

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

NOVEMBER 2017

THIS MONTH

- 2 NEW YORK
- 21 WASHINGTON
- 31 CALIFORNIA
- 56 CHILE
- 62 BEAUJOLAIS
- 64 BURGUNDY
- 81 PROVENCE
- 82 PAYS D'OC
- 84 PIEDMONT
- 91 CENTRAL ITALY
- 93 SPAIN
- 104 SPIRITS
- 106 BEER

ANNA LEE IJIMA

New York pét-nat
wine in a riddling rack.

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

NEW YORK

Small production, big results

Whether the Finger Lakes, Long Island, Hudson Valley or beyond, the best wines in New York are still made by small, typically family-owned wineries with limited technological shortcuts and in miniscule volume.

To put production figures into perspective, rising stars in the Finger Lakes like Nathan Kendall make less than 4,000 cases a year. The regional heavyweight, Hermann J. Wiemer, produces about 17,000 cases annually. Yet even combined, these efforts are hardly a drop in the bucket when compared to large-scale American producers who make upward of 10 million cases a year.

While great wines can be made many ways, there's distinct value in wines made carefully in small quantities, directly reflecting the terroir, vintage and philosophies of their makers. Winemaker Fred Merwath's Rieslings at Hermann J. Wiemer reveal both the filigreed effect of grapes coaxed from a cool

vintage as well as the plump nectar of an Indian summer. You can taste the complexity gained from patient lees aging in Nathan Kendall's Chardonnay or the nuanced texture of Pinot Noir made without correction via fining agents.

As this month's batch of reviews show,

Often priced under \$20 at entry level, these wines represent a breed of painstakingly made, small-production pours that offer remarkable value.

wines from New York offer a dizzying array of diversity. Classics like Riesling and Merlot are featured alongside fine sparkling wines and rarities like Gamay and Grüner Veltliner. Often priced under \$20 at entry level, these wines represent a breed of painstakingly made, small-production pours that provide remarkable value.

Call it cliché, but we value wine because it offers something unique: a time capsule

expressive of a singular terroir or vintage. You can taste the struggle and the glory. It connects you to the hearts of the people and places that crafted it, and only further enhances your drinking experience. We'll toast to that.

Cheers!

—Anna Lee C. Iijima

RIESLING

94 Hermann J. Wiemer 2015 HJW Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Fresh green herbs and lime zest lend vibrance to this lighter-bodied bottling from Wiemer's 2015 vintage. White grapefruit and citrus are piercing and spry, finishing with a delightful edge of salt and crushed-stone. Drinks beautifully now but should develop well through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$39

94 Hermann J. Wiemer 2015 Magdalena Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). Despite a savory backbone of slate and tart, tangerine acidity, sun-kissed cantaloupe, pineapple and citrus take center stage in this full-bodied Riesling. It's fresh and dry yet lusciously mouthfilling, clinging on the palate through a long, meandering finish. It's

gorgeous already but should develop well through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Hermann J. Wiemer 2015 Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Wiemer's standard dry Riesling is an impeccable value for a wine that offers such density of fruit and minerality. While dry in style, it's a luscious, deeply fruity wine studded with tangerine and stone-fruit flavors glazed in honey and nectar. It's unctuous and ripe, but finishes with a cool, steel-edged persistence. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

93 Hermann J. Wiemer 2015 Reserve Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Orange blossom and lemon zest perfume this intensely aromatic dry Riesling. Plump yellow cherry and tangerine flavors build on the palate, invigorated by racy zips of acidity and crushed-stone minerality. Buoyantly pretty

yet firmly structured to improve at least another decade. —A.I.

abv: 12.7%

Price: \$29

90 Keuka Spring 2016 Semi-Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). While bountiful in ripe, plush nectarine, peach and melon, this medium-sweet Riesling off sets its sunny side with dazzling acidity. Light on its feet yet deeply penetrating, it's an effortless people pleaser offering balance and satisfaction. —A.I.

abv: 9.9%

Price: \$17

89 Glenora 2016 Select Harvest Riesling (Finger Lakes). Juicy, sweet honeydew and green plum flavors are cut by shards of piercing lime and lemon in this ripe, light-footed Riesling. Medium-sweet in style, it's a keenly balanced single-vineyard bottling that should improve well through 2021. —A.I.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$25

89 Hermann J. Wiemer 2015 Josef Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Compared to Wiemer's more fruity, floral bottlings this vintage, the Josef Vineyard is decidedly savory, showing pronounced notes of earth and herb. Semisweet in style, the palate offers concentrated doses of fresh white pear and tangerine as well. The finish lingers on dusty mineral tones. —A.I.

abv: 9.3%

Price: \$39

89 Hosmer 2016 Riesling (Cayuga Lake). Bold strokes of yellow peach and tangerine get a jolt of electric acidity in this squeaky-clean, off-dry Riesling. Fresh and fruity, it's a mouthwatering white to enjoy now through 2019. —A.I.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$17

88 Glenora 2016 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Whiffs of smoky crushed slate lend some mineral depth to this light-bodied, medium-sweet Riesling. It's a deftly balanced wine offering zippy tangerine, lemon and lime tinged by a reverberating streak of honey. —A.I.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$14

88 McGregor 2016 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Heady floral perfume, tropical fruit and delicate red berry notes burst from the glass. Dry in style, it's a light-footed sip with bracing grapefruit acidity and a concentrated, primary palate. Enjoy soon to maximize all its youthful exuberance. —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

88 Red Newt Cellars 2016 Circle Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's a honeyed tone to this medium-sweet Riesling that is light on its feet with spine-tingling acidity. Earthier elements of crushed stone and saffron lend subtle nuance to juicy grapefruit, lime and green apple. Easy going and fresh, it should be enjoyed young through 2019. —A.I.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$15

Continued on page 16

The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by *Wine Enthusiast Magazine's* editors and other qualified tasters. Regular contributors to our Buying Guide include Managing Editor/Tasting Director Lauren Buzzeo, Executive Editor Susan Kostrzewa, Tasting Manager Alexander Peartree, Senior Tasting Coordinator Fiona Adams, Tasting Coordinator Carrie Dykes, Contributing Editors Michael Schachner, Anna Lee C. Iijima, Christina Pickard, Mike DeSimone, Jeff Jensen and Spirits Editor Kara Newman in New York; European Editor Roger Voss in France; Italian Editor Kerin O'Keefe in Switzerland; Contributing Editor Anne Kriebel in England; Contributing Editors Virginie Boone, Jim Gordon and Matt Kettmann in California; and Contributing Editors Paul Gregutt and Sean Sullivan in Washington.

If a wine was evaluated by a single reviewer, that taster's initials appear following the note. When no initials appear following a wine review, the wine was evaluated by two or more reviewers and the score and tasting note reflect the input of all tasters. Unless otherwise stated, all spirit reviews are by Kara Newman and all beer reviews are by Lauren Buzzeo.

Each review contains a score, the full name of the product, its suggested national retail price, its alcohol (abv) as reported to us by the submitter and a tasting note. If price or alcohol content cannot be confirmed, NA (not available) will be printed. Prices are for 750-ml bottles unless otherwise indicated.

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

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

ABOUT THE SCORES

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

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

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

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

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

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

Best Buys are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. Wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$15 or less, and are designated Best Buys after surpassing a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark.

SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted to the appropriate reviewing location as detailed in our FAQ, available online via winemag.com/contact-us. Inquiries should be addressed to the Tasting & Review Department at 914.345.9463 or email tastings@wineenthusiast.net. **There is no charge for submitting products.** We make every effort to taste all products submitted for review, but there is no guarantee that all products submitted will be tasted, or that reviews will appear in the magazine. All samples must be accompanied by the appropriate submission forms, which may be downloaded from our Web site.

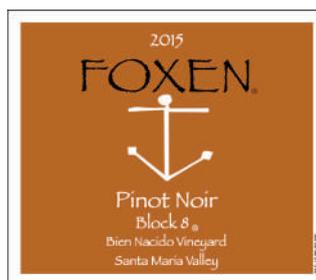
LABELS

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; fax 866.896.8786; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net.

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



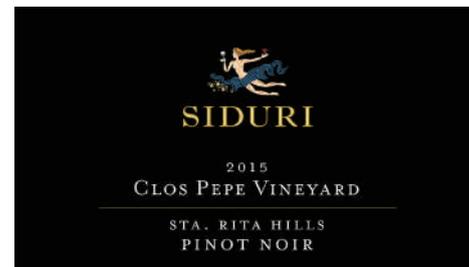
97 Louis Latour 2015 Montrachet. This opulent, powerful wine has weight, richness and a beautiful creamy texture. It's built to age, from its wood aging to its minerality. Concentrated, it offers yellow fruits shot through with acidity. From the grandest Chardonnay vineyard in Burgundy, it will age well and be ready to drink from 2026. Louis Latour Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$650



96 Foxen 2015 Block 8 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This block-designate wine shows flamboyant aromas of red cherry, cola, purple flowers and light caramel. The palate offers an amazingly cohesive and zesty experience, combining piquant cranberry and tart raspberry with slate-driven minerality and a persistent woody spice. The texture is soft, but lifted by strong acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$64



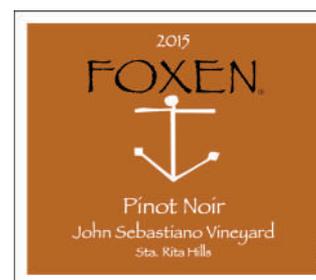
96 Louis Latour 2015 Bâtard-Montrachet. Wood, ripe fruit and a tight texture give this wine a very complete feeling. It is structured, mineral-driven and packed with fresh apples and yellow fruit. The impressive structure and balance suggest the wine will age well; drink from 2024. Louis Latour Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$400



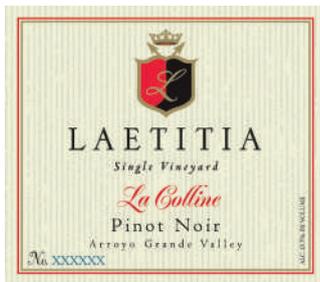
96 Siduri 2015 Clos Pepe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a stellar representation of the region, combining ripeness with dark earth and wild herb notes. Aromas of black cherry, crushed slate, turned loam, dried hibiscus and violets make for a lavish nose. The rounded palate weaves black raspberry together with gravel, thyme and sagebrush. Iron fist, silk glove, utterly delicious. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60



96 Siduri 2015 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). From one of the most coveted vineyards in the Central Coast, this is a well-balanced whopper of a wine, starting on aromas of fresh raspberry, black plum, forest floor, violets and dark chocolate. The palate is rich upfront, showing strawberry and other dark berries, and then gains complexity in notes of sandalwood and myrrh. Thanks to deep acidity and tannic framing, the wine is simultaneously bold and balanced. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65



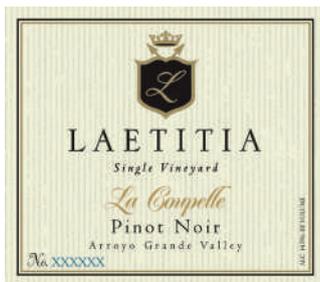
95 Foxen 2015 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Extremely alluring aromas of black plum and blackberry meet with touches of caramel, vanilla and fresh rose on the nose of this bottling. Raspberry and cranberry pop on the sip, but it's the *garrigue* character of black sage and thyme, plus a bit of white pepper, that rounds out the seamlessly integrated palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$52



95 Laetitia 2015 Single Vineyard La Colline Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Ripe red-cherry and mace spice on the inviting nose of this bottling by longtime Winemaker Eric Hickey. A lively boysenberry-pomegranate combination explodes on the palate, where snapped sage sticks, wild thyme and dried rose petals make for an ethereally light yet stunningly flavorful wine. —M.K.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$60



95 Laetitia 2015 Single Vineyard La Coupelle Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Plump aromas of black cherry, mulberry, vanilla and star anise rise on the rich but not overbearing nose of this wine. There is dark-fruit ripeness on the front, but then comes a heavy array of spices, from allspice and clove to thyme and dried sage. The texture is soft, yet the tannins are noticeable and the acidity is buoyant. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60



95 Louis Latour 2015 Château Corton Grancey (Corton). This wine from the Corton Grand Cru vineyard is packed with tannins as well as smoky fruit. It is richly structured and firm, yet the fruit is equally powerful, showing bold black fruits struck against bright acidity. The wine will need considerable aging; drink from 2025. Louis Latour Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$165



95 Louis Latour 2015 Cuvée Héritiers Latour (Chambertin). This is Burgundian opulence, with generous, rounded black-fruit and -berry flavors. Supporting this richness are the tannins that will allow the wine to age. From Louis Latour Domaine vineyards, it has a solid, dense structure that needs plenty of time. Drink from 2027. Louis Latour Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

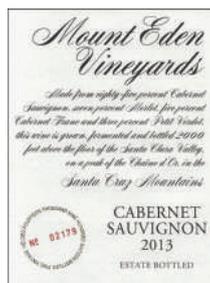
Price: \$400



95 Louis Latour 2015 Corton-Charlemagne. A flagship wine for this producer, this is rich and seductive, opulent even. Bold yellow fruits, ripe apples and pears are surrounded by a youthful texture that will allow it to age. The fruit and the touches of wood are still present, but will integrate beautifully. Drink this wine from 2023. Louis Latour Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$165



95 Mount Eden Vineyards 2013 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's an unparalleled woody intensity on the nose of this offering, with cigar box, myrrh, incense and bay leaf decorating the black peppercorn, herb-laced salt, dark chocolate and black plum aromas. The palate's leathery flavors are woven into fine-grained tannins, revealing flashes of elderberry, violet and gravel. Drink 2019–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

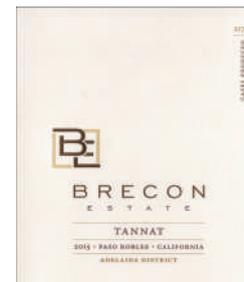
Price: \$70



95 Schramsberg 2008 Reserve (North Coast). An especially deep-gold color and enticing, expansive aromas indicate the extra aging time this Pinot Noir-based bubbly went through. Ripe pear, honey and toasted-almond notes weave across the palate as a rich mouthfeel is picked up by fine yet persistent bubbles. It is a delicious, mature wine that shows how complex and rewarding California sparkling wine can be with time. Keep through 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$120



94 Brecon Estate 2015 Tannat (Adelaida District). Very cohesive aromas of blueberry and black currant meet with deep violet, lilac and brioche aromas on this bottling of the relatively rare grape from Southwest France. A well-woven tapestry of blueberry mousse, cola spice, root beer, dried ginger and clove dust make for layers and layers of thick and impressive flavor. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$52



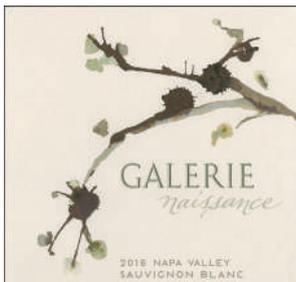
94 Cascina Alberta 2014 Giacone (Barbaresco). Truffle, forest floor, new leather, purple flower and crushed herb aromas take center stage in this Barbaresco. The firmly structured, elegant palate delivers juicy red cherry, raspberry compote, cinnamon and clove flavors in a matrix of tightly wound, polished tannins and bright acidity. A hint of star anise signals the close. Cherio Holding & Trading. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 14%

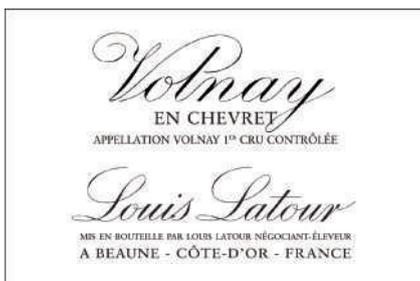
Price: \$34



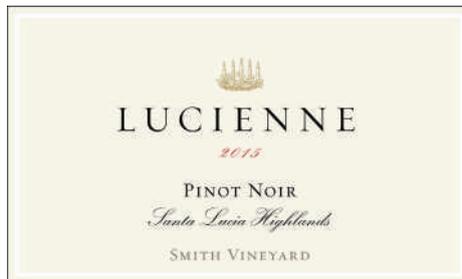
94 **Domaine Bertagna 2015 Les Beaux Monts Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée).** From one of the grandest premiers crus, this wine is dense and rich. With great fruit tones and finely integrated wood, it is complex, beautifully balanced and shows great intensity. The juicy red fruits are shot through by firm tannins that will soften as it matures. Drink from 2025. *Esprit du Vin. Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$106



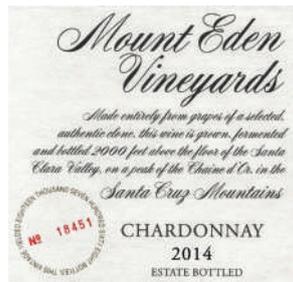
94 **Galerie 2016 Naissance Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This producer continues to up its game with this variety, becoming more impressive with every vintage. With the majority stainless-steel fermented, it offers tart, tangy grapefruit pith, lemon and lime around a grip of sublime texture and length. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



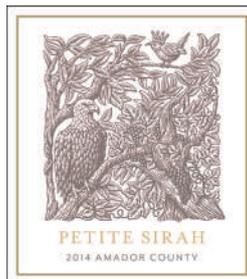
94 **Louis Latour 2015 En Chevret Premier Cru (Volnay).** This wine is firm yet ripe, with a bold yet tight character that foreshadows a rich wine in the future. The cherry and red plum flavors are lush and generous. It is going to be a delicious wine, full of concentration. Drink from 2023. Louis Latour Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95



94 **Lucienne 2015 Smith Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** There are elegant aromas of potpourri, purple flowers, rose hips, fennel, wild mint, blackberries and plums on the nose of this top-end bottling from the Hahn family. Hearty black plum and elderberry mix with black sage and bay leaf on the palate, where a chalky texture and soft mouthfeel complete the experience. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



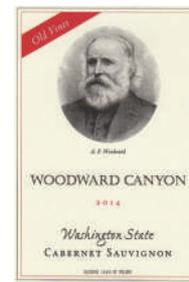
94 **Mount Eden Vineyards 2014 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** An oil-like shade of yellow in the glass, this is still a baby, showing aromas of walnut, seared lemon, yogurt, white flowers, oak and smoke. The acidity is pure and strong, cutting through the nutty flavors and savory richness. Sea salt, browned butter, Meyer lemon peels and orange marmalade flavors will only grow more cohesive with time. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$64



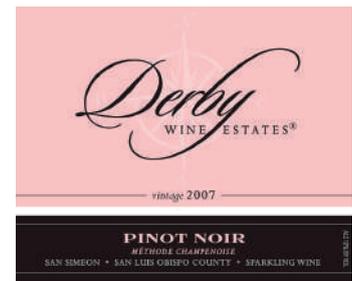
94 **Renwood 2014 Petite Sirah (Amador County).** This wine is a classic of the type that can only improve with time. The aromas show tightly packed spices, superripe fruit and cedar. Dense blackberry, blueberry and dark chocolate flavors fill this full-bodied and lavishly tannic wine to the brim. The color is black, except for a slim ring of deep ruby at the edge. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50



94 **Schramsberg 2008 J. Schram (North Coast).** A rich gold color and spicy, complex aromas get this wine off to a great start. It follows with ginger, cinnamon, baked apple and lemon on the palate, which sets up a layered flavor profile supported by fine bubbles and fresh acidity. The finish lingers on slightly nutty and doughy notes. Enjoy through 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$120



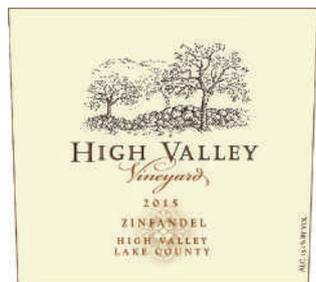
94 **Woodward Canyon 2014 Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington).** One of the state's best bottles year after year, this delivers herb, blackberry, woodspice and vanilla bean aromas. The palate is tightly wound and impeccably balanced, with a mixture of fruit and barrel flavors that show depth. Made with the future in mind, it will be best from 2025–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$99



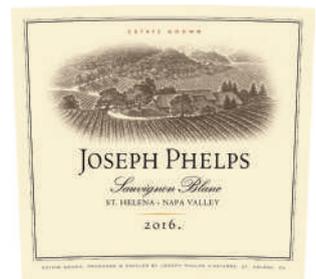
93 **Derby 2007 San Simeon Methode Champagne Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** It's always fun to taste the past, and this decade-old bottling is magical. An orange shade of pink in the glass, it begins with creamy aromas of orange soufflé and nectarine that are complemented by touches of clean yeast and warm bread. The bubbles are powerful on the sip, showing tart plum and orange-rind flavors. The acidity is strong but balanced. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$54



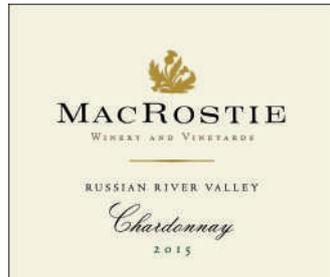
93 **Domaine Fond Moiroux 2014 Moulin-à-Vent.** Vanilla aromas indicate that wood aging has made an already ripe wine even richer. The tannins are still young, calling for aging, but bold cherry and red plum tones are ripe, full bodied and open. Drink this concentrated wine from 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20



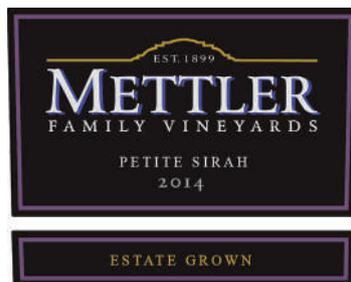
93 **High Valley Vineyard 2015 Zinfandel (High Valley).** This wine has a distinct personality beyond the normal jammy-fruit flavors of the varietal. A fragrance like sunbaked earth and wild sagebrush meets dried cherry, dried herb and meaty flavors, supported by firm tannins and good acidity for a lip-smacking texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$30



93 **Joseph Phelps 2016 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (St. Helena).** This is a consistently delicious wine, fermented in a combination of new and once-used French oak. Fully realized, it has a sublime texture and light body that's balanced by long, lingering acidity. The fresh-fruit flavors show elements of orange, lime, lemon and peach. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40



93 **MacRostie 2015 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** This wine is the sum of many spectacular sites—including Ritchie and Heintz Vineyards—some of the cooler-climate spots for grapes in the Occidental. Together they sing a tasteful tune that's salty and demure, with an elegant imprint of green apple, ocean breeze and stone. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34



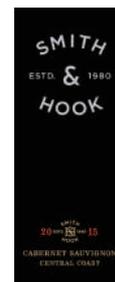
93 **Mettler Family Vineyards 2014 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Lodi).** This giant of a wine has aromas of charred oak, wood smoke and black pepper, with a palate of dense, deep and smoky tones that feel thick, tannic and chewy. It's a tour de force of spicy oak, fruit concentration and mouthcoating texture that's impressive to drink now but will be best after 2024. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25



93 **Michael David 2014 Earthquake Petite Sirah (Lodi).** A superdark color and effusive aromas of wood smoke, raisin and dried fig set the stage for extremely concentrated, ripe fruit on the palate and a thickly tannic texture. The exuberance of the grape and blackberry flavors nicely counterbalances the firm texture. This will age well, so best to drink it after 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26



93 **Schramsberg 2013 Blanc de Noirs Méthode Traditionnelle Brut (North Coast).** This is a beautifully made, elegant wine that combines classic aromas of toasted bread, ripe apples and almonds with mouthfilling flavors of vanilla, lemon and cream while maintaining great balance from fresh acidity. A lingering finish echoes the spices and toast. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$42



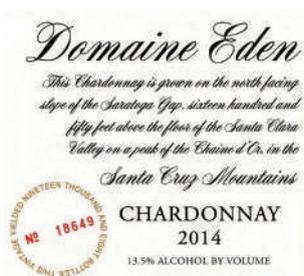
93 **Smith & Hook 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast).** This is a big but balanced expression of Cabernet that is ready to drink now. Layers of black cherry, caramel, vanilla, smoke and crushed black rocks show on the lavish nose. The palate's chalky texture is immediately apparent, with vibrant acidity that carries forth a rich crème de cassis flavor and finishes on roasted coffee and milk chocolate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$18



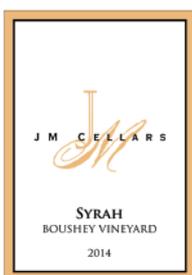
92 **Artesa 2016 Albariño (Los Carneros).** This is a crisp, mineral-driven white wine from a Carneros-based producer with Spanish roots. White peach meets bright lemon on the balanced, succulent palate, resulting in an easy, accessible experience that's wholly enjoyable. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28



92 Bella Luna 2015 Fighter Pilot Red (Paso Robles). Extremely dark and viscous in the glass, this 100% Zinfandel shows dark intensity on the nose, with aromas of hearty blueberry, crushed violet, vanilla and black pepper. The blueberry element explodes onto the palate, but it's tightened up by a rocky texture and a touch of pepper dust. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42



92 Domaine Eden 2014 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Grapefruit rind, yogurt, sour cream and warm pear show on the nose of this bottling. There is great acidity on the sip, with a mango cream and tropical fruit touch, but those elements coalesce into a rich, roasted-almond-driven palate as the wine breathes. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



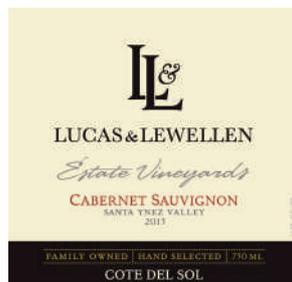
92 JM Cellars 2014 Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). Brooding blackberry, dark plum, dried herb, vanilla and bacon fat aromas are followed by sappy, rich, saturated fruit flavors in this wine. It's a hedonistic rendition of Syrah that holds nothing back. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48



92 Laetitia 2015 Reserve du Domaine Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Baked red cherry, vanilla dust and a slight edge of bay leaf show on this well-rounded estate bottling from the pioneering brand. Ripe raspberry and pomegranate meet with sagebrush, anise and more bay leaf on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42



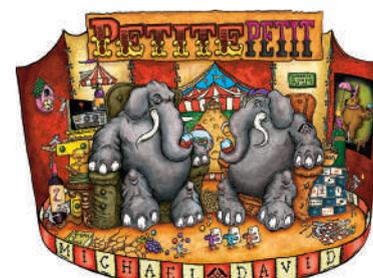
92 Locations NV CA 4 White Blend (California). Lush and full in texture, this wine has more spicy flavors than fruity ones, as a blend of vanilla, hazelnut and cream coat the palate. It has the rich feel of barrel fermentation and will win friends with the layering of subtleties on such a decadent mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



92 Lucas & Lewellen 2013 Cote Del Sol Estate Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Though without the richness that has defined California Cab in recent decades, this bottling is more of a classic Old World-leaning expression that is slowly coming back in vogue. Tightly wound blackberry meets with cigar box, dust and dried oregano on the nose, while the palate combines a strong tannic profile and solid acidity with more dried herbs, crushed slate, black olive and dark fruits. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38



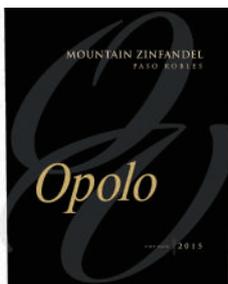
92 Luna 2015 Reserve Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Gorgeous, with a golden apple nose, this wine is voluptuously rich, rewarding and full bodied, with creamy waves of vanilla and melon. Big and bold on the midpalate, it finishes in a twist of salty Meyer lemon. 100% Dijon 95 clone. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$48



92 Michael David 2015 Petite Petit (Lodi). This wine is not at all petite, with its richly layered and concentrated palate. It has an abundance of fine-grained tannins to support its opulent flavors of dark fruits and oaky spices. Full bodied but plush and soothing in texture, it blends in 15% Petit Verdot. Drink through 2022. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18



92 Omen 2015 Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). This deep, dark and concentrated wine made by Alexandre Remy is big in every way—from the almost-black color to amped up aromas of dark chocolate and blackberry jam. Ripe blueberry and blackberry flavors coat the palate while a thick layer of soft-edged tannins shape the texture. It's not at all shy, and is a blast to drink with something grilled over open flames. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



92 Opolo 2015 Mountain Zinfandel (Paso Robles). This unabashedly powerful and jammy wine shows black-cherry candy, sweet roses, vanilla, black rocks and black pepper on the nose. The soft tannins carry forth waves of vanilla, coconut, caramel and blueberry jelly, perfect to please those seeking a whopper of a wine. —M.K.

abv: 16.3%

Price: \$29



92 Rabble 2015 Mossfire Ranch Zinfandel (Paso Robles). This brand offers excellent value across the board, and this Zinfandel competes strongly with much more expensive bottlings. The balanced nose offers hearty blackberry, roasted meat, charcoal, violet and black pepper. The dark fruit and purple flowers of the palate are offset by gravelly minerality and dark chocolate flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$25



92 Renwood 2014 Special Reserve Zinfandel (Fiddletown). This is a classic Zinfandel, scented with wild sage and forest berries, and full of raspberry, strawberry and black-cherry flavors. It's full bodied and well balanced, but generous and soft in texture, while mild tannins help carry the flavors through a lingering finish. —J.G.

abv: 15%

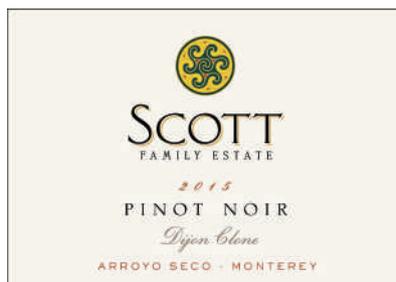
Price: \$50



92 Santa Rita 2013 Triple C Red Wine (Maipo Valley). A stacked nose includes aromas of tomato, herbs, cocoa, molasses and berry fruits. The saturated palate announces that this is a big one, while spicy flavors of plum and berry fruits are slightly herbal on a finish with excellent feel and flow. Drink this blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Carmenère through 2021. Palm Bay International. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40



92 Scott Family 2015 Dijon Clone Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). At first, this is plump on the nose, with cherries and warm star anise. Aromas of dried plum skins, orange rind and bitter black tea then reveal layers of complexity. Light in body and energetic on the palate, it shows strong peppery spice against the tart red fruit, making for a very lively experience. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30



92 Three 2014 Petite Sirah (Contra Costa County). This is a classy, dry and firmly structured wine from the warm climate and sandy soils of Contra Costa County. It has an extremely dark color, tight aromas of just-ripe fruit and black pepper, and focused, concentrated flavors of black berry and cherry. Balanced and full yet not overpowering in body, it is a great candidate for further aging. Best after 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 15.4%

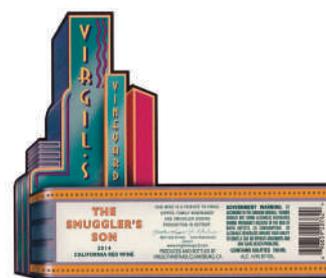
Price: \$22



92 Tooth and Nail 2015 The Stand (Paso Robles). This Petite Sirah, enhanced by 8% Syrah and 1% Viognier, is extremely dense on the nose, with aromas of blueberry, black currant, vanilla, tarragon and fudge. Mouthcoating tannins and powerful acidity bloom on the palate, where black-cherry-laced chocolate-cake flavors rise to an espresso bean finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

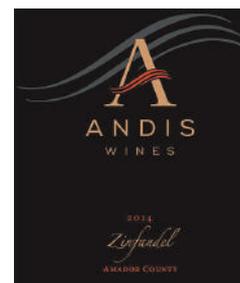
Price: \$30



92 Virgil's Vineyard 2014 The Smuggler's Son (California). This is a big, bold and dry wine that will pair well with roast lamb chops or grilled steaks. Spice rack aromas and generous blackberry, boysenberry and black-cherry flavors ride a velvety texture of fine-grained tannins. It has good concentration, layers of flavor and a lip-smacking texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

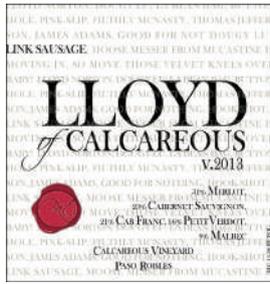
Price: \$35



91 Andis 2014 Zinfandel (Amador County). Hints of damp earth and new leather lend a distinctive taste profile to this full-bodied, ripe and broad-textured wine. Boosted by baking spices, toasted baguette and dried plum notes, the wine gets more complex with time in the glass. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.2%

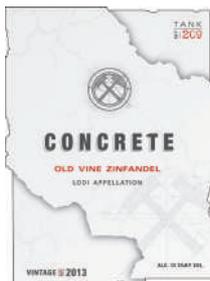
Price: \$20



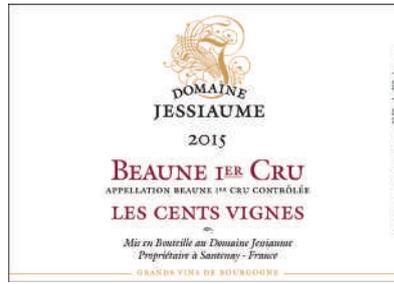
91 Calcareous 2013 Lloyd of Calcareous (Paso Robles). Blackberry juice, licorice, grape seed and dried ginger show on the nose of this jammy, spicy blend of 31% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Cabernet Franc, 16% Petit Verdot and 9% Malbec. It's rich in dark fruits at first, then tightens on clean and wound-up tannins, with intense pepper and rounded caramel toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$59



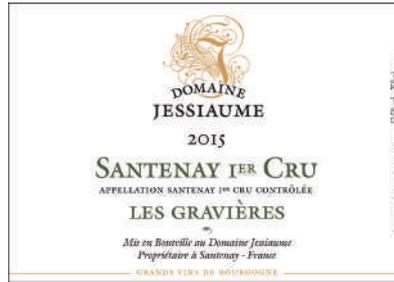
91 Château Miraval 2016 Miraval Rosé (Côte de Provence). This fruity rosé is produced at the property owned by Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie along with the Perrin family of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It is lightly spicy and full of friendly, crisp red fruits. It can age for a few more months, so it could be enjoyed in 2018. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26



91 Concrete 2013 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). This full-bodied Zinfandel adds in 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, which is an unusual blend but works really well. It shows a great mix of fruit and spice flavors, with a rich, smooth texture. It's lightly tannic, oozing raspberry and blackberry flavors on the palate and through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20



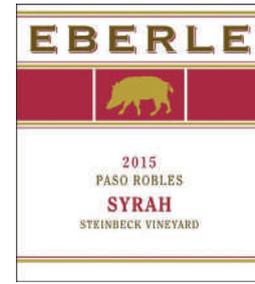
91 Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Les Cents Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune). With vines forming part of the 22-acre Jessiaume estate, this vineyard—one of the better known of the Beaune premiers crus—has produced a fine, rich wine in this vintage. Although there is plenty of young wood, the fruit is so rich and generous, with such fine potential. Give this opulent wine until 2022. MS Walker. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45



91 Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Les Gravières Premier Cru (Santenay). Although the oak imprints strong flavors in this wine, it's still young, so all the spice and toastiness will integrate. The fruit is there, showing a rich medley of apples, pears and citrus. As it matures, the texture will flesh out to result in a generous wine with a promising future. Drink from 2020. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45



91 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2012 Méthode Champenoise Brut (Finger Lakes). Saline and mineral tones accent fresh apple, pear and lemon in this zippy, invigorating sparkling wine. Made in a Chardonnay-based traditional-method style, its delicate *pétillance* and whiffs of caramelized sugar and brioche are enticing. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25



91 Eberle 2015 Steinbeck Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles). Savory aromas of black pepper, teriyaki-glazed steak, charcoal and elderberry jam converge for a compelling nose on this bottling. There is a strong soy richness to the sip, with grilled black plums and alder smoke flavors. It's the perfect barbecue wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28



91 Flambeaux 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Aged 22 months in French and American oak, this wine hails from a rolling hillside in the appellation and is 100% varietal. Subdued aromas give way to an expansive and full-bodied array of red currant, cranberry and black pepper, with a vibrant underpinning of minerality as well as tobacco and baking chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60



91 Justin 2014 Savant (Paso Robles). This blend of 62% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Grenache shows relatively restrained aromas of dark chocolate, blackberry, crushed asphalt and baking spice. There is decent tension to the sour and ripe elements of the palate, with hearty flavors of black cherry, black pepper, fennel and vanilla. —M.K.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$50



91 Lamoreaux Landing 2015 Reserve Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). While lavishly oaky and luscious in feel, this barrel-fermented Chardonnay maintains balance and levity. It's a ripe, plump wine, but fresh in acidity and delicate apple, lemon and spice flavors. A kiss of vanilla lingers nicely on the finish. —A.I.

abv: 12.9%

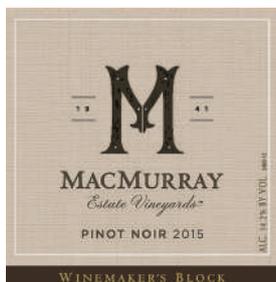
Price: \$20



91 Lobo Hills 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Dried herb, plum, black licorice, woodspice and cherry aromas are followed by palate-coating black fruit flavors, showing depth and density. It's tightly wound at present, so give it a short decant. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

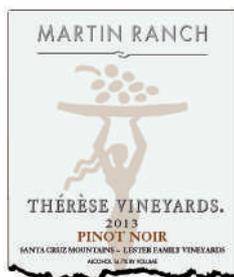
Price: \$25



91 MacMurray Estate Vineyards 2015 Winemaker's Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a soft, approachable wine, rightfully representative of its roots in the heart of the appellation. Allspice, plum and rhubarb provide a heartfelt offering of baked flavor and spice, as mild-mannered acidity keeps the fruit components fresh and persistent. —V.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$60



91 Martin Ranch 2013 Thérèse Vineyards Les-ter Family Vineyards Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Intriguing aromas of graphite, damp campfire, roasted meat and dried black cherries make for a savory nose to this bottling from a vineyard in the Corralitos area. Roasted cherries and plums show on the palate, where interesting notes of tar, charcoal and pencil shavings arise. Vanilla and sandalwood show at the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$47



91 Orfila 2015 Estate Montepulciano (San Pasqual Valley). This is one of the better wines emerging from Southern California, specifically San Diego County, where vintners should bet on Italian varieties. Pretty and fresh aromas of rose petals, crushed pomegranate, allspice, hibiscus, sandalwood and light licorice lead into a palate full of cedar-laced raspberry flavors, rounded by hints of molasses and chai. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.4%

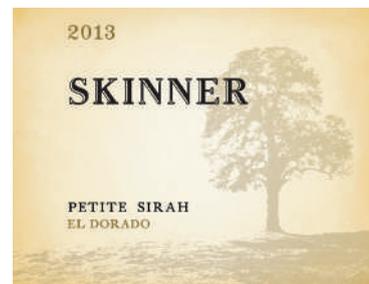
Price: \$38



91 Signal Ridge 2012 Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Sparkling Wine (Anderson Valley). This is a beautifully balanced and well-rounded wine that has light spicy aromas and generous fruit flavors. Made from nearly equal parts Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, the mouthfilling texture boasts tiny bubbles, good acidity and excellent fruit concentration. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 12%

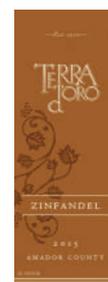
Price: \$25



91 Skinner 2013 Petite Sirah (El Dorado). This wine is quietly powerful, packed with tightly wound fruit flavors that are wrapped in a firm coating of velvety tannin. It has plenty of grip on the palate, but also plenty of underlying blackberry, boysenberry and black-pepper flavors. It's sure to improve with time, so best to drink after 2022. —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$36



91 Terra d'Oro 2015 Zinfandel (Amador County). This terrific wine has vibrant fruit flavors and feelings of focus and energy on the palate. Firm acidity and fine-grained tannins add structure and lend support to the spicy oak and ripe cherry and blackberry nuances that start in the aromas and carry through the taste and finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

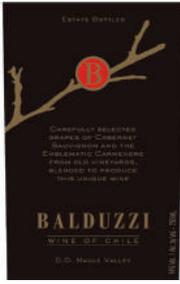
Price: \$18



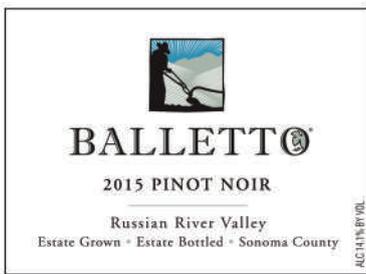
91 Tooth and Nail 2015 The Possessor (Paso Robles). Fat aromas of black cherry, cassis, caramel, oak and vanilla quickly pull the nose into this blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 7% Petite Sirah. The exuberance is dialed back on the sip, where tart black-plum skin, roast beef and pepper spice flavors abound. —M.K.

abv: 14.6%

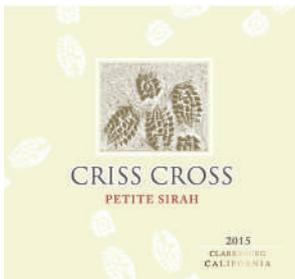
Price: \$30



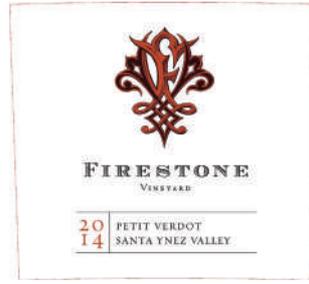
90 Balduzzi 2013 B Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenère (Maule Valley). Charred, smoky aromas are crisp and toasty. A muscled palate is tightly structured, while flavors of wood spice and lightly herbal berry fruits play out on the finish. Drink this blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Carmenère through 2020. Vintage Wines Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36



90 Balletto 2015 Estate Grown Estate Bottled Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This medium-bodied appellation wine is impressive in its combination of crisp red fruit, rhubarb, watermelon and pomegranate flavors alongside a dash of orange citrus. The smooth texture adds to the whole, as does a seasoning of allspice, while the finish is snappy in acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29



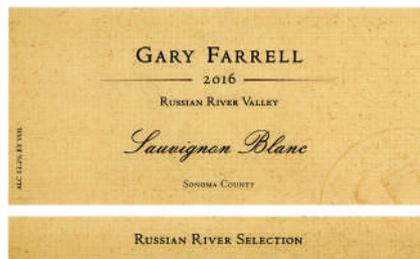
90 Criss Cross 2015 Petite Sirah (Clarksburg). A distinctive flavor profile makes this vibrantly fruity and densely textured wine stand out. It packs juicy raspberries, strawberries and dark ripe blackberries into the aroma. All that fruit oozes onto the palate and lingers long on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$20



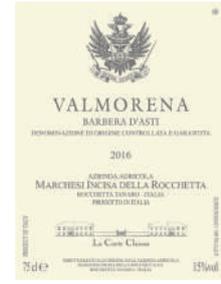
90 Firestone 2014 Petit Verdot (Santa Ynez Valley). Baked strawberries and cherries meet with vanilla and baking spice on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very approachable and pleasant, with chalky tannins presenting more baked cherry flavor as well as red currant, clove and star anise. The spice is quite penetrating. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30



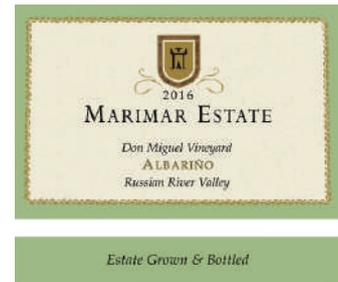
90 Flambeaux 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). With a strong foundation of oak, this well-made wine broods in grippy tannin and black cherry fruit, imparting muscular highlights of leather and tobacco. As it finds its way to a seamless lengthy finish, accents of chocolate-covered espresso beans play on. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60



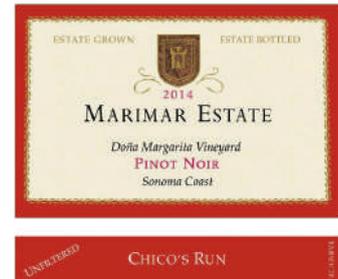
90 Gary Farrell 2016 Russian River Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Sourced from the Patient Terrier Vineyard, this white is as fresh and tart as a squeeze of lemon, with an underlying presence of wood, reflective of its time aging in neutral French oak. Concentrated on the palate, it's ultimately light, with a tenacious hold of lingering acidity and lemongrass. —V.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$32



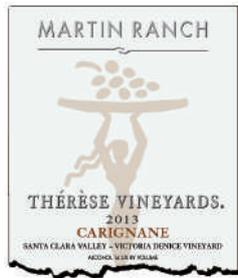
90 Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2016 Valmorena (Barbera d'Asti). This enjoyable wine's fruity black-skinned berry, violet and baking spice aromas leap out of the glass. The full-bodied palate doles out mouthfuls of juicy black cherry and ripe blackberry flavors alongside polished tannins and fresh acidity. Thanks to succulent fruit and freshness, the alcohol is seamlessly integrated. Serendipity Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20



