathery note. Pleasant sipping. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45% **Price:** \$50

92 Bondstone Double Oak Cask Strength Bourbon (USA; Kentucky Whiskey Bottling, Harrodsburg, KY). Expect a deep amber hue and concentrated oak and toasted-almond scent. The palate is big and bold, drying and tannic. Espresso and clove tingle give way to cherry lozenge and black pepper, winding into long and warming finish. High-rye bourbon.
abv: 58.6% **Price:** \$55

92 Murray Hill Club Bourbon (USA; Jos. A. Magnus & Co., Holland, MI). Overall, this bourbon is drying and brisk, opening with oak, cigar wrapper, and walnut. The finish shows cinnamon and clove, plus a zippy hint of orange peel. Batch No. 93.
abv: 51.5% **Price:** \$120

92 Flying Ace Bourbon (USA; Flying Ace Distillery, Holland, MI). In this whiskey, cedar and oak mix with lively dried apricot, golden raisin, and ginger. Lemon peel and cayenne emerge on the tingly, warming exhale. Aged a minimum of three years. *Best Buy.*
abv: 42% **Price:** \$30

91 Joseph Magnus Bourbon (USA; Jos. A. Magnus & Co., Holland, MI). Soft vanilla and chestnut are followed by drying walnut and oak. The long finish includes a flurry of clove and black pepper. Distilled in Indiana and Kentucky, and finished in Sherry and Cognac casks in Michigan.
abv: 50% **Price:** \$100

91 Kentucky Credential Bourbon (USA; Kentucky Whiskey Bottling, Harrodsburg, KY). This is a relatively dry and restrained bourbon, showing cigar wrapper and almond. A splash of water coaxes sandalwood and nutmeg, finishing with an almost incense-like exhale. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45% **Price:** \$45

91 Old Emmer High Wheat Bourbon (USA; Kentucky Whiskey Bottling, Harrodsburg, KY). This wheated bourbon has a mild maple aroma and restrained flavors: roasted grain and chamomile tea with honey lead into a vanilla-cookie note and light-baking spice exhale.
abv: 48% **Price:** \$55

90 Ampersand Opimus Bourbon (USA; Ampersand Distilling, Minden, NV). For full review see page 134.
abv: 58.3% **Price:** \$150

90 Taconic Distillery New York's Wheated Bourbon (USA; Taconic Distillery, Stanfordville, NY). Oak, leather, and cocoa scents introduce this four-year-old wheated bourbon. The palate opens with char and oak, drying to tobacco and leather, plus black pepper and cayenne sting. *Best Buy.*
abv: 48% **Price:** \$40

89 Elliott Brothers Reserve 10 Year Old Bourbon #2 (USA; Vino del Sol, Clarksville, TN). Finished in Malbec wine casks, this satiny bourbon offers toffee and oak aromas, plus a whiff of campfire smoke. Oak dominates the palate, polished by hints of dark fruit and clove, leading to a warming, drying finish.
abv: 64% **Price:** \$150

89 Blade and Bow Bourbon Aged 30 Years Limited Release (USA; Diageo North America, Louisville, KY). It's unusual to see a bourbon aged three decades. This rarity has a chestnut hue, and deep toffee and oak aromas. The palate opens with tons of walnut, oak, and prune. Delicate anise and caraway show on the long, drying finish.
abv: 54.5% **Price:** \$1,200

88 Pursuit United. Kodama Mizunara Bourbon (USA; Pursuit Spirits, Louisville, KY). This is a blend of distillate from three separate distilleries, aged in Japanese Mizunara oak and infrared-toasted American oak, and bottled at barrel proof. The end result is a fiery sip, which feels almost fizzy on the tongue. Oak and dark cherry mingle with a hint of orange peel on the finish.
abv: 58.5% **Price:** \$90

RYE

95 Fox and Hare Rye Single Barrel (USA; Taconic Distillery, Stanfordville, NY). The rich caramel aroma entices. The velvety, palate-coating whiskey layers that caramel note with cocoa and hazelnut, plus hints of stout and black pepper on the exit. Aged six years.
abv: 62.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Pursuit United Triple Mash Rye (USA; Pursuit Spirits, Louisville, KY). A blend of three ryes from Kentucky and Maryland, bottled at barrel proof, this is a bold and fiery sip. Toffee and oak aromas lead into a flavorful palate bursting with roasted grain and caraway, finishing with cayenne and a hint of lemon peel.
abv: 60.9% **Price:** \$80

93 Unsinkable Sausalito Rye Finished in Port Wine Casks (USA; Sausalito Liquor Co., Rohnert Park, CA). Distilled in Kentucky and finished in California, this rye has a distinct toasted-almond quality on nose and palate. The final nutty exhale includes marzipan and pecan pie, plus a lively dose of cinnamon Red Hots.
abv: 47.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Buzzard's Roost Toasted Barrel Rye (USA; Buzzard's Roost, Bardstown, KY). Oak and

allspice lead into a toasty palate that resounds with cinnamon and clove. Drying and grippy, these sweet spices mix with orange peel and tobacco leaf, warmed by a black pepper exhale. Distilled in Indiana.
abv: 52.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Markhor Rye (USA; Donati Wine & Spirits, Templeton, CA). Overall, this is a dry and bracing sip. Cedar and tobacco on nose and palate meld with cigar wrapper, grapefruit pith, and hops. The brisk finish shows clove and nutmeg, plus a mouthwatering sprinkle of sea salt. Four years old.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$68

91 Buzzard's Roost Double Oak Cigar Rye (USA; Buzzard's Roost, Bardstown, KY). Scented with savory spices and hint of mesquite, this bold whiskey opens with vanilla, almond, and torched cinnamon. Ultimately, the mix of savory and sweet reads like bacon covered with sticky maple and lots of fiery black pepper. Distilled in Indiana and finished in toasted and charred casks intended to create a smoky aroma.
abv: 56.4% **Price:** \$85

RYE BLENDS

94 BouRye 2026 (USA; High West Distillery, Park City, UT). As the name suggests, this limited edition is a cross between bourbon and rye. That translates as a pleasing mix of toffee, espresso, and dark chocolate enlivened by plenty of cinnamon and black-peppery tingle. It's fiery, but complex and good sipping. Aged a minimum of 10 years. Batch 26A21.
abv: 50.5% **Price:** \$125

87 Ampersand Malus (USA; Ampersand Distilling, Minden, NV). A mix of 51% rye whiskey and 49% Calvados, this liquid offers oak and cedar aromas, plus a hint of orange peel. The drying palate opens with maple, winding into candied rose petals and a final floral exhale.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$59

86 Ampersand Vinea (USA; Ampersand Distilling, Minden, NV). This is a mix of straight rye whiskey and grain neutral spirits aged eight years in Cognac casks. The end result is a woody scent with a hint of Sherry. The palate mingles maple and lots of oak, finishing with clove and black-pepper sparks, plus a hint of dried apricot.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$59

AMERICAN WHISKEY

96 Bondstone Sour Mash Whiskey Special Edition (USA; Kentucky Whiskey Bottling, Harrodsburg, KY). The aroma mixes brown sugar and a faint savory waft. That's echoed on the palate, where a faint mesquite note winds into bold Nutter Butter, piquant peppercorn, and mouthwatering salted butterscotch. *Best Buy.*
abv: 43% **Price:** \$45