90 Marimar Estate 2016 Don Miguel Vineyard Albariño (Russian River Valley). From the producer's estate site, in homage to her Spanish heritage, this white sizzles in varietal typicity, showing bright, forward notions of green apple, peach and a compelling wet-stone minerality that provides a gravelly edge to the texture. It lingers in honeysuckle. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35



90 Marimar Estate 2014 Doña Margarita Vineyard Chico's Run Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Dense and distinctively earthy, this wine offers ample tannin and oak, that are balanced by full-bodied ripeness. The core of its flavor profile is etched in baked strawberry, forest floor and a meaty tease that's unexpected, but welcome. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



90 Martin Ranch 2013 Thérèse Vineyards Victoria Denice Vineyard Carignane (Santa Clara Valley). This once common and now hard-to-find grape makes for a hearty wine, with earthy aromas of baked soil, composting rose petals, dried but not raisiny black fruit and rustic leather. Dried red cherry starts the sip, with more earthiness on the midpalate, including gravel and asphalt—a very interesting wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$29



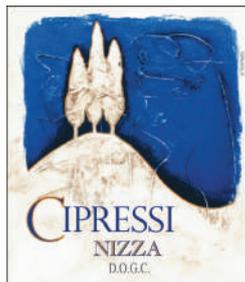
90 Matchbook 2015 The Arsonist Chardonnay (Dunnigan Hills). An overt and attractive toasted-oak aroma leads to assertive, smoky, buttery flavors in this traditional reserve-style California Chardonnay. Full bodied, it pulls out all the stops for a grand expression of pear, toasted almond and nutmeg flavors that are backed by ample acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$22



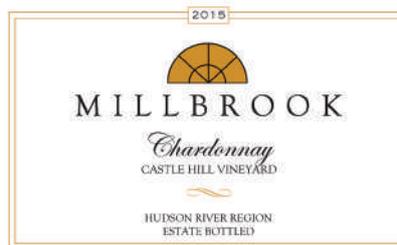
90 Medici Ermete 2016 Concerto Lambrusco (Reggiano). This refreshing, racy, frothy and focused red delivers raspberry, strawberry, orange zest, white pepper and dried black-cherry aromas and flavors. Made from 100% Lambrusco Salamino, it's vibrant, with a crisp, dry finish. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23



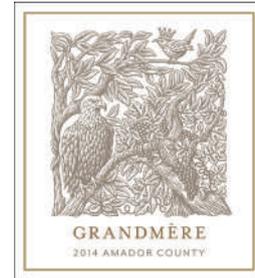
90 Michele Chiarlo 2015 Le Orme (Barbera d'Asti). Ripe black-skinned fruit, dark spice, underbrush and roasted coffee aromas lead the nose of this wine, along with an earthy note of game. The rounded, chewy palate is loaded with black cherry, black raspberry, baking spice and truffle flavors set against fresh acidity and polished tannins. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16



90 Michele Chiarlo 2014 Cipressi (Nizza). This wine's wild berry, violet, porcini, forest floor and crushed herb aromas leap out of the glass. The vibrant, focused palate evokes wild cherry, cranberry, star anise and orange zest. It's a classic Barbera framed by firm acidity and refined tannins that shows its Nizza origins. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28



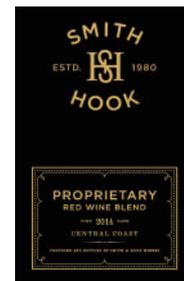
90 Millbrook 2015 Castle Hill Vineyard Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Hudson River Region). Ripe, tropical mango and pineapple tones swirl from nose to palate in this plush, yet elegant Chardonnay. Creamy in texture and lavishly adorned with oak, vanilla and spice, it's a voluptuous wine, with a bold, slightly warming finish. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35



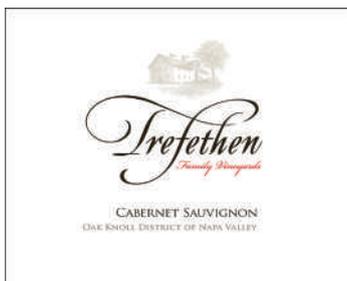
90 Renwood 2014 Grandmère (Amador County). Abundantly fruity but also laced with interesting grilled herb and spice flavors, this full-bodied, concentrated wine is nicely firm and tannic on the palate. Winemaker Joe Shebl blended 50% Zinfandel with 45% Barbera and 5% Syrah. Black plum and cherry notes emerge on the palate and persist through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65



90 Santa Rita 2013 Medalla Real Gran Reserva Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). Plum and berry aromas show a touch of varietal green. In the mouth, this wine is a bit jammy as well as dense. Woody, herbal blackberry flavors are satisfying. It stays firm and balanced across a ripe finish that includes a touch of resinous oak. Palm Bay International. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



90 Smith & Hook 2014 Proprietary Red Wine Blend (Central Coast). This blend of Merlot, Malbec, Petite Sirah and Cabernet Sauvignon is powerful and rich. Aromas of baked black currant, vanilla and brioche are inviting, as are the palate's black cherry and cola flavors. The tannins are a tad chunky, but a grilled steak will take care of them. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25



90 Trefethen 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). This is an elegant, refined and lighthearted red that shines with a wooded tannin structure and accents of pencil and clove. Rounded and smooth on the palate, it's bright and succulent in blackberry and black currant flavors, with well-integrated oak. —V.B.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$60



90 Two Angels 2015 Petite Sirah (Red Hills Lake County). The grape variety's floral aspects come out in the aromas of this big but well-balanced wine. Full of roses and violets, the perfume is unusual and inviting, and the flavors follow, piling on dry but ripe tones of blueberry and black olive, riding a richly tannic texture that seems to coat all corners of the palate. —J.G.

abv: 14.3%

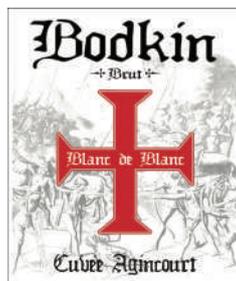
Price: \$27



90 Zinderella 2014 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). A dramatic spiciness infuses this full-bodied wine with complexity from the aroma through the flavors and lingering finish. It has a dominant streak of smoky oak, a generous mouthfeel, mild tannins and plenty of blackberry and black plum notes. —J.G.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$25



89 Bodkin NV Cuvée Agincourt Blanc de Blanc Brut (Lake County). Floral and spicy aromas like lychee and rose petal give an exotic twist to this unusual light-bodied wine made from Sauvignon Blanc. It tastes quite dry, with a fine-beaded texture as well as ample acidity to buoy the wine's fruity and floral characteristics. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$23



89 Il Cascinone 2014 d'Annona (Barba d'Asti Superiore). This wine's tilled earth, coffee and black plum aromas waft out of the glass. The hearty, full-bodied palate doles out mature black cherry, licorice and baking spice flavors alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2021. Boutinot USA, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

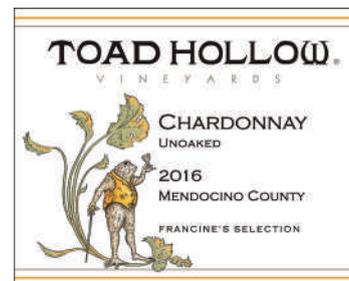
Price: \$25



89 Kirkland Signature 2015 Signature Series Red Wine (Columbia Valley). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Sangiovese initially distracts with reductive aromas, but bright plum, cherry and spice notes follow. The flavors are plush, with light, grippy tannins. A great value that goes down easy. —S.S.

abv: 14.9%

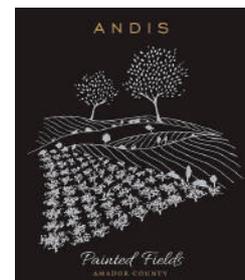
Price: \$17



89 Toad Hollow 2016 Francine's Selection Unoaked Chardonnay (Mendocino County). Fresh doughy aromas, crisp citrus and apple flavors, and a light blanket of buttery nutty nuances make this a delicious and complex wine. It's light to medium in body, has a smooth texture and vivid fruit. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$15



88 Andis 2014 Painted Fields (Amador County). This is a smooth-textured and well-balanced wine. It smells a little smoky, but tastes moderately crisp and tannic, with ripe fruit favors to balance out the tartness. —J.G.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$20

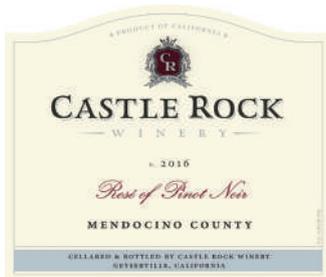


87 Infidel 2014 Zinfandel (Lodi). The freshness and concentration of the fruit flavors in this full-bodied wine is exceptional. It smells like Concord juice and tastes dark and grapy, forming a simple but appealing personality that's hard to resist. —J.G.

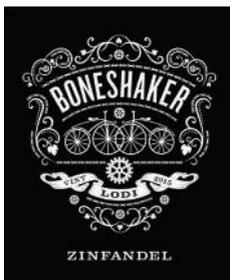
abv: 14.7%

Price: \$25

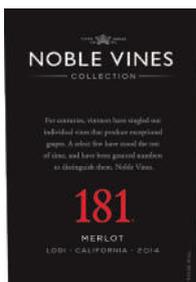
BEST BUYS



91 Castle Rock 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This smells and tastes like a pale Pinot Noir and has some of the body and smooth texture of a red wine, too. Tasty cinnamon, nutmeg and red-cherry flavors get plenty of uplift from zingy acidity, so the balance is great and the finish lingers. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12



90 Boneshaker 2015 Zinfandel (Lodi). Flavorful but also gentle on the palate, despite the brand name, this is a lushly textured, full-bodied wine that lifts beautiful blueberry and blackberry flavors on fine-grained tannins. It has lightly spicy aromas, a mouthfilling viscosity and long finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$14

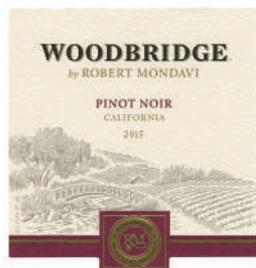


90 Noble Vines 2014 181 Merlot (Lodi). Attractive roasted, smoky aromas join ripe plum and blackberry flavors in this full-bodied, broadly textured wine. It's a great value and packs plenty of fruitiness into a rather big, moderately tannic frame. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

BEST BUYS



89 Parducci 2014 Small Lot Merlot (Mendocino County). Lots of fruit flavor and light spicy touches make this medium-bodied, dry and moderately tannic wine very attractive. Black cherry meets clove and cinnamon, while ample acidity joins with a touch of tannin for a well-balanced texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13



89 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2015 Pinot Noir (California). The 2015 vintage is a strong one for Woodbridge. Ripe fruit tones, bright acidity and lightly mouth-puckering tannins underpin red cherry, clove and blackberry flavors, while the texture is mouthfilling. It's a treat to find an inexpensive wine with such good backbone. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8



88 Dark Horse 2014 Merlot (California). A lush texture, ripe fruit and spice flavors make this wine mouthfilling, soft and easy on the palate. Along with red cherry and black plum, it offers light nuances of baking spice. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

BEST BUYS



88 HandCraft 2015 Artisan Collection Chardonnay (California). Aromas of baking spices and apple tart make this wine very alluring. The palate delivers flavors of ripe apple and pear. It has a soft mouthfeel that balances ample acidity with lively apple and lemon tones. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

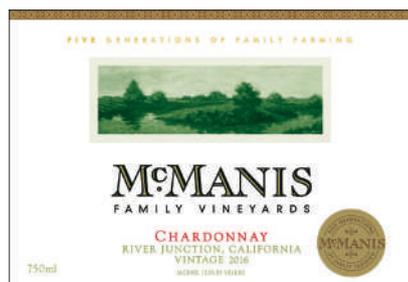


88 HandCraft 2014 Artisan Collection Petite Sirah (California). Bold but well-balanced, this value-priced, deep-colored and full-bodied wine has plenty of berry jam flavors, a rich and tannic texture and sense of sweetness on the finish. It's mouthfilling, but maintains a softness. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$9

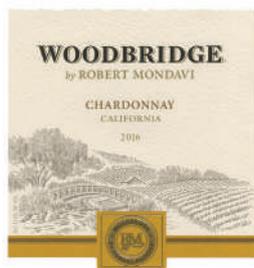


88 Kirkland Signature 2016 Rosé (Côte de Provence). Produced with advice from consultant Michel Rolland, this delicious, easygoing rosé is ripe and full in the mouth. It has plenty of acidity coming from its red currant fruitiness. The wine finishes softly, ready for a summer's day. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

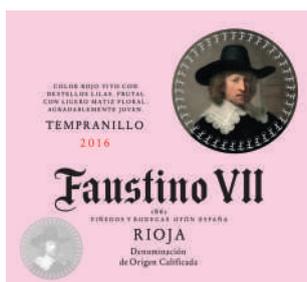
BEST BUYS



- 88 McMannis 2016 Chardonnay (River Junction).** There is a lot of fruit in the aroma and flavor of this wine. That, along with a touch of floral influence, make this medium-bodied wine fresh and alluring. Notes like Anjou pear, jasmine, ripe peach and a hint of vanilla swirl softly around the palate. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10



- 88 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2016 Chardonnay (California).** Woodbridge makes two styles of Chardonnay, and this is the richer one. Attractive layering of fruit, cream and hazelnut flavors on a nicely viscous texture makes this full-bodied wine something special. It has a good sense of concentration and depth, along with a lingering finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

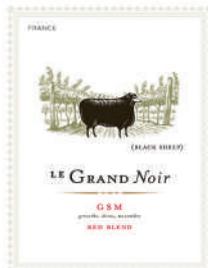


- 87 Bodegas Faustino 2016 VII Tempranillo Rosado (Rioja).** Fresh, fruity aromas center around red apple and cherry. This pink-colored rosé is fairly full in body, with ample acidity. Slightly salty but fruity plum flavors end steady and level. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

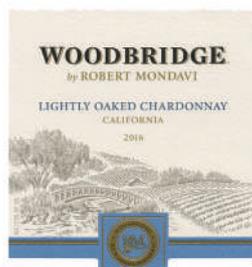
BEST BUYS



- 87 Dark Horse 2015 Petite Sirah (California).** Aromas of dried meat and dried herbs meet flavors of black pepper and dark chocolate in this relatively lean and complex version of a notoriously robust and heavy-handed varietal. It's medium to full in body and has a healthy coating of fine-grained tannins that lend texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

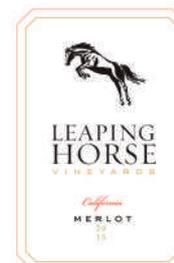


- 87 Le Grand Noir 2016 Black Sheep G-S-M (Pays d'Oc).** Dark cherry and berry fruits lead the nose of this rich and brambly wine, with hints of spicy chocolate and raspberry sauce lending added decadence. The plush palate offers more of the same, with a satiny texture and juicy, sweet-spiced fruit flavors that hang on through the medium-length finish. Prestige Beverage Group. **Best Buy.** —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12



- 87 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2016 Lightly Oaked Chardonnay (California).** Touches of ginger and orange zest lighten up the ample fruit flavors of this well-balanced value-priced wine. It has good acidity to match the ripeness of the Anjou pear and white peach flavors. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

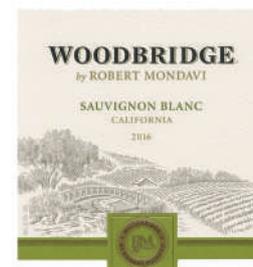
BEST BUYS



- 85 Leaping Horse 2015 Merlot (California).** With time, initial smoky and rubbery aromas become more savory and fruity on the palate. This wine has ripe red- and black-cherry flavors, a crisp balance and a smooth texture that's low in tannin. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10



- 85 Les Janelles 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** Sweet oak tones frame the black cherry and currant fruit in this wine, with notes of mocha and raspberry sauce atop. The velvety texture offers good tannic grip, while ample acidity helps to keep the palate fresh and the finish lifted. Drink now. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. **Best Buy.** —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10



- 85 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This light-bodied wine has aromas of celery and citrus that lead to crisp flavors of fresh herbs and lemon. Good acidity is smoothed out by a hint of sweetness lending a soft effect to the midpalate and finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

87 Fulkerson 2016 Juicy Sweet Estate Riesling (Finger Lakes). Slightly candied peach and honeydew flavors are indeed juicy and sweet in this spry, sweet-tart Riesling. It's forward and fruity but balanced keenly in acidity. Enjoy now. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$14

87 Glenora 2016 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Slightly herbal, earthy tones on the nose dissipate to reveal fresher grapefruit and lemon on the palate. It's piercing acidity and bristling texture make for an invigorating sip. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Heron Hill 2015 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes). While the nose suggests savory tones of pressed apple and nuts, the palate offers loads of crisp Asian pear and apple. Dry in style, it's a straightforward but invigorating white to be enjoyed young. —A.I.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

87 Heron Hill 2015 Semi-Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). Fresh lemon, grapefruit and green apple build in ripeness and sweetness on the palate of this light-bodied Riesling. It's a juicy, uncomplicated white but offers loads of pristine fruit without feeling candied or confected. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Highland Cellars 2015 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Crisp apple perfume builds on the palate, suggesting unusually lifted notes of raspberry, strawberry and cherry in this semidry Riesling. It's a plush, slightly rounded white with easy, juicy fruit and a brisk finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$15

87 Highland Cellars 2015 Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). Crushed vitamins and earth tones lend savoriness to fresh tangerine, peach and nectarine in this sweet-tart Riesling. Light bodied and brisk, it finishes moderately long on a succulent grapefruit note. —A.I.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$15

87 J.R. Dill 2016 Medium Riesling (Seneca Lake). Luscious pink grapefruit and a hint of raspberry seduce on the palate of this bright, fruity Riesling. It's pleasantly sweet but calibrated neatly by a shot of lemon-lime acidity on the midpalate. A straightforward, spry sip for everyday enjoyment. —A.I.
abv: 10.4% **Price:** \$16

87 Lamoreaux Landing 2016 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Earthy, dusty mineral tones on the nose fade to reveal juicy grapefruit and red apple on the palate of this approachable off-dry Riesling. Bright, lemony acidity lends vitality to a moderately long finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$15

87 McGregor 2016 Semi Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Penetrating white grapefruit, lemon and lime collide in this revitalizing citrus crush. It's harmoniously sweet yet balanced by fresh acidity and a feather-light briskness on the palate. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

87 Rooster Hill 2016 Estate Riesling (Finger Lakes). Subtle lime and tangerine notes on the nose gain ripeness on the palate of this off-dry Riesling. It's a surprisingly plush, juicy wine offering sweet honeydew and peach flavors balanced by crisp acidity. The finish is pleasantly blossomy. Drink now to enjoy its fresh, fruity vitality. —A.I.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$17

86 Fulkerson 2016 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Subtle green tones of fresh herb, lime and apple persist from nose to finish on this dry, medium-bodied Riesling. It's earthy and herbaceous but quite elegant. Zippy acidity carries a pristine, refreshing finish. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

86 Fulkerson 2016 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes). Zesty tangerine peel, apple and pear abound on this crisp, light-bodied Riesling. It's not a deeply concentrated wine but dry and spry. The finish is a touch earthy. Drink now. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

85 Fulkerson 2016 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Notes of earth and dust amplify savory tones of pressed apple and cider. Brisk lemon-lime acidity on the palate lends some brightness. The finish is moderately long, accented by a kiss of honeycomb. Drink now. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

85 J.R. Dill 2016 Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Delicate blossom and fresh apple notes are pretty on the nose. The palate is a bit bracing by comparison, offering tart lemon-lime flavors and a touch of earthiness on the finish. Drink now. —A.I.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$16

84 Ventosa 2015 Semi-Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). Hints of fresh-pressed apples and pears lend a cidery quality to this semisweet Riesling. It's a bit rustic in style, with streaks of tart lemon and slightly bitter tea tannins framing the finish. —A.I.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$19

GRÜNER VELTLINER

89 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2016 Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). Zesty and fresh, this bristling Grüner Veltliner offers pristine tangerine, lime and melon flavors. While delicate in concentration, vibrant acidity and crisp lime pith notes reverberate on the finish. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

88 Hosmer 2016 Estate Grüner Veltliner (Cayuga Lake). Revitalizing freshness abounds in this dry, spry Grüner Veltliner. Pristine tangerine and lemon flavors are briskly concentrated. The finish is marked by a kick of fresh ginger spice. —A.I.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$16

88 Inspire Moore 2016 Rhythm Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). Fresh lime and lemongrass juxtapose earthier notes of pollen and bees wax in this zingy, light-footed Grüner Veltliner. It's a straightforward yet revitalizing sip to enjoy now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

87 Fulkerson 2016 Grüner Veltliner (Seneca Lake). Heady freesia and tangerine zest perfume this fresh, lemony Grüner Veltliner. The palate highlights bright grapefruit and lemon flavors nuanced with pollen and smoked nuts. A brisk, deftly balanced dry white to enjoy now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 Fulkerson 2016 William Vigne Grüner Veltliner (Seneca Lake). Steely mineral and brisk grapefruit notes combine in this spry, cutting Grüner Veltliner. It's dry in style, with delicate concentration but loads of refreshment. The finish is touched with nut and earth tones. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

87 Heron Hill 2016 Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). Initial hints of dust and dried earth on the nose dissipate with aeration to reveal prettier notes of fresh grapefruit and lemon. The dry, full-bodied palate is brisk with citrus flavors that linger on the finish. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Three Brothers 2016 Lonesome Stony Estate Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). Fresh tangerine, green melon and lime abound in this fruit-forward dry white. This shows light-footed refreshment without a lot of complication. The finish is brisk and pristinely citrusy. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

PINOT GRIS

88 Billsboro 2016 Sawmill Creek Vineyards Pinot Gris (Finger Lakes). While delicately concentrated, this dry, full-bodied Pinot Gris offers shades of pristine apricot and peach flavors. Fresh lemon-lime and grapefruit acidity brightens the midpalate and lingers elegantly on the finish. —A.I.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$17

88 Thirsty Owl Wine Company 2016 Pinot Gris (Finger Lakes). Despite its moderate alcohol, this dry, full-bodied Pinot Gris feels quite plush and plump. Ripe white peach and apricot flavors

are honeyed in tone, off set by fresh acidity and a slightly steely finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$15

87 Anthony Road 2016 Pinot Gris (Finger Lakes). Pristine white grapefruit and pear are accented by hints of fennel and saffron in this light-bodied, dry Pinot Gris. Sunny lemony acidity lends a soft, yielding feel to the palate. —A.I.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$17

87 Sheldrake Point 2016 Estate Bottled Pinot Gris (Finger Lakes). Dusty, earthy aromas on the nose dissipate with aeration to reveal fleshy, sun-kissed flavors of melon, pear and tangerine. Bold in alcohol and plump in texture, it finishes with a touch of warmth and bristling tea tannins. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

86 Hosmer 2016 Estate Winery Pinot Gris (Cayuga Lake). Dusty earth tones add savoriness to fresh white peach in this dry, medium-bodied Pinot Gris. Fresh lemon-lime acidity maintains a lively, invigorating feel. Drink now. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

90 Bellangelo 2014 Gewürztraminer (Seneca Lake). Delightfully fresh, this off-dry Gewürztraminer wafts of zesty tangerine peels, lychee and blossom. Sweet citrus flavors are concentrated but brisk, tinged by hints of crushed mineral and a whisper of vanilla cream. Drink now through 2021. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Red Newt Cellars 2014 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Pristine grapefruit, lemon and cantaloupe perfume this bold, fruit-forward Gewürztraminer. While off dry in style and densely concentrated in apricot and citrus flavors, it's balanced keenly in acidity and finishes with mineral refreshment. —A.I.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$16

89 Sheldrake Point 2015 Estate Bottled Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Spicy tangerine peels perfume this intense, full-bodied Gewürztraminer. It's richly textured, almost creamy, in mouthfeel but balanced brightly in acidity. Hints of fennel and pollen pepper a pleasantly phenolic finish. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

89 Thirsty Owl Wine Company 2016 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Whiffs of white tea and tropical fruit perfume this pretty, delicately concentrated Gewürztraminer. While full bodied and moderate in alcohol, it's brisk, almost ethereal style lends grace and refreshment. Drink now through 2018. —A.I.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$19

88 Damiani 2015 Sunrise Hill Vineyards Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Brisk lemon peel and crushed mineral tones lend vibrance to this dry, full-bodied Gewürztraminer. Bright tangerine and lychee on the palate linger with a touch of earth and pollen on the finish. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$19

88 Heron Hill 2016 Reserve Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Characteristic notes of lychee, grapefruit and jasmine blossoms lend a classic air to this full-bodied Gewürztraminer. It's not deeply concentrated on the palate but dry in style and balanced by brisk acidity. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

87 Glenora 2016 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Jasmine, lychee and tea leaf notes perfume this light-footed, slightly off-dry Gewürztraminer. Fresh citrus and stone fruit flavors are crisp and easy going, finishing on a more herbaceous tone. Drink now through 2018. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 Rooster Hill 2016 Estate Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Juicy, plump and just a shade off dry, this medium-bodied Gewürztraminer offers easy, fruity grapefruit and pear flavors accented by hints of jasmine tea, saffron and fennel. A touch of tea tannins lends structure to the finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$18

87 Three Brothers 2016 Lonesome Stony Estate Reserve Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). Luscious grapefruit and lychee juxtapose earthier notes of saffron and fennel that extend from nose to finish. It's a dry, full-bodied Gewürztraminer with sunny acidity lending freshness to the midpalate. Drink now through 2019. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

MOSCATO

88 Fulkerson 2015 Juicy Sweet Table Wine Moscato (Finger Lakes). Fun and ebulliently fruity, this medium-sweet Moscato offers deep, concentrated tangerine, fresh grape and stone-fruit flavors. It's a touch candied but refreshingly brisk on the finish. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

86 McGregor 2016 Muskat Ottonel (Finger Lakes). The nose on this dry, aromatic wine is buoyantly peachy, accented by hints of sweet pineapple and guava. The palate is fresh and fruity as well, but less concentrated. Light bodied and brisk, it finishes with a touch of bitterness. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Fulkerson 2016 Estate Muskat Ottonel (Finger Lakes). Fresh stone fruit and apple notes have an earthy undertone in this light-bodied, dry

wine. It's a bit thin in concentration but finishes refreshingly. Drink now. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

TOCAI FRIULANO

87 Millbrook 2016 Lollipop Hill Estate Bottled Tocai Friulano (Hudson River Region). The Lollipop Hill designation seems rounder and fuller on the palate than the producer's Special Reserve Tocai. It's not deeply concentrated, but offers shades of ripe yellow apple, plum and lemon flavors. Soft tangerine acidity brightens the midpalate. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Millbrook 2016 Proprietor's Special Reserve Tocai Friulano (Hudson River Region). While earthy on the nose, the palate of this stainless-steel fermented Tocai offers pretty, primary flavors of apricot, tangerine and rose-petal jam. Luscious in body and texture, it's soft in acidity and finishes with a touch of warmth on the finish. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Ventosa 2016 Tocai Friulano (Finger Lakes). Swirls of cream, vanilla and caramel enrobe more delicate notes of pressed apple and tangerine peel in this bold, ripe Tocai Friulano. It's a dense, mouth filling wine with a warming, slightly lactic finish. —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$16

CHARDONNAY

91 Lamoreaux Landing 2015 Reserve Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 10.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

91 N. Kendall Wines 2015 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). There's not a lot of embellishment on this steely, tightly structured Chardonnay but its transparency is quite enthralling. The palate is bracing and mineral, offering zesty lemon and green apple flavors that seem to build in concentration and density in the mouth. The finish is long and saline. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Hosmer 2016 Chardonnay (Cayuga Lake). A small proportion of oak fermentation on this intensely primary Chardonnay lends depth and a rounded mouthfeel to its buoyantly fresh peach and tangerine characteristics. Cutting grapefruit and lime acidity refreshes the palate, guiding a long, pristine finish. Enjoy young to maximize its fresh appeal. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Millbrook 2015 Castle Hill Vineyard Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Hudson River Region). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Millbrook 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay (Hudson River Region). Millbrook's unoaked Chardonnay shares much of the luscious tropical fruit and fleshy mouthfeel of the oaked bottling, but without the embellishment of oak maturation. It's still quite a creamy, indulgent sip with a lingering lactic finish. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Pellegrini Vineyards 2015 Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). Pellegrini's standard-label Chardonnay offers a brightness and vibe that stands out against the winery's oakier Vintner's Blend. There's ample toast and spice here, but it's deftly applied, highlighting the wine's rich, slightly leesy texture. Fresh acidity lends balance and grace. Drink now through 2020. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Wagner 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Saline and sea breeze lend refreshing, nautical appeal to this elegant unoaked Chardonnay. It's plush and plump in mouthfeel but anchored by bracing lemon, tangerine and grapefruit flavors. Drink now through 2020. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$12

88 Macari 2015 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). Whiffs of sea breeze and oyster shells waft throughout this brisk unoaked Chardonnay. Crisp apple and lemon flavors are delicate in concentration but pristine and refreshing. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 McCall 2014 Reserve North Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). Spice, vanilla and oak abound in this barrel-aged Chardonnay, but it's a neatly balanced wine with crisp-tart apple and pear flavors. Brisk acidity off sets a palate that's rich and substantial in texture. —A.I.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$39

87 Bedell 2015 Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). Toast and dill accent zesty green apple and lemon flavors in this lithe, sharply composed Chardonnay. Fresh acidity abounds on the palate, leading a moderately long, slightly tart finish. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Pellegrini Vineyards 2013 Vintner's Pride Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). Swirls of vanilla, sweet spice and cream cover more delicate flavors of yellow apple and pear in this yielding, richly textured Chardonnay. Sunny acidity and a ripe, rounded mouthfeel makes it easy and approachable in style. Drink now through 2020. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Wölffer 2015 Chardonnay (Long Island). Curious whiffs of raspberry and pink grape-

fruit lend a particularly fruity, forward tone to this medium-bodied Chardonnay. It's easy drinking and plush in mouthfeel but brightened by sunny grapefruit and tangerine acidity. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

86 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2013 Reserve Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Layers of toast, char and dill abound on this oak-driven, full-bodied Chardonnay. There are glimpses of fresh apple and lemon on the palate as well, but they peek through a bit shyly behind a curtain. Further cellaring may help to integrate the oak. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Harbes Family Vineyard 2014 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). Notes of pressed apple and tangerine peels abound in this full-bodied Chardonnay. Rounded edges and soft acidity make it approachably creamy. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

86 Sherwood House Vineyards 2016 Oregon Road Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). While a bit lean in concentration, yellow apple, pear and lemon are pristine and ripe on the nose and palate. The mouthfeel is a bit broad and flat but finishes briskly. Drink now. —A.I.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$18

86 Whitecliff Vineyard 2016 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Hudson River Region). Crisp-tart tangerine, nectarine and pineapple abound on this fruity, forward Chardonnay. While moderate in body and alcohol, it feels plump and silky on the palate and finishes with a touch of lingering warmth. Drink now through 2020. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

85 Sannino 2016 Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). Fermented in large French-oak barrels, Sannino's regular-label Chardonnay has a slightly rounded, open-knit feel. It's not a deeply complex wine but offers straightforward red apple flavors backed by a hint of spice. Drink now. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

85 Sannino 2016 Chilly Day Chardonnay (North Fork of Long Island). A touch of spritz lends verve to pressed apple and spice notes in this light-footed Chardonnay. It's slim and a bit simple on the palate but finishes refreshingly crisp. Drink now. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Fjord 2016 Albariño (Hudson River Region). Bold gooseberry, honeydew and citrus flavors abound on this squeaky-fresh and fruity Albariño. It's plump in body but dry and zesty in style. This is a forward, easy-guzzling wine that

highlights fresh fruit but finishes with a whisper of sea-salt minerality. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Heron Hill 2016 Reserve Morris Vineyard Pinot Blanc (Finger Lakes). Concentrated melon and mango flavors in this ripe, almost tropical, Pinot Blanc are off set by kicks of lime and steel on the midpalate. Dry and bold in weight, it's a luscious, composed sip ending on a pleasant bite of astringency. —A.I.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

86 Fulkerson 2016 Juicy Sweet Estate Diamond (Finger Lakes). Candied peach, melon and grape notes are sweet and simple in this fruity white wine. Made from Diamond, a Concord-grape hybrid, with just a splash of Riesling, it's forward and easy but finishes with a crush of sweet-tart citrus. Drink now. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

86 Palmer 2016 Albariño (North Fork of Long Island). Hints of dusty mineral lend earthiness to fresh grapefruit, melon and green apple in this dry North Fork Albariño. While delicate in concentration, its piercing lemon-lime acidity extends the finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

SPARKLING WINES

93 Hermann J. Wiemer 2009 Blanc de Blanc (Seneca Lake). Made entirely from Chardonnay, this benchmark New York sparkling wine balances pristine apple and lemon against layers of complex toast, caramel and crushed mineral nuances. Brut in style, it calibrates spine tingling acidity against a palate that's supple and ripe. Bold, mouthfilling bubbles dissipate elegantly through a long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2013 Cuvée Brut (Seneca Lake). Wiemer's Cuvée Brut is fresher and more forward than the producer's longer-aged blanc de blanc. Yet amidst the cutting green apple and lemon, there's plenty of autolytic character, expressed as whispers of toast, rising dough and burnt sugar. It's vibrantly balanced by tiny, penetrating bubbles and a lingering, fresh finish. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

92 Sparkling Pointe 2007 Brut Séduction (North Fork of Long Island). Sparkling Pointe's prestige cuvée is always a standout in an ever improving line up of New York sparkling wines. Distinctly autolytic notes of biscuit and brioche abound, accenting bracing tons of tart tangerine, apple and lime. It's a lean, impossibly elegant wine with fine, persistent *pétillance.* *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$72

91 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2012 Brut Méthode Champenoise (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 9.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

91 Sparkling Pointe 2014 Topaz Impérial Rosé (North Fork of Long Island). Bold proportions of Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier in this traditional-method sparkling lend sweet-tart bursts of raspberry and blackberry from nose to palate. It's a deeply concentrated wine, with fine, piercing bubbles and a lingering finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Bedell 2016 Sparkling Rosé (North Fork of Long Island). Blossomy and pert, this is an elegant rosé sparkling offering fresh, juicy cherry and raspberry flavors. Bristling acidity and tiny, persistent pétillance invigorate the palate. Made from a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon vinified by indigenous yeast. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$45

90 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2012 Blanc de Blancs (Finger Lakes). There is a pronounced floral perfume that lingers from nose to finish in this fresh, fruity Chardonnay sparkling wine. Made in the traditional-method style, it's zippy and spry boasting cutting lemon and green apple flavors tinged with caramelized sugar. Tiny, piercing bubbles expand to a dense, mouthfilling foam but dissipate elegantly on the finish. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

90 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2012 Blanc de Noirs (Finger Lakes). Sugar cookies and caramel accent fresh apple and berry in this traditional-method sparkler made from Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. This shows zesty raspberry augmented by vigorous, tiny bubbles and a thick, densely structured foam. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Sparkling Pointe 2014 Brut (North Fork of Long Island). Sparkling Pointe's brut labeling is delightfully quaffable, filled with sunny tones of red apple and Meyer lemon, yet also subtly nuanced by whispers of baked bread and pastry. Vibrant acidity and tiny, persistent effervescence meld into a silken foam on the finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Sparkling Pointe 2012 Blanc de Blancs (North Fork of Long Island). While the nose takes some time to open, crisp lemon, green apple and pear on the palate are vital and fresh here. It's a zingy, brut-style sparkling wine made entirely from Chardonnay with bold, mouthfilling foam. Delicate caramel and sugar cookie tones embellish a long finish. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$44

89 Dr. Konstantin Frank NV Célèbre (Finger Lakes). With its juicy, concentrated peach, nectarine and apple flavors, the Célèbre is Dr.

Frank's more approachable, easy-going sparkling. It's fruity, forward and delicately sweet yet maintains steadfast acidity and a soft, foamy mouthfeel. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

89 Harbes Family Vineyard NV Blanc de Blancs Brut Méthode Champenoise (North Fork of Long Island). Stark acidity and vibrantly fresh apple and lemon flavors lend vitality to this traditional-method sparkling made entirely from Chardonnay. Fine, persistent bubbles build into a delicate foam on the palate. The finish is marked by a hint of earthen complexity. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

88 Glenora 2016 Bubbly Riesling (Finger Lakes). This delicately carbonated Riesling sparkler offers all of the grape's characteristic aromatic exuberance. It's blossomy and plump in notes of sweet peach, apple and lemon, yet bristling and spry. An easy going, light-bodied sip for everyday enjoyment. —A.I.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

88 Glenora 2016 Bubbly Valvin Muscat (Finger Lakes). Bursts of pineapple, mango and melon lend a tropical air to this fruity carbonated Muscat. Medium-sweet and light as a feather, it's a fresh, easy-drinking fizz to enjoy on the porch or on a picnic. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$15

88 Fulkerson 2016 Sparklin' Diamond (Finger Lakes). This delicately spritzzy bottling of Diamond, a Concord grape hybrid, offers all the juicy, grapy deliciousness of Concord with twists of tropical and citrus fruit flavors. Moderately sweet and light in alcohol, it's straightforward, fun and guzzle worthy. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$10

PINOT NOIR

92 N. Kendall Wines 2015 Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). A bit of aeration brings out depth to bright cherry, violet and rose petal notes in this perfumed Pinot. Scintillating acidity lends a brisk tone to fresh raspberry and sour cherry flavors on the palate. It's a crisp, exceptionally light-footed wine with a delicate, lingering tannic backbone. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$37

91 Anthony Nappa 2014 Shared Table Farm Pinot Noir (North Fork of Long Island). Primary, concentrated raspberry and cherry flavors pierce through the core of this rich, fruity Pinot. Subtle oak aging lends delicate vanilla, spice and nut tones, but it's an elegant, finely structured wine with crisp acidity and fine, persistent tannins. Drinks well now but should improve through 2021. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

91 Bellwether 2014 Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Dusty mineral, violet and anise notes lend a seductive tone to deep Morello cherry and plum flavors. It's concentrated in black fruit but maintains an amaro-like herbaceousness that's savory and meandering. Showing hints of maturity already but should drink well through 2020. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 McCall 2013 Corchaug Estate Pinot Noir (North Fork of Long Island). There's plenty of peppy, primary raspberry and cherry flavors here, but they're layered amidst hints of bramble, earth, mushroom and beets. This is an elegant, intensely Old-World Pinot but with New-World ripeness to boot. Spry and vibrantly acidic, it finishes with a fringe of fine-grained, firm tannins. —A.I.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Whitecliff Vineyard 2015 Pinot Noir (Hudson River Region). Plump and boldly structured, this full-bodied Pinot Noir offers rich, concentrated blackberry and black cherry flavors. Aged in Hungarian oak, it's lavishly spicy, embellished with notes of vanilla and caramel, but maintains elegant composure and brisk, cutting acidity. The finish is marked by firm, velvet-textured tannins. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Billsboro 2015 Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Spring blossom and ginger notes perfume this pretty, aromatic Pinot. Crisp red cherry and cranberry notes are zesty on the palate, accented by hints of leaf and herb. Full bodied yet crisply composed, it finishes with delicate, fine-grained tannins. —A.I.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$25

88 Fulkerson 2013 Estate Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes). Ripe, fleshy blackberry and cherry tones are seductive in this dark, succulent Pinot Noir. Hints of anise, vanilla and spice intensify its plush feel but are offset nicely by brisk acidity on the midpalate. Fine grained but penetrating tannins frame a moderately long finish. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

GAMAY NOIR

90 Sheldrake Point 2015 Reserve Estate Bottled Gamay Noir (Finger Lakes). How delightful that Gamay grows in the Finger Lakes and further more that Sheldrake Point has managed to coax out its unique attributes there. This reserve bottling showcases Gamay's bright cherry and strawberry flavors, with elegant tones of tomato leaf, nut and granite. It's deft and crisply composed with a fine, feathery kiss of tannins. —A.I.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$32

88 Sheldrake Point 2016 Estate Bottled Gamay Noir (Finger Lakes). More floral and ethereal than the producer's reserve bottling, this delicately

concentrated Gamay suggests juicy, crisp red cherries and strawberries. It's a pretty, subtly structured wine with softer, yielding tannins. —A.I.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$18

CABERNET FRANC

93 Raphael 2014 Reserve Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). This stand-out Cabernet Franc offers the structure and savory nuance of the Old World, but alongside a palate that's lusciously concentrated with ripe, succulent black fruit. Whiffs of violet and tea leaf reverberate from nose to finish, along with a bold yet velvet frame of tannins. Drinks gorgeously already but should meld in fruit, spice and perfume throughout the next decade. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$50

92 Macari 2014 Reserve Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). This stunning red was a favorite amidst a strong line up of North Fork Cabernet Franc. There's a purity of black cherry and plum flavors here, but also meandering veins of animal, earth and herb that feel a bit savage and wild. Crisply composed, it finishes with delicate whispers of anise and cinnamon. Ready to drink now but should improve through 2024. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

92 McCall 2013 Reserve North Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). While tinged with savory complexities of wet earth, spice and game, this densely structured Cabernet Franc is anchored by a core of ripe blackberry and black cherry flavors. Zesty acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins lend a tightness of structure that should hold up well through 2025. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$39

91 Anthony Nappa 2013 Shared Table Farm Hog's Neck Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Elegant and nuanced, this penetrating Cabernet Franc offers bold strokes of blackberry and plum tinged with hints of wet soil, crushed mineral and spice. It's bold and lusciously composed but there's a puckery-fresh brightness of acidity that's delightful. Released with extended cellar aging, its soft, feathery tannins are approachable already but it's still structured enough to improve well through 2025. —A.I.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

91 T'Jara 2013 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Sweet spice, sage and oregano accent this gorgeously complex, penetrating Cabernet Franc. It's satisfyingly plump with black fruit, but also brambly, herbaceous, and accented by deep, rich soil notes. Brisk acidity and a fringe of fine-grained, persistent tannins lend tautness and

structure to the palate. Drink now through 2023. —A.I.

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

90 Anthony Nappa 2016 Bordo Antico Rex Farr Vineyards Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Made with organic grapes, this four-square Cabernet Franc offers lush, juicy black cherry and cassis flavors off set by savory tones of bramble, spice and herb. Deeply concentrated yet approachable and spry, it finishes with fine, feathery tannins that linger luxuriously. —A.I.

abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$22

90 Kontokosta 2014 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Savory complexities of bramble, herb, bell pepper and leather highlight the duality of this luscious, deeply fruity Cabernet Franc. While plump and full bodied, it's structured with taut acidity and a frame of delicate, finely textured tannins. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Raphael 2015 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Intensely ripe blackberry and cherry flavors burst throughout this full-bodied Cabernet Franc. It's lush and juicy on entry but anchored tightly by crisp acidity and a pretty violet undertone. Pillowy tannins cushion a gentle finish. Drink now through 2021. —A.I.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22

87 Bedell 2015 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Light footed and lean, this brisk red showcases a fresher, zestier side to Cabernet Franc. Crisp-tart raspberry and red cherry flavors are concentrated on the palate and nuanced by hints of game and crushed granite. —A.I.

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

87 Lieb 2015 Reserve Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Buoyant and ripe, this full-bodied Cabernet Franc boasts loads of juicy black plum and cherry flavors. It's a forward, fruity wine with easy drinking appeal but nuanced by hints of sweet spice and caramel. Yielding tannins accentuate its roundness. —A.I.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

87 Palmer 2013 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Streaks of anise, vanilla and toast linger from nose to finish in this punchy, fresh wine. Crisp red cherry and raspberry flavors are puckery but pleasant, framed by fine, firm tannins and a lingering kiss of caramel. Drink now through 2020. —A.I.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

87 Pellegrini Vineyards 2013 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Fresh and fruity, this medium-bodied Cabernet Franc offers forward red berry and plum flavors framed by soft, easy tannins. It's a plush, juicy sip, with pleasant hints of

bell pepper, sage and fresh cranberry acidity. Drink now through 2019. —A.I.

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

87 Sannino 2014 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Fresh, primary red-cherry and raspberry flavors get a kick of cherry-cola spice and vanilla here. It's an approachably plummy, juicy red with soft, feathery tannins, but puckering cranberry acidity keeps it fresh. Drink now through 2020. —A.I.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$34

RED BLENDS

92 Anthony Nappa 2014 Quattordici (North Fork of Long Island). Blackberry and raspberry flavors are ripe and juicy yet invigoratingly crisp in this elegant Bordeaux-style blend. Subdued spice and perfumed violet notes enhance bold berry flavors on the midpalate. A well-integrated package with finely textured tannins, it's ready to drink now but should improve through 2025. —A.I.

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

92 Raphael 2014 Primo Reserve (North Fork of Long Island). Taut and bracing yet unctuously concentrated, this blackberry-focused Bordeaux-style blend is worthy of holding for the next decade and beyond. Richly extracted black fruit flavors feel plush and pliant on the palate, framed by dense, big tannins and a lingering kiss of sweet spice. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

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

91 McCall 2010 Ben's Blend Corchaug Estate (North Fork of Long Island). Whispers of fresh green herbs lend elegance and restraint to this impeccably balanced Bordeaux-style red. Juicy, lip smacking red fruit shines on the midpalate, anchored against zesty acidity and nuances of earth, game and woody spices. Delicate in tannins, it's approachable already but should drink well through 2025. —A.I.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$79

91 Wölffer 2014 Fatalis Fatum (Long Island). A core of ripe, dense blackberry and cherry flavors pulsates from within this lusciously textured red blend. It's a bold, robustly structured wine, but elegantly composed with spry acidity and fine-grained, persistent tannins. It's ready to drink now with a brief decanting but could improve through the next decade. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Brooklyn Oenology 2014 Persistence (North Fork of Long Island). Lavender and violet notes accent ripe, fresh raspberry in this ripe but crisply structured red blend. The palate is juicy and velvety, showcasing bright acidity and a lingering granite finish. It's full bodied and robust in tannins yet maintains a taut, spry elegance. —A.I.

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

90 Coffee Pot Cellars 2014 Beasley's Blend (North Fork of Long Island). Edges of granite and savory herb lend extra freshness to this brisk blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Crisp-tart red cherry and plum flavors are pristine on the palate, augmented by zesty, reverberating acidity. The finish brings a surprisingly bold, tannic note. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Macari 2013 Dos Aguas (North Fork of Long Island). Gentle whiffs of caramel and olive entice on the nose of this intensely ripe, nuanced wine. Offsetting the plushness of Merlot against more floral, herbal elements of Cabernet and Malbec, it's a deeply layered, satisfying sip. Fine, feathery tannins and an open fruit structure make it approachable now but it's solid enough to improve through at least 2021. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Coffee Pot Cellars 2014 Meritage (North Fork of Long Island). This traditional Bordeaux-style blend offers loads of bright blackberry and cherry flavors accented by notes of dark toast, coconut and spice. Moderately concentrated on the palate, it's juicy yet firmly structured. The finish is marked by bold, dense tannins. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

89 Macari 2013 Bergen Road (North Fork of Long Island). Elegant notes of fresh herb and violet perfume this ripe, richly composed red. While full bodied and densely concentrated with red fruit, it shows restraint and balance, framing luscious fruit against firm, gripping tannins and a brisk, acidic edge. —A.I.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

89 Suhru 2013 Ember (North Fork of Long Island). Ripe, sun-kissed plum and blackberry flavors are crisply balanced in this juicy, velvet-textured red. It's lavishly oaky, streaked with layers of spice, toast and caramel, but maintains elegance and brightness throughout. The finish is marked by fine-grained but penetrating tannins. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Osprey's Dominion 2012 Flight Meritage (North Fork of Long Island). Ripe, lifted blackberry and plum notes are tinged with game and garrigue in this luscious, full-bodied Meritage. An unusual dose of Carmenère lends an earthy, savory character that balances an otherwise plush, fruity palate. The finish is framed with fine, soft tannins and a lingering spice note. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

87 T'Jara 2013 Reserve (North Fork of Long Island). While black plum and cherry flavors seem ruddy and ripe on the nose, the palate of this medium-bodied Bordeaux blend is surprisingly brisk. Lean in style and delicate in concentration,

it's a crisp and elegant sip. Firm, fine tannins accentuate the finish. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

WASHINGTON RIESLING

90 Poet's Leap 2016 Riesling (Columbia Valley). This wine's aromas are bright, with honeysuckle, ripe peach, mandarin orange, slate and lime zest notes. It drinks just off dry, with abundant stone fruit flavors, mouthwatering acidity and a balance that's spot-on. —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Pacific Rim 2016 Sweet Riesling (Columbia Valley). This wine leaves no doubt about the variety, with its freshly peeled orange and jasmine notes. The palate is sweet yet not cloying, with impeccable balance. For those looking for a well-priced sweet wine, look no further. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$11

89 Pacific Rim 2015 Solstice Vineyard Riesling (Yakima Valley). Vibrant diesel, orange rind, white flower and dried apricot aromas lead to dry stone fruit flavors in this wine. It shows a pleasant balance and persists through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Januik 2015 Bacchus Vineyard Riesling (Columbia Valley). This wine's citrus zest and honeysuckle aromas seem a bit light for the variety. It drinks off dry, with fleshy stone fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Pacific Rim 2016 Wallula Vineyard Riesling (Horse Heaven Hills). Subtle pear, orange rind and peach aromas lead this Riesling, along with a floral top note. It drinks off dry, with stone fruit and ale flavors that need more time in bottle to settle. It comes up a bit short on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Nine Hats 2016 Riesling (Columbia Valley). This wine's aromas are surprisingly reserved for the variety, with faint peach, lime and mandarin orange notes. It's just off dry on the palate, with zippy fruit flavors. It delivers enjoyment despite its muted aromatic expression. —S.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$14

85 Finn Hill 2016 The Gnome Corfu Crossing Vineyard Riesling (Columbia Valley). This wine's red apple, flower and lees aromas lead to off-dry, leesy fruit flavors that seem a bit heavy and weighed down. —S.S.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$20

PINOT GRIS

89 Willow Crest 2016 Pinot Gris (Yakima Valley). This wine's apple, melon and pear aromas are bright and appealing. The flavors are taught and focused, with a light creaminess and lemony acidity. It's interesting overall, providing both quality and value. —S.S.
abv: 12.73% **Price:** \$15

88 Milbrandt 2015 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). This shows light lime, green apple and herb aromas. It drinks dry, with abundant apple flavors supported by tart acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Nine Hats 2016 The Benches Vineyard Pinot Gris (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine's red and yellow apple and melon aromas lead to broad, fleshy fruit flavors. It's direct and delivers a lot of appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$14

84 Canoe Ridge 2016 The Expedition Pinot Gris (Horse Heaven Hills). Light peach and ale notes mark the nose of this wine. The palate is dry, and the flavors somewhat flat, making it hard to ascertain the variety. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$16

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Novelty Hill 2015 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This leads with vibrant and fresh aromas, recalling cut grass, herbs, lime zest and citrus, with whiffs of tropical fruit. The palate brings tart, zingy, mouth-watering citrus flavors, with a lightly creamy feel on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Januik 2016 Sagemoor Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Brooding aromas of lemon curd, fresh herb and citrus lead to broad citrus and herb flavors in this wine. It lacks concentration. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Canoe Ridge 2016 The Expedition Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This wine is reduced out of the gate but opens into kiwi, pineapple and herb aromas. It's light to medium bodied on the palate and needs more concentration and acidity to feel complete. —S.S.
abv: 13.72% **Price:** \$16

84 Original House Wine 2015 Fish House Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley). This wine delivers light herb and citrus aromas. The flavors seem washed out, lacking cohesion. It comes off as quite generic. —S.S.
abv: 13.17% **Price:** \$12

84 Waterbrook 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). You almost need to lean into the glass to perceive this wine's faint citrus, candlewax and herb aromas, which show some reduction. It's equally subtle on the palate and lacks concentration. —S.S.
abv: 13.05% **Price:** \$12

CHARDONNAY

89 JM Cellars 2015 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine's aromas are fruit forward, suggesting cantaloupe, melon and pear. The palate is spicy and broad, bringing a lot of appeal. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$38

89 Novelty Hill 2015 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine's apricot, spice and creamsicle scents are followed by tart, medium-bodied, lightly creamy fruit flavors. Tart citrus notes fill out the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Drink Washington State 2014 Welcome to Columbia Valley Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This Chardonnay's lees, custard, pear and spice aromas are somewhat inharmonious. It's elegant on the palate, however, showing graceful apple flavors. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

88 Januik 2015 Cold Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine offers light pear, citrus, cream and lees aromas. The palate is broad and lightly creamy in feel, lacking only a bit of concentration. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

87 4 Cellars 2015 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Barrel aromas and malolactic notes are prominent in this wine, suggesting baking spice and vanilla. The palate is full and creamy, needing a bit more acidity to hold it together but still providing enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

87 Balancing Act 2016 Chardonnay (Washington). Almost effervescent on first pour, this wine is brightly aromatic, with apple, pear and melon notes. The palate shows no obvious oak influence, with a rounded mouthfeel and Granny Smith apple-like acidity. It's a pleasing, straightforward example of the variety. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

87 The Conqueror 2015 Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). This leads with light baking spice and apple pie aromas. The palate is broad, with abundant vanilla flavors that suggest strong oak influence. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$17

87 Waterbrook 2015 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Lightly creamy fruit and vanilla flavors

follow melon, apple and baking spice aromas in this wine. It's a pleasant, straightforward easy-drinker. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 14.07% **Price:** \$12

86 Apex 2015 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Enchanting apricot and spice aromas are followed by full-bodied, creamy fruit flavors that provide intrigue but lack depth. Overall, it's a bit ponderous and short on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.04% **Price:** \$19

86 Bonair 2016 Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). This wine's generous aromas suggest roasted corn and apple. It's medium bodied, with appealing yet straightforward flavors, finishing tart. —S.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$13

86 Kestrel 2016 Falcon Series Estate Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). This wine's perfumed melon, white flower, vanilla and baking spice scents are followed by broad stone fruit flavors that finish tart. It goes down easy. —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$21

WHITE BLENDS

88 Buty 2015 Sémillon-Sauvignon Blanc-Muscadelle (Columbia Valley). Light dried orange peel, herb and candlewax aromas lead to broad, medium-bodied fruit flavors in this white. It's enjoyable despite the muted aromatic expression. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Cairdeas 2016 Nellie Mae White (Columbia Valley). This blend of 60% Viognier and 40% Roussanne bursts with honeysuckle, jasmine, pear and ripe peach aromas. The flavors are broad and fleshy, with a slightly sharp finish that shows some warmth. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

86 Browne Family Vineyards 2015 & White (Columbia Valley). Bright aromas of ripe peach, apricot, flower and jasmine lead to off-dry stone fruit flavors in this simple, straightforward quaffer. —S.S.
abv: 11.63% **Price:** \$34

86 Waterbrook 2016 Mélange Founder's White Blend (Columbia Valley). Riesling and Gewürztraminer make up over half of this wine, giving it an aromatic punch. Vibrant ripe peach, flower and pear scents lead to an off-dry palate with fleshy fruit flavors. It provides easy-drinking appeal, though the concentration, especially through the midpalate, seems light. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Dowsett Family 2015 Celilo Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Columbia Gorge). From vines planted in 1982, this delivers exuberant lychee, spice, rose petal and citrus zest aromas. It's dry and medium-bodied on the palate, with spice-driven flavors and floral notes that persist on the (slightly warm) finish. It drinks well on its own but really sings at the dinner table. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$22

91 Syncline 2016 Boushey Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Yakima Valley). Grenache Blanc is an up-and-coming variety in the state. This standout example brings talc, flower, pear and citrus aromas. The medium-bodied palate is tart and lively, piquing interest. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

91 Syncline 2016 Boushey Vineyard Picpoul (Yakima Valley). From an extremely rare grape variety for the state, this delivers citrus rind and flower blossom scents and sleek fruit flavors backed by mouth-puckering acidity. It screams for shellfish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$25

90 Lobo Hills 2016 Inland Desert Auxerrois (Yakima Valley). This wine leads with light mineral, pear and white grapefruit aromas. It's medium-bodied on the palate, with bright acidity and citrus rind flavors that persist into the finish and keep you coming back for more. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

90 Lobo Hills 2015 Roth Rock Farm Chenin Blanc (Yakima Valley). From 30-year-old vines, this is one of the finest examples of this variety to come out of the state in recent vintages. It delivers citrus, candlewax, lees, apple and pear aromas, the palate sleekly styled with a blast of acidity that makes it a versatile pour for the dinner table. —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

90 Syncline 2016 Grüner Veltliner (Washington). There are only a few examples of Grüner Veltliner from the state, and this one—from the Columbia Gorge and Terrace Heights—shows the variety's promise at the right site and in the right hands. Its white pepper, citrus and herb scents are followed by broad, dry fruit flavors stitched together with tart acidity that carries them into the finish. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$24

88 Eternal 2016 Eternal Perspective Grenache Blanc (Columbia Valley). Lightly toasty notes lead the nose of this wine, along with herb, green apple and citrus rind aromas. The palate is quite elegant in style, needing only a bit more concentration to truly shine. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

88 Fielding Hills 2016 Old Vine Chenin Blanc (Columbia Valley). The first white wine from Fielding Hills, this boasts fresh yellow apple and herb aromas, which lead to dry-tasting fruit flavors. It's cleanly made, albeit a bit short. —S.S.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$28

88 Kestrel 2016 Falcon Series Viognier (Yakima Valley). Bright melon and lime zest aromas lead to lightly sweet, broad, fleshy fruit flavors in this wine. It's not entirely representative of the variety but still brings a lot of freshness and appeal. —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$21

88 Novelty Hill 2015 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Roussanne (Columbia Valley). Fermented in neutral oak barrels and aged *sur lie* for 7 months, this wine, which includes 6% Viognier, brings herb, honeycomb, pear and orange peel aromas. It drinks dry, with sleek, citrusy flavors. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Novelty Hill 2015 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Viognier (Columbia Valley). Faint white flower, orange peel, spice and citrus aromas are followed by broad fruit flavors in this wine, which lacks concentration. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

86 Kestrel 2014 Falcon Series Frizzante (Yakima Valley). This spritzzy, 100% Viognier wine delivers melon, citrus zest and floral flavors. It drinks dry, fresh, clean and tart—an unusual interpretation of the variety. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$21

85 Bonair 2016 Dry Gewürztraminer (Yakima Valley). This wine brings high-toned aromas of white flower, lychee and spice. The palate is broad and light, with a distracting bitter note on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$13

ROSÉS

90 Syncline 2014 McKinley Springs Vineyard Rosé (Horse Heaven Hills). This blend of 35% Cinsault, 35% Grenache and 30% Mourvèdre is a very pretty pale shade of peach. It brings strawberry, herb and wet stone aromas, sleek and creamy flavors and a snap of acid. The finish lingers. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$24

88 Eternal 2016 Eternal Beauty Rosé (Walla Walla Valley). Pale salmon in color, this delivers mineral, strawberry and cherry aromas. It's dry on the palate, with tart, lightly concentrated sour cherry and citrus rind flavors. —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

87 Liberty Lake 2016 Tahija Rosé (Yakima Valley). Pale salmon in color, this wine offers

strawberry and cherry aromas. The palate is heavy, ponderous and weighed down. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 The Conqueror 2016 Rosé (Horse Heaven Hills). With its pretty pale peach color and strawberry, orange peel and herb aromas, this is dry and broad. Tart citrus flavors provide backing. —S.S.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$17

85 Original House Wine 2016 Rosé (Columbia Valley). This wine is pale pink in color, with aromas suggesting herbs, cherry and red apple. It drinks off dry and is an easy-drinking porch pounder. —S.S.
abv: 13.06% **Price:** \$12

84 Canoe Ridge 2016 Limited Edition Canyon Vineyard Ranch Cinsault Rosé (Yakima Valley). This pale rosé has subdued strawberry aromas and a hint of residual sugar. It comes off as quite generic, without a lot of flavor to bring it to life. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

84 Canoe Ridge 2016 The Expedition Rosé (Yakima Valley). Pale salmon in color, this delivers strawberry and watermelon aromas. It's dry on the palate, but the flavors fall a bit flat. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

86 Finn Hill 2016 Blondie Rosé of Sangiovese (Rattlesnake Hills). Electric pink in color, this brings wild strawberry, cherry, watermelon and spice aromas. The palate is broad and heavy, lacking lift. —S.S.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

94 Woodward Canyon 2014 Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$99

93 Maison Bleue 2014 Frontière Waliser Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This 100% varietal wine is the winery's inaugural Cabernet Sauvignon and hails from the Rocks District. It's boasts all of Cabernet's prototypical aromas, from black currant to tobacco and herb, with a kiss of vanilla from having aged in 50% new French oak. It's soft and palate-coating in mouthfeel yet retains a strong sense of structure, with lightly chewy tannins. A fine interpretation of the variety with a downright dazzling feel. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Cadaretta 2014 Southwind Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). From the winery's estate plantings above Seven Hills Vineyard in the new SeVein project, this wine is still closed aromatically, needing time or air to coax out its vanilla,

toast, herb and dark cherry notes. The palate is dense, delivering layer upon layer of dark fruit flavors, with a compelling texture and impeccable balance. It has a long life ahead of it. Best 2022–2028. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

92 Januik 2014 Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Vanilla, cocoa, graphite, woodspice and black cherry aromas lead to polished blackberry and cherry flavors in this Cabernet. It shows a fine balance and texture that piques interest, and a distinctive spice note that lingers on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55

92 Januik 2014 Reserve (Columbia Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon from Champoux and Weinbau vineyards make up the heart of this wine, with a balance of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Cocoa, vanilla, dark plum, spice and herb aromas are followed by generous dark fruit flavors that coat the palate from end to end, with a lingering coffee note. At once hedonistic and balanced, it has a long life ahead of it. Best after 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

91 Andrew Januik 2014 Lady Hawk Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine's aromas are brooding and high toned, with herb, vanilla and cherry notes. The palate is focused and brings textural appeal, with plum and cocoa flavors that linger long into the finish. It shows a lot of poise and subtlety. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

91 Cadence 2014 Camerata Cara Mia Vineyard (Red Mountain). Made from 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Cabernet Franc, this shows brooding aromas of spice and black and red fruit, followed by ripe, concentrated, plump fruit flavors. The tannins are grainy, calling for additional time in the cellar or a long decant to mellow. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

91 JM Cellars 2014 Founder's Legacy (Columbia Valley). This blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc shows prominent blue fruit aromas, with plum, mountain blueberry, herb and spice notes to round them out. The flavors are concentrated and texturally rich, providing a lot of appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

91 Lobo Hills 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Novelty Hill 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Dried herb aromas are at the fore of this Cabernet; exotic spice, smoke, licorice and cherry notes follow. Cherry and chocolate flavors coat the palate, showing vibrancy, while a

distinctive espresso note marks the finish. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$26

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's cedar, espresso, herb, spice, vanilla, dark chocolate and black cherry aromas lead to a supple, well balanced palate full of cherry and bittersweet chocolate flavors that carry long into the finish. With its grippy tannins, it shows finesse and elegance, though oak plays a prominent role. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

90 Andrew Januik 2014 Stone Cairn Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This wine's aromas suggest bittersweet chocolate, vanilla, cherry and spice. The palate is rich and layered, with sumptuous red and black fruit flavors speckled with plentiful barrel accents. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Baer 2014 Arctos Stillwater Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This delivers vanilla, fig, smoke and woodspice aromas. Its dark fruit flavors are medium bodied, tapering toward the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

90 Januik 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine comes from Weinbau, Lady Hawk, Champoux, Shaw and Obelisco vineyards. Its high toned vanilla, toffee, cherry, herb, coffee, barrel spice and plum aromas lead to generous cherry and espresso flavors. Lightly grainy tannins provide support. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

90 Januik 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This wine combines fruit from Ciel du Cheval, Obelisco, and Shaw vineyards. The aromas suggest fresh plum, gun smoke, herb, flower, vanilla, cinnamon and spice. The flavors are soft and supple, with tannins combed to a fine sheen. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

90 Januik 2014 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). From one of the state's most highly regarded vineyards, this boasts beguiling aromas of milk chocolate, plum, barrel spice, vanilla, herb and coffee. Lightly smoky, sensuous fruit and barrel flavors follow, showing more elegance than this often brawny appellation is known for. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

90 Walla Walla Vintners 2014 Sagemoor Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). With its dried herb, parsley, cherry and spice aromas, this could only be Cabernet Sauvignon. Its cherry and raspberry flavors are bright yet subtle, carrying long into the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

89 Adeg Northwest 2014 Weinbau Vineyard Block 10 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine's aromas are locked up but still show nuance, with fresh herb, flower, vanilla, chocolate and cherry notes. The palate shows restraint despite the warm region and vintage, with firm, lightly dry tannins providing support. It shows well at the dinner table. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

89 Cadaretta 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Light herb, sweet spice, orange peel, maple and red and black fruit aromas are followed by dark fruit flavors in this wine. It's a bit wound up now, so give it some time in the cellar or a long decant. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

89 Januik 2014 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). This wine's aromas suggest woodspice, herb, parsley, cherry and smoke. Its cherry and coffee flavors are light in style and cut short on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

89 Maryhill 2014 Alder Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This 100% varietal wine shows raspberry jam, fruit leather and plum aromas that are bright on the nose. The palate packs tart fruit flavors supported by plump, ripe tannins. It's not your typical Cabernet but still provides appeal, though the alcohol dominates at times. —S.S.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$38

89 Novelty Hill 2014 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Vanilla, bright herb, cocoa, cassis and spice aromas lead to plentiful coffee and cherry flavors in this wine. The tannins are a bit gritty. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

89 Woodward Canyon 2013 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon's char, vanilla, caramel, toast, herb and dark fruit scents are followed by equal parts fruit and barrel flavors. It delivers enjoyment notwithstanding the heavy oak influence, which may yet integrate in the bottle. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$49

88 Drink Washington State 2014 Groovin On Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). Tight as a drum out of the gate, this brings smoke, spice, vanilla, apple and dark fruit aromas. Its currant flavors are more giving, showing a pleasing balance. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

88 Finn Hill 2013 Le Beau Hedges Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This wine's tightly wound woodspice, black cherry, cocoa, caramel and herb aromas are followed by tart, plentiful dark fruit flavors. It needs some time for its chewy, lightly dry tannins to settle, but

plenty of good things are going on. Give it some time in the cellar or a long decant. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

88 Hawkins Cellars 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine seems advanced for its age, with fruit leather, cherry cordial, vanilla and herb notes. The flavors are a bit jagged, showing some rough edges. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

88 Kestrel 2013 Signature Series Old Vine Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). Brooding aromas of barrel spice, graphite, plum, herb, anise, char and blackberry are followed by dark fruit flavors in this wine, which shows appealing restraint. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

88 Liberty Lake 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aged 40 months in French and Russian oak, this leads with green herb, bell pepper, vanilla, cherry and spice aromas and follows through with ripe black cherry flavors. The nose and palate seem disconnected, the green notes unusual for the appellation and vintage. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

88 Maryhill 2014 Clifton Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). This wine is brightly aromatic, with raspberry, mint, herb and woodspice notes. The palate is full of plush, plump fruit flavors that provide appeal, despite the prominent alcohol. —S.S.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$40

88 Waterbrook 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Vanilla, baking spice, herb, plum and cherry aromas are followed by supersmooth, creamy feeling plum and barrel flavors in this Cabernet. Caramel and vanilla notes linger on the finish, and while the oak influence is heavy, it largely works. *Best Buy*. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$13

87 Balancing Act 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington). Fruit forward aromas of plum, black currant, herb and spice lead to lightly sweet blue and black fruit flavors in this wine. Grainy tannins provide support, delivering easy-drinking appeal. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$18

87 Browne Family Vineyards 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon's vanilla, baking spice, dill, herb and cherry aromas are locked up. The palate brings plenty of vanilla flavors backed by gritty tannins, but the oak is too prominent and distracting. —S.S.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$36

87 Cerebella 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's aromas suggest asphalt, herb and dark fruit, showing whiffs of volatility. The palate delivers bountiful black fruit

flavors supported by smooth tannins, providing appeal. —S.S.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$30

87 Jolété 2015 Summit View Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This leads with herb, vanilla and plum aromas, along with a reduced note of tire rubber. On the palate, sweet plum flavors are backed by gritty tannins, proving somewhat disjointed. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$30

87 Maryhill 2014 Kiona Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This wine's bright raspberry jam, pencil lead and barrel spice aromas lead to quite ripe, dried out fruit and barrel flavors. The tannins are a bit drying. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$45

87 Stottle 2013 Dineen Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). This opens with cherry cordial, cranberry, herb and barrel spice aromas that seem a bit off. The palate is marked by sweet cherry and cranberry flavors that trail off quickly on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$35

86 Bonair 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). Pungent notes of cocoa, herb, medicine cabinet, vanilla and cherry liqueur mark this wine's nose. The palate is full bodied with firm, dry tannins and dried out fruit flavors. —S.S.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$13

86 Kestrel 2012 Winemaker's Select Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). At five years old, this shows green pepper, dark fruit, tar and barrel spice scents followed by restrained fruit and barrel flavors. Its jalapeño-like notes are distracting. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$45

86 Maryhill 2014 Les Collines Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This 100% varietal Cabernet Sauvignon shows cocoa, green herb and cherry notes, with a hint of volatility. It's medium bodied on the palate, with scratchy tannins. —S.S.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$36

86 The Conqueror 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). From Canoe Ridge Vineyard, this delivers raspberry, herb, tire rubber and spice aromas and medium-bodied dark fruit flavors. The tannins are a bit dry and pasty. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

85 :Nota Bene 2013 Heart of the Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This 100% varietal wine shows medicine cabinet, barnyard, Band-Aid and dried fruit aromas followed by dried out fruit and medicinal flavors. The tannins bring some dryness. —S.S.

abv: 14.35%

Price: \$40

CABERNET FRANC

92 Rasa 2015 QED Axiom of Choice Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). This 100% Cabernet Franc bottling hails from Weinbau and Firethorn vineyards, both located in the Columbia Valley. It leads with bay leaf, tobacco, hickory, bittersweet chocolate and anise aromas. A palate that holds nothing back follows: big, bold dark fruit flavors supported by chewy tannins. An absolute delight. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$38

91 Fielding Hills 2014 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope). This wine's coffee, bittersweet chocolate, vanilla, coconut, herb and cherry aromas are followed by a rich, full bodied palate loaded with black fruit flavors and generous barrel accents. Its oak influence seems prominent at times but doesn't stand in the way of its hedonistic appeal. —S.S.

abv: 15.55%

Price: \$38

91 Januik 2014 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope). This wine's vanilla, wood-spice, black cherry and dried herb aromas lead to tightly wound fruit flavors with hefty tannins. Oak plays prominently, but it largely works, needing only additional time in the bottle or a short decant to strut its stuff. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$35

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2015 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). High toned notes of garden herb, spice, cherry and bittersweet chocolate lead the nose of this wine. Chocolate and cherry flavors intertwine throughout the palate and linger on the finish. It brings plenty of appeal despite the obvious oak influence. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$35

85 :Nota Bene 2013 Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). This 100% varietal wine from the Dineen (66%) and Ciel du Cheval vineyards shows garden herb, green pepper, seaweed, cherry and citrus aromas. It's medium bodied, with gritty tannins and somewhat green flavors. —S.S.

abv: 14.43%

Price: \$25

MALBEC

92 Januik 2014 Champoux Vineyard Malbec (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine comes from one of Washington's top vineyards, best known for Cabernet Sauvignon, however this Malbec seems to shine as well. Almost 100% varietal, it boasts vibrant plum, coffee, clove, vanilla and herb aromas. The palate is loaded with plump, creamy fruit and an oak note of lingering espresso. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$40

91 Baer 2014 Malbec (Columbia Valley). This wine's aromas are vibrant and fruit forward, with plum, blackberry seed, barrel spice, herb and clove notes. The palate delivers plush, tart, textured flavors. A compelling example of the variety. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$29

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2014 Malbec (Columbia Valley). This 100% varietal wine brings brooding aromas of black licorice, anise, dark plum and herb followed by rich, focused black plum flavors. It delivers a lot of charm and hedonistic appeal. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$30

88 Milbrandt 2014 Ravenscliff Vineyard Malbec (Wahluke Slope). Anise, barrel spice, clove, vanilla and plum scents lead to full-bodied fruit and barrel flavors in this wine. It shows some warmth on the finish, with lingering purple fruit and pepper notes. —S.S.

abv: 15%

Price: \$45

88 Milbrandt 2014 The Estates Malbec (Wahluke Slope). This wine shows cocoa, vanilla and barrel spice aromas on the nose. The medium-weight palate shows decent fruit tones however is overshadowed by heavy-handed oak. —S.S.

abv: 15%

Price: \$26

88 Novelty Hill 2014 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Malbec (Columbia Valley). Vanilla, cocoa, barrel spice and herb aromas are followed by creamy fruit and barrel flavors. The vanilla notes overwhelm the nose and palate, however, distracting from the fruit. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$28

88 Waterbrook 2015 Malbec (Columbia Valley). Plum, herb, blue fruit, vanilla and spice aromas lead to soft, plush fruit flavors in this wine. The texture and blue fruit flavors bring appeal. *Best Buy.* —S.S.

abv: 13.91%

Price: \$13

87 :Nota Bene 2013 Heart of the Hill Vineyard Malbec (Red Mountain). This wine's unusual purple fruit, citrus, herb and wood spice aromas waft up from the glass. The palate brings abundant orange peel flavors supported by tannins that are surprisingly firm for the variety. Citrus twist notes linger on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 15.18%

Price: \$30

87 Stottle 2013 6 Prong Vineyard Malbec (Horse Heaven Hills). Green herb, vanilla, wood-spice, plum and tire rubber aromas are followed by light but sweet barrel spice flavors in this wine. The variety is obscured beneath the heavy oak influence, the whole seeming disjointed. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$34

85 Bonair 2013 Chateau Puryear Vineyard Malbec (Rattlesnake Hills). This wine's cranberry, orange peel and herb notes are atypical for

the variety. Its fruit flavors are tart and elegant, needing a bit more structure to prop them up. It's a bit thin in concentration, with consistent orange peel flavors throughout. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$24

MERLOT

91 Forgeron 2013 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This combines Merlot from Minnick Hills and Birch Creek vineyards in the Walla Walla Valley and Candy Mountain in the larger Columbia Valley with smaller amounts of Malbec from StoneTree and Petit Verdot from Dionysus. It's generous in aroma, with with plentiful coffee, raspberry, bittersweet chocolate, flower and graphite notes. The palate displays a lot of elegance, with tart acidity providing support. It's a very pretty expression of the variety that should show especially well at the dinner table. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Januik 2014 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This wine's plum, vanilla, milk chocolate and blue fruit aromas are followed by a palate saturated with supersmooth fruit and barrel flavors. The variety isn't immediately apparent, but it's delicious all the same. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$25

91 Pedestal 2014 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This wine opens with pleasing cocoa, dark raspberry and graphite aromas. The palate offers medium-bodied, tart fruit flavors cinched with tannin. A big, bold interpretation of Merlot. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2014 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's raspberry jam, cocoa, fig and barrel spice aromas really pop. Its red fruit flavors are rich and ripe, providing hedonistic appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

90 Januik 2014 Klipsun Vineyard Merlot (Red Mountain). This leads with plum, vanilla, barrel spice and herb aromas. The palate is soft and velvety, keeping the vineyard's often burly tannins well in check and providing a lot of textural appeal. Cocoa notes linger on the finish, delivering a yum factor that is hard to ignore. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

90 Novelty Hill 2014 Merlot (Columbia Valley). Espresso, dark chocolate, herb and purple fruit aromas lead to a soft, smooth palate in this wine. Fruit and barrel notes play equal parts, yet it comes up short on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$23

90 Novelty Hill 2014 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Merlot (Columbia Valley). This wine's milk chocolate, herb, cherry, barrel spice and plum aromas lead to a plush, soft palate loaded with choco-

late and plum flavors. It strikes a lovely balance. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$28

89 Baer 2014 Star Merlot (Columbia Valley). This delivers smoke, coffee bean, dark red fruit and spice aromas. It's oak-forward on the palate, somewhat obscuring the fruit flavors, but it still brings appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$35

89 Fielding Hills 2014 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Merlot (Wahluke Slope). Vanilla, herb, cherry, coconut and barrel spice aromas are followed by supple cherry and spice flavors in this wine. The barrel influence is a bit up-front, but it still provides plenty of pleasure. —S.S.
abv: 15.32% **Price:** \$40

89 Woodward Canyon 2014 Merlot (Columbia Valley). This wine's aromas bring cherry and chocolate to mind. The palate provides pleasing fruit and barrel notes, but the two seem disconnected. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$52

88 :Nota Bene 2013 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Merlot (Red Mountain). In this 100% varietal wine, tire rubber, spice box and flower aromas are followed by seamless dark fruit flavors backed by firm but well integrated tannins. It shows a pleasant balance that sustains through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.27% **Price:** \$35

88 Finn Hill 2013 Merveille Stillwater Creek Vineyard Merlot (Columbia Valley). Dried herb, purple flower, vanilla, baking spice, black licorice and barrel spice aromas lead to ripe dark fruit flavors in this wine. Generous barrel accents run throughout while tannins bring a touch of dryness. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

88 L'Ecole No. 41 2014 Estate Grown Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). This combines fruit from Ferguson (60%) and Seven Hills vineyards to deliver barrel spice, clove, raspberry and mineral scents. The palate is medium bodied and full of chewy, slightly dry tannins. The oak shows prominently at present, needing more time in bottle to integrate. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

88 Stottle 2013 Merlot (Yakima Valley). This wine's aromas are quite generous, suggesting herbs, vanilla, baking spice and purple fruit. Its cranberry and cherry flavors are both tart and ripe, supported by soft tannins and a lingering café au lait note. The oak influence gets in the way of the fruit at times, but it's pleasant all the same. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$28

87 Bonair 2014 Chateau Puryear Vineyard Merlot (Rattlesnake Hills). Vanilla, herb, pencil box and spice aromas are followed by sweet cherry

flavors in this wine. Lightly tacky tannins provide support. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

87 Kestrel 2013 Falcon Series Merlot (Yakima Valley). This wine's barrel spice, licorice, cranberry and cherry aromas are high toned. The palate is broad, with generous fruit flavors that taper toward the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

SYRAH

94 Maison Bleue 2014 Voyageur Yellow Jacket Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Hailing from old plantings in the Rocks District, this brings unique sagebrush, violet, blackberry, smoked meat, black pepper and wet stone notes. The palate is exquisitely pure and fresh, with abundant, layered blackberry and kirsch flavors. With its peppery finish and plush mouthfeel, it's swoon-worthy. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Delmas 2015 SJR Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Out of the gate, this is a bit brooding for a wine from the Rocks District, with dried orange peel, crushed gravel, blue fruit and flower aromas, revealing smoked meat notes over time. The flavors lean savory, suggesting tapenade and ember, followed by softly textured blueberry fruit. Long on the finish, it's all about elegance and sophistication. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 K Vintners 2014 The Hidden Northridge Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). This Syrah appeals to all the senses, leading with blackberry, bramble, kirsch, mineral and crushed flower aromas. The palate is rich and dense, holding nothing back with its opulent black fruit flavors. A hedonistic expression of the variety. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

92 JM Cellars 2014 Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

92 K Vintners 2014 The Deal Sundance Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). This wine's crushed herb, mineral and blackberry aromas lead to intensely rich, full-bodied black fruit and smoked meat flavors. It's big and bold and ready for steak. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 W.T. Vintners 2014 Stoney Vine Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Fermented using 75% whole clusters, this hails from Block 2 of the up-and-coming vineyard. It's aromatically expressive, with black olive, grilled asparagus, garden herb and moist earth notes. The palate shows exquisite

restraint and savory flavors, bringing more acidity than the region is known for. —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$48

92 Walla Walla Vintners 2014 Estate Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's aromas are a bit locked up at present, revealing plum, herb, clove and barrel spice notes as it opens. The palate is dense and rich, full of dark fruit flavors and generous barrel accents. It pulls no punches. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Saviah 2014 The Stones Speak Funk Estate Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Orange peel, fresh flower, black olive, moist earth and tire rubber aromas lead to intense, palate-coating fruit flavors in this Syrah. It doesn't seem to have fully blossomed yet but has all of the stuffing to suggest a long life ahead, with floral accents on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

91 Syncline 2015 Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). Brooding black raspberry, iron and crushed dried-herb aromas are followed by bright red fruit flavors in this wine. Its purity and texture provide great appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

90 Eternal 2015 Eternal Darkness Cockburn Ranch Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's aromas suggest black fruit, minerals, dark plum, barrel spice and kirsch. Its black fruit flavors are sweet and sappy, augmented with toasty barrel notes. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

90 Eternal 2015 Eternal Heritage Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Co-fermented with 5% Roussanne, this wine comes from Morrison Lane Vineyard. It's brightly aromatic, with blueberry jam, huckleberry and spice notes. The palate is soft and textured, delivering rich fruit flavors and a long finish that shows some warmth. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

90 Eternal 2015 Eternal Restraint Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Co-fermented with 5% Viognier, this wine's appealing fresh flower, orange peel, ham hock and black olive tapenade aromas jump out of the glass. The palate is light, tart and sleek, not delivering on all that the aromas suggest but still providing plenty of intrigue. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Lobo Hills 2013 Spilya Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). This wine's aromas are quite restrained but include whiffs of red fruit and spice. The palate is light to medium bodied, showing both subtlety and balance. A lovely wine lacking only in aromatic expression. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Lobo Hills 2013 Stonetree Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). This wine's bright aromas

include cranberry, cherry, vanilla and red fruit. The flavors are tart and full, with an appealing mouthfeel and a lingering finish. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Novelty Hill 2014 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley). Brooding smoke, purple fruit and violet aromas are followed by sumptuous fruit and barrel flavors in this Syrah. Barrel notes linger on the finish, feeling a bit raw but not detracting from the overall enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Sparkman 2014 Untamed Syrah (Columbia Valley). This wine is a blend of fruit from Olsen (50%), Boushey (34%) and Clifton Hill vineyards, aged in 34% new French oak. Its aromas are bright, recalling flowers, dark raspberry, graphite, sweet barrel spice and herb. The palate is rich with luscious fruit flavors and oak characteristics. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Cadaretta 2014 Syrah (Columbia Valley). Huckleberry, blackberry, coffee and bramble aromas lead to full-bodied fruit and barrel flavors in this wine. It's appealing despite the heavy-handed oak. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

89 Kestrel 2013 Falcon Series Estate Syrah (Yakima Valley). This wine's aromas are bright and fruit forward, with generous black pepper, raspberry, fresh flower, smoked meat and barrel spice notes. The full-bodied palate delivers cranberry flavors that are appealing but more ponderous than the aromas might suggest. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

88 :Nota Bene 2013 Syrah (Columbia Valley). This wine, which includes 17% Mourvèdre and 8% Grenache, is a blend of fruit from Arianses, Stone Tree, Ciel du Cheval and Heart of the Hill vineyards. Baking spice, vanilla, dark fruit and cocoa aromas lead to ripe, generous black fruit flavors. It's a bold, hedonistic interpretation of the variety, with oak playing a prominent role. —S.S.
abv: 15.05% **Price:** \$25

88 Adegia Northwest 2014 McB Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's light cranberry, cherry and maple candy aromas show a bit of volatility. Full-throttle dark fruit flavors follow, coating the palate from end to end. It pulls no punches and shows some heat on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

88 Finn Hill 2013 L'abime Corfu Crossing Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley). Char, firepit, barrel spice and herb aromas lead to elegantly styled cranberry flavors in this wine. The tannins lend a light structure. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

88 Januik 2014 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain). From one of the state's most esteemed vineyards, this shows prominent toast, vanilla, coffee and marionberry aromas. The palate is considerably more restrained, bringing a sense of lightness. Alone, each delivers, but the two seem out of sync. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

88 Januik 2014 Weinbau Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). This leads with light raspberry, plum, vanilla and barrel spice aromas. The palate is lighter still, mixing fruit and barrel qualities in equal proportion and finishing on a baking spice note. The oak is a little intense. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

88 Milbrandt 2014 Single Vineyard Series Clifton Hill Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). This shows vanilla, clove, barrel spice and dark fruit aromas. Its fruit flavors are full and laced with upfront barrel notes. It seems a little boozy. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

88 Stottle 2013 6 Prong Vineyard Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills). Smoke, mineral, dark berry and vanilla aromas are followed by lighter black fruit flavors in this wine. It tapers off on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

87 :Nota Bene 2013 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain). Vanilla, coconut and baking spice aromas are at the fore, with the wood primary. The palate is rich and full bodied, with dark fruit and oak spice flavors. There are some good things going on but the oak—half new American and half seasoned French—rides right over them. —S.S.
abv: 14.73% **Price:** \$40

87 :Nota Bene 2013 Stone Tree Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). Aged in 50% each new American and seasoned French oak, this leads with cocoa powder, vanilla and shaved coconut aromas. The flavors are extremely ripe, loaded with coconut and vanilla flavors. The barrel influence shows prominently, as does the ripeness. —S.S.
abv: 15.17% **Price:** \$35

87 Cerebella 2014 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's aromas are so light you have to strain to pick them out, yet it shows whiffs of volatility. The palate delivers sweet, smooth dark fruit flavors with a fair amount of heat. There's enough here to keep it interesting, needing more aromatic expression and balance to truly come together. —S.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Milbrandt 2014 Single Vineyard Series Katharine Leone Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). This wine seems quite reduced out of the gate, delivering aromas that prove distracting. The pal-

ate shows more depth with an array of pleasing dark fruit flavors. —S.S.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

MOURVÈDRE

93 Syncline 2015 Mourvèdre (Horse Heaven Hills). This 100% varietal wine delivers mineral, citrus twist, raw meat, raspberry and black pepper notes. The palate is full bodied and packed to the brim with fruit and savory flavors. It brings a seamlessness and length that are absolutely dazzling. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

91 Stottle 2013 6 Prong Vineyard Mourvèdre (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine's raspberry, *garrigue*, black pepper and citrus aromas lead to intense flavors that linger on the finish. The round mouthfeel heightens the appeal. —S.S.

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

88 Hawkins Cellars 2014 Mourvèdre (Columbia Valley). This blend of Horse Heaven Hills and Red Mountain fruit delivers brooding cherry and herb aromas and full-bodied black cherry flavors. The tannins contribute grit. —S.S.

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

87 :Nota Bene 2013 Heart of the Hill Mourvèdre (Red Mountain). This 100% varietal wine's cocoa and sweet baking spice aromas are followed by ripe, luscious fruit and barrel flavors. Oak plays a prominent role, with light gamy notes that persist on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.72% **Price:** \$30

87 Corvus 2014 Mourvèdre (Red Mountain). This wine's light aromas include herb, black pepper, licorice and cherry notes, showing volatility. It's full bodied on the palate, with black cherry flavors that run a bit sweet. —S.S.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

GRENAÇHE

93 Maison Bleue 2014 Bourgeois Grenache (Walla Walla Valley). All of the fruit for this wine comes from Monette's Vineyard in the Rocks District, and it was fermented using 75% whole clusters. The aromas are fresh and perfumed, recalling red raspberry, pipe tobacco, white pepper, pomegranate, kirsch, herb and orange peel. The palate shows mesmerizing purity in its red fruit flavors, which are backed by fine-grained tannins. A thoroughly delicious interpretation of the variety that is nothing short of dazzling. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

91 Ded.Reckoning 2013 No. 14 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Grenache (Red Mountain). This wine was made by Rhône-variety specialist James

Mantone of Syncline. The aromas are locked up at present but suggest mineral, spice and red and blue fruit as it opens. The palate is full bodied, seamless and pure, showing depth and detail. —S.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Novelty Hill 2014 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Grenache (Columbia Valley). Berry, vanilla, coconut and barrel spice aromas are followed by barrel flavors in this wine. It brings appeal, but the oak (42% new French and American) seems to take over. —S.S.

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

88 Tempus Cellars 2014 Art den Hoed Vineyards Grenache (Yakima Valley). This wine's raspberry, red apple, spice and red fruit aromas are bright. The flavors are ripe and full bodied, showing some heat. —S.S.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$28

SANGIOVESE

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2015 Sangiovese (Columbia Valley). High toned aromas mark the nose of this wine, including dried herb, fresh plum, huckleberry and spice. Its purple fruit flavors are rich and lush, with a pleasing purity that carries through the finish. It's uncharacteristic of Sangiovese but brings undeniable appeal. —S.S.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$29

89 Casa Smith 2015 Cinghiale Wahluke Slope & Rosebud Vineyards Sangiovese (Wahluke Slope). This wine's macerated cranberry, raspberry jam and dried orange peel aromas are bright. Its raspberry and cranberry flavors are sweet and focused, delivering a lot of appeal, though seeming a bit ripe. —S.S.

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

87 Chandler Reach 2012 Reserve Parris Estate Sangiovese (Yakima Valley). This wine's barrel aromas are upfront, suggesting vanilla and sawdust along with dried cherry and raspberry. Fruit and oak notes play off each other on the palate, with vanilla-rich barrel notes winning out on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

87 Stottle 2013 6 Prong Vineyard Sangiovese (Horse Heaven Hills). Brooding raspberry, tobacco, herb, cedar and barrel spice aromas are followed by ripe cherry flavors in this wine. It's enjoyable but lacks precision. —S.S.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$28

85 Kestrel 2013 Falcon Series Estate Sangiovese (Yakima Valley). Reductive aromas distract from the fruit and barrel notes in this wine. The palate brings medium-bodied, mouth-puckering cranberry and cherry flavors. Vanilla notes linger on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

TEMPRANILLO

89 Saviah 2014 Tempranillo (Walla Walla Valley). With fruit from Funk, Dugger Creek and Watermill Estate vineyards, this delivers funky peat, olive and fresh tobacco aromas. The flavors are light, soft and palate-coating, gliding into the finish. A subtle rendition of the variety. —S.S.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$38

87 Liberty Lake 2013 Tempranillo (Red Mountain). This wine shows vanilla, celery root, mesquite and herb aromas on the nose. Its baking spice flavors are quite sweet, suggesting heavy-handed oak. Vanilla flavors take over on the finish, leaving a disjointed impression. —S.S.

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

87 Stottle 2013 6 Prong Vineyard Tempranillo (Horse Heaven Hills). Burnt coffee, vanilla bean, green wood and tobacco aromas are followed by medium-bodied fruit and barrel flavors in this wine. It's enjoyable despite the intense oak influence. —S.S.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

RED BLENDS

93 Cadence 2014 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard (Red Mountain). Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon each make up a third of this wine, with smaller amounts of Merlot and Petit Verdot. Its dark cherry, earth, flower and spice aromas are followed by concentrated and luscious but still refined cherry flavors. It shows a lot of structure and ripeness, in keeping with the warmth of the vintage. —S.S.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

93 La Rata 2014 Red (Walla Walla Valley). This blend of Grenache (53%), Cabernet Sauvignon (34%) and Syrah (13%) explodes with pot-pourri, peat, white pepper, smoke and earth aromas. The palate is loaded with fruit and savory flavors that glide into the extended finish. The texture is absolutely dazzling. —S.S.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

93 Maison Bleue 2014 Coureur des Bois (Columbia Valley). This unique blend of 40% Syrah, 40% Mourvèdre and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon comes from Olsen, Les Collines and Waliser vineyards. Its savory herb, black currant, bramble, smoked meat, white pepper, orange peel and plum aromas pop. The palate is supple, elegant and balanced. A lengthy finish caps off the experience, which is as much about texture as flavor. —S.S.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

92 B. Leighton 2014 Gratitude Olsen Brothers Vineyard (Yakima Valley). This blend of 70% Mourvèdre, 25% Grenache and 5% Syrah brings crushed flower, dried herb, plum, black pepper and red fruit aromas. The palate shows velvety

red and black fruit flavors that feel pure and balanced. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

92 Cadence 2015 Coda (Red Mountain). This blend of Cabernet Franc (46%), Merlot (28%), Cabernet Sauvignon (17%) and Petit Verdot (9%) starts out brooding, with black cherry, herb, black currant, anise, and spice notes. The palate is rich and structured, loaded with dark fruit flavors and firm tannins. Give it some time to open up. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$28

92 Cadence 2014 Bel Canto Cara Mia Vineyard (Red Mountain). Cabernet Franc makes up half of this wine, with the balance in Merlot (38%) and Petit Verdot (12%). It delivers light currant, herb, flower and dark fruit aromas. The palate is saturated with dark fruit flavors while firm, structured tannins provide support. It needs some time in the cellar to settle. Best after 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: NA Price: \$60

92 Cadence 2014 Taptail Vineyard (Red Mountain). This wine is half Cabernet Sauvignon, with the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Merlot. It's subtle on the nose, with currant, flower, crushed rock and herb notes. The palate is firmly structured, punctuating the flavors on the finish. Best 2025–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: NA Price: \$45

92 Pearl and Stone 2015 Mailbox Peak Red (Yakima Valley). A lush mix of scents and flavors reflecting the terroir of the Two Blondes vineyard, this blend of 45% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon starts with complex aromas. Olive, herb, coffee and clean earth notes lead to lovely textures and layers. Tobacco flavors highlight the black cherry fruit, which carries through the finish with pinpoint focus. Drink now and over the next five years. —P.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$34

92 Pearl and Stone 2015 Resolution Peaks Red (Yakima Valley). Principally Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from old vines at the Dionysus vineyard, this includes 12% Cabernet Franc and a splash of Merlot. It's spicy and toasty, with ripe fruit flavors recalling strawberry preserves and cherry pie. Coffee and smoke hints thread throughout and into the finish. It's oaky in the best way and delicious from start to finish. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$39

92 Walla Walla Vintners 2014 Washington State Cuvée (Washington). This wine is a blend of all six Bordeaux varieties: 35% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc, 4% Carménère, 3% Malbec and 3% Petit Verdot. Its coffee, cranberry, herb, currant, barrel spice and anise aromas lead to tightly wound, layered red and

black fruit flavors. Plump, silky tannins provide the frame. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$40

91 Baer 2014 Callisto (Columbia Valley). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (57%), Syrah (27%), Petit Verdot (15%) and Merlot delivers a medley of herb, baker's chocolate, smoke, plum and black tea aromas. Fine-grained tannins support its dark fruit flavors, which stretch long into the finish. Highly styled yet lovely. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$39

91 Cadaretta 2014 Southwind Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). Malbec and Petit Verdot each make up 37% of this wine, with the balance in Cabernet Sauvignon. The Malbec pops aromatically, suggesting clove, spice and plum. The palate is well balanced, with supple black cherry flavors and a persistent finish. It brings a lot of appeal. —S.S.
abv: NA Price: \$75

91 Col Solare 2014 Collector's Society Red (Red Mountain). This wine is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Malbec. The aromas bring notes of blue plum, herb, cherry and spice. The palate features ripe, dense fruit flavors that display a spot on sense of balance. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$NA

91 JM Cellars 2014 Tre Fancuilli (Red Mountain). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (54%), Merlot (31%) and Syrah (15%) boasts blue fruit aromas, from plum and huckleberry to bramble, along with vanilla and spice. The palate shows depth and density, with silky fruit and barrel flavors that heighten the interest. Its balance is spot on. —S.S.
abv: NA Price: \$48

91 Lobo Hills 2012 Right Bank Blend Lonesome Springs Ranch (Yakima Valley). This wine's brooding black cherry, spice box and black licorice aromas are followed by a medium-bodied, well-structured palate that finishes with tart fruit flavors. It should perform particularly well at the dinner table and have a long life ahead of it. —S.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

91 Novelty Hill 2014 Cascadia (Columbia Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon makes up just over half of this wine (52%); Merlot (46%) and a pinch of Malbec make up the rest. Plum, herb, barrel spice and currant aromas are followed by smooth fruit and barrel flavors. Lightly grainy tannins provide support while coffee flavors linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$50

91 Pearl and Stone 2015 Wandering Red (Yakima Valley). Sourced from the Two Blondes vineyard, this is a soft, smooth and toasty blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Cabernet Franc, and 27% Merlot. Its delicious barrel flavors are nicely integrated with its purple fruit. It's buttery-feeling in the mouth, with coffee and toasted nut accents, all

bolstered by a firm structure of ripe, slightly grainy tannins. Drink now through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

91 Saviah 2014 G-S-M (Washington). Grenache makes up two-thirds of this wine, filled out with Syrah and Mourvèdre from Lonesome Springs, Sugarloaf and Elephant Mountain vineyards. It boasts rich raspberry, herb, orange peel and spice aromas. The palate is loaded with blue fruit and earth flavors, showing appealing texture and concentration. The balance is spot-on, kicking it up a notch. —S.S.
abv: NA Price: \$38

90 Walla Walla Vintners 2014 Bello Rosso (Columbia Valley). This blend of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese delivers bright cranberry, vanilla, coconut, baking spice, raspberry and milk chocolate aromas. Fruit and barrel flavors play off each other nicely on the light, lifted palate. Oak plays a primary role but is well integrated. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$42

90 Woodward Canyon 2013 Erratic (Walla Walla Valley). This blend of 46% Mourvèdre, 45% Syrah and 9% Grenache showcases café au lait, milk chocolate, pepper, herb and smoked meat aromas. It's ultrasoft on the palate, with fruit and oak flavors that linger on the finish. The oak influence is prominent but doesn't detract from the overall appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$59

89 Canoe Ridge 2014 The Explorer (Horse Heaven Hills). This blend of 49% Syrah, 27% Cabernet Franc and 24% Cabernet Sauvignon leads with boysenberry, blackberry and sweet spice aromas, followed by full-bodied, lush fruit flavors. The tannins are a bit tacky, but it's otherwise appealing, showing pleasant balance. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$22

89 Corvus 2014 La Reserve (Red Mountain). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (33%), Merlot (33%), Petit Verdot (16%), Malbec (16%) and Cabernet Franc (2%) delivers high toned notes of cocoa, purple flower, green herb and plum, showing whiffs of volatility. The palate is velvety-smooth, with plentiful dark fruit and chocolate flavors backed by burly tannins. Give it time to stretch its legs. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

89 Eternal 2015 Rocketman (Columbia Valley). This blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot and 5% Carménère is fragrant, with raspberry, freshly sliced bell pepper and green herb notes. The palate is full of cocoa and chocolate flavors, leaning heavily on oak attributes but still providing appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

89 Kirkland Signature 2015 Signature Series Red Wine (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$17

89 Stottle 2013 Big Eddie (Columbia Valley). This combines 60% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Malbec. Its baking spice, black fruit and herb aromas are followed by silky-smooth dark fruit flavors that linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$36

89 Stottle 2013 6 Prong Vineyard G-S-M (Horse Heaven Hills). This blend of 37% Grenache, 37% Syrah and 26% Mourvèdre is brooding, with its char, smoke, cranberry, dark plum and wood-spice aromas. On the palate, silky black cherry flavors are accented with barrel-derived notes, striking a lovely balance. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

88 Beast 2014 Wildebeast (Columbia Valley). Light herb, green olive and earth aromas are followed by broad cranberry, cherry and orange peel flavors in this wine. It doesn't quite stand up on its own but should fit well at the dinner table. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$24

88 Browne Family Vineyards 2015 & Red (Columbia Valley). This leads with blue fruit aromas and follows with baking spice notes. The flavors are sweet, plump and undeniably appealing. —S.S.
abv: 14.13% **Price:** \$40

88 Canoe Ridge 2015 The Expedition (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine is just over two-thirds Merlot, the balance in Syrah, Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Dark plum, coffee, bitter-sweet chocolate and spice aromas are followed by medium-bodied fruit flavors backed by plump tannins. It goes down easy. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$16

88 Drink Washington State 2015 Escape to Walla Walla Red (Walla Walla Valley). This blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 15% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot boasts bright raspberry and cherry aromas, with green wood, baking spice and whiffs of game. The palate delivers concentrated fruit and medicinal flavors that carry through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

88 JM Cellars 2014 Bramble Bump (Columbia Valley). This blend of 43% Merlot, 26% Petit Verdot, 22% Carmenère, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Syrah offers orange peel, herb, raspberry and spice aromas that don't seem entirely knit together. Dry tannins back up its blue and black fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

88 Lobo Hills 2012 Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). This blend of 67% Stone-tree Vineyard Syrah and 33% Ariances Vineyard

Cabernet Sauvignon. delivers vanilla, baking spice and dried cherry notes. Its fruit flavors are sweet but seem dried out. Drink now. —S.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$35

88 Locations NV WA4 (Washington). This shows cranberry and herb aromas, along with a floral top note. The palate comes off as sweet and liquorous, with lightly grainy tannins providing support. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

88 Matthews 2013 Reserve (Columbia Valley). In this blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, vanilla, carob, herb, green wood and dark fruit aromas are followed by fruit and oak-derived flavors in equal proportion. It shows restraint but doesn't come together. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

88 :Nota Bene 2013 Ariances Vineyard Red (Wahluke Slope). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (34%), Merlot (33%), Cabernet Franc (17%) and Petit Verdot brings vanilla, baker's chocolate, woodspice, dried herb and cherry aromas. It's medium bodied on the palate, with cherry flavors and cinnamon accents throughout. —S.S.
abv: 14.19% **Price:** \$30

88 :Nota Bene 2013 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Red (Red Mountain). Cabernet Sauvignon (54%) takes the lead in this wine, followed by Merlot (31%) and Cabernet Franc (15%). The aromas are all high toned, including spice, dried dark fruit and herb notes. The black fruit shows depth, framed by lightly dry tannins and a gamy flavor that lingers on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.48% **Price:** \$40

88 The Conqueror 2014 Red (Horse Heaven Hills). This easy-drinking blend of 33% Cabernet Franc, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Syrah and 17% Merlot opens with blue fruit, herb and spice aromas and leads to sweet, plush fruit and barrel flavors. Lightly grainy tannins provide structure. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$25

88 W.T. Vintners 2014 Stoney Vine Vineyard Red (Walla Walla Valley). This blend of 57% Syrah, 40% Grenache and 3% Mourvèdre brings grilled asparagus, stewed fruit and black olive aromas. It's plush and palate-coating, but the aromas and flavors are out of sync. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

87 4 Cellars 2014 Red (Columbia Valley). This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Malbec offers vanilla, herb and cherry aromas that seem a bit coarse. The palate is full of baking spice flavors—notably vanilla. It's heavy on the oak notes, despite having aged in just 42% new French barrels, the rest older French and American. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

87 Kestrel 2013 Signature Series Raptor (Yakima Valley). This wine's sawdust, green herb, vanilla and spice aromas are brooding. The light- to medium-bodied palate delivers cherry flavor, bringing appeal but wanting more expression. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

87 Pendulum 2015 Red (Columbia Valley). This blend of Petit Verdot (28%), Malbec (27%), Syrah (20%), Cabernet Sauvignon (16%) and Merlot (9%) leads with wild blueberry, crushed flower, herb, vanilla and spice aromas. Soft, elegant blueberry flavors follow, persisting on the finish. Light on the midpalate, it still brings appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

87 Stottle 2013 Hombre 6 Prong Vineyard (Horse Heaven Hills). Strong burnt coffee, pencil lead and cherry aromas lead the nose of this blend of Tempranillo (68%), Malbec (29%), Grenache (1%) and Mourvèdre (2%). Barrel influence shows prominently on the palate, with smoky flavors that overwhelm the fruit. A vanilla note lingers on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

86 Chandler Reach 2013 Brevetatta (Yakima Valley). This blend of 70% Syrah, 10% Merlot and 10% Sangiovese delivers vanilla, shaved coconut and dark fruit aromas. It's full bodied, with fruit and barrel-derived flavors that linger on the finish. The oak influence is cumbersome. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

86 Coyote Canyon 2012 Tres Cruces (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine's barrel spice, barnyard, coffee and vanilla aromas lead to medium-bodied fruit flavors tinged with a strong, distracting gamy note. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

86 Kestrel 2013 Falcon Series Tribute (Yakima Valley). This offers bright raspberry jam, herb, pepper and spice aromas. It's full of vanilla flavors, seeming somewhat disjointed. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

86 Maryhill 2015 Winemaker's Red (Columbia Valley). This wine's smoke, seaweed, black pepper, orange peel and purple fruit aromas pop. The palate features easy-drinking fruit flavors, with gritty tannins to back them up. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

86 :Nota Bene 2013 Una Notte (Columbia Valley). This combines 73% Grenache, 16% Syrah and 11% Mourvèdre from Stone Tree, Ariances, Ciel du Cheval and Heart of the Hill vineyards. Its vanilla, pencil box, green herb, raspberry and purple fruit aromas are followed by quite sweet, ripe, full-bodied red and black fruit flavors. The balance seems off. —S.S.
abv: 14.71% **Price:** \$30

OTHER RED WINES

91 Casa Smith 2013 Jack's Vineyard Barbera (Walla Walla Valley). The only varietally labeled Barbera from the Rocks District, this offers intriguing notes of currant, savory herb, pipe tobacco and moist earth. The palate is light in body, with a mix of fruit and savory flavors that carry through to the cranberry-inflected finish. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 JM Cellars 2015 Margaret's Vineyard Carmènère (Walla Walla Valley). This 100% varietal wine leads with appealing blue fruit, herb, jalapeño, toast and spice aromas followed by soft, supple fruit and barrel flavors. It's a very enjoyable expression of this often green variety. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2015 Dwelley Vineyard Dolcetto (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's bright, fruit-forward raspberry, herb, cocoa and barrel spice aromas are followed by exquisitely pure, elegant red plum flavors that coat the palate from end to end. A delicious rendition of this seldom seen variety. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$29

89 Dusted Valley 2014 Petite Sirah (Wahluke Slope). This wine's matchstick, dark fruit, vanilla, herb and spice aromas are brooding. It's full and rich on the palate, with dark fruit flavors that linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$42

88 Drink Washington State 2014 Enjoy Walla Walla Carmenère (Walla Walla Valley). Upfront jalapeño, white pepper and freshly sliced bell pepper aromas lead the nose of this wine. It's soft in texture and an intriguing example of the variety. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

88 Woodward Canyon 2014 Estate Barbera (Walla Walla Valley). Walla Walla Valley Barbera is rare, although this producer consistently makes one. Its toasty spice, tart cherry and herb aromas give way to well-balanced plum and cherry flavors, needing food to truly shine. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$29

87 Finn Hill 2013 Tenebrae Stillwater Creek Vineyard Petit Verdot (Columbia Valley). This 100% varietal wine leads with woodspice, green herb and flower aromas and follows with sweet, vanilla-laced black fruit flavors. Although aged entirely in used French oak, the barrel influence is prominent. The tannins bring dryness, needing food to ease their grit. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$30

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

94 Cebada 2014 Chardonnay (Santa Ynez Valley). From a vineyard that's northwest of the already very coastal Sta. Rita Hills, this racy and unique bottling shows clean precise lines of grapefruit pith, almond and key lime pie on the nose. There's a vibrant coil of acidity driving through the palate, with flavors of lime, lemongrass and lime skins, wrapped in a chalky crisp texture. It will age with grace or pair perfectly with sushi today. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$39

94 Chanin 2015 Sanford & Benedict Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Honeydew, white peach, honeysuckle, sea salt and toast make for a fairly exuberant nose on this bottling by Gavin Chanin from the region's iconic property. There is a savory salt character right away on the sip, then come rounded flavors of nectarine, red apple and Asian pear. A bright electric acidity enlivens the full mouthfeel. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 Fort Ross 2013 Mother of Pearl Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview). Cloudy as dark hay and still evolving, this memorable wine is deliciously toned in lime zest, salty brine and a supporting note of clarified butter. Intense on the palate at first, it relaxes to let its sublime, innate acidity speak as a twist of hazelnut delights on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Mount Eden Vineyards 2014 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$64

93 Chanin 2015 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Clean and crisp aromas of Gravenstein apples, Bartlett pear and key lime pith meet with a slight hint of smoke wafting in the background on this bottling by onetime wunderkind Gavin Chanin. The sizzling acidity presents delicate flavors of nectarine, peach and mango, with a touch of butter toward the finish. The wine steadily improves days after opening. Enjoy now through 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$43

93 MacRostie 2015 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

93 Poseidon 2014 Boon's Fly Hill Estate Grown Chardonnay (Carneros). Fans of unoaked wine should look elsewhere. This is a sophisticated but showy wine matured in 100% new Hungarian oak barrels. It has lots to enjoy from the seductive aromas of melted butter and toasted almonds to

the rich mouthfeel, ripe fruit flavors and extended, creamy-tasting finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

92 Domaine Eden 2014 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Fort Ross 2014 Fort Ross Vineyard Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview). This well-made, crisply styled wine is zesty in lime and stony minerality, with a background grasp of the sea. Briny, it has well-manicured layers of toasty oak, green apple and persistent acidity—a wise choice for the table. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

92 Luna 2015 Reserve Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$48

92 Rubino Estates Winery 2015 Riserva Collection Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). Ah, subtlety and richness come together in this delicious, layered and creamy-textured wine. It has light aromas of marzipan and pear, more fully developed vanilla, nutmeg and pear tart flavors and a luscious mouthfeel that helps extend the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

91 Black Ridge 2013 Cheryl's Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). The nose on this bottling is nicely rounded, with pan-seared apple, sea salt caramel and a touch of butter. A good sizzle of acidity rides through the sip, with flavors of seared Meyer lemon and tangerine, baked apple, a pinch of salt and a buttercream finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

91 Comartin 2015 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). This wine starts a tad reductive, but that blows off quickly to reveal aromas of seared citrus, pear blossom, apple sorbet and lemon curd. There is zippy acidity on the sip, with intriguing flavors of dried apple, chamomile and lemon syrup, as well as an earthy quality of sandy soil and dried yellow flowers. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

91 JCR 2015 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). A very streamlined Chardonnay, this bottling from a vineyard southwest of the Sta. Rita Hills shows aromas of chalk, Meyer lemon slices, white flowers and apple pie crusted with almond and coconut flakes. Persistent acidity carries the palate into flavors of gravel, lemongrass, lime and lemon-lime. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

91 Jordan 2015 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Always made to shine at the table, this crisp refined white is a celebration of lemon zest, green apple and wet stone, integrated in oak and

bright acidity. Further flavors of pear and white peach complement the memorable proceedings. —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$32

91 Knights Bridge 2015 West Block Chardonnay (Knights Valley). Entirely fermented in French oak before an additional 18 months spent aging also in oak, this wine offers an intoxicating floral entry of apple blossom and lime. Creamy and velvety in texture, its taste profile ranges from spicy nutmeg and apple pie to clarified butter. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$65

91 Lucienne 2015 Smith Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Light hints of honey, Meyer lemon curd and creamy nectarine show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Broad flavors of ripe apples, cherimoya and kiwi are held together by sea salt and a crisp blast of acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 MacRostie 2015 Bacigalupi Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Golden-honey and pear flavors combine effortlessly in this lovely wine from the famous vineyard, which neighbors this producer along the appellation's Westside Road. Moderate acidity freshens a bold full-bodied approach defined by its backbone of smooth integrated oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$46

91 MacRostie 2015 Goldrock Ridge Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This is from an extreme coastal site high above the town of Annapolis, a study in ocean-driven minerality and lift. A small production, it offers lengthy acidity and moderately toasty oak beneath a well of white peach, lemon and briny sea stone. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

91 MacRostie 2015 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). Subdued in oak, this bright intriguing wine does a nice job showcasing tart tangy flavors of green olive and green apple, while still maintaining a freshness at its core. It is moderately structured and teased in a twist of lime. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$46

91 Patz & Hall 2015 Alder Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). Almost as buttery as a croissant, this full-bodied and extremely flavorful wine has an aroma like butterscotch, flavor like melted butter and vanilla, and a lingering pastry-like accent on the finish. The texture is buttery, too, coating the palate and revealing layers of richness. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

91 Poseidon 2015 Estate Chardonnay (Carneros). Enticing complexity and spiciness give this wine a great personality. Aromas like toasted baguette join buttery and savory spice-cabinet fla-

vors on a base of crisp apple. It shows a tasty oaky element that doesn't overwhelm. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Amor Fati 2015 Murmur Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Light and delicate on the nose, this single-vineyard Chardonnay shows white peach, honeysuckle and browned butter on the nose. There is good tension to the sip, but also riper flavors of apple cider, pan-seared pear and lemon preserves. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

90 Berryhill 2016 Chardonnay (Lodi). This well-priced wine tastes substantive, well-balanced and honest, with no obvious oak influence, just lots of tasty fruit flavors, great fruity acidity and underlying depth. A range of lemon, crisp apple and Bosc pear notes lead to very subtle vanilla and nutmeg nuances as the wine opens up in the glass. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

90 Domaine Anderson 2015 Estate Chardonnay Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This extroverted reserve-style wine combines generous buttery and nutty nuances with crisp and bracing apple and Anjou-pear flavors to find a very good balance. It feels full bodied and luxurious but stays lively due to good grape acidity. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$35

90 Matchbook 2015 The Arsonist Chardonnay (Dunnigan Hills). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$22

90 Mount Eden Vineyards 2015 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Presented with subtlety on the nose, this bottling by the iconic Santa Cruz Mountains winery delivers scents of toasted pine nuts and almonds, tangerine rind and lemon balm. There is racy acidity on the sip, where lemon peel, crisp pear and buttered apple flavors make for a very thorough Chardonnay. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Bernardus 2015 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Browned butter, toasted almonds, sea salt and peach blossoms converge for a compelling nose on this twist-top appellation blend. It's a full Chardonnay on the sip, with Meyer lemon peel, Gala apple and savory sea salt, all cut by a racy line of acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

89 Naggiar 2016 Chardonnay (California). Citrus and light herb aromas turn to slightly more buttery, spicy flavors in this medium-bodied well-balanced wine. It has a good sense of richness in the mouthfeel along with hints of vanilla, cream and almond flavors to complement the fruit notes. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$24

89 Navarro 2015 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This is a well-balanced medium-bodied wine that has everything in good proportion. The aromas are lightly fruity, like green apples, the tangy apple flavors are touched with of fresh herbs, and the texture is fresh and crisp. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27

89 Navarro 2015 Premiere Reserve Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Flashes of buttery new oak show up in the lively aromas and richer flavors of this medium-bodied, barrel-fermented and elegant wine. It has a fine array of nutmeg, vanilla and lemon accents lifted by good acidity. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$27

89 Stasis 2015 Murmur Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Very light aromas of seared nectarine, wet stone, orange peels and gardenia show on the nose of this bottling from the Tooth & Nail team. Tangerine rinds, sea salt and Gala apple flesh show on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42

89 Stephen Ross 2015 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). The nose on this appellation blend is plump and inviting, blending pan-seared Gala apples and browned butter with a more intriguing botanical aroma. There is zip on the tip of the sip, with flavors of lime peel, lemon zest and a nuttiness in the mid-palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

89 Stephen Ross 2015 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Extremely light and delicate aromas of lemon, Gala apple and pear flesh show on the cleanly delivered nose of this bottling by Steve Dooley. There is also a lot of restraint on the palate, perhaps even a tad too much, with fluttering hints of chalk, sour limes and riper pear. The texture is compelling. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

89 Toad Hollow 2016 Francine's Selection Unoaked Chardonnay (Mendocino County). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

88 Crave 2014 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Clean aromas of nectarine and white peach meet with a touch of chalk, slight edge of lemon zest, sweet butter and sea salt on the nose of this bottling. There is a decent texture to the sip, where lemon, lime, toasted nuts and more sea-salt flavors show. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Grayson 2016 Lot 11 Chardonnay (California). Exotic floral and lemon-zest aromas are backed up by nice ripe fruit flavors and a touch of mint in this medium-bodied and generous wine. It's also supported by lively acidity for good balance. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

88 HandCraft 2015 Artisan Collection Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$9

88 Kendall-Jackson 2015 Jackson Estate Camelot Highlands Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Kendall-Jackson helped define the buttery oaky Chardonnay movement, and this bottling plays that card quite strongly. Oak meets with roasted nuts, sea salt, pecan brittle and Gravenstein apple on the nose. The rounded palate shows sandalwood, candied walnuts and chamomile, though oak is very prominent as well. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

88 McFadden 2016 Blue Quail Chardonnay (Potter Valley). This wine has notes of mint and crisp apple in the aroma and flavors that resemble peach and ripe apple so it balances the more tangy first impression with a richer feel on the palate. It's medium bodied, not too big and not too lean. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$16

88 McManis 2016 Chardonnay (River Junction). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

88 Rodney Strong 2015 Estate Vineyards Chardonnay (Chalk Hill). Richly barrel fermented, this wine shares its caramelized toasty oak character with sultry, creamy ripe apple, pear and melon. Lushly layered, it goes spicy on the finish in a dash of piquant nutmeg. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

88 True Myth 2015 Paragon Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Sweeter notes of honeysuckle and peach meet with dried lime peel on the nose of this widely available bottling by the Niven family. Rounded honeydew and key lime flavors ride a steely structure on the tongue, making for a solid weeknight sipper. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$18

88 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2016 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$8

87 Boekenooogen 2015 Estate Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). There's a noticeably sweet quality to this bottling that will appeal to some but turn off others. Spun sugar, buttercream, honeysuckle and orange mousse show on the nose, while the palate offers flavors of apple butter, brown sugar and lemon custard. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$32

87 Hirsch 2015 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This is a very good, reserved and light-bodied wine with mostly tangy citrus and a bit of riper apple flavor, but it's not at all oaky. It will make an

excellent wine before or during a meal, and should be versatile in pairings. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

87 Kendall-Jackson 2015 Jackson Estate Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Polished aromas of roasted nuts, sea salt, Meyer lemon peel and onion skin show on the nose of this widely available bottling from the Chardonnay kings. The sip is a little bit flat in terms of texture and acidity, but there are compelling and satisfying flavors of roasted walnuts and pecans, with a citrusy acidity that rises toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

87 Lucas & Lewellen 2016 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). This bottling shows its 88% stainless steel aging with bountiful tropicality, including guava and tuberose on the nose as well as toasted nuts and honeydew. Crisp lime peels start the sip, and then come more guava touches as well as mango. It's quite fruity. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

87 Martin Ranch 2015 J.D. Hurley Griva Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Lemon-candy aromas are rounded with white peach, marshmallow and honeysuckle on the slightly sweet-leaning nose of this bottling. The sip is straightforward with lemon peel, slight marzipan, Gala apple and Bosc pear flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

87 Michael Sullberg 2015 Reserve Lot 92 Chardonnay (California). Light lemon and vanilla flavors and a creamy texture make this wine easy to drink. The body is on the light side, too, with soft acidity and a mouthfeel that's not too thick. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$14

87 Midnight 2016 Chardonnay (Willow Creek). There's a strong peachy scent to the nose of this bottling, but it's bolstered by sea salt and a scratched lime-skin freshness. The lime flavor is prominent on the sip, from pith to juice, and there is decent tension along with honeydew flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$29

87 Rutherford Ranch 2015 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This wine is mild in acidity and simple in structure, a light-bodied take on the variety that shows flavors of green apple and green olive tapenade. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

87 Scotto Cellars 2015 Chardonnay (Lodi). A rich broad texture is the hallmark of this full-bodied yet moderately flavorful wine. It follows mild aromas of butter and pear with light vanilla and melon flavors and a luxurious mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

87 Shooting Star 2015 Chardonnay (Mendocino County). This lighter-style wine smells like baked apples and has a straightforward fruity flavor

backed by crisp acidity. It's not oaky and has plenty of refreshing qualities without a big personality. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$14

87 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2016 Lightly Oaked Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% Price: \$8

86 Austerity 2016 Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). This bottling is very showy on the nose with tons of white flowers, tuberose, guava and mango, though a slice of lime peel cuts the tropicality a bit. Guava peel, feijoa and bitter limes show on the sip, where that slightly treacly tropicality reigns. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

86 Navarro 2015 Chardonnay (Mendocino). This is a sturdy straightforward wine with good balance between medium body and lively acidity, while showing mild apple and citrus flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$20

86 Old Soul 2016 Chardonnay (Lodi). This is a good no-nonsense wine that emphasizes fresh lemon and apple flavors and adds in light oaky elements. It's medium bodied and the texture balances crispness with a touch of buttery richness. —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

85 Surf Swim 2016 Chardonnay (California). This medium-bodied wine is well rounded in texture. The touch of sweet pear in the flavors gives counterpoint to herb and fennel aromas and some citrusy acidity. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

84 J. McClelland 2014 Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District). Sweet caramelized flavors of crème brûlée dominate in this wine that is showy in oak with sharp layers of green apple, melon and lime. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$35

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Galerie 2016 Naissance Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

93 Galerie 2016 Equitem Sauvignon Blanc (Knights Valley). Quiet and aromatically floral, this is a wine given time in both stainless steel and concrete, as well as a sizable percentage of neutral French oak. Lemon zest and grapefruit adorn a robust body of stony minerality and touches of spicy lemongrass. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

93 Joseph Phelps 2016 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (St. Helena). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 MacLaren 2016 Lee's Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). This is a quiet, subtle and deliciously crafted white, moderate in acidity, that presents as crisp and dry. Meyer lemon shines brightest, providing a refreshing complexity as stony minerality adds texture. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Presqu'île 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Maria Valley). This bottling from an extremely cool-climate vineyard is light and easy on the nose, with ripe apples, sharp herbs, moss and an inherent grassy character deep within. It's extremely lively on the palate, with compellingly delivered acidity and a lime-skin tension carrying flavors of dried dill and sharp lemony citrus. It's one of the better Sauv Blancs of the vintage. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$26

92 Trione 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Made in a refreshingly light and bright style, this wine shines in stony minerality—its bite is of green apple, its aroma laced in hibiscus. Smooth and sublime on the palate, with clean, focused flavors, it adds a note of grapefruit pith that pierces the finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

91 Comartin 2016 Zabala Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). Extremely tight and herbal aromas of cut grass, chives, scallions and oregano ride a fascinatingly rainy cement minerality on the nose of this fresh and vibrant bottling. The wet-cement flavors show powerfully on the sip, with lemongrass, wild lime leaves and more mowed-lawn touches. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25

91 Daou 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaida District). This is a richer style of Sauvignon Blanc, as would be expected from the Daou brothers, but is a fresher style than the last vintage. Aromas of toast, oak and yellow fruit prove quite seductive, and the palate proves grippy with dried lemon peels and cut-grass touches. There's just a hint of smoke on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

90 Broman 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Opening with a creamy tropical fervor, this wine is rich and rewarding in pineapple and a touch of lemongrass, its acidity lingering and supportive of the ripe fruit. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$24

90 Clos du Val 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Citrus-driven, this wine is made from the producer's State Lane Vineyard in Yountville, and is beautifully aromatic in honeysuckle

and hibiscus. Medium bodied and balanced in style, it's dry and bristling in acidity, the flavors sharply defined in grapefruit and tangerine. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Gary Farrell 2016 Russian River Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$32

90 Kitá 2016 Camp 4 Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Very light in the glass and fresh on the nose, this bottling by Chumash tribe descendant Tara Gomez offers aromas of lemon blossom and honeydew rind. There is good tension to the sip, which is very much focused on texture, with flashes of green apple skins and lime peels, proving quite tight and zesty. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 Piocho 2016 Happy Canyon Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). A very light shade of hay in the glass, this bottling, which is rounded by 16% Sémillon, shows poached pear, honeysuckle nectar, green plum and lime skin on the nose. There is a great sizzle of acidity to the sip, where Bosc pear, Pink Lady apple, lime zest and wet gravel make for a complex profile. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$25

88 Dry Creek Vineyard 2016 Fumé Blanc (Sonoma County). This vintage marks the winery's 45th anniversary making this wine, a feat of historic proportion. Maintaining a fair price, it offers lime, lemon and grapefruit within bristling, buzzing acidity. The texture is thick and refined. Balanced, it's dry and refreshing. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Refugio Ranch 2016 Tiradora Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). This bottling is very grassy on the nose, with some lime peels and a definite touch of reduction at this stage of its life. The flavors are clean and steely, with yellow apple rinds, Anjou pear and a sharp acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$NA

88 SeaGlass 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County). This brand reliably produces varietally correct, down-the-middle wines, and this is no exception, starting with aromas of Anjou pear, underripe honeydew, tight white-flower buds and freshly cut key lime. The ripe stone-fruit flavors on the sip are cut by citrus and wet cement, offering all the elements to please many a Sauv Blanc fan. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Viluko 2016 Mayacamas Mountains Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Savory and tart, this is a dry, expressive white, varietal in nature, that offers tart tightly wound flavors

of quince, white peach and lemon. A back note of freshly cut grass teases the nose and palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

87 Wonderment Wines 2015 Las Trancas Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Oak Knoll District). This wine offers lively citrus and moderate acidity—a simple dry expression of the variety that refreshes. Stainless-steel fermented, it's been aged in both stainless and neutral Burgundy oak, adding complexity around the seasonings of lemongrass and ginger. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

86 Ladera 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). From vineyards on Howell Mountain and Oak Knoll, this wine is bristling in acidity, with a taste of lemon peel and grapefruit. Secondary characteristics of peas and pineapple confound as a stony texture adds breadth. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

86 Napa Cellars 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Oaky and robust, this wine takes on a confectionery route to tropical flavor and high-octane concentration, offering a thickness of texture and body. Stainless-steel fermented, it unveils secondary flavors of lime and white peach on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$17

86 Tamber Bey 2016 Lizzy's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Oakville). Incorporating 30% of the variety in Musqué clone, this wine offers fresh flavors of green apple, grass and pea shoots, as well as a distinct notion of oak. Aged in both new and neutral Acacia, as well as stainless, it has a spicy quality akin to lemongrass that lingers on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

85 Flora Springs 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Reduced, with a pronounced aroma of oak, this is a simple, moderately focused wine that presents as fleshy and thick, bursting in flavors of grass. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

85 Pellegrini 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Bennett Valley). This overtly ripe white shows a generosity of guava and mango flavor—a tropical outpouring of perceptible sweetness that's wrapped in a boldness of body and vanilla oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

85 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

84 Parmesan 2016 Indian Springs Ranch Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). This wine is tenacious in its grassy mix of pea shoots and gooseberry, interwoven with acidity that takes on a tartness that's not entirely pleasant. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23

83 Magic Door 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Oakville). This is an oaky, woody and somewhat harsh white wine, made with the addition of 8% Sémillon. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$21

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

92 Fulcrum 2016 Dry Diggings Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). This medium-bodied full-flavored wine is a great example of the dry-style wines from Anderson Valley. It starts with a rose-like perfume, then floods the palate with Anjou pear and white peach. It feels rich and creamy, but also has good acidity and a tasty lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$26

92 Lazy Creek 2016 Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). Quite dry and reserved in flavor, this wine is intriguing: subtle rose petal and mineral notes, medium body and a bite of grapefruit zest on the finish that begs for another sip. One of the earliest producers of Gewürztraminer wines in Anderson Valley, it's still one of the best. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22

90 Husch 2016 Estate Bottled Dry Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). Husch has been making Gewürztraminer for a long time and has it down pat. This is an excellent example of a dry, floral wine that's fun enough for an outdoor summer concert and serious enough for a winter's lunch. It smells and tastes floral, peachy and a little nutty, with medium body and good acidity to balance it. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

90 Markus Wine Co 2016 Nuvola Gewürztraminer (Clarksburg). It's a treat to find an aromatic wine that's this dry, light-bodied and steely in character. The wine has white peach flavors, great acidity and a truly appetizing texture that fits the classic definition of an aperitif: something to whet the appetite. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

90 Navarro 2016 Estate Bottled Dry Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). Packed with apples, peaches and raspberries, this light-bodied wine was aged in large oak casks and is quite fruity without being at all sweet. It has very good balance, is thirst-quenching but not filling, and will pair well with a range of seafood, salads and lighter main dishes. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$22

88 Clif Family 2015 Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). This light-tasting wine is a soft and easy sipper. A touch less bold than the last two vintages, it still has plenty of fresh fruits like apple and peach in the flavors, light to medium body and mild acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

88 PRIE Vineyards and Winery 2016 Mokelumne Glen Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Lodi). Aromas like apple skin and peach skin lead to flavors with a little more heft and ripeness, like pears, lychees and apricots. It offers a lot of taste complexity and easily keeps the interest going with good acidity, medium body and an almost spicy finish. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

VIIGNIER

91 Asuncion Ridge 2016 Viognier (Paso Robles). Light honeydew and gardenia aromas show on the pleasant and clean nose of this well-restrained Viognier. The sip is as zippy and persistent with acidity as can be without losing the varietal character, allowing the ripe Gala apple and Anjou pear to show through the racy frame. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$28

91 Stags' Leap Winery 2016 Viognier (Napa Valley). A 100% varietal wine, this is dry and in balance, made in a bigger fuller style that presents as lush and plush on the palate. Apricot and peach offer a ripe succulence of fruit as a touch of oak integrates well into the background. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Black Ridge 2013 Estate Viognier (Santa Cruz Mountains). Golden in the glass, this bottling shows intriguing aromas of dried lemon peels, scratched grapefruit, blood orange rinds, crushed chalk, sea salt and a touch of peach custard. The palate offers a touch of limestone minerality with seared orange, warm chamomile and vanilla toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$32

89 MCV 2016 Viognier (Paso Robles). Yellow peach, lemon, Asian pear and citrus peels show on the nose of this bottling by Matt Villard. It's very light and reserved on the palate, which is what makes it refreshing, with flavors of ripe nectarine, pan-seared apple and cider. A sizzle of acidity runs through it. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

89 Rideau 2016 Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley). Very light in the glass, this bottling shows peach, melon, apple and key lime pith, which cuts through the riper elements. A simmering acidity is ever present on the sip, hewing the tropical guava flavors and providing a refreshing tension. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Hawley 2016 Viognier (Sonoma County). Honeysuckle, lemongrass and wheat ride a robust wave of ripeness and bold texture in this white wine, which is exuberant in bright lemon-laced acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

88 McKahn 2016 Viognier (Russian River Valley). This wine is lovely in aromatics of honeysuckle, as dense compact layers of ripe apricot highlight a full-bodied profile of concentrated flavor. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Miner 2016 Viognier (California). Stainless-steel fermented, this wine is made from grapes grown in Paso Robles and Lodi and is intensely concentrated. Pretty aromatics of honeysuckle open up before thick rich layers of lush ripe peach flavor ride in. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22

87 Eberle 2016 Mill Road Vineyard Viognier (Paso Robles). Crisp and clean yet very tropical and ripe on the nose, this bottling shows strong guava and mango perfume notes. The palate also rides the guava wave, with touches of bubblegum, coconut and white-flower syrup. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$26

86 Cielo 2016 Estate Viognier (Saddle Rock-Malibu). Extremely light on the nose, there are faint whiffs of yellow pear and lemon on this bottling from the Los Angeles coast. Yellow-apple skins, dried apple flesh and lime peels show on the sip, which is cut by a decent acidity and proves a straightforward take on the grape. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$100

86 Two Dogs Barking 2016 Viognier (Ramona Valley). Aromas of honeydew sorbet, white peach and guava syrup are extremely strong on the nose of this bottling from San Diego County. There is racy acidity that cuts through the extremely ripe peach, guava and tuberoso flavors, which are almost too much to handle, but perfect for those seeking a powerfully tropical expression. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

GRENACHE BLANC

91 Municipal Winemakers 2016 Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Very easy-to-like aromas of honeysuckle, jasmine and green tea ice cream show on the nose of this bright and vivacious wine by Dave Potter, one of the forefathers in the evolution of Santa Barbara's Funk Zone neighborhood. A powerful grip grabs hold of the palate, making for a very racy and chalky experience with lots of length, carrying more green-fruit and tea flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Bella Grace 2016 Grenache Blanc (Shenandoah Valley). A supple texture and just-ripe apple and melon flavors make this medium-bodied wine easy to sip. The color is pale straw, the fruit element resembles apricot and a touch of good astringency adds an appetizing tang. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Terre Rouge 2015 Grenache Blanc (Sierra Foothills). This complex and savory wine has a noticeably gold color, rather quiet aromas of light baking spices and blanched almonds, and then reserved oak, mineral and almond flavors on a soothingly broad texture. It has good presence on the palate and leaves a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

ALBARIÑO

92 Artesa 2016 Albariño (Los Carneros). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

92 Stephen Ross 2016 Spanish Springs Vineyard Albariño (San Luis Obispo County). There is an impressively persistent stony quality to the nose and palate of this bottling. On the nose, that takes the form of a rainy cement note, which, along with lime-skin and pith scents, give fresh tension to the broad peach and pear aromas. On the palate, it's all about grippy texture, which holds up green apple, underripe pluot and lime-wedge flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$24

91 Brecon Estate 2016 Albariño (Central Coast). Clean lines of grapefruit, lime and lemon-grass make for a fresh, somewhat angular nose on this zesty tongue-tingling bottling. The palate begins with a round orange-candy flavor and then dives into the sharpness of lime skins and grapefruit peels, with a sizzle of acidity that goes long and deep. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

90 Marimar Estate 2016 Don Miguel Vineyard Albariño (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Hungry Hawk 2016 Albariño (San Diego County). This is this winery's fourth vintage, and the promise is strong, as this is one of the better white wines to emerge from Southern California in recent years. Anjou pear rinds, lime and apple scents show on the slightly sour but very aromatic nose. The flavors are rounded with pear and lime, but the sharp and chalky texture is most compelling, making for a clean and crisp wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$32

88 Brecon Estate 2016 True Acacia Head Albariño (Central Coast). Fresh, inviting and pleasant aromas of key lime pie, grapefruit rind, lemon peels and a bit of cut grass show on the nose of this bottling from a winery that is leading an Albariño interest in the Paso Robles area. There is a lot of bouncy acidity to the palate that rides through riper Anjou pear and Gala apple flavors, with tart and tangy lime zest as well. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

WHITE BLENDS

94 Carlisle 2015 Compagni Portis (Sonoma Valley). An old-vine field blend of Gewürztraminer, Trousseau Gris and Riesling, this vintage is tiny in production but boldly delicious in flavor and intent. Bright pretty aromatics of honeysuckle meet a balanced layering of creamy white peach, apple and wild vanilla, blessed by supportive acidity. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

92 Inglenook 2015 Blancaneaux (Rutherford). From two sections of the producer's historic estate vineyard, this wine combines 53% Viognier, 33% Roussanne and 14% Marsanne, all fermented and aged in stainless steel. Together, they offer a dry balanced expression of green apple, Meyer lemon, tart pineapple and integrated oak. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 Locations NV CA 4 White Blend (California). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Brecon Estate 2016 Viognier-Grenache Blanc (Adelaida District). Broad aromas of melon, salted lemon and soft white peach benefit from a chalky minerality on the nose of this Viognier and Grenache Blanc blend. There is a great sizzle of acid on the sip as well as a grippy texture, with flavors of lemon zest and apricot sitting atop butter and oak influences. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

91 Miller Wine Works 2012 Harvest Blanc (El Dorado). A smoky stony mineral element gives this Rhône-style blend an unorthodox, austere but fascinating personality. Those earthy qualities meet crisp reserved grapefruit and white peach on the palate where a tangy and at first slightly astringent texture warms up to reveal a richer lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Refugio Ranch 2014 Ineseño Roussanne-Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley). This blend of 70% Roussanne and 30% Viognier makes a great option for those seeking an strong white wine alternative to rich Chardonnay. The nose is touched by honey, honeysuckle, crème fraîche and ripe cherimoya fruit. The palate is very creamy and full bodied, with flavors of sea salt, lemon and dried apricot. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$30

91 Steven Kent 2016 Lola Ghielmetti Vineyard (Livermore Valley). Vivid flavors and zippy fruit acidity give this medium-bodied blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon a big but refreshing personality. It has vibrant citrus and fresh herb aromas, crisp grapefruit and lemon flavors, and a sense of depth on the palate without being heavy. There are so many ways this would start a meal off right. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$24

90 Inglenook 2014 Blancaneaux (Rutherford). Made light and bright, this wine combines 56% Viognier with 22% Roussanne and 22% Marsanne. The three varieties are fermented in stainless steel to preserve the lean linear characteristics of lemon and lime that wrap around crisp tight acidity, the entirety buoyant in floral honeysuckle. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 La Pleiade II NV White (California). This is a substantial wine, from the deep-gold color to the vivid apricot and toasted-almond aromas, to the full body, rounded texture and lingering finish. Savory flavors like consomme, walnuts and minerals add complexity to the fruity components, so it keeps unfolding with each sip. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 Murrieta's Well 2015 The Whip (Livermore Valley). Crisp apple and grapefruit notes dominate the aromas and flavors of this medium-bodied wine, giving it a tangy mouthwatering aspect that suggests pairing with seafood, mild cheeses and the like. More fruit comes out with time in the glass, fading to delicious apricot on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Sol Rouge 2014 Gypsy Blanc (Lake County). Not your average white, this white Rhône-style blend looks, tastes and feels almost like a late-harvest wine but it's dry. A deep gold color leads to an aroma of salted peanuts and a flavor that's buttery, toasty and nutty. The texture is quite thick and helps the flavors cling to the palate on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Terre Rouge 2015 Enigma (Sierra Foothills). Fat in mouthfeel, waxy and earthy in aroma and packed with apricot and almond flavors, this layered and concentrated wine emphasizes savory notes rather than fruity ones and lushness in texture rather than crispness. Dried meats like prosciutto and salami could make great pairings. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Vinum Cellars 2015 White Elephant (California). A touch of buttered popcorn is in the aroma. Rich toasty flavors give an assertive, attractive oaky personality to this medium-bodied wine made from Chenin Blanc, Roussanne and Viognier that was aged in older oak barrels. It has a broad smooth texture, a good layering of butter, spice and pear-tart flavors, and a lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

89 Andis 2016 Cuvée Blanc (Amador County). Light, fresh and fruity without being at all sweet or soft, this is a charming dry wine to serve with lunch or at wine o'clock in the afternoon. It smell like freshly cut apples and Bosc pears, tastes crisp and feels tangy and palate cleansing. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Monte Volpe 2015 Sesso (Mendocino County). This is a crisp, dry, and very tangy wine blended from Tocai Friulano, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Grigio. It sizzles with lemon, lime and green-apple flavors. While barrel fermented, it's not obviously oaky and seems to get its energy from high acidity instead. It will be brilliant with simply prepared shellfish, fried chicken or as a palate charger before a meal. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Bella Grace 2016 3 Graces Blanc (Shenandoah Valley). Fresh and fruity without overdoing it, this medium-bodied wine has light notes of apple, banana, peach and cherry in the aromas and the flavors, and a good snappy texture to balance them out. Perfect for the cocktail hour. —J.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$25

88 Hungry Hawk 2016 M \acute{e} lange Blanc (San Diego County). This inventive atypical blend of 50% Viognier, 47% Pinot Gris and 3% Chardonnay shows honeysuckle, mango and Gravenstein apple on the nose. There's a slightly sweet impression of ripe stone fruit at the start of the sip, but it tightens considerably onto a steely, chalky texture and more sour-lime flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.34% **Price:** \$30

88 Kit \acute{a} 2015 T'aya Camp 4 Vineyard (Santa Ynez Valley). This blend of 57% Marsanne, 40% Roussanne and 3% Grenache Blanc manages to be very light and crisp on the nose, with aromas of underripe nectarine and apricot as well as lemon peels and crushed white rocks. There is a defined grip to the sip, with lemon and nectarine flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Terra d'Oro 2016 Chenin Blanc-Viognier (Clarksburg). This is a light and easy-sipping wine. Floral, apple and lightly herbaceous aromas lead to generous fruit flavors like Pippin apples and white peaches while a good balance of crispness and richness shapes the mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Dubost 2016 Alexandrine (Adelaida District). Apricot, lime cream and roasted nuts show on the nose of this blend of 36% Grenache Blanc, 28% Viognier, 18% Picpoul Blanc and 18% Roussanne. The palate is lacking a bit of texture and acidity, instead clinging to flavors of sour apple, gunmetal and flint. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

87 Eberle 2016 C \acute{o} tes-du-Robles Blanc (Paso Robles). Quite mellow on the nose, this blend of 58% Grenache Blanc, 38% Roussanne and 4% Viognier offers very light marzipan and fresh white-peach aromas. It's a very easy to quaff wine on the sip, with lemon-peel and apricot flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

87 Midnight 2016 Aurora Reserve (Paso Robles). Clean and smooth lines of pear, lemon peel and nectarine are very fresh and easy in this blend of 71% Grenache Blanc, 15% Viognier and 14% Roussanne. It's straightforward on the palate, with Asian pear and melon-rind flavors. A great sunny day wine. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$29

86 Naggjar 2016 Mama Mia Estate Grown (Sierra Foothills). This medium-bodied wine is like a liquid fruit bowl, pouring out apple, melon, peach and banana flavors that taste almost sweet. It has a broad mouthfilling texture, a rather soft balance and a lingering fruity finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$24

86 Seven Daughters 2015 Crisp White Wine-maker's Blend (California). This wine is light in body, fruity and floral in flavor and smooth on the palate. Blended from seven varietals, it has peach and jasmine aromas, very generous fruit flavors that flirt with sweetness and a lush mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Dutton-Goldfield 2016 Chileno Valley Vineyard Riesling (Marin County). This bone-dry, steely-textured wine is crisp and bracing due to firm acidity, fruity-but-not-sweet flavors and maybe a touch of tannin that adds to the firm mouthfeel. Like a squeeze of lemon on the pan-roasted fish, it will make a great counterpoint to lots of things on the menu. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Bella Grace 2016 Vermentino (Shenandoah Valley). Subtle flavors and a great sense of balance will make this low-alcohol but medium-bodied wine versatile before or during a meal. The aroma is quietly fruity and the flavors take on more shape and a little weight, showing white peach and jicama as the texture broadens from a sharp first impression to more fullness on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$27

90 Dubost 2016 White Heart Grenache Noir (Adelaida District). This is a white wine made from red Grenache and it's simultaneously intriguing and delicious, with sliced nectarine, kaffir lime, melon and bubblegum on the nose. Creamy flavors of poached pear made for a very rounded if texturally simple palate, which finishes with a hint of caramel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Donkey & Goat 2016 Clair + Ette Barsotti Vineyard (El Dorado). The gold color and buttery flavors give this wine a rich personality for such a low-alcohol level and for a varietal that is often crisp and light. Almost mainstream in style compared to most D&G offerings, it has vanilla, pear

and almond to add complexity and a smooth broad texture that soothes the palate. —J.G.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$30

89 Navarro 2016 Riesling (Anderson Valley). Dry, light-bodied but not wimpy, this crisp wine has a great structure built from acidity and plenty of Granny Smith apple and white-peach flavors to keep it interesting. A touch of ripeness on the palate rounds out the texture and helps give it a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$22

88 Stephen Ross 2016 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Gris (San Luis Obispo County). Broad aromas of Asian pear, kaffir lime and wet stone show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard located just minutes from the sands of Pismo Beach. There is a great sizzle of acidity on the sip, with candied apple flavors, slightly sour lime and grapefruit peels. There's also the slightest touch of sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$22

87 Graziano 2015 Chenin Blanc (Mendocino County). A buttery aroma and flavors like apples and apple cider are backed by good acidity in this nicely tangy, dry and palate-cleansing wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 SeaGlass 2016 Pinot Grigio (Santa Barbara County). Almost as clear as water in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of honeysuckle, sweetgrass and nectarine syrup. It tightens up on the sip, with margarita-like flavors of lime and sea salt as well as an intriguing popcorn touch. Quite refreshing. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Wilderotter 2016 Vermentino (Shenandoah Valley). This dry light-bodied wine smells very fresh—even green—and tastes like tart green apples, white pepper and fresh parsley. It has very crisp acidity and a mouth-puckering texture that will make it a good pairing with raw oysters. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

BLANC DE BLANCS

95 Domaine Carneros 2010 Le R \acute{e} ve Estate Grown Blanc de Blancs (Carneros). This gorgeous wine is floral and doughy, made entirely from Chardonnay and given time to mellow and mature over many years. The patience is rewarded in intensely complex layers of apple, pear and lemon—a caramelized backdrop providing appropriate richness and accents of gingerbread and doughy brioche. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$110

92 Schramsberg 2014 Blanc de Blancs (North Coast). Dry and well balanced but also full flavored, this will be a great go-to bubbly to have

ready in the fridge for any minor or major occasion. There are ripe fruits along with crisp citrus notes, lively acidity, a rich mousse of bubbles and lingering finish. —J.G.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$40

90 Gloria Ferrer NV Blanc de Blancs (Carneros). This approachable sparkler is doughy and nicely balanced: a soft easygoing exploration of citrus, green apple and vanilla wafer that finishes dry. —V.B.

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

90 Goat Bubbles 2013 Sierra Madre Vineyard Blanc de Blancs (Santa Maria Valley). A slightly darker shade of yellow in the glass, this bottling offers a creamy cider-like nose, full of corn tortilla, dried mandarin and lemon-pith aromas. The palate is quite tart at first, but the midpalate offers that corn-like warmth before the finish shows more sour apple and ashy cheese-rind flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$42

90 Lichen Estate 2013 Blanc de Gris (Anderson Valley). Richness in the texture and a buttery vanilla-like flavor make this wine easy to dive into. It has lots of ripe apple, peach and white cherry flavor and an energetic complexity due to those pastry spices, plus a lingering, creamy finish. —J.G.

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

90 Riverbench 2014 Cork Jumper Blanc de Blancs (Santa Maria Valley). Aromas of pear, Gala apple, nectarine, lemon spritz and wet dough show on the yeasty nose of this bottling. Creamy bubbles arise on the zippy sip, with flavors of dough and yellow-apple skins proving quite tart. —M.K.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$45

89 Bodkin NV Cuvée Agincourt Blanc de Blanc Brut (Lake County). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

86 LVVR NV Blanc de Blancs (Lodi). This is a big powerful overtly flavorful wine that demands attention. A vivid toasty savory aroma leads to rich spicy buttery nutty flavors that are mouth filling and a smooth, rather soft texture. —J.G.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$20

BLANC DE NOIRS

93 Derby 2007 San Simeon Méthode Champenoise Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 12% **Price:** \$54

93 Schramsberg 2013 Blanc de Noirs Méthode Traditionnelle Brut (North Coast). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$42

92 Goat Bubbles 2013 Clos Pepe Vineyard Blanc de Noirs (Sta. Rita Hills). The faintest hint of pink in the glass, this bottling offers very steely and tight aromas of sourdough bread and tart pluot. There's a flour tortilla touch to the sip, along with warmer white peach, sharp pear rind and racy lime peel. It's very zesty and satisfying. —M.K.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$60

90 Belden Barns NV Blanc de Noirs Brut (Sonoma Mountain). Floral and fragrant, this lovely lighthearted sparkling wine is sublime and lemony in texture, with a bushy frothy mousse. Green apple shines brightest, with additional accents of strawberry and peach that punctuate the palate. —V.B.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$38

88 Gloria Ferrer NV Blanc de Noirs (Carneros). Pretty in a pink-orange hue, this is a full lushly layered wine made from almost entirely Pinot Noir that's thick and rewarding in strawberry and cherry. —V.B.

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

87 Lichen Estate 2013 Blanc de Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine lays on the vanilla, cream and butter flavors along with a seeming sweetness and smooth texture due to soft effervescence and apparently low acidity. It's very flavorful and plays outside the bounds of traditional sparkling wine. —J.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

84 Merriam 2014 Blanc de Noirs (Russian River Valley). Light in color, this sparkling wine is somewhat diluted in flavor, coming off as slightly sweet, with a nutty metallic edge to it. —V.B.

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

BRUT

95 Schramsberg 2008 Reserve (North Coast). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$120

94 Gloria Ferrer 2006 Late-Disgorged Brut Carneros Cuvée (Carneros). Late-disgorged and made from nearly equal parts Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, this wine has benefitted from aging in the bottle, giving it time to build up sublimely nuanced texture that's richly layered in nutty apple and strawberry. Dry, the wine is balanced and crisp, a fine companion for the table. —V.B.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Schramsberg 2008 J. Schram (North Coast). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$120

93 Domaine Carneros 2012 Ultra Brut Estate Grown (Carneros). Made to be a vegan wine, this sparkler offers a bright shock of decadent lemon mousse before settling into a happy arranged marriage with green apple and tangy orange. Soft and

creamy, it's comprised of 58% Pinot Noir and 42% Chardonnay, both estate-grown. The finish is spicy in ginger. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$44

92 Domaine Carneros 2012 Brut Estate Grown (Carneros). This lovely blend of 58% Chardonnay and 42% Pinot Noir is impressive in its doughy, refined sensibilities and in its distinct aromas of apple and orange blossom. Bright strawberry rides atop layered acidity and enviable length, while the palate creamy and refined. This is a vegan wine. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.

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

91 Gloria Ferrer 2009 Late Disgorged Royal Cuvée Brut (Carneros). Doughy marzipan and shortbread cookie greet the nose and palate initially in this nicely inviting wine, made from a majority of Pinot Noir. Sweet succulent strawberry and peach dot a palate that's both luxurious and velvety, offering length and breadth within a refreshing continuum. —V.B.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$37

91 Longboard NV Late Disgorged Brut Zero (Russian River Valley). Made from 56% Pinot Noir and 44% Chardonnay and given multiple extra years in bottle, this wine offers a substantial body weight within crisp well-defined acidity. Apple skin, bread dough and a note of hazelnut combine to afford warm welcoming flavor. Zero sugar is added. —V.B.

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

91 Signal Ridge 2012 Brut Sparkling Wine (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*

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

90 Mirabelle NV Mirabelle Brut (California). A light touch of sweetness combines with ripe apple and pear flavors to make this full-bodied wine from Schramsberg taste rich and mouth filling. Layers of fruit and light spices spread across the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$27

89 Champy NV Brut (California). Very crisp, very lean, and very lively, this wine is driven by great fruit acidity and has a refreshing lip-smacking blend of tart apple, lemon and grapefruit flavors. It will be an attention-getting drink before dinner. —J.G.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Gloria Ferrer NV Sonoma Brut (Sonoma County). Made predominantly from Pinot Noir, this is an easygoing, approachable sparkling wine, offering dry creamy layers of green apple, pear and strawberry. It also has a rich inviting mousse embedded with vanilla and marzipan. —V.B.

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

88 V. Sattui 2012 Prestige Cuvée Brut (Napa Valley). Made from 75% Chardonnay and

25% Pinot Noir, with detectable residual sugar, this wine is moderately complex in its mix of peach, cherry and citrus flavor. The acidity is simple and direct. The palate is thick and creamy. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

SPARKLING ROSÉS

92 Riverbench 2015 Cork Jumper Brut Rosé (Santa Maria Valley). Pale yellow-pink in color, this sparkler shows watermelon rind and flesh, red pear skins, orange zest and plush nectarine on the very accessible nose, which will please veterans and neophytes alike. The palate combines a baking soda character with stone fruit and ripe Asian pear slices. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$44

92 Riverbench 2014 Cork Jumper Blanc de Noirs Rosé (Santa Maria Valley). Hay yellow in the glass, this rosé isn't pink at all, but offers inviting aromas of seltzer, crushed chalk, light lemon peels and yellow apples. The palate is quite mellow, which is pleasing, showing flavors of cider apple, dough and grapefruit peel. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

91 Goat Bubbles 2014 Solomon Hills Vineyard Rosé (Santa Maria Valley). This sparkler from a coveted property on the western edge of the appellation offers lots of yeasty and toasty aromas as well as raspberry, lemon peel and a touch of damp earth. Classic bready flavors show on the sip, which is cut but a sharp citrusy edge and tart raspberry. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$42

90 Laetitia 2014 Brut Rosé (Arroyo Grande Valley). Extremely fresh and lively aromas of soft strawberry and lime pith combine to make a very racy edge to the nose of this bottling from the pioneering property, which was founded as a bubbly house in the early 1980s. There is great energy to the sip, where somewhat sour flavors of Ruby Red grapefruit rind give the wine lots of acidic length. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Sheldon 2016 Luc's Vineyard Brut Rosé (Fountaingrove District). This is a breath of fresh air, a single-vineyard designate sparkler made from Tempranillo that's refreshing and salty. Dry, it tastes of gelato, pomegranate, raspberry, cherry and strawberry—swirls of light-bodied flavor that replenish the palate with every sip. —V.B.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$28

OTHER SPARKLING WINES

92 Goat Bubbles 2014 Sierra Madre Vineyard Crémant (Santa Maria Valley). Light and chalky aromas of lemon peel, yeast and white flowers are pure and inviting on the nose of this bottling by regional sparkling pioneer Norm Yost. Clean lines

of lime peel and rounded hints of nectarine show on the very pleasing and non-aggressive palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$40

92 Schramsberg 2013 Crémant Demi-Sec (Napa Valley). This off-dry sparkling is made from 78% Flora, 13% Pinot Noir and 9% Chardonnay. It works in its inviting, rich array of stone-fruit and tropical accents, met by a floral underbelly of inviting aroma. Creamy, voluptuous and well-made, it'll pair well with spicy dishes and is perfectly refreshing and delightful on its own. —V.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

91 Gloria Ferrer 2010 Anniversary Cuvée (Carneros). A small-production vintage-dated sparkler made from 67% Pinot Noir and 33% Chardonnay, this wine succeeds in its smooth refined contour of peach mousse and vanilla. It's dry, but voluptuously rich, remaining balanced through the tangy tart finish. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Municipal Winemakers 2016 Mubbly (California). By sourcing French Colombard and force carbonating like beer, David Potter made this fun and tasty wine as an antidote to the high prices that sparkling wine traditionally require. Aromas of apple cider, crisp Granny Smith apples, key lime, yellow melon and chalk lead into a palate laced with fatter bubbles and flavors of more apple and pear. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30/500 ml

ROSÉS

92 Clos du Val 2016 Estate Grand Val Vineyard Pinot Noir Rosé (Carneros). Dark pinkish-red, this wine comes from two blocks of the producer's Carneros estate, which are harvested at lower sugar ripeness to offer a dry refreshing experience, which this wine does. This exudes weighty and broad flavors of tangy watermelon, orange and cranberry, with a satisfying grip of power on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

92 Limerick Lane 2016 Syrah Rosé (Russian River Valley). A perennial knockout, this wine continues to impress. The estate-grown grapes are picked specifically to make a bone-dry refreshing palate pleaser that's pretty in pink and orange tones. Tart, crisp and broadly appealing, it's an effortless experience dripping in grapefruit and blood orange. —V.B.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$30

92 Stephen Ross 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Pale yellow pink in color, this is one of the better rosés of the vintage, showing lush but restrained aromas of peach crème fraîche along with lemon zest and crushed limestone. There is fabulous energy and texture on the sip, where chalky flavors meet with red apple and a hint of rosewater. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25

91 Castle Rock 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

91 Murrieta's Well 2016 Dry Rosé (Livermore Valley). Seriously refreshing, this pink and copper-colored medium-bodied wine has dazzling citrus aromas, pink grapefruit and raspberry flavors and great acidity that wakes up the taste buds. Made from Grenache and Counoise grapes, it's just the thing for an alfresco lunch or to pour with appetizers before dinner. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Keller 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Floral in rose petal, this mouthwatering wine is awash in light beams of watermelon and grapefruit—its soul infinitely crisp. Refreshingly memorable, it sparks in orange and cherry on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$35

90 Markus Wine Co 2016 Zeal Rosé (Lodi). This dry appetizing wine comes from one of Lodi's more adventurous winemakers, Markus Niggli. A hot-pink color and red-cherry aromas lead to bright fresh cherry and raspberry flavors, while a medium body and mild acidity form a smooth texture. Niggli made it from Syrah and Carignane grapes fermented by native yeast. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$22

90 Miralta 2016 Rosé (Monterey). This is a solid bottling that should be widely available, with lush aromas of plum, watermelon and clove on the nose. There is a tactile grip to the sip, delivering orange, red-apple and tart raspberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Navarro 2016 Rosé (Mendocino). This is an excellent rosé with some red-wine character showing through the pale-salmon color and fresh fruitiness. It has slightly meaty, spicy and cherry-like flavors, a good balance between medium body and firm acidity, and a nice tangy finish. —J.G.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

90 Parmeson 2016 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Light copper-pink in color, this vineyard-designate shows a wealth of peach and orange flavors that combine to refreshing effect. Lightly made in a bright accessible style, the wine offers a moderate body weight and texture that's pleasing on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

90 Tres Sabores 2016 Ingrid and Julia Rosé (Napa Valley). Named for the proprietor/winemaker's favorite two roses, the flowers not the wine, this is indeed a wholly floral experience, subtle and delicately crafted to exude wild strawberry,

BUYINGGUIDE

orange and lime. Dry and refreshingly crisp in acidity, it's a light take on beautiful complexity. —V.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

89 Municipal Winemakers 2016 Pale Pink (Santa Barbara County). Pale pink in color, this primarily Grenache- and Cinsault-based rosé (which also has five other grapes involved) shows light watermelon, orange rind and crushed chalk on the nose. There is buoyant citrusy energy to the sip, which goes down incredibly easy. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Navarro 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This fresh, lively and assertive wine comes off as a touch sweet but it has such tangy acidity that it stays well balanced. Bright cherry and raspberry flavors have a big impact on the palate and will help it pair nicely with strong foods. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

89 Sobon Estate 2016 Rosé (Amador County). Showing lots of lively citrus aromas, and crisp white-peach flavors, this wine tastes very refreshing. Blended from Grenache and other Rhône varietals, it's light in body, tangy in balance, and the fruit flavors hang in there on the finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$13

89 Uvaggio 2016 Rosé (Lodi). With a hot-pink color and aromas like a light red wine, this rosé has enough heft in the texture and complexity of flavor to substitute for a Pinot Noir or Sangiovese at lunch or dinner. It's medium bodied, has red-cherry and raspberry flavors and a smooth rather than crisp mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Woodstock Collection 2016 Misty Roses Rosé (Santa Barbara County). There are extreme amounts of citrus on the nose of this bottling, particularly reminiscent of fresh-squeezed grapefruit juice, as well as an edgy, crushed slate minerality. The grapefruit character explodes on the sip, which is very refreshing, unique and compelling. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$29

88 Comartin 2016 Adelaide's Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley). Candied strawberry fruit and a touch of lemon peel make for a fairly mellow nose on this bottling, named after winemaker Adam Comartin's daughter. There is a sizzle of acidity, a grippy texture and clean lines of sour cherry flavor on the palate, which holds its tension deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25

88 Dubost 2016 Rosé (Adelaida District). Reddish orange in color, this bottling offers strawberry jam, baked orange, spun sugar and pink rose petals on the nose. There is a great grippy texture on the sip, though not tons of acidity, with

peach, tangy mandarin rinds and a touch of watermelon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

88 Municipal Winemakers 2016 Debra Blush Wine (California). Winemaker Dave Potter heads to his old haunting grounds around Rancho Cucamonga to source fruit for this fun bottling, which shows wet soil and sour cherries on the nose. The palate is very down the middle and built to please, with flavors of cherry and baking spice. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

88 SeaGlass 2016 Rosé (Monterey County). This is a great option for a widely available and affordable rosé. A very pretty pink in color, it shows baked strawberry, rose petals and vanilla ice cream on the nose. The sip tightens around cherry and strawberry-brioche flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Terra d'Oro 2016 Rosé (Amador County). This light-bodied wine is quite unusual, as it's a rosé made from Nebbiolo grapes. It has a pinkish-copper color, peachy aromas and Rainier cherry flavors on a smooth texture. It's not too high in acidity, has a fairly broad mouthfeel and a hint of sweetness. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Rabble 2016 Mossfire Ranch Rosé (Paso Robles). A pale pink in the glass, this light and clean bottling shows aromas of chalk, pink flowers, watermelon and a slice of lime. It's crisp on the sip with a tight texture, offering a very quaffable bubblegum flavor. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 VGS Chateau Potelle 2016 Riviera Rosé (Sonoma County). Made from Cinsault grapes, this is a reductive, salty and somewhat intense wine at first, that settles nicely into developed flavors of ripe strawberry, peach and vanilla. With substantive weight and breadth, it offers a pleasing texture and body without ever getting bogged down. This is a fine wine for the table. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

87 Cline 2016 Ancient Vines Mourvèdre Rosé (Contra Costa County). This good varietal rosé has a little more body and a little more breadth in the mouthfeel than many others, along with mild strawberry and cherry flavors that give it substance. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Martin Ranch 2016 J.D. Hurley Rosé of Grenache (Central Coast). There's a slightly odd touch of cedar and sandalwood to the nose of this pink wine, along with a rusty cherry scent. That woody character also hits the sip, giving some intriguing if atypical depth to the strawberry, red-plum and tobacco flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$20

87 Peachy Canyon 2016 Rosé (Paso Robles). Intense plum, mulberry and black-raspberry aromas show on the nose of this bottling, as well as a unique dusting of baking spice. The palate is sharp with grapefruit rind and tart raspberry, then grows broader with riper plums toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$24

87 Pulchella 2016 Rogue Rosé of Tannat (Paso Robles). An interesting shade of mauve, this bottling, which is one of the first ever seen in the region based on Tannat, shows red cherry and ginger spice on the nose. There is a decent sizzle of acidity to the sip, with red plum skin and exotic Asian spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Cebada 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Ynez Valley). A pretty pale pink in color, this bottling is very yeasty, reminiscent of a sparkling wine, also showing sour strawberry, wet stone and orange peel on the nose. The yeast is prominent through the sip, dominating the sharp kumquat and pink-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

86 Flowers 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Dry and weighty at first on the palate, this wine is ultimately tart and tangy, awash in grippy acidity sparked by flavors of cherry and lime. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

86 JCR 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Rusty pink in color, this bottling shows somewhat sour aromas of red plum, turned earth, orange rind and tart raspberry. The palate offers dried cherry and more soil, but is missing the texture and acidity of many modern rosés. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$32

86 Muddy Boot 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (California). The deep-copper color and complex fruit aromas of this wine seem well matched with a rather broad texture and medium-full body. The raspberry flavors have a meaty savory accent. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Shenandoah Vineyards 2016 Rose of Moscato (Amador County). This is a sweet wine, floral in aroma, rich in texture and sugary in flavor that tastes like watermelon and pink lemonade. It's light in alcohol, fruity and straightforward. —J.G.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$13

85 Rose & Thistle 2016 Rosé (Napa Valley). This wine is comprised of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Pinot Noir, 7% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot and the remainder Syrah and Zinfandel. Neutral oak and stainless steel both played a part in housing its mix of juicy charcuterie and nutty robust amounts of cassis and baked strawberry. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

84 Asuncion Ridge 2016 Rosé (San Luis Obispo County). A darker shade of blood orange in the glass, this bottling of Cabernet Sauvignon shows cranberry and orange on the nose. It's quite flat on the sip, with sour orange, strawberry and plum notes, and that makes it seem more like an afterthought than a focused rosé, which is such a competitive category now. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

83 Peter Cellars 2016 Estate Rosé of Pinot Noir (Carneros). Skunky, this wine is thick and shiny, with a metallic edge. The fruit leans into notions of wild strawberry. —V.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$29

83 SIP 2016 Rosé (California). Light, dry and rather neutral in character, this wine is low in acidity and fruitiness, offering a bit of watermelon flavor. —J.G.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

SWEET WINE

86 Bella Grace 2016 Bellissimo Vermentino (Shenandoah Valley). This wine is sweet and syrupy, smelling like honeydew melon and bananas, and tasting a bit like peach nectar. It could be good after dinner with cheeses or a not-so-sweet dessert. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

PINOT NOIR

96 Foxen 2015 Block 8 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 3.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$64

96 Foxen 2015 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). The impressively plump and prominent strawberry and red-currant aromas are alluring on the nose, enhanced by touches of cinnamon and pepper dust. The palate combines savory pepper spice, red plums and berries, with a solidly simmering acidity shimmering through the entire sip. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$62

96 Siduri 2015 Clos Pepe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

96 Siduri 2015 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

95 Benovia 2014 Bella Una Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Thickly concentrated at first, this wine settles in the glass to share a wealth of juicy black-cherry flavor that's impressively accented in black tea and cola spice. Medium bodied, it feels sublime on the palate and holds its

ripeness in check, allowing a simmering acidity to speak. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80

95 Flying Goat Cellars 2013 Rio Vista Vineyard Dijon Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A full array of chaparral aromas arise prominently on this bottling, with thyme and sagebrush spicing up the smoke, earth, crushed slate and dark-cherry scents. The palate zings with snappy black-raspberry fruit, a great counterpoint to the savory shrubbiness that reflects the nose, with more wild herbs and eucalyptus notes. Quite a full experience. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$46

95 Foxen 2015 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 3.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$52

95 Laetitia 2015 Single Vineyard La Colline Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

95 Laetitia 2015 Single Vineyard La Coupelle Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

95 Siduri 2015 Dierberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Lush fruits of boysenberry, plump raspberry and strawberry mesh with vanilla, nutmeg and allspice on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard off Drum Canyon Road. Black cherry and more vanilla make for a rich palate, but it's cut by an edge of acidity, darker elderberry, savory shiitake and a bay-leaf character that rises on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

94 Flying Goat Cellars 2014 Rita's Reserve Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This special waxed-top reserve bottling shows deep aromas of cedar and sandalwood along with black plum and allspice on the nose. Black cherry pops on the sip with lots of nutmeg spice, but it's the evenly distributed acidity and firm tannins that ensure a long life. Drink now through 2029. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Foxen 2015 Fe Ciega Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Delicate aromas of raspberry, sagebrush and white pepper make for a lighter yet complex expression of Pinot Noir from this estate vineyard of Richard Longoria, who's a regional veteran like the Foxen owners. Tart and taut flavors of black raspberry, pepper, oregano and leather combine for a very earthy experience, which is simultaneously subtle and stunning. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$70

94 Foxen 2015 Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). There's a soft stroke of rose-water to the nose of this single-vineyard bottling as

well as raspberry jam, fennel pollen and iron. The palate benefits from strong fennel and white sage, which lifts the berry-fruit and raw-meat flavors. The texture is simultaneously light and penetrating. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$66

94 JCR 2014 Pommard 5 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). This clonal selection shows powerful aromas of cinnamon, mace, sandalwood and plump boysenberry on the attention-grabbing nose. There is a refreshing black-plum-skin tartness to the sip, which is decorated with potpourri, sagebrush, bay leaf and eucalyptus flavors. The mouthfeel is soft, yet zesty acidity and firm structure hold it all together. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60

94 JCR 2014 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Concentrated aromas of pomegranate, cranberry and mulberry meet with broodingly spiced notes of cola, pencil shavings, dried mint and mossy earth on the nose of this bottling. Juniper, pine needle tea and redwood flavors show on the sip, giving depth to a clean line of dark-red fruit and woody, black-pepper-flecked spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Lucie 2015 Bacigalupi Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Cranberry, rhubarb and allspice combine effortlessly in this well-made, memorable red. Silky on the palate, it shows a refinement of character and robust grasp of dark spicy notes that betray a baked, brooding quality of balanced richness. On the finish is a refreshing seasoning of orange zest. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Lucienne 2015 Smith Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Mercy 2013 Cedar Lane Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). This bottling of the 667 and Pommard clones starts with a stewed-cherry note before the sagebrush, forest floor and moss aromas start to dominate. There's an exotic sesame touch to the sip, where cherry and berry flavors are lifted by savory hints of salt, pepper and nori wrap. Really unique and delicious, it leaves the mouth watering and invigorated. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

94 Rideau 2015 Garey Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). The elegant and inviting nose of this single-vineyard expression shows plum, just-ripe cherry, pomegranate and red-rose petals on the alluring nose. Rose hips, mulberry and red plum show on the sip, which also carries an exotic spice profile with hints of both cardamom and coriander. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$46

94 Siduri 2015 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). The nose on this bottling from the iconic vineyard co-owned by the Pisoni and Franscioni families is quite sultry, with lots of violet and purple-flower aromas as well as mulberry, black raspberry, forest floor and grilled meat. The earthy fruit flavors of mulberry are strong on the sip, playing well with the loamy soils, dusty minerality, stiffer tannins and persistent acidity. A deep and layered wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

94 Sojourn 2015 Ridgetop Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is an intense expression of cola and cinnamon stick, provocatively spicy on the tongue. Boldly ripe and full bodied, it unpacks layers upon layers of baked cherry, blueberry pie and orange flavor, wrapped within a velvety lush texture that's lifted by underlying acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$59

94 Sojourn 2015 Wohler Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is from a great vineyard near the Wohler Bridge in Forestville, and the fruit is well-represented in this bottle. Boldly layered, and richly designed, it's fragrantly floral with cherry blossoms. Those scents are paired with contiguous flavors of raspberry and cherry. Within a framework of upfront but integrated tannin and oak, it finds balance on the earthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48

93 Asuncion Ridge 2014 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). This winery is making one of the best cases for Pinot Noir in the Paso Robles area. This bottling, which is quite dark in color, starts with black plum, mulberry, wet loam and a strong sense of umami on the nose, with hints of nori and teriyaki. The palate shows tart black-plum-skin flavors alongside juniper and more moist, turned-earth flavors. The acidity is persistent and tannins firm enough. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

93 Bernardus 2015 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This bottling from the famously rich wine-making vineyard shows incredible restraint on the nose, starting with the reserved aromas of lavender, white pepper, bergamot, pomegranate and snappy raspberry. The blackberry fruit runs quite deep on the sip, edged by bay leaf, menthol and purple flower touches. Simultaneously elegant and powerful. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

93 Bernardus 2015 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dark red cherry, crushed carnations, rose petals and a hint of nutmeg spice show on the nose of this bottling from an increasingly famous vineyard in this region. The palate's rich expression combines black plum, clove, red-cherry and mace flavors, bolstered by a fresh acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Black Ridge 2013 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Baked strawberries and red cherries pair deliciously with shaved nutmeg, vanilla and black tea leaves on the nose of this bottling. There is a strong black plum tang to the sip, which is decorated lavishly with thyme, bay leaf, rust and gravel—a very elegant expression overall. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$44

93 Flying Goat Cellars 2013 Dierberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Concentrated aromas of cola, Earl Grey tea, black pepper and mulberry jam make for a very spicy potpourri-like nose on this bottling by Norm Yost. Savory flavors of dried strawberry, salt and pepper, dried fig and a touch of leather show on the sip, which is just starting to show some of its age. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$46

93 Flying Goat Cellars 2013 Rio Vista Vineyard Clone 2A Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A bit of bottle age always makes for a more compelling Pinot Noir, in this case showing kirsch, clove, leather and turned earth on the nose. There is a richness to the palate, full of black cherry and fig flavors, as well as an earthy undercurrent of thyme, anise and eucalyptus that rises toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$42

93 Flying Goat Cellars 2013 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Rusty red cherry aromas meet with eucalyptus, sweet bay leaf and lightly toasted pine wood on the nose of this bottling from a coveted vineyard on the western edge of the appellation. It's light and energetic on the palate, with high-toned red-fruit flavors, rustic smoke and a prominent chaparral spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$44

93 JCR 2014 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). The wines from this remote ranch off of Jalama Road combine mossy forest-floor touches with dark hearty aromas, in this case showing pine, rust, juniper, thyme and purple fruit on the nose. The texture is grippy, and there is cranberry fruit in the background, but the palate's attention turns mostly to eucalyptus, dark spice and even tobacco toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 Navarro 2015 Methode A L'Ancienne Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This suave and sophisticated wine is so smooth to sip that its depth of flavor is a little deceptive. A subtle potpourri of clove, cinnamon, black tea and blackberry aromas swirl around a great core of mild acidity, fine-grained tannins and many layers of concentrated fruit flavor. The texture is velvety and the finish lingers for at least 30 seconds. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

93 Patz & Hall 2014 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). There's a sultry aromatic combination of stewed strawberry and bright raspberry as well as subtle thyme, tarragon,

rosewater and French toast on the nose of this bottling from the iconic vineyard. The baked red fruits and hard woody spices are cut by pungent acidity and firm tannins on the sip. Hold off a bit on this one, but then enjoy for decades. Drink 2019–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$100

93 Presqu'île 2015 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Heirloom tomatoes, tomato leaf, green olives, wild berries and green peppercorns make for a very herbal though entirely compelling expression of cool climate Pinot Noir. The green-pepper and tomato character carries onto the sip, delivering a very interesting wine though one that many seeking a riper style will not enjoy. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$42

93 Rideau 2015 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Underripe raspberry, green-olive, dewy herbs, green-peppercorn and cardamom aromas show on the herbaceous nose. All of those elements are interwoven on the sip, where a core of fruit punch is laced by bay leaf, kalamata olive, bergamot and Christmas spice that persist deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Siduri 2015 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's a slightly gamy, pleasantly rustic touch to the nose of this hearty bottling, with a broad and deep boysenberry base spiced up by dark cola, nutmeg and wet gravel aromas. The mouthfeel is very full and the tannic structure is tight, propping up flavors of dark mulberry, tree bark and more roasted game. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Siduri 2015 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Baked black cherry meets with nutmeg, clove and dried ginger on the very inviting nose of this bottling by Adam Lee. A sizzling acidity greets the palate, as do muscular tannins, with flavors of dark-red fruit, allspice and gingerbread falling into place. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

93 Siduri 2015 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Deep and hearty aromas of blackberry, candied violet and dried lavender are enhanced by a touch of roasted pork on the nose of this red by Adam Lee. The full-bodied palate is framed by soft yet structural tannins and a slow-rising acidity, showing dark berries, charred beef and a hint of licorice. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

92 Bernardus 2015 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For those wondering what minerality means in a red wine, this bottling is the answer. Against the black cherry and dark strawberry on the nose rise powerful crushed slate and smashed graphite aromas. The palate starts with cranberry and pomegranate, but the slate and rocky-soil flavors swing back in, giving

backbone to the hints of bay leaf and herbs. *Editors' Choice*. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

92 Black Ridge 2012 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Stewed cherry, exotic cardamom and mace spices and hints of juniper and bay leaf bring an earthy component to the nose of this Pinot. Dark cranberry and black-plum-skin flavors meet with earth tones of turned loam, pine needle and menthol on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$44

92 Black Ridge 2011 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A bit of bottle age has made this vintage quite fascinating, with cola, black tea, black plum and mulberry on this wine's deep and peppery nose. The flavor profile is hearty with star anise and dried spearmint as well as deeper dried red-fruit touches. The texture is mild but the overall experience is complete. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$44

92 Flying Goat Cellars 2013 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). There's a strong menthol, juniper and pine needle kick to the nose of this bottling, alongside intriguing green tea and tart plum-skin aromas. Eucalyptus oil leads the lively herbal kick of the palate, giving intense depth to the hearty black-plum and tobacco flavors, all framed by a fresh acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

92 Flying Goat Cellars 2013 Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Cooked cherry meets with nutmeg, allspice, white pepper and a strong sandalwood scent on the nose of this red from the south side of the appellation. The woody cedar-driven spice notes show strong on the sip, giving depth to the mulberry and rainbow-peppercorn flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$48

92 Foxen 2015 Block 43 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Very fresh although not particularly fruity aromas of raspberry mesh with allspice, thyme and tarragon on the nose of this block-designate bottling from the historic vineyard. Energetic and lighter red-fruit flavors like pomegranate show on the sip, where fennel is the dominant spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$65

92 Foxen 2015 Melville Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Light and fresh aromas of red cherry, dark strawberry and sagebrush make for a fairly easy but rather deep nose on this single-vineyard bottling. Rich cranberry and pomegranate flavors coat the palate, with compelling edges of fennel, root beer and light clove. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$68

92 Laetitia 2015 Reserve du Domaine Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$42

92 Lucie 2015 Dutton Ranch Widdoes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Heady, beguiling aromatics dominate and invite in this well-made, robustly full-bodied wine, which is spicy and tart in baked plum, cherry, cranberry and a twist of orange. Zesty acidity gives it a kick on the palate, buoyed by a moderate tannin structure. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

92 Mercy 2013 Griva Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). This is a great example of Pinot Noir made in the slightly underripe style, showing underbrush, kalamata olive, black olive, black pepper and a touch of just-ripe mulberry on the nose. Those elements carry through the fresh sip, where intriguing notes of thyme, marjoram and bay leaf decorate the tart red-fruit and olive character. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$38

92 Pahlmeyer 2015 Jayson Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Perfumed like a summer garden, this wine is spicy and oaky, offering a wealth of cardamom and cola. Dark cherry, cranberry, orange and rhubarb vie for a balance between tart and succulent, the acidity ruling the day in the end. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

92 Scott Family 2015 Dijon Clone Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

92 Stephen Ross 2015 Bien Nacido Vineyards Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). A layered, somewhat delicate nose of rose petals, purple flowers, cola spice and raspberry-laced chocolate serves as the introduction to this bottling. Cherry, cranberry and raspberry emerge subtly on the sip, lifted by potpourri and sagebrush that fit into a chalky and tight structure. This will age very well. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$42

91 Arista 2014 Perli Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge). Showy, dramatic but sophisticated oak nuances merge beautifully with red and black-cherry flavors and a just-lively-enough texture in this medium-bodied, concentrated and well-focused wine. It has both breadth of mouthfeel and depth of flavor, and will make a classy addition to your dinner party. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$44

91 Black Ridge 2013 Barn Block Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Clove, star anise and deep strokes of red cherry show on the nose of this bottling from one of the estate's best blocks. The palate is redolent with bay leaf and eucalyptus, which give depth to the red-cherry, cranberry and tart pomegranate flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$60

91 Foxen 2015 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Winemaker Billy Wathen makes so many single-vineyard wines that he's able to play around with styles, and uses this bottling to explore the lower alcohol side of Pinot Noir. Extremely floral aromas of rose petals, hibiscus and carnation meet with light raspberry on the elegant nose, while the lighter-bodied palate mixes slightly sour red fruit with cedar, thyme and oregano. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$62

91 Frank Family 2015 Pinot Noir (Carneros). This is an earthy spice-driven wine, full bodied and richly layered in texture and flavor. Dark cherry cola is met by cinnamon and cardamom, with underlying hints of orange zest and dried herb. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

91 Laetitia 2015 Les Galets Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). From a vineyard block full of little stones, this bottling shows cherry cola, sagebrush, rose petals, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla on the nose. The texture is extremely smooth on the sip, where flavors of cherry, cranberry and chalk are compelling, if a bit less complex than the winery's other top-end bottlings. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

91 MacMurray Estate Vineyards 2015 Winemaker's Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$60

91 Martin Ranch 2013 Thérèse Vineyards Lester Family Vineyards Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$47

91 Navarro 2015 Deep End Blend Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Mellow and subtle, this is a soft-spoken but deeply flavorful special bottling from Navarro. It has great balance, reserved raspberry and black cherry flavors and an appetizing, firmly tannic texture. Save a few bottles until 2020 to see how well it develops. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$55

91 Patz & Hall 2015 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Layered tannin wraps around smoky oak and big flavors of marshmallow in this full-bodied densely concentrated wine from the well-known site. Black cherry, earthy forest floor and classic cola combine to form a juicy core of succulence beneath the power. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$70

91 Prodigal 2015 Cuvée Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). From Quinta Santa Rosa Vineyard, this blend of three clones shows plump red-plum and hibiscus aromas on the nose as well as sharp cinnamon, cola and sumac spices. That tangy sumac character extends to the sip, where tart raspberry makes the eyes water. Also present are fine-grained tannins and a slight touch of Early Grey tea. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$45

91 Siduri 2015 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Baked red cherry, vanilla, cola and sarsaparilla show on the nose of this very approachable bottling by Adam Lee. There is a light touch of licorice to the sip, with strawberry and red-plum flavors as well as more complex touches of tea leaf and candied raspberry. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Stephen Ross 2015 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Piquant aromas of cinnamon meet with strawberry, plum, gravel and bay leaf on the nose of this appellation blend by Steve Dooley. That bay leaf joins eucalyptus on the very clean and fresh sip, which surrounds tart raspberry, vanilla and clove flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Asuncion Ridge 2014 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). This bottling isn't perfect, but it shows the potential for exploring a less ripe style of Pinot Noir in the Paso Robles area. Snappy sagebrush aromas meet with olive, wet bay leaf, myrrh and plum skins on the nose. The palate is driven by pine-sap, with lots of eucalyptus and juniper as well as dark elderberry, and a hint of elderflower. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45

90 Balletto 2015 Estate Grown Estate Bottled Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29

90 Bouchaine 2015 Pommard Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros). Rich, thick and swimming in youthful tannin, this is a powerful statement from the producer's estate, a broad-shouldered explosion of fruity and savory flavors. Spicy tea, pomegranate and black cherry mingle around a tartness of grapefruit and blood orange, coalescing into a balanced whole. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

90 D.R. Stephens 2015 Silver Eagle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Thick, ripe and jammy, this is an explosive wine, broadly rich and rewarding in black-cherry, berry and licorice layers of flavor. Firm, tight tannins offer structure and power, with an intriguing hint of fennel funneling through. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

90 Marimar Estate 2014 Doña Margarita Vineyard Chico's Run Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Municipal Winemakers 2015 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Snappy aromas of black raspberry leap out of the glass along with white pepper and bay leaf in this layered red by David Potter. There is solid ripeness to the sip in the form of tangy plums, pomegranate and cranberry, dusted by dried

herbs and pepper. It's very fresh and energetic in style. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$36

90 Navarro 2015 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Supple and delicious, this medium-bodied wine is not a blockbuster but has wonderful berry and black-cherry flavors, fine balance and a touch of fine-grained tannin in the texture. Light cinnamon and cedar notes come out with time in the glass and add complexity. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22

90 Patz & Hall 2015 Jenkins Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Robust and ripe, this wine is still developing—it is so densely packed and concentrated. Youthful flavors of baked plum and licorice meet a spicy backbone of sage and earth, with a slight touch of reduction on the nose. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

89 Kitá 2014 Hilliard Bruce Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Light cherry, turned earth, rust and potpourri aromas show on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling, which is exploring the lower end of the alcohol scale. The sip is very light and pleasant although a bit simple, with light cherry juice and tangy red plum most prominent. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$55

89 Sarah's Vineyard 2015 Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley). Standard red-fruit aromas meet with cola and sandalwood on the nose of this bottling. The palate proves more interesting, with aromatic potpourri and lavender flavors as well as snappy raspberry fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

89 Siduri 2015 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Elegant aromas of black plum, asphalt, black tea and sandalwood show on the nose of this appellation blend from Adam Lee. The palate offers hints of forest floor with mushroom and mulberry flavors, as well as a persistent woody spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$39

89 Stasis 2014 Murrum Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Cola, root beer and Red Hots candy play against strawberry, pomegranate and damson on the nose of this playful Pinot Noir. Rusty cranberry, tart red plums and a bit of garrigue spice play on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

89 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2015 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 14.
Best Buy.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

88 AuburnJames 2014 Tondre Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Black cherry, crushed lava rocks, anise, turned loam and a hint of vanilla show on the nose of this bottling. It's rather light and easy

on the sip, with a lighter body presenting flavors of candied red fruit and sagebrush spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

88 Beringer 2015 Beringer Estates Grown Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Grapes are sourced from the producer's Grace Benoist Ranch, among other sites, including Emeritus Vineyard in the Russian River Valley. It shows a warm-climate character of rich, robust cherry cola, generous oak and tannin, with the profile made fruity by layers of strawberry and dried herb. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Bernardus 2015 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This appellation blend shows black raspberry, crushed violets and cola on the dark and brooding but well-balanced nose. The sip is a bit more simple than the winery's single vineyard offerings, but shows easily enjoyable flavors of plum, boysenberry and white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35

88 Black Ridge 2014 Barn Block Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). This clean if somewhat simple bottling starts with an extremely light and delicate nose of red cherry, rust, sagebrush, thyme and anise. The texture is light on the sip but the tannins prove somewhat grippy, with flavors of pomegranate and cracked pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

88 Crave 2014 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Red cherry, loamy soil, muddy juniper and crushed graphite show on the nose of this bottling, which is fairly priced. The texture is soft at first, with easy red-fruity flavors and tangy cranberry, along with gravelly minerality and a long vanilla-spice note. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Francis Ford Coppola 2015 Votre Santé Cuvée de Patron Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). A deep color, oaky aromas and ripe dark-fruit flavors give a sense of richness and breadth to this full-bodied wine. It's dry and smooth on the palate, with a warm spicy finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Hahn 2014 SLH Gabrielle Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This bottling is showing a touch of age on the nose, with clove, allspice and black-plum aromas most prominent. Dried ginger spices up the dried fig and plum on the sip, which approaches prune as well. Drink up now before more age sets in. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 MacRostie 2014 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine combines fruit from several notable vineyards, including Goldrock Ridge, Thale's Estate and Wildcat Mountain. Together, they drive a focused expression of smoky dark fruit and tart, moderate acidity. The fruit shows a depth of ripe-

ness that's intense, with a finish of spicy black tea. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$34

88 Meiomi 2016 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County-Monterey County-Santa Barbara County). This bottling blends 60% Monterey County, 23% Santa Barbara County and 17% Sonoma County fruit to deliver bright and juicy berries on the nose, from strawberry to blackberry as well as graphite and tree bark. The flavors are very full, with more berries and star anise, although the texture is somewhat simple. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$25

88 Sean Minor 2015 Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Light and lean on entry, this wine builds up steam and power as it develops in the glass, becoming a robust exploration of rhubarb and cranberry. The texture on the palate is velvety and moderately rich, dotted in sultry spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

88 Siduri 2015 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Intensely dark blackberry fruit meets with game and minty chocolate on the nose of this appellation blend by Adam Lee. The flavors are woody with forest undergrowth, and surround a core of mulberry. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$39

87 Ampelos 2015 Ampelos Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Light in color and body, this restrained, classically styled red is tart in fruit character and acidity, with a thickness of concentration that surprises. A hint of reductive oak meanders through. —V.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

87 Domaine Carneros 2014 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros). From several of the producer's estate vineyards, this wine traffics in spicy, leathery texture and robust full-bodied power, layering in more tart savory characteristics of rhubarb, dark cherry and orange. The tannins are firm and supportive, taking on a velvety sheen. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$39

87 Foxen 2015 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This appellation blend is nowhere near as amazing as the winery's single-vineyard expressions from this vintage, but it'll work for an everyday sipper. Light red cherry meets with damp herbs, wet hay and forest floor on the nose, while the simple palate combines red fruit with more herbs and orange peels. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$35

87 Laetitia 2015 Estate Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). There's an overwhelming sense of menthol to this bottling, with a minty character extending over the pomegranate of the nose.

It's also prominent on the sip, with camphor masking the cranberry fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

87 Mercy 2013 Zabala Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). This bottling explores the richer style of this appellation, which isn't as compelling as the winery's lower-alcohol offerings. Ripe aromas of concentrated red cherry, clove and nutmeg lead into a sip redolent with cooked and dried fruits and powerful dried ginger spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$38

87 SeaGlass 2015 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). One of the more reliable grocery store brands on the market right now, this bottling shows aromas of hot cherry pie with a vanilla and nutmeg crust. The palate moves more toward darker boysenberry flavors, with cola, mace and dried wild herbs. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

87 Spicy Vines 2015 Peter's Delight Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Spicy and earthy, this medium-bodied red is rewarding in its layers of dried herb, sage and strawberry patch. The tartness lingers on the lean palate, ending in cranberry and cardamom. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$50

86 Josh Cellars 2015 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Smoked red-cherry and pomegranate-juice aromas show on the sip of this appellation blend. The palate shows fruit punch with touches of lavender and vanilla, which tastes good altogether, even though it is not very complex. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

86 Lander-Jenkins 2016 Pinot Noir (California). A strong oak aroma and a rather dense chewy texture make this wine a bit of a show-off, while spicy oaky flavors dominate the fruit component. It has definite tannins and a touch of astringency on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

86 Marimar Estate 2014 Don Miguel Vineyard Earthquake Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). With a reductive quality and prominent oak, this is a thick, concentrated wine built on unwavering tannins. The fruit is elusive and shy. Clove and cola eke out of an earthy element that's part rose garden, part smoke and eucalyptus. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$59

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Mount Eden Vineyards 2013 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

94 Barrack 2013 Ten-Goal (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Everything about this

blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot is elegantly unique. An intensely focused aromatic line of blueberry, tomato leaf, dried tobacco, black olive and lanolin on the nose leads into intriguing flavors of cardamom and chai spice. Cedar shavings, fennel and crushed olives also show on the expertly structured sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$78

94 Chappellet 2013 Pritchard Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Blended with small amounts of Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this shows classic mountain characteristics of strength and power, with a smooth sublime foundation of textured tannin at its core. Dark cherry, vanilla and chocolate provide a richness of broad flavor, accented in cedar, tobacco and an underlying acidity that leaves a tangy finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$220

94 Diamond Creek 2014 Gravelly Meadow Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Voluptuously smooth, this wine is dark and brambly in tangy blackberry and black currant, offering a length and breadth of texture and big flavor. Earthy, with accents of cedar, it has a toasted oak flavor that adds to the complexity and intrigue. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$225

94 Diamond Creek 2014 Red Rock Terrace Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Oaky toast and cherry jam meet tangy, juicy acidity in this grippy wine that's firm in velvety tannin. With a balance of power, it reveals chocolate mocha and black currant in equal measure, the minerality from the site's iron-rich red rocky soil on full display. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$225

94 Diamond Creek 2014 Volcanic Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Perfumed in lavender, violet and mountain sage, this is a lovely wine, as always, softly layered in concentrated flavors of tobacco, cassis and black cherry. Integrated and balanced, though bold, it has a grip of tannin and smoky oak that persists on the lengthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$225

94 Dominus 2014 Napanook Vineyard (Yountville). From a beautiful vintage on the relatively cooler end of the valley, this wine combines 89% Cabernet Sauvignon with 7% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Cedar, herb and savory sage open into a strong element of forest floor and rose garden. Tight firm tannin wrap around a robust ripeness that finds balance in accompanying acidity. Enjoy from 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$219

94 Guarachi Family 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This 100% varietal wine comes from two stellar sites: Broken Rock on Atlas Peak and Las Piedras, an appropriately gravelly site farmed by Andy Beckstoffer. Together, they yield magic—a thick, juicy and well-integrated layering

of red cherry, clove and cigar that exudes a strong barrel presence and structured tannin profile. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$80

94 World's End 2014 Stir It Up Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is hugely robust in concentration and power, a study in mountain-grown brambly berry and serious tannin. Bark, pencil and a wealth of spiced plum form the core of its character, with secondary elements of cherry and cigar box coming into play over time. Enjoy best beginning in 2024 through 2034. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Chappellet 2014 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a powerhouse of wine, sturdy and well-built though reaching approachability in the glass. Tobacco, leather and dark chocolate-cherry flavors intermingle around a subtle suggestion of vanilla as sizably puckering tannins ask for air. Black pepper and clove dot the landscape. Enjoy best 2024 through 2034. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 En Garde 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Cranberry and red currant are the stars of the show in this mountain wine, which is further accented in dried herb and lavender. Tart, tangy acidity supports firm pillowy tannins with a robust ripeness and lingering notes of leather and tobacco leaf. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

93 Smith & Hook 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). For full review see page 6. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$18

92 Chateau Margene 2014 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This bottling, which is balanced by 16% Cabernet Franc and 9% Merlot, rides the savory edge of the grape, with aromas of underbrush and dried herbs giving depth to the black-olive and black-currant aromas. The palate offers a mix of red and darker fruits, including cranberry, plum and blackberry, with touches of thyme and anise. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$84

92 G & L Lurton 2013 Amaino (Sonoma County). This estate-driven wine combines 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 6% Merlot. Made in a classical Old-World style, it offers chalky tannin around composted earth, blackberry and cassis. The texture is firm and grippy, with supportive acidity at its core. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$49

92 Lucas & Lewellen 2013 Cote Del Sol Estate Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). For full review see page 7. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Rendarrio Vineyards 2014 The Rocker Clare Ranch Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). A beautifully deep shade of purple, this bottling shows tightly wound aromas of blueberry, black currant, violet and licorice on the nose. The palate's dark fruit flavors are lifted by touches of cocoa and espresso, framed by tannins that are very chalky but not obtrusive. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Sodaro 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). This lovely understated wine shows elegance and grace within a framework of dark red cherry, cedar and dried sage—the herbal tones perfectly calibrated. Firm wood tannin is complementary instead of distracting, playing a supportive role in the wine's tenacious grip of spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$NA

91 Flambeaux 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

91 Ladera 2014 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Made from fruit grown both on Howell and Diamond mountains, this wine is powerful and concentrated, bursting in mountain tannins. Waxy plum, dried herb, graphite and pencil shavings provide a savory tangy underbelly of woody accents, met and complemented by robust black cherry and cassis, the palate rounded at the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

91 Sol Rouge 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). From two vineyards on Howell Mountain, this is a well-made medium-bodied wine, rich in chocolate and a taste of blackberry cobbler. Coffee accents a soft luxurious tannin structure and thick concentration that finishes with a tart acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

91 World's End 2014 Good Times Bad Times Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Milk chocolate is girded in a wall of firm sturdy tannin as this wine takes on complex elements of wood, herbed spice and raspberry pie. Sanguine, it opens slowly, adding layers of red cherry and dark cherry to the soft full-bodied palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

91 World's End 2014 If Six Were Nine Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Cedar, graphite and dried herb form a crucible of flavor and complexity in this well-made wine, priced fairly for the quality. Seamless interwoven tannins support a hefty weight of powerful ripeness defined by sultry layers of dark cherry and dark chocolate. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Flambeaux 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

90 Kempe 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry paste, crushed black rocks and a pinch of baking spice show on the nose of this bottling, which is a project between sommelier Paolo Barbieri and his partner Erin Kempe. The flavors are full of dark red and candied purple fruits, with clove, olive and vanilla touches and a dense tannic structure. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

90 Merryvale 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bright red fruit stars in this classically made wine, which is full bodied and quite concentrated in flavor. A moderate structure supports flavors of cassis and currant, accented in toasty oak and bay laurel. The tannins are lush and plush. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

90 Sean Thackrey 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Having spent multiple years in barrel, this iconoclastic producer's take on the variety is refreshingly real and different: big boned and yet sinewy and elegant in its way. Eucalyptus and bay leaf compete for attention on the nose around an herbal core of cedar and current. The wine is softly layered and well structured. —V.B.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$135

90 Trefethen 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

89 Clos La Chance 2013 Whitestone Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). This bottling is fruit-forward on the nose with aromas of black currant and black plum, but the touches of dark chocolate and roasted game provide depth. It tightens up on the sip, where the blackberry-jam elements are enhanced by vanilla and milk chocolate shavings. The tannins are present but soft, and the acidity is decent, making for a very drinkable expression. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2014 Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This well-made full-bodied wine exudes a juicy core of red currant, cranberry and vanilla as a persistence of tannin provides power and wooded support. Oak and cedar play nicely together and add a wealth of savory concentration. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Kitá 2014 Camp 4 Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). A soft and even presentation, this bottling shows lush if slightly sour blackberry jam, dark chocolate, coconut shavings and vanilla on the nose. It's a very safe and down-the-middle Cab on the sip, with dark red fruit, nutmeg and vanilla framed by structural and slightly chewy tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Michael Mondavi Family Estate 2014 Emblem Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

This weighty wine has small percentages of Petit Verdot, Petite Syrah, Merlot and Zinfandel, contributing to robust and impactful tannins and ripe fruit. Juicy and approachable on the palate, it highlights touches of tar and clove. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

88 Rabble 2015 Mossfire Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Fresh boysenberry aromas are lifted by dried dill, black pepper and black olive on the spice-driven nose of this bottling. Tangy plum and underripe berry flavors pop on the tense palate, where anise, oregano and marjoram round out the experience. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

88 Schug 2013 Heritage Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). A handful of vineyards and additions of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot make up the whole of this wine, a cool-climate style accented in spicy red currant, cherry and woody tannin. With an earthiness of compost and wood, it shows a touch of reduction as it finishes. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

88 True Myth 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This widely available bottling by the Niven family is a very safe and reliable expression of Cab, with black plums, crushed slate, a touch of oak, some purple flowers and a little soy on the nose. The palate is also down the middle, with earth, wood and dark fruit all present, framed by strong acidity and firm but not overwhelming tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Vintage Cowboy 2014 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (San Luis Obispo County). There's a pleasing gravel minerality to the nose of this bottling, giving depth to the dark red-plum, cedar, leather and olive aromas. Baked cherries and strawberries show on the sip, where cocoa and coconut flavors ride soft but structurally significant tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$22

87 Calcareous 2013 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dried raisiny fruit is the most prominent component of this bottling, but there is also smashed blackberry, hearty vanilla and baking spice on the nose as well. Dried figs and prunes show on the rich sip, which is satisfying but a tad overcooked. Decent acidity and fine-grained tannins finish the job. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$49

87 Donati 2013 Ezio Cabernet Sauvignon (Paicines). Sweet cedar meets with dried blueberry, baked black currant and toasted pastry on the nose of this bottling. Dried pine needle and forest underbrush flavors show on the sip, spicing up the dried plum and cocoa-spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

87 Martin Ranch 2013 Thérèse Vineyards Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).

This is an extremely savory wine, with aromas of black pepper, dried herbs, turned earth and a touch of elderberry jam. It's somewhat thin on the sip, with cedar, boysenberry and charred beef flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

86 HandCraft 2015 Artisan Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Aromas like black pepper, anise and grilled meat lead to nicely tart flavors and a mildly tannic mouthfeel. This spicy-tasting wine is relatively light bodied but has plenty of interesting flavors to explore. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

85 Castillo's Hillside Shire 2013 Shire View Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley). Dried fruit aromas of prune, fig and nearly raisin show on the nose of this red, which is enhanced by savory touches of salt, pepper and leather. There is a pleasant rustic quality to the sip, but a strong bitterness reminiscent of bittersweet chocolate, underripe plum skins and coffee grinds arises midpalate and doesn't dissipate. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$72

85 Martin Ranch 2013 Thérèse Vineyards Signature Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). There is so much wood on the nose of this bottling that it smells like an oak stave mill, with shaved cedar and maduro cigar touches dominating the black-currant and elderberry fruit. That cedar is powerful on the sip too, with a touch of black-cherry fruit managing to pop out along with dried herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

84 Castillo's Hillside Shire 2012 Shire View Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley). There is a bounty of herbally inflected red fruit on the nose of this bottling, with hints of tea, mushroom and pepper, which make for an intriguing but somewhat odd expression. The herbal flavors on the palate are reminiscent of chewing on bay leaves. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$72

83 AuburnJames 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills Lake County). A very grapey earthy aroma and a flavor like apple jelly make this full-bodied wine a little unusual. It's not what's normally expected from a California wine, but a decent drink. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

MERLOT

93 Barrack 2013 Brand Happy Canyon Vineyard Merlot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Elegantly woven aromas of cassis, sandalwood and truffle show on the nose of this wine, which also includes 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot. The palate also combines that plummy fruit with woody spice, showing cedar and crushed pepper, creating a

savory experience that makes the mouth water into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$46

90 Noble Vines 2014 181 Merlot (Lodi). For full review see page 14. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Parducci 2014 Small Lot Merlot (Mendocino County). For full review see page 14. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Red Rock 2015 Reserve Merlot (California). This wine has an extra measure of creaminess in the texture while giving up floral, lightly spicy and wonderfully fruity flavors. There's no obvious oak influence, just ripe raspberry, strawberry and macerated black-cherry notes that softly coat the palate and cling to the finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 AVA Grace Vineyards 2015 Fruity Silky Soft Merlot (California). This is a very fresh medium-bodied wine that overflows with ripe raspberry and blackberry flavors. It's the opposite of a serious age-worthy wine, but wonderful to drink now for its effusive fruit flavors that come along with just enough tannin for support on the palate. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Dark Horse 2014 Merlot (California). For full review see page 14. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Donati 2014 Merlot (Paicines). Pine sap and dried ginger meet with hearty soil aromas and deep black plum on the nose of this bottling. There are lots of spice and herbs converging on the palate along with sandalwood, cedar, dark chocolate and a touch of prune. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

88 Fetzer 2015 Eagle Peak Merlot (California). Pure and fruity, this medium-bodied wine is supersmooth in texture, quietly flavorful and well balanced. The light acidity and mild tannins are well integrated and support delicious black-cherry and blueberry flavors perfectly. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

87 Rabble 2015 Mossfire Ranch Merlot (Paso Robles). Dark, fresh and somewhat sour red-fruit aromas meet with cedar on the nose of this bottling. The palate is juicy with red plums and strawberries at first, then shows more of a pine-needle edge. The tannins are a bit chunky and chewy, though, but may smooth out with time. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$25

87 Stargazer Barn 2013 Merlot (Willow Creek). Very focused and vibrant, this wine has plenty of good acidity that lends a crisp mouthfeel,

along with fresh and buoyant flavors of red cherry and cranberry that are nicely concentrated. Moderate tannins add to the grippy texture, and will make this wine work well with rich foods. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

86 Gen5 2015 Merlot (Clarksburg). This big soft wine smells and tastes a little sweet, as an aroma like maple syrup leads to flavors of blackberry jam, cinnamon and butter. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$11

86 Ironstone 2015 Merlot (Lodi). This wine shows a ton of oak influence, from the smoky charred aromas to the sweet-seeming maple syrup flavors to the velvety clinging texture. It is medium bodied, lush in mouthfeel and high in spice content that dominates the fruit flavors underneath. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Castillo's Hillside Shire 2014 Merlot (Santa Clara County). This bottling is very herbal on the nose, with bay leaf, pine needle, juniper, tart strawberry and black-pepper aromas. The palate shows sour red fruit, dried leather and much more forest-floor flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

85 Leaping Horse 2015 Merlot (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

CABERNET FRANC

91 Robert Renzoni 2012 Vineyard Riserva Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley). Rich and creamy on the nose with black cherry, vanilla and licorice, this is a very inviting if not entirely varietally recognizable bottling from one of Temecula's top wineries. The varietal character does arise subtly on the sip, with dried mint, bay leaf, pepper and chaparral herbs giving complexity to the dried fruit and roasted meat flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

89 Firestone 2014 Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark red fruit, cracked pepper and the slightest hint of green herbs show on the nose of this pleasant bottling. The herb character is well integrated into a firmly tannic frame on the sip, where tart Montmorency cherry and black-plum skins mix with milk chocolate flavors. The tannins are sticky, yet the mouthfeel is soft in the midpalate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

86 Left Bend 2014 Cabernet Franc (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's a good array of purple-flower aromas, including lavender and potpourri, on the nose of this bottling, as well as light cola and plum skins. The sip is quite bitter and tarry though, with just a touch of riper black fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

84 Donati 2014 Cabernet Franc (Paicines). This bottling offers a tarry backbone on the nose with a hint of crushed elderberry. The palate is a bit bitter, with Concord grape flavors cut by tar and bitersweet dark chocolate shavings. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30

PETITE SIRAH

94 Renwood 2014 Petite Sirah (Amador County). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Aratás 2012 Shake Ridge Ranch Petite Sirah (Amador County). Aratás puts more bottle age on their Petite Sirah than most, and the extra maturity shows. Wonderful oak spices fill the aroma and extend into the fully ripe and richly fruity flavors of this big but beautifully sculpted wine. It has a lot of new oak influence and that is perfect to match the big body and monumental tannins that give the wine such impact. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$52

93 Mettler Family Vineyards 2014 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Lodi). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Michael David 2014 Earthquake Petite Sirah (Lodi). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26

93 Sol Rouge 2013 Petite Sirah (Red Hills Lake County). Very dark, very focused, and very pure, this full-bodied wine polishes the notorious tannins of the varietal just slightly, while pouring on dark chocolate, blackberry jam, white pepper and a touch of floral flavor. It's a great wine to buy and stash in a cool place for a few years to see how interesting Petite Sirah can get. Best after 2024. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Cedarville Vineyard 2014 Naylor Vineyard Petite Sirah (El Dorado). In this opulent, layered and full-bodied wine, a smoky beefy aroma and a melt-in-the-mouth texture come with flavors of dark maraschino cherries, dark chocolate and baking spices. It's very mouth filling and mouth coating as well as firmly tannic, but the richness of the flavors helps it to drink very smoothly. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$29

92 Concannon 2014 Nina's Cuvée Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley). A compelling spicy aroma and richly layered fruit give a lot of appeal to this full-bodied, fully tannic and nicely sculpted wine. It has a deep dark color, captivating oak and white-pepper aromas and a rich generous mouthfeel accompanied by an appropriately high level of fine-

grained tannin. Best after 2020. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38

92 Michael David 2015 Petite Petit (Lodi). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Ruby Hill Winery 2014 Reserve Collection Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley). Big, richly fruity and quite tannic, this concentrated wine pulls off good balance, as the ripeness and near-sweetness of the fruit flavors seems to dissolve some of the firm grip in the texture. Aromas like tobacco, pencil lead and cedar keep coming as the wine opens up in the glass. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$29

92 Three 2014 Petite Sirah (Contra Costa County). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$22

92 Tooth and Nail 2015 The Stand (Paso Robles). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

91 Comartin 2014 Rodney's Vineyard Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley). Intensely dark aromas of black currant, char, roast beef and a slight bit of gamy funk show on the very masculine nose of this bottling by San Jose-based vintner Adam Comartin. There is bountiful acidity on the sip and thick mouthcoating tannins, allowing the black fruit and caramel flavors to penetrate deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$42

91 Daou 2015 Unbound (Paso Robles). The Daou brothers break a bit from their polished house style to dive into gamy wonders in this blend of 80% Petite Sirah, 12% Tannat and 8% Tempranillo, with a nose that shows burned tire, bacon fat, underripe plums and freshly paved street. Crushed black pepper, charred beef and animal-hide funkiness converge on the palate. It's a great counterpoint to the winery's usual suavity. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$56

91 Refugio Ranch 2014 Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley). Classic Petite Sirah aromas leap off the nose of this bottling, including dense black rocks, crushed gravel and lava rocks, a touch of espresso bean and a light brush of purple flowers. The palate starts juicy with ripe blueberry then grows complex through charred meat, tar and coffee. The tannins are still stiff but will mellow slowly. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Skinner 2013 Petite Sirah (El Dorado). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$36

90 Concannon 2014 Captain Joe's Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley). This wine tames the notoriously stiff texture of the varietal with a little

extra richness of fruit and a slight softening of the usual tannic mouthfeel. So it tastes generous, coating the palate with ripe boysenberry and black-pepper flavors, and finishing smooth. It's still a big wine, but won't need extended aging. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Criss Cross 2015 Petite Sirah (Clarksburg). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$20

90 Fleur 2013 Petite Sirah (North Coast). Chocolate, tobacco and new leather aromas make a dramatic first impression for this full-bodied and comparatively smooth wine. Then very deep dark fruit hits the palate along with smoky, peppery nuances accompanied by a just-tannic-enough texture. It will be great to drink alongside some smoked brisket. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

90 Two Angels 2015 Petite Sirah (Red Hills Lake County). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$27

89 Deaver 2013 Petite Sirah (Amador County). Traces of charred oak in the aroma and a flood of extremely ripe dark-fruit flavors come with a sense of depth and concentration in this full-bodied, very firm and tannic but nevertheless polished wine. This is higher in alcohol than the last two vintages reviewed. It will benefit from more age or a high-protein pairing. —J.G.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$27

89 Le Casque 2014 Petite Sirah (Sierra Foothills). Very dark in color, this robust wine has enticing wood smoke and oak aromas, rich but dry fruit flavors like blackberry and blueberry, an abundance of muscular tannins in the firm texture and full but not overpowering body. It's very tight to drink now, so best consume it after 2022. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$28

89 Mia Bea 2015 Petite Sirah (Mendocino). This is a wonderful, relatively light wine for the varietal. It smells beautifully floral, tastes spicy, complex and full of berries, and calms the tannin down to a smooth, supportive level. Still, it packs a punch and will make a good change of pace when the evening calls for a full-bodied red. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28

88 Castillo's Hillside Shire 2012 Castle View Vineyard Petite Sirah (Santa Clara Valley). Strong aromas of cedar, pine sap, bay leaf and eucalyptus spice up the raisin element on the nose of this bottling. It dries up considerably on the sip, showing tart black plum, pencil shavings and a nutmeg spice toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$62

88 Castillo's Hillside Shire 2012 Tower View Vineyards Petite Sirah (Santa Clara Valley). Extremely woody aromas of cedar meet with

prunes, tobacco leaf and nutmeg on the nose of this bottling from a property south of San Jose. That woody character also plays powerfully on the palate, mixing with baked blueberry flavors to achieve a sort of balance. The tannins makes for a squeaky texture on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36

88 Everhart Cellars 2014 Petite Sirah (El Dorado). Big but well balanced, this full-bodied wine has been tamed a bit by two-and-a-half years of aging, but it still has the typical firm tannins that cling to the sides of the mouth. Accents of cedar and earth accompany the tasty blackberry core of flavor. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

88 HandCraft 2014 Artisan Collection Petite Sirah (California). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$9

88 Jodar 2014 Estate Reserve Petite Sirah (El Dorado). This is an untamed traditional-style wine that is tannic to its core and may require 20 years to reach its peak of enjoyment. It has aromas of blackberry and black pepper, flavors of espresso and bitter chocolate and a titanic structure built with layer after layer of muscular tannins that leave quite an astringent effect on the finish. Best after 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Lorenzi Estate 2013 Barrels 12, 13 and 14 Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley). This is a very wood-driven bottling, starting with strong cigar box on the nose alongside broad lilac, baked blackberry, spearmint and slate aromas. Cedar spice dominates the palate, allowing just hints of blueberry and wild herbs to emerge. It presents balanced tannin and acidity. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$45

87 Dark Horse 2015 Petite Sirah (California). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

87 Stokes' Ghost 2014 Petite Sirah (Monterey). There's a great historic ghost story behind this bottling, as well as a creative twist to the cork closure, but the wine itself isn't as exciting. It's reserved on the nose, with hints of black cherry, vanilla and cola that prove easy to quaff. It is a bit simple on the sip, with dark red fruit and a slight sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

85 Cedar View Winery 2014 Petite Sirah (California). This wine smells extra ripe, like raisins and black figs, and tastes rich, chocolaty and almost fat in texture. It has a sense of sweetness akin to brown sugar and mostly soft tannins. It is unusual for the varietal. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$28

SYRAH

94 Barbieri 2014 Colson Canyon Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Extremely dark in the glass, lavish aromas of black currant, black pepper, lilac, violet and blooming chaparral show on this bottling from a remote vineyard north of the Santa Maria Valley. It's a smooth sip at first, with ripe elderberry and black fruit, but the tannins stiffen quickly to reveal a masculine wine, with peppery spice, rounded vanilla and a strong acidic slice cutting through the density. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

94 Barbieri 2013 Colson Canyon Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). A very awesome array of burnt bacon, dried violets, chipped asphalt and tart elderberry show on the nose of this bottling from a remote vineyard north of the Santa Maria Valley. A strong pepper spice starts the sip, followed by charred berries and black currants, tons of purple flowers and a persistent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$44

94 Tensley 2015 Noir Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This blend of fruit from Joey Tensley's home vineyard as well as his more recently acquired Colson Canyon Vineyard is a dark and brooding monster, with blueberry, black pepper, chocolate, tar and caramel on the nose. It's very full on the sip but not overripe, with flavors of seared meat, blackberry, pepper and purple flowers. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

94 Tensley 2015 OGT Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This magnum-size wine, named after the Tensleys' son, Oliver Gunnar, is still very young, especially for the large size, but the aromas of purple flower, tar, salt, pepper and black plum are very promising. Zesty pepper and thyme show on the sip along with black-plum paste and savory hoisin touches, held together by a very grippy texture. This heavy-duty wine needs time to blossom. Drink 2019–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$90/1.5L

94 Tensley 2015 Tensley Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). From Joey Tensley's home vineyard near Los Olivos, this bottling shows very dark and tarry aromas at first but then opens up into cassis, blueberry, black pepper and wild herbs, making for a beautiful and cohesive nose. The tannins are a bit firm and could use a little more patience to soften, but the flavors of tangy black plum, leather, game and pepper are ready to rock. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

94 Villa Creek 2014 Rancho Boa Vista Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Charred lamb, lilac and freshly paved streets make for a very savory entry to this excellent bottling—a partnership between longtime Santa Barbara County viticulturist Jeff Newton of Coastal Vineyard Care Associates and

Villa Creek winemaker Cris Cherry. Tangy elderberry, black peppercorns, rosemary and lavender show on the sip, where gritty sticky tannins make for a memorably tarry expression from a new vineyard. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

93 Barbieri 2013 Romanvs Syrah (Santa Barbara County). There's a strong sense of the outdoors to the nose of this bottling (which includes 5% Viognier) from trampled sagebush and crusty fennel fronds to yard clippings, as well as elderberry and a touch of raw lamb. The palate is very tarry and savory, with thyme and bay leaf flavors riding above the dried dark fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

93 Barbieri 2013 Rodney's Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This bottling from a vineyard owned by the Fess Parker family is extremely gamy out of the gates, with raw lamb aromas lifted up by peppercorns and laid atop elderberry fruit. The lighter-bodied palate is framed by zesty acidity and a zippy pepper spice, with flavors of black currant and wild chaparral herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$48

93 Dilecta 2014 Shadow Canyon Syrah (Paso Robles). This very lush and rich nose of this bottling, which also includes some Kimsey Vineyard fruit from Ballard Canyon, shows delicious aromas of baked blackberry pie, caramelized black currant, coconut and crème brûlée. Black cherry mousse, melted caramel, cappuccino and pralines show on the sip, which packs that expected Paso power. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$46

93 Dubost 2013 Syrah (Paso Robles). Unabashed in its alcohol levels, but not really boozy in any overdone way, this bottling offers very fresh, juicy and boisterous aromas of violet, candied blueberry, asphalt and pepper on the nose. The palate also starts with ripe blackberry and blueberry then grows more serious with grippy tannins and a zingy acidity. Dark chocolate and charred meat show in the midpalate. —M.K.
abv: 17.2% **Price:** \$50

93 Frequency 2015 Watch Hill Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Black currant, lavender, black pepper, soy and graphite show on the nose of this bottling by Zac Wasserman, an assistant to Joey Tensley. There is a flash of lavender at the tip of the sip, and then the darkness descends, with charred meats and blackened berries cut by a strong acidity. It still needs time to develop, but these wines disappear fast, so stock up. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Ila 2014 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). This new project by wine bar owner Ash Mehta and winemaker Mary Bradley shows much promise, starting with woody elderberry, tar, black pepper and dense lavender on the buoyant nose. The sip starts with powerful pepper and then coalesces around cassis and black-currant fruit, a tarry minerality,

dried herbs of thyme and juniper and a cocoa finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Kaleidos 2014 Syrah (Paso Robles). Richness is on full display in this bottling by Steve Martell, with baked black plum, vanilla, allspice and nearly a prune scent on the nose. Caramel flavors of blackened blackberry pie with vanilla ice cream make for a very full and undeniably delicious sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$36

93 Tensley 2015 BMT Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This magnum-sized bottling named after Joey Tensley's niece is a study of darkness, with asphalt, charred beef, black currant and a hint of purple flowers on the nose. It's suave and already elegant on the sip, with stewed blackberries and tart black plums, but it still needs time to grow into its sure-to-be-savory side. Drink 2019–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90/1.5 L

93 Tensley 2015 Turner Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). There are expected aromas of ripe blueberry, purple flowers, peppercorns and burnt bacon on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard in the Sta. Rita Hills, but Joey Tensley also packs in quite a bit of herbs, with bay leaf and dried chaparral. Tightly wound flavors of dark purple fruit, beef char and coarsely ground black pepper show on the tarry sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

92 Amor Fati 2015 Murmur Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). The very inviting nose on this offering combines boysenberry and peppercorn with richer aromas of baked goods sprinkled with mocha, vanilla and caramel. There is a refreshing tartness to the palate and edgy firm tannins presenting black-plum-skin and brioche flavors. It needs a little more time in the bottle. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Barbieri 2015 Reeves Ranch Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Lush cassis aromas are cut by black pepper and charcoal on the nose of this bottling by Las Vegas sommelier-turned-winemaker Paolo Barbieri, who was raised in Rome. It's still young and tightly wound on the palate, but slowly unfurls boisterous blackberry fruit, thyme and pepper, with sticky firm tannins and a strong acidity from front to back. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

92 Barbieri 2014 Rodney's Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Full and piquant aromas of black fruit, purple flowers, asphalt and pepper make for a rich and flowery nose on this bottling. Concentrated flavors of black currant and black plum ride a relatively light and airy body all the way into a grippy tannin-laced finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Barbieri 2014 Romanvs Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Big blackberry and pungent black-currant aromas meet with goeey fudge, black licorice and lilac on the large and lovely nose of this bottling, which is made with 5% Viognier. It's thick and juicy on the sip, with tons of anise, dill, baked blackberry, cassis and a well-integrated minty character. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

92 Bonterra 2013 The Butler (Mendocino). Big, tight and tannic, this is a full-fledged dinner wine that needs to pair with a nice caloric veal shank or lasagna. It's made with 80% Syrah, so the color is almost black, the aromas are spicy and smoky and the flavors feature black cherry, espresso and dark chocolate. The texture is both mouth filling and a bit astringent due to hefty tannins. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

92 Frequency 2015 Mormann Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Plump blackberry and black currant meet with asphalt and dark chocolate on the nose of this bottling from a relatively new vineyard on Gypsy Canyon in the heart of the appellation. Dried violets, lavender, tart boysenberry, peppercorns and a hint of cardamom make for an exotic yet balanced palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$38

92 Frequency 2015 Zotovich Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). There are somewhat primary aromas of Concord grape and grape seed on the nose of this very young wine, but they quickly evolve into crushed purple flowers and bacon fat. Pungent charred blackberry and black currant show on the sip, where the bright and lively acidity converges with stiff tannins that need some time to mellow out. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

92 Kaleidos 2014 Praying Mantis Syrah (Paso Robles). This is a very opulent bottling by Steve Martell, who blends 83% Syrah, 16% Grenache and 1% Mourvèdre to deliver aromas of black-plum sauce, hot licorice, hoisin and buttery pie crust. Rounded milk chocolate flavors show on the sip, melted atop the rich and ripe core of black cherry and cassis. It's a tad hot on the tongue. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

92 Pulchella 2015 Decorus Syrah (Willow Creek). Fresh purple flowers of lavender and violet meet with Dr. Pepper, dried elderberry and more black fruit on the nose of this bottling from the Pipestone Vineyard. Baked blackberry, cola and lilac show on the sip, while the richness is cut by a steadily growing acidity that rises into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$55

91 Amor Fati 2014 Murmur Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Baked blackberries meet with caramel, vanilla, forest floor and a tart plum skin touch on the nose of this bottling by the Paso Robles-based Tooth & Nail team. It's smooth and soft on the sip, with black currant, elderberry,

pepper dust, charcoal and rosemary flavors. It's ripe but with a very dry edge. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Asuncion Ridge 2014 Nefarious (Paso Robles). There is an impressive density to the nose of this blend of 88% Syrah and 12% Grenache, with blueberry and black currant showing alongside crushed gravel and tar. The palate is rich with dark fruits and dark spices, showing baked black plum torte, a touch of fennel and a tart finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$58

91 Boekenooogen 2015 Bell Ranch Vineyard Syrah (Monterey). Lavish aromas of blackberry pie cooked in a vanilla crust with a crystallized brown-sugar topping show on this rich bottling from a warm vineyard near where Carmel Valley hits the Arroyo Seco wash. The medium-bodied palate offers thyme, sagebrush and a hint of cardamom, with fig, black plum and bittersweet chocolate at the core. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

91 Dilecta 2014 Unorthodox (Santa Barbara County). Very deep violet aromas are shrouded in a thick veil of heavy-duty dark fruit as well as woody cedar spice on the nose of this blend of 78% Syrah and 22% Mourvèdre by Orion Stang. The palate is well composed, its solid core of black fruit lifted by vanilla and allspice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$46

91 Eberle 2015 Steinbeck Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Pulchella 2014 Block 6 Reserve La Vista Vineyard Syrah (Adelaida District). This blend of 91% Syrah and 9% Grenache delivers a load of wild herbs and forest undergrowth to the savory nose, giving depth to the cassis and vanilla aromas. That garrigue character is wrapped around the mulberry and boysenberry core of the palate, where touches of smoke and roasted pork complete the sip. —M.K.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$64

89 Municipal Winemakers 2014 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This is a herb-driven, savory and relatively light Syrah, with crushed thyme, marjoram and black peppercorns spicing up the elderberry jam aromas. The chaparral spices take center stage on the sip, where wild sage and oak forest undergrowth play against the dark fruit. Very quaffable. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

89 Refugio Ranch 2014 Barbareno Syrah-Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley). There is a very tarry, somewhat reductive power that persists long after opening this blend of 75% Syrah and 25% Petite Sirah, which somewhat masks the blackberry, brioche and fudge touches. The palate shows tart black plum and gravel, and is still very tightly

woven. Expect this to improve in the months and years to come. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$52

89 Tensley 2015 Syrah (Central Coast). Impressively thick and dark for Joey Tensley's new entry-level brand, this wine's deep and dark aromas of slate-flecked soil makes for a very earthy impression on the nose, along with expected hints of tar, purple flowers and boysenberry. Condensed cassis flavors show on the sip along with hints of lavender and blueberry, laced together by soft tannins and an upright acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

GRENAACHE

91 Amor Fati 2015 Murmur Vineyard Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). Well-integrated aromas of hibiscus, red plum, dark berry and purple flowers make for a very clean nose on this bottling from an increasingly popular vineyard toward the western edge of the appellation along Highway 101. The palate packs a very loamy, wet soil minerality with boysenberry, lavender and white-pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Comartin 2014 Tierra Alta Vineyard Grenache (Ballard Canyon). Dried red-cherry aromas meet with turned earth, concentrated rose and intriguing carnation notes on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard on the northern tip of the appellation. The well-woven flavors included tart cherry and baking spices of vanilla and nutmeg, all presented on a relatively lightweight body. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42

90 Kaleidos 2015 Osiris Grenache (Paso Robles). This offering, which is bolstered by 6% Petite Sirah, offers a cohesive nose of allspice, root beer, vanilla, slate minerality and a dark berry core. The root beer and cola spices are strong on the sip, where fatter plum and mulberry flavors are balanced by decent acidity and lightweight tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Mesa Del Sol 2013 Grenache (Monterey County). Lighter in the glass, this bottling shows garrigue, rose petals and buds and bright pomegranate aromas on the nose. It's lighter bodied on the sip, and would be nice on a summer day with a slight chill, offering flavors of cranberry, raspberry, thyme and marjoram. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

ZINFANDEL

93 Boeger 2015 Rosa Canina Zinfandel (El Dorado). This is a very complete, well-balanced and satisfying wine that has a firm tannic structure to carry the tempting berry and black-cherry flavors. It starts with light cinnamon, clove

and vanilla aromas that join loads of fruit on the palate, layering nicely for an interesting, complex and substantive character. Drink through 2025.
Cellar Selection. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$24

93 Carlisle 2014 DuPratt Vineyard Zinfandel (Mendocino Ridge). An amazing amalgam of berry flavors fills this full-bodied and intensely fruity wine. It gushes with blackberry, raspberry and strawberry in the aromas and on the palate, supported by good acidity and moderate tannins. It may be high in alcohol but it's so jam-packed with red and black fruit that it tastes balanced and appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$47

93 High Valley Vineyard 2015 Zinfandel (High Valley). For full review see page 6. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$30

93 Ruby Hill Winery 2013 Jewel Collection Series Estate Reserve Zinfandel (Livermore Valley). Outstanding concentration rides an impressive structure in this huge but well-balanced wine. Freshly picked blackberries and raspberries meet hints of chocolate, baking spices and black pepper while vivid tannins and firm acidity lift up all those flavors and carry them to a lingering finish. Compelling to drink now, it's also built to age well. Best after 2020. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$50

93 Shenandoah Vineyards 2015 Reserve Paul's Vineyard Zinfandel (Amador County). Powerful, mouthwatering, concentrated black-cherry and blackberry flavors form the core of this full-bodied, full-flavored and well-balanced wine. Starting with aromas of toasted oak and wood smoke, the wine has a broad rich mouthfeel and moderate tannins that propel the gorgeous fruit flavors across the palate and linger a long time on the finish. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$24

92 Amador Cellars 2014 Estate Vineyard Zinfandel (Amador County). Well-integrated oak, deliciously ripe fruit flavors and an absolutely luscious texture make a great combination for this very full-bodied wine. The entry is smooth and light, then the flavors of ripe plum and boysenberry build on the palate, very mouth filling and rich, before lingering on a long finish. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$30

92 Bella Luna 2015 Fighter Pilot Red (Paso Robles). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

92 Opolo 2015 Mountain Zinfandel (Paso Robles). For full review see page 8.
abv: 16.3% **Price:** \$29

92 Rabble 2015 Mossfire Ranch Zinfandel (Paso Robles). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

92 Renwood 2014 Special Reserve Zinfandel (Fiddletown). For full review see page 8.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Sol Rouge 2013 Zinfandel (Red Hills Lake County). Intensely ripe and concentrated fruit flavors dominate both the aromas and flavors of this very full-bodied but ultrasoft wine. Light notes of dried sage and cinnamon dust the blackberry jam and candied-strawberry flavors for a nuanced complexity despite the high alcohol and supreme ripeness. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Uphill Vineyards 2013 Estate Grown Primitivo (Amador County). Floral aromas like rose and lilac give this lush and fruity wine a unique character. It has very ripe, exotic fruit flavors that resemble blueberries, macerated cherries and boysenberries. Subtle oak nuances form a lightly spicy background, while firm tannins add grip to complete a nicely balanced and high-intensity package. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

92 Uvaggio 2015 Radix Vinea Zinfandel (El Dorado). This is a bold, very ripe and full-bodied wine that has a good frame of firm tannins and acidity to give it an appetizing texture. While packed with plump, almost sweet flavors like blackberry jam, it is nicely dry and well balanced, leading to a lingering finish that last for 30 seconds. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Wilderotter 2014 Zinfandel (Amador County). While not so big and bombastic as many, the wine has wonderful complex aromas, layered flavors and a feeling of elegance and length on the palate. Savory aromas precede mineral and cranberry flavors firmed up by good acidity and moderate tannins. This is what great balance tastes like. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$27

91 Andis 2014 Zinfandel (Amador County). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

91 Concrete 2013 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Marietta Cellars 2015 Román Estate Grown Zinfandel (North Coast). Floral cedary aromas and big berry-soaked flavors come together on a smooth but appropriately tannic texture as this full-bodied wine drenches the palate with blackberry and boysenberry richness. It combines power with complexity and has the grippy texture needed

to carry all that ripeness. It was blended with 11% Petite Sirah and 5% Barbera. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$22

91 Miller Wine Works 2014 Shake Ridge Vineyard Zinfandel (Amador County). The opulent, concentrated and jammy flavors of this big but smooth wine are hard to resist. Black plum, blackberry and a touch of black pepper make a classic combo on the palate as a broad texture and generous mouthfeel carry them through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$34

91 Terra d'Oro 2015 Zinfandel (Amador County). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Boneshaker 2015 Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$14

90 Cedarville Vineyard 2014 Estate Zinfandel (El Dorado). Aromas of wood smoke and grilled meat set up bold smoky, peppery flavors in this complex, spicy and full-bodied wine. The savory beefy aspects are a pleasure to taste and there is a good foundation of mild tannins and solid cherry flavors. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$25

90 Everhart Cellars 2014 Pilot Ridge Vineyard Estate Grown Zinfandel (El Dorado). Ripe and saturated with fruit flavor, this wine is so full-bodied that it comes off almost sweet in spite of a good streak of acidity. Strawberry and boysenberry seem to coat the palate and a broad, smooth texture carries the extreme fruitiness through the finish. Enjoy it after a meal with dessert or cheese. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26

90 Zinderella 2014 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 13.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Cline 2015 Ancient Vines Zinfandel (Contra Costa County). It's great to find both lots of fruit and good structure in a Zin, especially at such a reasonable price. Spicy aromas like vanilla and nutmeg precede vivid and ripe fruit flavors and more of those oaky spices on the palate where firm tannins and a bite of acidity give a mouthwatering balance. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15

89 Everhart Cellars 2014 Estate Grown Happy Zinfandel (El Dorado). This drinks like a Port, with extremely ripe and definitely sweet flavors of raisins, dried plums and blackberry jam. It's not so much a dinner wine as something to sip around the campfire or with a dark chocolate dessert. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

89 Mettler Family Vineyards 2014 Epicenter Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). An extreme aroma of heavily toasted oak carries through to the intense

smoky, meaty flavors of this full-bodied and quite tannic wine that was aged in 80% American oak and 20% French. It's rowdy and robust, but fun to drink for fans of no-holds-barred oakiness. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Sobon Estate 2015 Cougar Hill Zinfandel (Amador County). A distinctive cedar and smoke character makes this medium-bodied wine interesting to taste, and the herb and ripe black-cherry flavors underneath give it a substantial fruit component. It's light on tannins but big on flavor. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Scott Harvey 2013 InZinerator Zinfandel (California). Velvety smooth, and brimming with ripe berry flavors, this wine feels broad and rich on the palate, carrying flavors like black plums and boysenberry jam. So ripe it's almost sweet, the wine is nothing if not generous and fruity. A 7% addition of Port-style sweet wine gives it that extra dimension. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Criss Cross 2015 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). Aromas like vanilla and candied cherry meet very ripe cherry and berry flavors in this rich, almost syrupy wine. The fruit flavors are very concentrated and the texture is smooth and polished, showing very little tannin. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$17

87 Infidel 2014 Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$25

87 Lorenzi Estate 2013 Old Vine De Ambrogio Block Zinfandel (Temecula Valley). This is an extremely ripe and viscous wine, almost too much to handle. The nose shows juicy blackberry syrup, crème de cassis, coconut and a hint of herbs, and then the palate delivers coffee, fudge, elderberry, black currant and pepper. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$45

87 Shenandoah Vineyards 2015 Special Reserve Zinfandel (Amador County). This is a great value for a wine from the celebrated Amador region. Aromas like strawberry jam and brown sugar lead to very ripe and fruity flavors in this full-bodied but lively wine. It's fun to sip and doesn't try for a serious profile or heavy texture. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Sobon Estate 2015 Old Vine Zinfandel (Amador County). Fruity and savory elements are well blended in this nicely mature full-bodied wine. It has a sense of being polished and smooth on the palate, not very tannic but just very mellow to sip. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Dante Robere 2014 Zinfandel (San Francisco Bay). This bold wine has a charred oak

aroma, flavors that are almost sweet and also plenty oaky, along with ripe and concentrated berry flavors that peek out from under the smoky toasted layer after a few moments. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$33

86 **Maggio 2015 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** A heavy oak element dominates the aromas and flavors of this sweet-seeming, medium-bodied wine. It starts with toasted oak and smoked meat impressions and then gushes black-cherry and boysenberry notes on the palate. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

86 **Moss Roxx 2013 Ancient Vine Reserve Zinfandel (Lodi).** Opulent and obvious oak aromas and flavors weave through this extremely ripe, full-bodied and rather sweet wine, making it an outlier, though a very flavorful one. It smells like charred cedar, toasted oak, cloves and vanilla while tasting jammy and syrupy. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

86 **Scotto Cellars 2013 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** This is a supersmooth, easy-going wine with mild dark-fruit flavors, very little tannin and a soft texture. Two years aging in previously used oak barrels helped round off any corners in the mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 **ZinPhomaniac 2015 Old Vines Zinfandel (Lodi).** Waffles and maple syrup in the aroma, and blackberries in the flavor seem to recommend this full-bodied wine for breakfast time. In fact it is a little sweet, and those maple-like notes continue in the flavors along with vanilla and cinnamon. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

84 **Cedar View Winery 2014 Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills).** The tarry herbal aromas and roasted peppery flavors of this medium-bodied wine give it a rather lean taste profile and the texture is moderately tannic. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$23

SANGIOVESE

93 **Cent'Anni 2011 Buoni Anni Sangiovese (Santa Ynez Valley).** Kudos to winemaker Doug Margerum for holding onto this extremely pleasing wine long enough for all the components to come together. Six years in, the aromas of cola, black cherry, rose petal, pepper dust and crushed gravel are still fresh and vibrant, while the palate remains upright due to structural tannins. Flavors of blackberry, raspberry and baking spice abound, making for an elegant wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

91 **Rideau 2015 The Englishmen Camp 4 Sangiovese (Los Olivos District).** This bottling offers cassis, blackberry syrup, crushed slate and lots of

purple flowers on the nose. It's a big and boisterous expression of the grape at first sip, which bursts with boysenberry, but then grows very mineral in the mid-palate, with gravel and lava rock flavors. The tight tannic structure goes deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$34

89 **Robert Renzoni 2014 Estate Sangiovese (Temecula Valley).** Straight down-the-middle aromas of red cherry, salt and pepper, vanilla and a touch of brioche show on this bottling of a clone that's related to the Brunello region. It's lighter bodied on the palate and quite easy to quaff, with light cherry and strawberry flavors riding a gravelly texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

84 **Dubost 2012 Blood of Jove Off-Dry Sangiovese (Adelaida District).** Very treacly aromas of overripe strawberry, brown sugar and maple syrup show on this dessert-like wine. It's very sweet on the palate, with sweet tea, prune and raisin flavors. —M.K.
abv: 18.7% **Price:** \$40

RED BLENDS

94 **Guarachi Family 2014 G (Napa Valley).** This is an astounding wine for the price, a blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc. Sinewy, it's taut in currant, clove and tobacco alongside generous structured tannin. The blackberry takes on a rich depth of chocolate mocha on the lengthy memorable finish. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

93 **Kaleidos 2014 Morpheus (Paso Robles).** This blend of 64% Syrah, 26% Grenache and 10% Mourvèdre is unabashedly rich and lush, with cassis, vanilla, baked pastry, white chocolate, brown sugar and caramelized pork fat on the nose. Fudge, caramel and vanilla show powerfully on the sip, which will pair with a juicy steak or simply wow everyone at the table, even toward the end of a long night. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$40

93 **Pulchella 2014 The Revision (Paso Robles).** Baked blackberry, vanilla, dust and chocolate show on the nose of this blend of 69% Petite Sirah, 22% Grenache and 9% Tannat. The palate is ripe with plum, blueberry and black currant and lifted by dried ginger and nutmeg, but the dazzling acidity and tannic firmness is what takes it to the next level. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$38

92 **Asuncion Ridge 2014 Salacious (Paso Robles).** This blend of 47% Grenache, 35% Mourvèdre and 18% Syrah is reminiscent of a walk through the dewy sagebrush, with dried wild herbs most prominent alongside cola, rustic plum and mulberry and a hint of pine forest. Those forest-like flavors

show on the sip as well, with bay leaf, green peppercorn and a savory salts enhancing the baked berry and tangy plum skin elements—a GSM with teeth and structure. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$38

92 **AuburnJames 2013 Speedster (North Coast).** Concentrated and potent fruit flavors fill this Bordeaux-style blend practically to the point of bursting. It has amazingly focused black-cherry and blackberry flavors and a cranberry-like level of acidity and tannin to fully support all that ripeness. It feels layered, tastes deep and has all the elements to age well. Best after 2020. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$52

92 **Black Ridge 2011 San Andreas Red (Santa Cruz Mountains).** All five Bordeaux varieties make an appearance in this blend, which offers deep and brooding aromas of black olive, graphite, tobacco, cigar box and elderberry on the nose. There is strong black pepper and charred beef on the sip but also a pleasant purple-fruit jam that arises mid-palate, with pencil shavings all around. The tannins are soft and the finish is minty. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$49

92 **Bonterra 2013 The McNab (Mendocino).** This is a bold dry wine from one of Bonterra's biodynamically farmed vineyards, and it has plenty of tannin in the texture and an abundance of ripe black-cherry, wood smoke and baking spice flavors to fill out that firm frame. For all its power the wine is also polished and velvety enough to sip with pleasure. Best after 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

92 **Dilecta 2014 Cookie (Central Coast).** Aromas of vanilla-flecked and butter-laced pastry filled with cassis sauce show on the nose of this rich blend of 62% Syrah and 38% Mourvèdre from the Bien Nacido and Jada vineyards. The sip is very well structured by upright sticky tannins, which hold up flavors of crushed gravel and slate and a piquant boysenberry jam. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$46

92 **Frequency 2015 G-S-M (Santa Barbara County).** There is a strong garrigue character to the nose of this blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre, with dried thyme, dill and black pepper spicing up the damson and crushed slate aromas. The palate shows that the wine is still very young, but the herbally lifted flavors of black-pepper dust and boysenberry ensure great things to come. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

92 **Joey Tensley 2015 Fundamental (Central Coast).** This blend is part of a new label for Syrah master Joey Tensley, and it's actually far more accessible at this young age than his more expensive bottlings. Fascinating aromas of game, animal hide and tar meet with black currant and elderberry on the nose. There is a strong density and tannic frame

to the palate, where flavors of bay leaf, thyme and pepper spice up the undercurrent of elderberry and black plum skins. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

92 Nielson by Byron 2012 Nielson Vineyard G-S-M (Santa Maria Valley). Very dark in the glass, this inky wine shows aromas of iodine, distilled violets and wound-up black-currant fruit, making the Syrah appear in charge. It's very dense but not especially ripe on the sip, where layered tannins reluctantly reveal elderberry and lilac flavors. Though five years old, it still needs time to unwind. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$40

92 Omen 2015 Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 7. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Pine & Brown 2014 Hill Block (Rutherford). Softened by the addition of 18% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, this wine is juicy and expressive in a twinge of dark bark, tobacco and leather. Luscious and richly satisfying in berry goodness, it's seamless in tannin and texture, with plenty of complexity, as well as lovely accents of black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

92 Piocho 2013 Red (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Vibrant aromas of black raspberry, black cherry, cigar box, wet soil and dried oregano are reminiscent of classic Bordeaux in this blend of 34% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Cabernet Franc, 9% Malbec and 9% Petit Verdot. Rounded red fruits show on the front and finish of the sip, but the midpalate is layered with olive, crushed pepper, marjoram and black tea. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32

92 Pulchella 2014 The Gathering (Adelaida District). This blend of 51% Grenache, 39% Tannat and 10% Syrah shows off the winery's rich style with thick aromas of blackberry, black cherry, maple, chocolate sauce, tobacco and clove. Caramel and vanilla flavors play strong on the sip, alongside bacon fat and brown sugar. It's quite big but undeniably tasty. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$34

92 Refugio Ranch 2014 Escondrijo (Santa Ynez Valley). Deep aromas of boysenberry, dried purple flowers and crushed slate show on the vibrant and fresh nose of this blend of 55% Grenache, 39% Syrah and 6% Petite Sirah from the Gleason family and winemaker Ryan Deovlet. The sip is sharp with acidity but also lush and firmly structured, making for a dynamic palate full of dark fruit and peppery spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$42

92 Rubino Estates Winery 2014 Ferrario Famiglia Collection (Livermore Valley). This is a very concentrated, firm and tannic wine but also so ripe and almost sweet in flavor that it achieves good bal-

ance. Lush ripe berries and black cherries coat the palate, while a velvety texture adds great structure for an appetizing and gripping mouthfeel. Barbera, Petit Verdot, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah grapes form the blend. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

92 Virgil's Vineyard 2014 The Smuggler's Son (California). For full review see page 8. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14.9 **Price:** \$35

91 Calcareous 2013 Lloyd of Calcareous (Paso Robles). For full review see page 9.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$59

91 Dante Robere 2014 Roberitage (Livermore Valley). Black pepper and grilled beef aromas lead to ripe and almost-sweet flavors that segue from dried plum to roasted walnut and toffee, for a fascinating savory personality. Made with equal amounts Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, the wine has firm tannins and brisk acidity to balance a good rich viscosity that helps the finish linger. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$39

91 Dubost 2014 Vingence (Adelaida District). This blend of 60% Syrah and 40% Tannat works quite well, with rounded aromas of caramelized blackberry, vanilla and vibrant violets on the nose. Black currant, dried herbs and pepper show on the palate, which is nicely balanced and not as unctuous as the nose implies. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

91 Fenestra 2012 Conjugation (Livermore Valley). This full-bodied, dry and quite tannic wine follows the classic form of California Cabernet Sauvignon, which forms 65% of the blend. The aroma is full of ripe black fruit shaded by nutmeg, cedar and cinnamon, while black currant and dark chocolate drive the concentrated and deeply rooted flavors. Best after 2020. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Frequency 2015 Artist Series Verna's Vineyard G-S-M (Santa Barbara County). There's a lot of fresh fruit, caramel, cola and Dr. Pepper spice to the nose of this playful blend of 34% Grenache, 33% Syrah and 33% Mourvèdre, complete with label art by Alex Gardner. Tangy purple flowers of lavender and potpourri show on the sip along with tart plum fruit and white-pepper dust. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Justin 2014 Savant (Paso Robles). For full review see page 9.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Kitá 2014 Kalas (Santa Ynez Valley). Bay leaf, tomato leaf, green peppercorns, loamy mud and a slight touch of pasilla chile show on the nose of this blend of 48% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot. Peppery spices dominate the palate, including hints of

Mexican mole sauce, making for a very intriguing and elegant wine. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Lafond 2013 Lafond Vineyard Syrah-Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). This wine from cooler climate plantings of both grapes will appeal to many palates, with aromas of baked boysenberry pie and hints of vanilla, nutmeg and star anise. The hot pie flavors extend to the sip, where they are enhanced by hints of spearmint, pepper and fresh herbs. It's quite tasty and fulfilling. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$38

91 Los Padres 2016 Red (Central Coast). Especially for a more affordable bottling, Joey Tensley packs in a ton of density on this bottling, from the color to the nose to the palate. Hearty aromas of black currant, charred blackberry, dusty sagebrush and a hint of caramel drop into a deep and rich but not overripe palate of tar and blackened fruit. Soft tannins coat the mouth fully. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

91 Marietta Cellars 2014 Christo North Coast). A very dark color and densely packed aromas of blackberry, charred wood and dark chocolate are followed by a richly tannic texture and generous flavors that are dry and reminiscent of espresso beans and black cherries. The concentration of flavor and equally impressive tannic mouthfeel make this wine bold and memorable. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$22

91 MCV 2015 Red (Paso Robles). This is a very big and jammy wine, but it's made with expert structure and elegance as well as affordability. Concentrated blackberry, black-currant, smoked beef and lavender aromas arise from the dark juice in the glass. The crème de cassis richness at the tip of the sip dries up into tight tannins and touches of fennel and thyme. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Rubino Estates Winery 2014 Landmark Collection Proprietary Red (Livermore Valley). This well-made red blend has no shortage of ripe black-fruit flavors or gripping texture. It's full bodied, very dark in color, smells like cinnamon, clove and cherries, and tastes very ripe and concentrated: like chocolate covered cherries without the sweetness. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$50

91 Sol Rouge 2013 Gypsy Rouge (Red Hills Lake County). Complex earthy spicy savory flavors make this Grenache-based wine a great escape from simply fruity bottles. It's fragrant with smoke and black pepper in the aroma, filled with ripe plum, toffee and cardamom on the palate and has a full mouthfilling texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$32

91 Sol Rouge 2013 The Keep (Lake County). Ripe and concentrated, this wine is also full

bodied and quite tannic while maintaining a velvety mouthfeel. The abundant flavors of black cherry and dark chocolate are inviting and deep. —J.G.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

91 Tensley 2015 All Blocks Tensley Vineyards (Santa Barbara County). Joey Tensley departs from his usual dark fruit intensity to weave together a more chaparral spice-driven Rhône-style blend in this bottling, which shows marjoram, bay leaf and sweet sage on the nose. The palate packs those dried herbs onto a beef roast, throwing in dusty earth and dried berries to round out the sip. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$34

91 Tooth and Nail 2015 The Possessor (Paso Robles). For full review see page 10.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

91 Waterloo 2014 The Forge of Beulah Land (Paso Robles). From the Preston Vineyard in Templeton Gap comes this blend of 29% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc, 21% Petit Verdot, 13% Merlot and 12% Malbec, which is full of violet, deeply red cherries and cranberries and charred meat on the nose. The palate starts with a somewhat sweet touch of red currant but then tightens on elegant graphite, potpourri, cigar box and white-pepper flavors, all framed by chalky tannins. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$42

90 AuburnJames 2012 Diablo Rosso (Livermore Valley). Full-bodied, tannic and imposing, this densely packed wine has ripe and bright cherry and berry flavors, a tannic texture that's rounded slightly at the edges, and a sense of depth that helps the fruit notes linger on the finish. Tannat, Malbec and Cabernet Franc make the blend. —J.G.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$42

90 Dilecta 2014 Match (Central Coast). This blend of 50% Mourvèdre, 33% Syrah and 17% Petit Verdot comes from the Kimsey (Ballard Canyon), Jada (Paso Robles) and Jack McGinley (Happy Canyon) vineyards. Straight-ahead aromas of baked blackberry, anise and purple flowers lead into a palate that's tight at the tip and still very wound up. Strong acidity and fine-grained tannins will reveal the slowly emerging dark fruit and sagebrush flavors in due time. —M.K.

abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$46

90 En Garde 2013 Adamus (Diamond Mountain District). This wine combines 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and smaller pinches of Petit Verdot and Malbec. It has a tanginess of acidity that sizzles on the palate, providing brightness and focus around soft integrated layers of dark cherry and a jolt of dill. —V.B.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$100

90 Murrieta's Well 2014 The Spur (Livermore Valley). This wine is deeply colored, quite oaky in aroma, bold in terms of fruit flavors and has a lively texture due to good acidity and moder-

ate tannins. The fruit has a bright quality like red cherries and cranberries and the oaky spices wind through the finish. —J.G.

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

90 Renwood 2014 Grandmère (Amador County). For full review see page 12.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

90 Smith & Hook 2014 Proprietary Red Wine Blend (Central Coast). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

90 Tooth and Nail 2015 El Sabio Freston G-S-M (California). This blend of 50% Grenache, 42% Syrah and 8% Mourvèdre shows broad aromas of strawberries, baked red plums and sagebrush, proving quite inviting and playful despite the dramatic and intense label. That playfulness arises on the sip too, where wild berry and red-currant flavors pair with garrigue touches of dried sage and pepper. —M.K.

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

89 Black Ridge 2012 San Andreas Red (Santa Cruz Mountains). Elderberry, white pepper, leather, asphalt and black olive show on the nose of this blend of all five Bordeaux varieties done in the region's savory style. The flavors are mellow overall, with wildfire smoke and a bit of herbaceousness decorating the elderberry and graphite core. —M.K.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$49

89 Dubost 2015 Reconciliation (Paso Robles). Tart elderberry, purple flowers, anise, bay leaf and other chaparral aromas show on the nose of this blend of 20% Carmenère, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 20% Merlot, 10% Malbec and 10% Petit Verdot. Forest-driven flavors power the palate, where firm but forgiving tannins present black cherry and dark chocolate shavings. —M.K.

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

89 Opolo 2013 Rhapsody Reserve Meritage (Paso Robles). Very jammy on the nose with fig and blackberry, this bottling of all the primary Bordeaux grapes except Cabernet Franc also shows aromatic hints of maple and bacon fat. It's very full on the sip, with chalky, mouthcoating tannins and flavors of black cherry, cola and cocoa. —M.K.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$47

88 Andis 2014 Painted Fields (Amador County). For full review see page 13.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

88 Cedarville Vineyard 2013 Turnabout's Fair Play (El Dorado). Blended from Grenache, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine has smoky charred-wood aromas, and tastes dry and powerful, with very firm tannins. It's lean in terms

of fruit flavor, but it has a great grippy texture to pair well with big proteins. —J.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$39

88 Kitá 2014 Spe'y Camp 4 Vineyard (Santa Ynez Valley). There's an intriguing touch of peanut brittle as well as underripe berries, rose petals and roasted game on the nose of this blend of 55% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 20% Carignane. The palate offers dried cranberry and tar flavors. —M.K.

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

88 Left Bend 2014 Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). This blend of 55% Syrah and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon offers tightly wound elderberry, beef char and deep black-plum aromas on the nose. The flavors are balanced between a blackberry ripeness and a tarry bitterness, lifted by touches of lavender, rose petals and tart black-plum skins. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

88 Lorenzi Estate 2013 Reserve Red (Temecula Valley). There are very ripe aromas of kirsch, cassis, licorice and root beer on the nose of this bottling, which begin to evolve into prunes, dried figs and raisins with time. The cola spice flavor is strong as are the prune and milk chocolate, all of which ride a strong tannic frame. —M.K.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$55

88 Matchbook 2013 Tinto Rey (Dunnigan Hills). This is a mouthfilling wine that doesn't go over the top in terms of ripeness or tannins, so it's smooth to drink and offers mild plum and cherry flavors. —J.G.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

88 Sobon Estate 2014 Red (Amador County). From a reliable, established winery in the Sierra region, this wine was made from Syrah Barbera, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. Smoky, peppery aromas lead to ripe spicy fruit flavors and a firm but polished mouthfeel. The wine is moderately tannic and nicely dry. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Rabble 2014 Mossfire Ranch (Paso Robles). Savory pepper and rustic gravel aromas meet with strawberry and dried cherry on the nose of this proprietary red blend that is widely available. Strawberry pie flavors dominate the sip, but there's also a lava rock minerality and a burst of acidity. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Derby 2013 Implico (Paso Robles). This blend of 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Malbec, 20% Petit Verdot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 12% Merlot is very approachable on the nose with blackberry and black-pepper aromas. The palate also offers the black fruit with a touch of purple flowers, but it is somewhat simple and weak, especially compared to this winery's other bottlings. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$34

87 Donati 2013 The Immigrant (Paicines). The nose on this bottling is quite reserved, with anise, dill and black plum, as well as a hint of crushed black rocks. The flavors are also tightly wound, with licorice and oregano laid atop the tart plum fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

87 Locations NV CA4 Red Blend (California). So ripe and jammy tasting that it seems sweet, this wine is dark in color, rich in aroma and packed full of blueberry, milk chocolate and blackberry flavors. It feels lightly tannic, but the acidity is soft and the flavors are so opulent that it's easy to sip. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Muddy Boot 2015 Black Road Red (California). This wine oozes ripe lush flavors of boysenberry jam, milk chocolate and strawberry. It's very deep in color, has some tannins for added texture but is pretty smooth overall and seems to turn sweet on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

87 One 2015 Flock (California). A rich mouthfeel and considerable sweetness come with oaky spicy aromas and jammy fruit flavors in this full-bodied and rather tannic wine that was blended from mostly Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Sean Thackrey NV Pleiades XXV Old Vines (California). It's very difficult to rate this unusual bottling in a blind tasting. It's a nonvintage dry red wine blended from mature years and has few if any peers in California. It's very tasty because of traits that are usually considered flaws. A tawny color and an aroma like tawny Port lead to a very soft texture, and warm plum, raisin and nut flavors. The wine is rather full in body, light on tannins, and tastes quite mature and mellow. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

87 Twisted Paso 2014 Main Squeeze (Paso Robles). This blend of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Syrah and 20% Zinfandel is a little simple at first on the nose, with loamy soil and tart elderberry aromas eventually apparent. It's quite dry on the sip, with dried oregano and marjoram, and then come flavors of black fruit, graphite and black pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$20

86 VDR 2014 Very Dark Red (Hames Valley). This blend of 63% Petit Verdot and 37% Petite Sirah is indeed dark, with savory herbs of thyme and sage spicing up the dense blueberry and chocolate aromas. The palate is somewhat simple, offering ripe blackberry juice and a touch of chaparral spice. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

84 Concannon 2015 Crimson & Clover Reserve (Livermore Valley). An aroma like toasted

marshmallows and a sweet candied-fruit flavor make this wine taste soft and almost cloying. It has a broad pillowy texture and buttery finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$26

OTHER RED WINES

94 Brecon Estate 2015 Tannat (Adelaida District). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$52

93 Tooth and Nail 2014 The Fiend Malbec (Paso Robles). One of the better Malbec-based wines of the region, this fairly priced blend, which includes 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petite Sirah and 2% Syrah, offers a dense core of blackberry jam that's covered by layers of loam, charred beef, black pepper and smoke. The dense black-cherry and blueberry flavors are cut by intense pepper, vanilla bean and prominent cappuccino, all frame by woody tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

91 Orfila 2015 Estate Montepulciano (San Pasqual Valley). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$38

90 Firestone 2014 Petit Verdot (Santa Ynez Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

90 Martin Ranch 2013 Thérèse Vineyards Victoria Denice Vineyard Carignane (Santa Clara Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$29

90 Ponte 2014 Montepulciano (Temecula Valley). Very wound-up aromas of dried and dark red berries and asphalt show on the nose of this bottling from Temecula, another sign that Italian varieties can thrive in the warmer climate. The flavors are impressively deep and spicy, with black currant, blackened berries, pencil shavings, vanilla and char. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

90 Rabble 2015 Mossfire Ranch Tempranillo (Paso Robles). This is very much a cowboy wine, with rustic aromas of campfire smoke, warm leather and black-plum pie fresh out of the oven. Baked mulberry and elderflower show on the fruity sip, but it's cut by a leathery texture and burnt brioché, making for a unique fulfilling sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

89 Bargetto 2014 Regan Vineyards Nebbiolo (Santa Cruz Mountains). This longtime winemaking family uses an old-style label on this bottling of the classic Italian grape, which spent 24 months on American oak. Rusty bloody aromas of cranberry, peppercorn and carnation lead into a palate framed by stiff tannins and strong acidity. Red-fruit flavors mix with woody spice, and the finish

is sticky, showing that this wine is still very young. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Castillo's Hillside Shire 2013 Petit Verdot (Santa Clara County). Blackberries, asphalt, char and black pepper show on the nose of this bottling from a winery in Morgan Hill. It's a little thin on the palate, especially for what can be a thick and dense grape, but the flavors are solid, with dark plum, coffee and pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$42

88 Minassian-Young 2015 Tannat (Paso Robles). There's an impressive amount of garrigue packed into this bottling, which is a bit light for the usually very dark grape, as well as touches of sandalwood, cedar and a gamy animal hide aromas. It's zippy on the sip with black raspberry and dark cranberry flavors plus thyme, pepper and sage. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

87 Firestone 2014 Malbec (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark red plum, cedar, clove and allspice show on the nose of this bottling of a variety rarely bottled alone in Santa Barbara County. The flavors are straightforward with light berry fruit, a touch of pepper and the slightest hint of licorice. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$26

CHILE

CHARDONNAY

89 Concha y Toro 2016 Marques de Casa Concha Chardonnay (Limarí Valley). Oaky aromas of bacon and ham blend with vanilla on the nose of this plump, melony wine. Flavors of resiny oak, Animal Cracker cookies and melon turn overtly spicy on the finish that includes a hint of clove. *Excelsior Wines.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Montes 2015 Alpha Chardonnay (Casablanca Valley). Aromas of white peach and apple come with mild oak notes. This feels melony and full, with its body weight dictated by tropical fruits. Briny, salty tropical fruit and corn flavors finish with a lasting note of oak. *Guarachi Wine Partners.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Arboleda 2016 Chardonnay (Aconcagua Costa). Pleasant apple, peach and melon aromas show a coastal-based saline side note. In the mouth, this Chardonnay is tight, crisp and focused by pointed acidity. Flavors of melon, papaya and salt finish tangy and fresh, something that's normal for the Aconcagua Coast. *Thiénot USA.* —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Bodegas Manutara 2016 Desafío Chardonnay (Maule Valley). Oily, slightly sweaty aromas of orange and citrus peel lead to a chunky, melony

palate. This tastes yeasty and of basic white fruits, while a breadly tasting, slightly flat finish is low on acidity. Boutinot USA, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 14% Price: \$15

86 Concha y Toro 2016 Serie Riberas Gran Reserva Chardonnay (Colchagua Valley). Neutral white-fruit aromas are slightly oxidized. This Chardonnay feels chunky and creamy, with only moderate acidity. Sweet-leaning flavors suggest canned pineapple, while this feels syrupy and tastes like papaya on a soft finish. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Leyda 2016 Lot 4 Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Prickly green-herb and cactus aromas are punchy but not overly pungent. This offers a mix of softer tropical acidity and harder citric brightness, which sets the stage for flavors of grapefruit, lime and tropical fruits. A steady, lively finish is lasting. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$40

88 Aresti 2016 Trisquel Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Snappy, prickly citrus and green aromas are typical of cool-climate Leyda Sauvignon Blanc. This feels light and a bit watery, but entirely fresh. Flavors of grapefruit, gooseberry, celery and scallion stay around for the finish. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

88 Kingston Family 2016 CJ's Barrel Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Aromas of field greens and wax bean are restrained on the nose. This has a round palate with citric acidity. Flavors of briny green fruits finish slightly closed and bitter. This wine reflects the 2016 vintage which was a cloudy, wet one in Casablanca. Kingston Family Vineyards. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

88 Veranda 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Bío Bío Valley). Bell pepper and citrus aromas control the nose on this racy wine that clocks in at only 12% abv. An alert, tangy palate matches the nose, while this tastes of lemon-lime, tart green apple and sea brine. A lean, high-acid finish stops short of tasting green. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —M.S.

abv: 12% Price: \$NA

87 Arboleda 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Aconcagua Costa). Green pyrazine-based aromas of briny fruits and bell pepper are typical of Chilean Sauvignon Blanc. This feels lively and punchy, with citric acidity. Lightly spicy, peppery notes accent core lime flavors, while this ends with a bright and lively acidic finish. Thiénot USA. —M.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

87 Kingston Family 2016 Cariblanco Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Citrus and salad-like aromas are more subdued and neutral than punchy. This feels melony and lower than normal on zestiness. Flavors of green fruits and mild herbs finish mellow and slightly bitter. Kingston Family Vineyards. —M.S.

abv: 14% Price: \$20

87 Leyda 2016 Single Vineyard Garuma Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). A typically snappy opening with the pop of jalapeño gives way to a laser-sharp palate with bold acidity. Tart, mouthwatering citrus flavors come with green, herbal notes. This is cleansing and bone dry on the finish, but always a touch vegetal. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.

abv: 14% Price: \$18

86 Haras de Pirque 2016 Albalara Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley-Maipo Valley). An almost colorless luster and oily aromas of green apple set the stage for this stony, lean SB. Briny, citric flavors are common but limited, while the finish is similar, only lighter. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. *Best Buy.* —M.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$10

86 San Pedro 2016 1865 Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Green, lightly vegetal aromas of pole beans and canned peas lead to a palate with moderate acidity and pop. A briny mix of citrus and vegetal flavors carries over to the finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. *Best Buy.* —M.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

86 Viña Maipo 2015 Gran Devoción Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Aromas of match stick and green herbs don't deliver much fruit. This feels round and regular, with grassy flavors along with hints of green bean and canned pea. Unresolved pyrazines on the finish result in an herbal, green flavor. Fetzer Vineyards. —M.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$18

85 Carmen 2016 Wave Series Left Wave Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Tropical fruit and hay aromas open this plump but basic SB that's low on acidity. Low-energy green-melon flavors are a bit briny, while a lack of punchy acidity leaves a short finish. Trincherro Family Estates. *Best Buy.* —M.S.

abv: 13.2% Price: \$10

85 Santa Alicia 2016 Reserva Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Maipo Valley). Pyrazine-based notes of green pepper are most prominent on a basic nose. This feels lean and stony. Briny, salty citrus flavors lack complexity. American B.D. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

85 Trio 2015 Reserva Premium Blend Sauvignon Blanc (Chile). Gritty white-fruit and green aromas are more neutral than loud. This has

a sharp, citric mouthfeel that's all about acidity. Tart flavors of citrus and mixed greens finish salty. Saranty Imports. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

84 Loica 2015 Pacific Series Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Vegetal aromas of canned peas are also oddly powdery. This feels racy and healthy, but flavors of canned veggies echo the nose. A salty, green-tasting, peppery finish yields little to no fruit. Pura Wines. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

SAUVIGNON GRIS

84 Leyda 2016 Single Vineyard Kadún Sauvignon Gris (Leyda Valley). A full-out vegetal nose is anchored by a strong scent of canned peas. This shows wiry acidity while maintaining a full body. Salty citrus and green-bean flavors echo the nose. The wine is short on the finish and undeniably green. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

83 Casa Silva 2016 1912 Vines Sauvignon Gris (Colchagua Valley). Scattershot aromas are gritty and sweaty. This feels full but rather flat. Bland, sulfuric flavors of green fruits and melon finish short, with an oily texture. Vine Connections. —M.S.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

SPARKLING WINES

86 Undurraga NV Brut Pinot Noir Rosé (Central Valley). Aromas of currant, pie cherry and fresh sugar beet lead to a palate that suggests a punch bowl. Pink-grapefruit flavors are basic but good, while this tastes ripe and tropical on a fresh but simple finish. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

83 Undurraga NV Brut (Central Valley). Apple-sauce aromas come with a note of sugar-coated beignet. This feels a little sticky, while scattershot flavors of grapefruit juice, lychee, mango and lime finish sweet but also green. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

81 Valdivieso NV Grand Cuvée Blanc de Blancs (Leyda Valley). Stale cider, squash and pumpkin-pie aromas are not inviting. This feels austere and tastes underripe, with vegetal flavors of mushroom, celery and cabbage. There's no finish. Wine Bridge Imports. —M.S.

abv: 12% Price: \$25

ROSÉS

86 **Garces Silva 2016 Boya Rosé (Leyda Valley).** Cantaloupe aromas lead to a fresh palate with snap. Nectarine and tangerine flavors run lean and clean on their way to a juicy, no-nonsense finish. Vine Connections. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

85 **San Pedro 2016 Castillo de Molina Rosé (Chile).** Mildly overripe cantaloupe aromas set up a palate with a rip of malic acid. Short, slightly bitter and peppery citrus flavors don't add much to a modest finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

83 **Almacruz 2016 Rosé (Colchagua Valley).** Aromas of grapefruit skins and iodine open this wine. A flat palate and baked red-fruit flavors with bitterness end full and grabby. Wine Bridge Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$9

PINOT NOIR

90 **Leyda 2015 Lot 21 Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley).** Cherry, chocolate and marshmallow aromas need some airing to show their best. This feels plump but also jumpy and nervy, with no shortage of intensity. Lightly spicy tomato, plum and cherry flavors finish long and dry. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Leyda 2015 Cahuil Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley).** There's something different and appealing about this cool-climate Pinot. For beginners, the nose is savory and meaty-smelling, but offset by fresh strawberry and plum notes. A smooth palate with a touch of buttery oak tastes of savory plum, cherry and spice. A long finish is comfortable on the fade. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

88 **Leyda 2015 Las Brisas Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley).** Pinched, briny red-fruit aromas are rubbery. This has a distinctly raw but juicy and fresh palate. Tea, plum, currant and pink-peppercorn flavors are gamy, savory and a bit salty on the finish. In every way, this reflects its cool coastal origins. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 **Ritual 2015 Monster Block Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** A jumbled mix of aromas includes notes of rubber, berry fruits, plum, grass, fennel and oak. In the mouth, this is full and blocky. Rubbery flavors of plum and berry finish salty,

savory and spicy, with unintegrated oak that stands out. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

86 **Coleccion Privada 2015 Gran Reserva Pinot Noir (Maule Valley).** Leathery red-fruit aromas turn more gritty and earthy with airing. This feels chunky and full, without much elegance. Plum and rubbery berry flavors finish with a chocolate oak note. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

86 **Porta 2016 Reserva Estate Bottled Pinot Noir (Bío Bío Valley).** Peppery, raw aromas sport dry red-fruit notes. This is good in a modest, easy way. Simple, lightweight plum and currant flavors finish lean and snappy. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

85 **Santa Rita 2016 120 Pinot Noir (Aconcagua Valley).** Powdery berry aromas lead to a basic palate that's chewy but hollow in the middle. Cherry and plum flavors are generic, while this wine displays a solid feel on the finish. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

83 **Junta 2016 Momentos Reserve Pinot Noir (Itata Valley).** Herbal, spicy aromas are strange, like uncooked hot dogs. This is plump on the palate, with flavors of spiced tomato and little more. A grabby finish lacks refinement. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

81 **Flipflop NV Left Coast Pinot Noir (Chile).** Odd and unusual aromas of murky fruit and clove are matched on the palate, which tastes of fake oak, clove and little else. This Pinot seems more artificial than natural. The Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$7

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

91 **Garage Wine Co. 2014 Lot #61 San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Blackberry and raspberry aromas are spicy but mostly focus on good fruit character. This wine is evenly balanced, with firm tannins and bright acidity. Spicy, chocolatey flavors of black fruits finish with a not-too-forceful dash of brown sugar. Drink through 2024. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

91 **Viña Tarapacá 2015 Gran Reserva Etiqueta Negra Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Jammy berry aromas are touched up in a good way by spicy notes of good oak and chocolate. A solid, ripe palate feels right and balanced. Mellow but thorough berry fruit and oak flavors linger easily on a finish with chocolate and muted oak notes. Drink

through 2022. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Balduzzi 2013 B Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenère (Maule Valley).** For full review see page 11.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

90 **Concha y Toro 2015 Gravas Rojas Cabernet Sauvignon (Puente Alto).** Aromas of baked blackberry are a touch earthy but mostly easy to process. This Cabernet feels solid but not overextracted. Malty, earthy flavors of baked berry fruits and cassis finish with coffee and mocha notes. Drink through 2021. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **François Lurton 2013 Hacienda Araucano Gran Araucano Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley).** Leafy, herbal berry aromas are classically Chilean. Oaky aromas of tobacco, herbs and olive lead to a palate with hard, sun-baked tannins. Flavors suggest herbal berry fruits, olive, chocolate and mixed spices. Drink through 2023. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

90 **Undurraga 2014 T.H. Terroir Hunter Alto Maipo Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Attractive aromas of floral berry fruits and sandalwood set up a pointy, fresh, clipped palate with raw acidity. Spicy plum and currant flavors finish dry and raw, with hard leftover tannins. Drink this staunch Cabernet from 2019–2025. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 **Concha y Toro 2015 Marques de Casa Concha Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Dark, rubbery aromas are offset by a floral berry component. Grabby tannins are a big part of this Cabernet's chunky palate. Flavors of hickory, café mocha and roasted berry fruits finish chocolate and with residual tannins. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **J. Bouchon 2014 Block Series Reserva Especial Cabernet Sauvignon (Maule Valley).** No-frills berry and cassis aromas open this Cabernet. A wide, jammy palate is generous but a touch off-centered. An aggressive herbal plum flavor leads the charge, while a tannic, grabby finish brings it home. Vine Connections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Montes 2014 Alpha Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley).** Prickly, cool aromas of herbal berry fruits and eucalyptus open this wine. It's dense, tannic and chewy, with dark black-fruit flavors along with herbal notes and tobacco. A meaty, almost salty finish is tannic as nails, so let this breathe as much as possible before drinking. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

89 San Pedro 2014 Cabo de Hornos Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). Aromas of cotton candy, vanilla and strawberry jam are fluffy. In the mouth, this wine feels ripe and syrupy, with firm tannins. Medicinal flavors of cassis, chocolate and herbs finishes thick and saturated. Drink through 2023. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —M.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

89 Siegel 2014 Single Vineyard Los Lingues Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Cool, herbal berry aromas are a touch green, typical of Los Lingues. This Cabernet features choppy tannins and a rough mouthfeel. Dry, oaky plum and berry flavors finish with hard spice and tomato-sauce notes. Drink through 2023. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 Awning 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Apalta). Ripe berry aromas are heady. In the mouth, this hard-edged Cabernet is gritty and smacking. Ripe plum and blackberry flavors are backed by hefty but pulling tannins, and overall the texture is quite rough. Golden Frog Productions. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Balduzzi 2014 Grand Reserve (Maule Valley). Oaky aromas blend with notes of root beer, coffee grounds and lightly stewed berry fruits. This is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, with some Carmenère and Merlot. It's a bit grabby and rough in feel, while flavors of cheesy oak and herbal berry fruits finish hard and tannic. Vintage Wines Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 François Lurton 2014 Hacienda Araucano Gran Araucano Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Aromas of black cherry, cassis and cola are leafy and herbal. This Cab smacks down with jagged, hard tannins that clash with ripe berry and brown-sugar flavors. A candied note of molasses fits a pattern of sweetness. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Porta 2015 Single Vineyard Estate Bottled Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Cherry and cassis aromas are fiery but acceptable. This Cab has a medium-bodied palate and flavors of salty berry fruits and creamy oak. Dry oak spice is the most noticeable flavor on a mellow finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Carmen 2014 Gran Reserva Los Quillayes Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Heavy oak on the nose means aromas of pencil lead, wet cement and blacktop are in the lead. This wine feels resinous and tannic, with a similar woody flavor accenting herbal black fruit. Although this is a good Cabernet, it's quite oaky. Trincherro Family Estates. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 Echeverria 2015 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Curicó Valley). Lightly roasted berry and cassis aromas are a touch hot but good. This wine is solid on the palate, with hard-smacking tannins. Flavors of chocolate, spicy berry fruit and a touch of campfire finish more roasted than fruity. Ararat Import/Export Co. LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

87 Errazuriz 2015 Max Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Aconcagua Costa). Roasted berry and spent coffee aromas blend with leathery notes that suggest animal. This wine feels solid but rough and grabby. Savory plum and berry flavors finish with a note of baking spices. Vintus LLC. —M.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

86 Cono Sur 2015 Bicicleta Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). Leathery plum and berry aromas are also jammy and floral on this full and round wine. Roasted berry flavors come with a bacon-like note, delivering similar flavors on the finish. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Undurraga 2015 Aliwen Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Chile). Berry and cherry aromas are reserved. This wine feels plump, with slightly grating tannins. Roasted berry flavors show a hint of wood grain, while the finish is insignificant. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 Apaltagua 2015 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Apalta). Leafy red-berry aromas come with a note of olive. This wine feels lean and searing, with edgy tannins and high acidity. Spicy flavors of herbal plum and tomato finish with a dusting of baking spices. Global Vineyard Importers. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

85 François Lurton 2015 Hacienda Araucano Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). A strong blast of tire rubber dominates the nose. In the mouth, this wine feels narrow and tannic. Dark berry flavors are almost burnt tasting and come with a note of dark chocolate, leading to a charred finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

84 Ben Ish 2015 Ben's Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Chile). Harsh, rubbery black-fruit aromas include notes of mushroom and horseradish. A shallow palate with hard tannins doesn't offer much space for a soft landing. It tastes largely of hickory on a choppy finish. Kosher. Ben Ish Winery. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

PETIT VERDOT

91 Junta 2013 Grand Reserve Petit Verdot (Curicó Valley). Impressive aromas of dark fruits,

blackened spices and herbs lead to a lush, well-executed palate that only falls off after extended airing. Spicy, herbal blackberry flavors spread out on a long, compoorted finish. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

89 Don Tony Perez 2014 Gran Reserva Petit Verdot (Curicó Valley). Aromas of graphite, black olive, dark chocolate and herbal berry fruits get this Petit Verdot off on the right foot. In the mouth, high acidity makes for palate sharpness while also jacking up plum and currant flavors. A spicy, herbal-tasting finish runs long due to raw acidity. Don Tony Perez Corp. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 Viña Santa Cruz 2012 Reserva Especial Petit Verdot (Colchagua Valley). This Colchagua Petit Verdot, something you don't see much of, is huge and saturated. Woody, spicy aromas include scents of chocolate but also pinched rubber and olive. Black-fruit flavors are herbal and give way to char, toast and chocolate notes, while heavy tannins take over on the finish. Wine Bridge Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$133

MALBEC

88 Loica 2014 Andes Series Malbec (Colchagua Valley). Slightly foxy red-berry and plum aromas are spicy and a touch earthy. A wide, blocky palate is trying hard to stay in line, but this Malbec weighs in on the heavy side. Flavors of toasty, minty blackberry finish with chocolate and spice notes. Pura Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 Loma Larga 2014 Unfiltered Malbec (Casablanca Valley). This wine starts out as dense and fruity, but turns floral with airing. In the mouth, it's a bit jammy and overextracted, making for a weighty drinking experience. Flavors of prune, blackberry and dark chocolate end quickly on a finish that lacks the structure to go the distance. Winery Direct. —M.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

87 Polkura 2014 Malbec (Marchigüe). A nose with diverse aromas of herbal berry, grilled meat, carob and compost doesn't exhibit clean fruit scents. A grabby palate with rugged tannins hosts hard-edged flavors of plum and leafy berry that dry out on a slightly murky, funky-tasting finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

84 Altamana 2014 Single Vineyard Constanza Malbec (Maule Valley). This pitch-black Malbec smells like prune juice. That overripe character also shows on the overweight palate that deals saturated flavors of fig, raisin and prune. The finish doesn't display a lot of balance or freshness. Two

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samples tasted with identical results. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$46

MERLOT

86 Cuyen 2016 Merlot (Central Valley). Minty berry aromas settle well and hold up to airing. This everyday Merlot is more than competent on the palate. Berry and spice flavors finish chewy, with standard ripeness and follow through. Universal Beverage Importer. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

85 Santa Alicia 2015 Gran Reserva de Los Andes Estate Bottled Merlot (Maipo Valley). Herbal berry and plum aromas are earthy at best and a touch green at worst. Salty plum and berry flavors are tomatoey and chunky, while drying tannins and herbal flavors drive the finish. American B.D. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

85 Santa Rita 2015 Reserva Merlot (Maipo Valley). Foxy, spicy berry aromas settle on briny plum and currant. This is dry, grabby and mildly abrasive in feel. Herbal plum flavors seem a bit roasted. It's scratchy and tannic on the finish, with controlled bitterness. Palm Bay International. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$13

84 Las Niñas 2015 Reserva Merlot (Apalta). Saucy tomato and herbal berry aromas are a bit green. This feels creamy and thick, but also bumpy. Oaky, herbal black-fruit flavors are a touch stewy. It tastes green, minty and herbal on the finish. Vinovia Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$11

84 Santa Rita 2016 120 Reserva Especial Merlot (Central Valley). Foxy berry and currant flavors carry a note of wet dog fur. This is clumpy and saucy feeling on the palate, with herbal flavors of plum, berry and tomato sauce. A hollow finish tastes slightly green. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$8

CARMENÈRE

92 Casa Donoso 2013 Sucesor Red (Maule Valley). A nose led by aromas of fine oak, raspberry and mild spices opens this blend of 80% Carmenère and 20% Malbec. In the mouth, it's nicely built, with delicate layering and not too much weight. Toasty, spicy red-fruit flavors include a tobacco note and the wine tastes a bit chocolatey on the tail end. Drink through 2023. Italy Wines & Food Distributor, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

90 Apaltagua 2012 Grial Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). This wine is black in color and the

nose seems a bit overripe, with raisin, baked berry and licorice aromas. That sense of moderate over-ripeness carries onto a heavy, obtuse palate. Toasty, herbal, oaky flavors of black currant and blackberry finish herbal, minty, spicy and a bit raisiny. Drink through 2020. Global Vineyard Importers. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

90 Santa Rita 2013 Medalla Real Gran Reserva Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

89 Château Los Boldos 2015 Grande Réserve Carmenère (Cachapoal Valley). Earthy, gamy aromas of blackberry and other berry fruits are meaty and sauvage. This Carmenère rings with acidity, lending a sense of raciness to the palate. Flavors of currant and plum are tart but also buttery, while an oak-infused finish is long lasting. Evaton, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$17

89 Ventisquero 2013 Grey Glacier Single Block Carmenère (Maipo Valley). Resiny, woody oak aromas sit atop full-volume wild berry scents. This wine is plump, oaky and soft on the palate, with spicy berry flavors. Wood spice flavors dominate the finish, especially after the fruit has hit the road. San Francisco Wine Exchange. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

88 Lapostolle 2013 Casa Grand Selection Carmenère (Rapel Valley). Spicy, briary berry aromas lead to a full palate that's slightly clipped. Short, peppery blackberry flavors come with a note of bitterness. This wine is toasty, oaky and tastes a bit like tomato sauce on the finish. Terlato Wines International. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

88 Montes 2015 Alpha Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). This opaque Carmenère opens with oaky, charred aromas of black fruits, coconut and burnt toast. The palate is full, meandering and ultimately heavy and extracted. Dark, toasty flavors of black fruits, resiny oak and vanilla finish with grabby tannins, spiky acidity and long-lasting blackened notes. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

88 Viña Tabalí 2013 Pedregoso Gran Reserva Carmenère (Cachapoal Valley). Saucy, spicy berry flavors are attractive. This wine displays medium-bodied weight and good balance on the palate. Saucy berry and plum flavors are steady throughout a sturdy finish. Biagio Cru & Estate Wines, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

87 Valle Hermoso 2015 Elegido Gran Reserva Carmenère (Colchagua Costa). A toasty but green-smelling bouquet mixes scents of grass with charred oak and berry fruits. A creamy, lactic palate deals flavors of green herbs, mint and milk choco-

late, all of which carry over to a minty finish. Graziano Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

86 TerraNoble 2013 Reserva Terroir La Higuera Carmenère (Maule Valley). Heavy aromas of herbal berry fruits and wood smoke are rustic. This wine feels resiny and edgy, while saucy, oaky flavors of pancetta and tomato finish with notes of sausage, fennel and bacon. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

86 Viña Bisquertt 2015 La Joya Gran Reserva Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). Roasted, herbal berry aromas come with more than a hint of animal. This feels full and weighty, which is normal for Carmenère. Gamy, herbal berry flavors are meaty and oaky prior to a drying, tannic finish. Prestige Beverage Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

SYRAH

93 Concha y Toro 2015 Gravas del Maipo Syrah (Buin). Cool, earthy aromas of forest floor and black plum include a sweeter note of oaky maple. This is a thick, chewy style of Syrah with full extraction. Flavors of wild berry fruits, dark spices, plum and toast finish oaky, rich, slightly salty and toasty. Drink this well-oaked wine through 2023. Excelsior Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

92 Kingston Family 2015 Bayo Oscuro Syrah (Casablanca Valley). Dusty aromas of tea and dried spices blend well with black olive and black-fruit notes. This wine has a lean but muscular build. Plum and wild berry flavors come with dry, spicy oak accents. Acidity keeps the finish in shape and ensures length; drink through 2022. Kingston Family Vineyards. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$38

91 Concha y Toro 2015 Marques de Casa Concha Syrah (Buin). Earthy aromas of crushed rocks and sea shells are backed by scents of *garrigue* and herbal black plum. This wine feels both lush and racy. Spicy, peppery plum flavors run long on a finish that shows a toasty accent. Drink through 2021. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

90 Errazuriz 2015 Syrah (Aconcagua Costa). High-toned energy is the persistent theme of this coastal Syrah. The nose is jumpy and wild, with leather, coffee and tarry notes along with foxy berry fruit. A juicy, crisp palate is high in acid, ringing with peppery currant and plum flavors. Toasty, spicy oak leads a ripped, bold finish. Drink through 2023. Vintus LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

89 Kingston Family 2015 CJ's Barrel Syrah (Casablanca Valley). The distinct smell of fresh asphalt along with leather, burnt coffee, charred oak and black cherry make up the nose. In the mouth, this wine is wiry and acidic. Spiced black-plum flavors are peppery, riding a beam of acidity on a finish that could use more weight and tannins for balance. Drink through 2024. Kingston Family Vineyards. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

89 Polkura 2014 Secano Dry Farmed Syrah (Marchigüe). Cool mint, blueberry and raisin aromas are lush and smooth, but charred oak is roaring loud on the nose of this dry-farmed Syrah. Punchy, short acidity makes the mouthfeel abrupt. Dark chocolate and ripe berry flavors end with hard-spiced blackberry and an everlasting burnt-oak character. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Ritual 2014 Alcaparral Syrah (Casablanca Valley). Dark, briary black-fruit aromas are a little wild but generally well focused. This Syrah displays an iron grip and power throughout. Spicy black-fruit flavors end with toasty oak. Overall, this is dense like an anvil, with a low center of gravity. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

88 Elqui Wines 2014 Syrah (Elqui Valley). Extreme Elqui aromas of rooty black fruits are matched with barrel notes of mint and raw wood. This frontier Syrah is loud and aggressive on the palate. Screaming flavors of toast, root beer, chocolate, oak grain and herbal fruit finish with heat and a full tank of oak spice and peppery flavors. Drink now through 2021. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

88 Leyda 2014 Lot 8 Syrah (Leyda Valley). This highly demanding coastal Syrah is intense from start to tail. Aromas of wet cement, eucalyptus and saucy, herbal tomato and plum are anything but easy. It feels extracted and tough. Saucy flavors of herbal black plum and tomato are on the green spectrum, finishing spunky and toasty. Drink through 2022. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

84 De Martino 2014 Legado Reserva Syrah (Chopapa Valley). Dark aromas of tire rubber, forest and juniper are lead elements on the nose. This Syrah is astringent, with rawness to the palate. There's a sense of grape skins to the black-fruit flavor profile, and the tone just seems a little off. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

RED BLENDS

92 Santa Rita 2013 Triple C Red Wine (Maipo Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 François Lurton 2013 Hacienda Araucano Clos de Lolol (Lolol Valley). Woodsy, spicy aromas of herbal plum and berry come with a light coating of chocolate. A round, rubbery palate is tight in the long run. Saturated plum and blackberry flavors are oaky in front of an extracted finish that runs long and doesn't hold back. Drink through 2022. Wine-sellers, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$20

91 TerraNoble 2013 Lahuen Azul (San Clemente). Big-time woody aromas are charred to the max, something that's normal for TerraNoble. A tannic palate is firm and staunch. Woody blackberry flavors include a sweet dose of molasses, while coffee, spiced berry and lemony oak flavors are the conclusion on this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Valdivieso 2013 Caballo Loco Grand Cru Apalta (Santa Cruz). This Cabernet and Carmenère blend deals aromas of cedar, cigar, vanilla, tomato, herbs and dried red fruits. A medium-bodied palate is just big enough, tasting of medicinal cherry and chocolate. A lightly woody finish with pepper and cocoa notes provides for a happy ending. Drink through 2020. El Catador Corp. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

90 Estampa 2014 Fina Reserva Ensamblaje Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Colchagua Valley). Earthy blackberry and black-olive aromas set up a saturated, thick palate with grating tannins. Herbal blackberry, toast and coffee flavors reflect time in barrel. It's stout and full of power and fruit on the finish. Drink through 2020. American Estates Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 MontGras 2013 Antu (Colchagua Valley). Ripe berry aromas teeter on the precipice of overripe, with raisin and cassis the dominant scents. A flush palate is bumpy and hard, while this Grenache-led blend tastes of black currant, grapy berry fruits and chocolate. Solidity and straightforwardness are virtues throughout. Drink through 2023. Esprit du Vin. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Vistamar 2013 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Maipo Valley). A dark, fully oaked nose consists of coconut, clove, spice cake and black-plum aromas. A full-bodied palate spans from cheek to cheek. Dry, oaky, salty plum and berry flavors finish with full-force acidity and flavors of coconut, herbs and

tobacco. Drink through 2022. Total Wine & More. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 Gillmore 2013 Mariposa Estate Old Vines Dry Farmed (Loncomilla Valley). This dry-farmed Syrah and Merlot blend opens with foresty berry and black-olive aromas. A tight, zesty, acidic palate deals lively flavors of red plum, currant, olive and toasty oak. On a dry, almost astringent finish, this tastes of tomato, red plum and herbs. Global Vineyard Importers. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Alta Cima 2013 Special Edition Ensamblaje Gran Reserva (Lontué Valley). Earthy, lightly grilled plum and berry aromas are a bit damp. Like a gate slamming shut, this is abrupt on a clipped palate. Choppy red-plum, tomato and herbal flavors lead to a gravelly and crisp finish, with astringent tannins. Global Alliance Corp. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 TerraNoble 2013 Lahuen Rojo (San Clemente). Heavy oak aromas suggest mocha, while at its base the nose on this blend is green, herbal and foxy. A pulling, acidic palate hints at vinegar, while a coating of toasty oak blunts out highly herbal berry flavors. Gritty tannins and wiry acidity make for a tough finish. The blend is Carmenère, Syrah and Petit Verdot. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

86 J. Bouchon 2016 Canto Sur (Maule Valley). With Carmenère and País in the blend along with Carignan, this shows a lot of "old country" character, namely a saucy, savory nose with herbal red-berry hints. Herbal plum and peppery flavors fade on an undistinguished finish. Vine Connections. —M.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$15

86 Santa Rita 2016 120 Reserva Especial Hero's Blend (Central Valley). Aromas of black olive and black fruits show an almost grilled element. This wine offers energy and balance, with a touch of oak. Plum, berry and cherry flavors end powerfully on a tightly wound finish. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

85 Indomita 2015 Duette Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenère (Maipo Valley). A blast of hard spice and herbaceous aromas is the greeting on this blend of Cabernet and Carmenère. A sizable palate is fairly gritty and tough in feel, while oaky flavors of chocolate and pepper shadow fiery, burnt-tasting fruit. This screams herbs and oak on the finish. Laird & Company. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

84 Santa Ema 2015 Barrel Select 60/40 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Maipo Valley). Milk chocolate and brambly berry aromas leads to a jammy, reduced palate that doesn't come across as

entirely dry. Saturated candied berry flavors finish sweet, chewy and a bit hot. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.

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

83 Monkey Tree 2015 Red (Loncomilla Valley). Aromas of spicy but sticky ripe black fruits feed into a creamy, almost gooeey palate. Notes of clove, cinnamon and brown sugar are amplified alongside candied, jammy berry flavors. Titan Wines Selections. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

81 Viña el Principal 2013 El Principal Andetelmo (Maipo Valley). Jammy berry aromas come in front of green, vegetal notes. The palate is round and lacks balancing acidity. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

BEAUJOLAIS SAINT-AMOUR

90 Florent Descombe 2015 Saint-Amour. This wine comes from the most northerly of the Beaujolais cru villages as it merges gently in Burgundy's Mâcon region. The wine is structured and firm, but with bright red-cherry fruit and acidity. It will age and be best from 2018. Gourmet Food & Wine International. —R.V.

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

88 Château de Lavernette 2015 Le Chatelet (Saint-Amour). Saint-Amour is the most northern of the Beaujolais cru villages, close to Pouilly-Fuissé. Its specialty is structured, rich wine like this. It is a ripe wine, full of black fruits and dense tannins. Still young, it is a style of Beaujolais that needs to age. Drink from 2019. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.

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

87 L. Tramier & Fils 2016 Collection (Saint-Amour). This Burgundian negociant take on Beaujolais is soft and ripe. Juicy red-berry fruits and supporting acidity receive a firm base of tannins. It is young, fruity and ready to drink from 2018. Vitis Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

CHÉNAS

91 Domaine Dominique Piron 2015 Quartz (Chénas). Produced by Dominique Piron in association with the Lameloise family, this wine from strong granite soil reveals a firm texture and dense tannins. The fruit suggests very ripe, concentrated black plums and damsons. It is wine to age, drink from 2019. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Château de Chénas 2015 Chénas. The small Beaujolais cru of Chénas is next door to Moulin à Vent. As this wine shows, it has the same firm structure and ripe fruit. The wine from the cru's chateau is dense, smoky and has plenty of firm tannins. It is a wine to age, so drink from 2019. Tryon Distributors. —R.V.

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

89 Florent Descombe 2015 Chénas. With no wood aging, the fruit speaks in this wine. However, it does have tannins and a stalky, young character, along with generous black-cherry fruit and a touch of spice. The wine needs to age a few months more, so drink from 2018. DHI Selections. —R.V.

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

MOULIN-À-VENT

94 Domaine Dominique Piron 2015 Moulin-à-Vent. Wonderful old vines facing south and south-east give a powerfully tannic, structured wine. They also give great black fruits, spice and a toasty edge from the wood aging. This is a dense wine with a serious future. Drink from 2020. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

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

93 Domaine Fond Moiroux 2014 Moulin-à-Vent. For full review see page 6. —R.V.

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

90 Château de Chénas 2015 Moulin-à-Vent. Produced from vines that are up to 40 years old, this is a firmly structured wine. Concentration and dry tannins come from some firm extraction. The fruit though is ripe and juicy, showing red-berry flavors along with spice from the wood aging. Drink the wine from 2019. Tryon Distributors. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

90 Vignobles Bulliat 2016 Moulin-à-Vent. This rich wine with its red-plum flavors is ripe and generous, with a tannic edge that will allow it to age. That balances with the red fruits and acidity that already give this young wine a good texture. Drink from 2019. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Vignerons de Bel Air 2016 Belairissime Domaine des Ailes (Moulin-à-Vent). A cherry-flavored wine, this is all fruit with a bright layer of acidity and hint of tannins. Juicy and full of freshness, it needs a few months; drink from 2018. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.

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

87 L. Tramier & Fils 2014 Collection (Moulin-à-Vent). Now fully mature, this soft wine has berry flavors over a dry core. It is rich with a touch of pepper and jammy red fruitiness leading to a toasty aftertaste. Drink now. Vitis Imports. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

85 Florent Descombe 2014 Moulin-à-Vent. This is a Mâcon region-wide blend, simple and fruity with an attractively crisp texture. It has a citrus character, slightly salty as well as tangy with orange zest. Drink now. Gourmet Food & Wine International. —R.V.

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

FLEURIE

93 Domaine de Roche-Guillon 2015 Clos de la Tour (Fleurie). Bruno Copéret has produced an impressive wine from this small vineyard on his property. It is still young, full of smoky wood and broad red-fruit flavors. The tannins and the concentration are considerable, although the wine also has a more stylish edge. Drink from 2019. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

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

92 Domaine Dominique Piron 2015 Fleurie. A blend from different vineyards of the Fleurie appellation, this wine is deliciously elegant and floral. Crisp red fruits are sustained by acidity and a juicy character. As often with this appellation, it is a wine to age and will be better from 2018. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Domaine Bertrand 2015 Les Déduits (Fleurie). From sand and granite soil, this firmly structured wine has dark tannins as well as the more familiar red-cherry flavors of Beaujolais. As it develops, it will become rich and fruity, juicy with good acidity. Drink from 2019. Wine Wisp Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$25

91 Domaine de Roche-Guillon 2015 Fleurie. This ripe, generous wine is full of the bold red fruits of this fine vintage. It also has structure, spicy wood flavors and a rich, full character. With its juicy acidity in the background and its impressive density, the wine is going to age a little longer. It will be best from late 2018. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Domaine Chaintreuil 2015 La Madone (Fleurie). This well-structured wine balances generous tannins with red-berry fruits. It shows both the aging potential of this appellation and its immediate appeal. Ripe and full in the mouth, the wine can be drunk now but will be better from 2018. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.

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

90 Vignobles Bulliat 2016 Château des Roches (Fleurie). Developed by winemaker Loic Bulliat, this wine comes from an estate owned by his family. It's structured, firm with tannins and juicy acidity. The wine needs aging to allow the tannins to integrate with the red-berry fruits. Drink from 2019. Misa Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Vignobles Bulliat 2016 Les Moriers (Fleurie). This is a structured wine, with solid tannins as well as bright red fruits that are developing well. The structure and dry core will allow this single-vineyard wine to age well. Drink from 2019. Wine Without Borders. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Florent Descombe 2015 Fleurie. A blend from a range of the different Fleurie sectors, this is a rich wine. Berry fruits are just beginning to soften into the ripe texture. It is structured and could age further. Drink from 2018. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

CHIROUBLES

90 Domaine Dominique Piron 2015 Chiroubles. This high-altitude Beaujolais cru looks down on the other cru villages from its amphitheater of vines. Produced from 60-year-old vines, this wine is rich and concentrated, but has a firmly tannic streak that needs time to soften. This wine has great acidity and fine potential. Drink from 2019. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Florent Descombe 2016 Chiroubles. Red fruits and a cool edge characterize this wine from the highest elevation of the Beaujolais cru villages. It has red cherry fruitiness, a crisp layer of acidity and a dry, smoky aftertaste. Drink from 2018. Gourmet Food & Wine International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

MORGON

94 Domaine Dominique Piron 2015 Côte du Py (Morgon). From the most famous sector in Morgon, this wine reveals the intense flavor from the steeply sloped, well-exposed vineyard. The wine, with concentration from old vines, has black-fruit-skin and blackberry flavors. Packed with tannins and acidity, it will age. Drink from 2020. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Domaine Dominique Piron 2015 Grand Cras (Morgon). This is a very fine expression of this always richly structured appellation. It is still young, dominated by firm tannins as well as dark black fruits and the spice of wood aging. The acidity, the black cherry flavors and the density of the wine all suggest its great potential. Drink from 2020. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

92 Château de Pizay 2015 Cuvée du Py (Morgon). From the famed slope of the Côtes de Py, this wine sums up both the great terroir and a great vintage. It has structure, with dry tannins permeating the ripe, rounded fruit. Its potential is con-

siderable, anchored in great fruitiness and finishing acidity. Drink from 2019. David Milligan Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Domaine de Leyre-Loup 2014 Réserve Louis Leyre-Loup (Morgon). This beautifully perfumed wine is ripe, structured and well on the way to being delicious. Tannins and spice flavors have melded into rich black-cherry fruits cut with acidity. The wine could age for another few months, so drink from 2018. Wine Universe Corp. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

92 Domaine Dominique Piron 2015 La Chanais (Morgon). A blend from different parts of the Fleurie appellation, this wine is elegant and floral. Crisp red fruits are sustained by acidity and by a juicy character. As often with this appellation, it is a wine to age and will be better from 2018. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Château de Pizay 2015 Les Sybarites (Morgon). Dense and structured, this bottling is made from selection of wines aged in large wood barrels for 12 months. Black cherry and plum fruits are balanced by firm tannins and backed by acidity. It is ready to age. Drink from 2019. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 Vignobles Bulliat 2016 Cuvée du Colombier (Morgon). This wine impresses with its richness and ripe red fruits. It comes from a 20-acre vineyard that gives the wine concentration and juicy acidity. Acidity and the crisp aftertaste give the wine its final lift. T. Elenteny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Albert Bichot 2015 Les Charmes (Morgon). This soft and perfumed wine exudes the ripe black-cherry fruit of this warm vintage. The wine is rich and smooth but shot through with acidity. It is a generous wine that is ready to drink. Albert Bichot USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Domaine de Leyre-Loup 2015 Réserve Louis Leyre-Loup (Morgon). Aged 18 months in older wood barrels, this wine is bold and rich, while also stylish and balanced. The firm layer of tannins comes from the smoky wood aging as well as from the rich fruits. Concentrated and firm at this stage, the wine needs time. Drink from 2019. Wine Universe Corp. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

90 Vignobles Bulliat 2016 Nature (Morgon). Made from organically grown grapes, this wine is structured and still firm, with ripe berry fruits buried in the structure. As it matures, this

rich wine will open out generously. Drink from 2019. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Château de Pizay 2016 Morgon. For this appellation, this is a soft wine, full of bright cherry flavors and attractive acidity. A jammy character brings out rich fruitiness that will allow the wine to be ready from 2018. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 Domaine de Leyre-Loup 2015 Morgon. This structured wine benefits from the rich fruitiness of the vintage. Based in Morgon, the producer has vines on steep slopes, resulting in structured wines with firm tannins as well as generous fruits. Drink from 2018. Wine Universe Corp. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 L. Tramier & Fils 2016 Collection (Morgon). This wine is structured and firm, its red fruits waiting behind the wood and tannin complexity. It shows plenty of potential through its good acidity and cherry fruitiness. Drink from late 2018. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Vignerons de Bel Air 2016 Belairissime Le Py (Morgon). Fruity and juicy, this wine is open and full of black-cherry flavors. The structure of Morgon waits behind the fruit, giving a dry core. This is a wine for medium-term aging. Drink from 2018. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 Vignobles Bulliat 2016 Vignobles des Roches (Morgon). This wine is all bright cherry fruit with juicy acidity and a jammy character. It's delicious now, with its light tannins and bright raspberry aftertaste. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

RÉGNIÉ

88 Domaine Dominique Piron 2015 Croix Penet (Régnié). Régnié is one of the smaller cru Beaujolais appellations. This Dominique Piron wine, made from a single vineyard, is in a rounded style, easy to approach when young. Juicy black fruits dominate light tannins and plenty of acidity. Drink this wine now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Château de Pizay 2016 Régnié. The Régnié wines are lighter than some of the other Beaujolais crus, giving a bright, fruity style of wine with attractive red-cherry flavors. With its acidity, soft texture and fruitiness, the wine will be ready to drink from early 2018. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

BROUILLY

90 **Domaine Bertrand 2015 Pisse-Vieille (Brouilly).** This ripe, fruity and perfumed wine is delicious. Juicy red and black fruits ooze from every part of its smoky structure. It comes from vines on a small plateau called Pisse-Vieille in Brouilly. The wine is ready to drink for its fruity pleasure. Wine Wisp Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château de Pizay 2016 Château de Saint Lager (Brouilly).** This wine has a firm structure as well as plenty of fruit. The wine's acidity, crisp red-currant fruit and bright character are balanced by the firm, smoky and dry tannins. Give this structure time to soften and fill out into a ripe wine. Drink from 2019. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 **Domaine Bertrand 2015 Vuril (Brouilly).** This rich wine features ripe, jammy red-plum and cherry fruits. It is dense, with its tannins and a touch of pepper coming from the high alcohol. The wine is a blend from five parcels. Ripe and with a juicy aftertaste, it will be best from 2018. Wine Wisp Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

87 **Vignerons de Bel Air 2016 Brouilly.** A smooth and soft wine, this offers gentle red-cherry flavors. The acidity and edge of firm tannins give this attractive wine its shape. It will be ready to drink from 2018. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

BEAUJOLAIS-VILLAGES

87 **Bulliat 2014 Beaujolais-Villages.** This wine brings out all the fruitiness of Gamay, along with an extra perfumed character. It is soft, rounded and smooth, with cherry fruits and a touch of spice. Drink now. T. Eleny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château des Loges 2015 Sélection (Beaujolais-Villages).** The ripe fruit of this vintage is right up front in this strawberry and spice-flavored wine. With a texture that adds a touch of tannin to the fruitiness, it is smooth and round. Drink this aromatic wine from 2018. Brescome Barton. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

86 **Château de Lavernette 2016 Château de Lavernette (Beaujolais-Villages).** Produced from organically grown grapes, this soft, fruity wine is full of red-cherry fruits. It also offers a touch of banana flavor as well as acidity and a bright, crisp juicy aftertaste. Drink now. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

86 **Vignerons de Bel Air 2016 Bel-Air (Beaujolais-Villages).** This soft wine is fruity, spicy and full of juicy red fruits. It offers plenty of acidity as well as a layer of tannins. An easy, open wine, it is ready to drink. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

86 **Vignobles Bulliat 2016 Beaujolais-Villages.** A fruity, red-cherry-flavored wine, this is ripe, soft and full of juicy acidity. With a lightly smoky aftertaste, the wine is ready to drink. T. Eleny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

85 **L. Tramier & Fils 2016 Collection (Beaujolais-Villages).** This is a tight wine, firm with tannins and with a bitter edge. Jammy cherry fruits lie behind this structure, along with acidity. The wine will soften and be ready to drink from 2018. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

84 **Boutinot 2016 Les Violettes (Beaujolais-Villages).** This cherry-fruited wine is spicy, but a strong acid streak gives a raw aftertaste that should have softened by now. It is ready to drink. Boutinot USA, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

84 **Maison Jean-Baptiste Béjot 2014 La Perlière (Beaujolais-Villages).** This light and fruity wine, produced by a Burgundy negotiant, is full of bitter cherry crispness. It is ready to drink, offering acidity and a tight, bright aftertaste. Great Domaines & Estates. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER RED WINES

86 **Château de Lavernette 2015 Le Clos (Beaujolais-Leynes).** This highly perfumed wine comes from a small Gamay appellation that is in fact in the Mâcon region. With some tight tannins and rich black fruits, it is a ripe, juicy wine that has intense acidity as well as a spicy aftertaste. Drink this ripe wine from 2018. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

86 **Domaine de la Prébende 2014 Vieilles Vignes (Beaujolais).** This crisp wine brings out good flavor depth from the cherry and red-berry fruits. It is concentrated for a simple Beaujolais, ripe and fruity. Drink now. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

84 **Château de Pizay 2016 Beaujolais.** Classic, simple and fruity, this is an immediately accessible wine. With bright red fruits and a soft, juicy texture, it is crisp, lively and ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

84 **L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Collection (Beaujolais).** This wine has easy flavors that are bursting with red cherry. A shot of tannin gives this open, fruity wine shape. It is ready to drink. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

BEAUJOLAIS BLANC

87 **Château de Lavernette 2015 Les Vignes de la Roche (Beaujolais Blanc).** Beaujolais Blanc is effectively Burgundy-type Chardonnay but from the southern neighbor Beaujolais region. This wine, with its ripe and creamy texture, has the same rich character as a Mâcon wine. It is smooth and soft from a warm vintage for white wines. Drink this wine now. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

85 **Château de Pizay 2016 Beaujolais Blanc.** One of an increasing number of Chardonnays from Beaujolais—there should be more—this is soft and fruity. A touch of minerality runs through the rounded, ripe texture. Drink this refreshing wine now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

85 **Vignerons de Bel Air 2015 Bel-Air (Beaujolais Blanc).** This ripe and creamy wine offers yellow fruits and a soft texture. The acidity is just right for all the rich fruit, giving a lift of citrus to the smooth texture. It is ready to drink. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

BEAUJOLAIS ROSÉ

85 **Château de Pizay 2016 Rosé de Soirée (Beaujolais Rosé).** This bright and fruity wine is made from Gamay, bringing out a cherry character as well as crisp acidity. The wine is lively, perfumed and ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE

95 **Louis Latour 2015 Corton-Charlemagne.** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

94 **Albert Bichot 2015 Domaine du Pavillon (Corton-Charlemagne).** Properly opulent, this is a generous, subtly wood-aged wine. Ripe apricot and peach fruits are shot through with crisp apple. The wood and the rich fruits give this structured wine a warm character. It is still young, of course. Drink from 2023. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$194

93 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Corton-Charlemagne. This wine is rich and spicy. At this stage, with its muted fruit, it is all potential, but one can sense the ripeness and generous texture that will make it excellent once it matures. Give this powerful wine until 2023. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER GRAND CRU

97 Louis Latour 2015 Montrachet. For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$650

96 Louis Latour 2015 Bâtard-Montrachet. For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$400

96 Louis Latour 2015 Les Demoiselles (Chevalier-Montrachet). A ripe, dense wine, this has powerful fruit and a serious long-term future. It is rich with yellow fruits with a generous, creamy texture, and tight with minerality. This gorgeous wine will certainly age well. Drink from 2024. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$450

95 Albert Bichot 2015 Domaine Long-Depaquit Moutonne (Chablis). Regarded almost as a Grand Cru in its own right, the Moutonne vineyard, wholly owned by Albert Bichot, is in a corner of the Vaudésir Grand Cru vineyard. In this sumptuous year, the wine is more generous, ripe yellow fruits than mineral texture. The acidity and the tangy aftertaste are a reminder that this is from cool-climate Chablis. Drink from 2023. Albert Bichot USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$154

CHABLIS

93 Albert Bichot 2015 Domaine Long-Depaquit Les Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis). This young, textured wine shows a mix of strong minerality and ripe white fruits. The Albert Bichot Chablis domaine has a fine parcel from this premier cru. Refreshing citrus and tight acidity contrast with the warmer vanilla and yellow fruits. Drink from 2021. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 Albert Bichot 2016 Domaine Long-Depaquit (Chablis). This warm, ripe Chablis has a hint of tangy texture along with intense white-fruit acidity. It is a delicious wine, still young, and will be better from 2018. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

87 Xavier Flouret 2015 Marly (Chablis). One in a range of wines under the Xavier Flouret brand, this wine is made by Domaine Hamelin in Chablis. It is deliciously refreshing, with just the right edge of crispness to give it a lift. At the same

time, its ripe, creamy texture blends with spiced-apple fruitiness. Drink the wine now. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

CÔTE DE NUITS

90 Domaine Bertagna 2015 Les Cras Premier Cru (Vougeot). This wine comes from one of the few white-wine vineyards in Vougeot. It is opulent and rich with creamed apple and ripe green plums. The fruit lies over the subtle wood aging that has smoothed the crisp texture. The wine is still young and will be best from 2021. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$113

88 Louis Latour 2015 Marsannay. Touches of wood, not new, give this wine spice and roundness. It is an attractive, citrus-flavored wine, with yellow fruits coming from behind as the wine opens up. Drink now. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

PERNAND-VERGELESSES

93 Domaine Antonin Guyon 2015 Sous Frétille Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses). This crisp, fruity wine is packed with acidity as well as citrus flavors. It has a cool feel, beautifully fresh and with a strong mineral element. Drink this structured, textured wine from 2019. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

92 Arnaud Baillet 2015 Sous Frétilles Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses). The white wines of Pernand-Vergelesses have managed to preserve a cool, crisp character even in warm 2015. This wine has the citrus well to the fore along with flavors of wood aging and spice. It is tangy and mineral, with a bright textured aftertaste. Drink from 2020. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Louis Latour 2015 En Caradeux Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses). This wine has a zesty structure, with good minerality and ripe yellow fruits. Tightly structured with acidity, it comes from one of the cooler villages of the Côte de Beaune and shows a lively, bright aftertaste. Drink from 2018. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

89 Domaine Françoise André 2015 Sous Frétille Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses). Wood aromas provide a toasty character that dominates the fruit. It will take time for the apple and pear fruit flavors to show. Drink from 2020. Langdon Shiverick. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$62

SAVIGNY-LÈS-BEAUNE

92 Henri de Villamont 2015 Clos des Guettes Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). This wine is ripe, generous with the opulence of the vintage. It has tropical fruits, rich acidity and a light touch of spice. Rounded and smooth, it has aging potential. Drink from 2019. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Domaine d'Ardhuy 2015 Clos des Godeaux (Savigny-lès-Beaune). This is a tight wine, full of a strongly mineral texture and great acidity. Citrus fruitiness is balanced by spice and vanilla to give a wine that will be both textured and refreshing. Drink from 2020. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Bouchard Aîné et Fils 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune. This wine is tangy and zesty, with a strong mineral texture that partners with the perfumed acidity, lively fruitiness and citrus flavors. It is likely to age well because of its tight texture. Drink from 2020. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

89 Domaine Françoise André 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune. This spicy, toasty wine currently shows more wood than fruit. Hints of yellow fruits are already there, so the texture should open to give a riper, fruitier wine. Give it until 2020. Langdon Shiverick. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$59

89 Domaine Pierre Guillemot 2015 Dessus des Golardes (Savigny-lès-Beaune). This wine is ripe, rounded with a smooth vanilla and spice texture that complements the yellow fruit and rich pear flavors. The wine is generous and likely to age quickly. Drink from 2019. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

89 Henri de Villamont 2015 Le Village (Savigny-lès-Beaune). This smooth wine is from a small parcel in the producer's domaine. It has wood and spice as well as acidity and a touch of minerality. It will need some time, so drink from 2019. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

BEAUNE

92 Seguin-Manuel 2015 Les Clos des Mouches Premier Cru (Beaune). In this smooth wine, toasty flavors mingle easily with the ripe yellow fruits. It offers minerality as well as juicy citrus flavors, making for a rich wine that needs to age. Drink from 2021. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$68

91 **Domaine d'Ardhuy 2015 Petit Clos Blanc des Theurons Premier Cru (Beaune).** This wine is ripe, soft and fruity. The acidity, already well integrated, gives a crispness that is balanced by yellow fruits with touches of pineapple. This will be a full wine, very characteristic of the year. Drink from 2019. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Les Rever-sées Premier Cru (Beaune).** This ripe, wood-aged wine is generous and smooth. Spice and toastiness are balanced by the apricot and citrus fruits. One gives richness, the other crispness. It is a wine with a future. Drink from 2020. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

MERSAULT

94 **Domaine Buisson Battault 2015 Les Gouttes d'Or Premier Cru (Meursault).** Ripe and rounded, this softly textured wine has swathes of yellow fruits that are deliciously cut with lime and lemon acidity. The wine, with its touches of toast is balanced, promising a fine future. Drink from 2021. Amitié Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$99

93 **Domaine Buisson Battault 2015 Genevrières Premier Cru (Meursault).** This wine is crisp and fruity. With acidity as well as a light toast character, it is already balanced, bringing yellow and melon fruit flavors into the mineral texture. Drink from 2022. DC Flynt MW Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$160

93 **Domaine Buisson Battault 2015 Porusot Premier Cru (Meursault).** Very toasty aromas mark this wine. While the toast is present on the palate, it also offers plenty of fruit flavors, conveying apricot and white peach along with a citrus edge that brings out the freshness. Drink this wine from 2022. Amitié Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$99

93 **Louis Latour 2015 Château de Blagny Premier Cru (Meursault).** This structured wine is full of fruit and has a tight texture. It shows a creamy side from new wood, although this is well integrated into the fruity acidity and the mineral edge. The wine is likely to age well, ready to drink from 2020. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$78

93 **Louis Latour 2015 Goutte d'Or Premier Cru (Meursault).** This is a cool wine, with acidity and citrus fruits well in evidence. It comes from one of the higher premier-cru vineyards, giving a crisp and textured wine even in this warm vintage. It needs time. Drink from 2020. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

91 **Bouchard Aîné et Fils 2015 Le Porusot Premier Cru (Meursault).** Tangy and zesty, this crisp wine shows a strong sense of chalky terroir, with a mineral edge and tight acidity. These elements mean the wine will take time to age. Drink from 2021. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

91 **Domaine Faiveley 2015 Sous Blagny Premier Cru (Meursault).** This wine is rounded, rich and full of ripe fruit. Its wood flavors, giving spice and vanilla, are a backdrop to the generous apricot and pear flavors and good acidity. Drink this wine from 2022. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

90 **Château de Santenay 2015 Meursault.** The lightest touch of wood gives this wine a full, rich character. Weight and density are balanced by the intense acidity. Melon, apricots and citrus are all blended in this ripe wine. Drink from 2018. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

90 **Domaine Antonin Guyon 2015 Les Charmes Dessus Premier Cru (Meursault).** This ripe and fruity wine has just the right amount of mineral texture to give it a zesty character. It offers hints of toast, attractive juicy acidity and a lively, bright aftertaste. The wine needs to lose the slight earthy flavor from bottling that should soon blow away. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$108

90 **Domaine Buisson Battault 2015 Charmes Premier Cru (Meursault).** Rich fruit over a crisp texture gives this wine a balanced character. Ripe with yellow fruits and cut with acidity, it will be delicious when it ages. Drink this still-young wine from 2020. Amitié Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$99

90 **Henri de Villamont 2015 Meursault.** This broad wine is ripe, although some minerality and acidity balance the generous yellow fruits. The wood aging is subtle, allowing the rich fruit to speak. The wine shows both the ripe vintage and a crisp, tight aftertaste. Drink from 2019. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Domaine Faiveley 2015 Charmes Premier Cru (Meursault).** This wine is tight and closed up. It does suggest plenty of fruit weight, hinting at toast and apple flavors that will come through over the next several years to give a rich wine. Drink from 2022. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$161

89 **Louis Latour 2015 Meursault.** While rounded and rich, this wine also has a tight structure that gives it concentration and minerality. Plenty of fruit and texture will allow the wine to age further. Drink from 2018. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

PULIGNY-MONTRACHET

94 **Domaine Faiveley 2015 Champ Gain Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).** This beautiful wine has great potential. It already shows good balance between the acidity and ripe yellow fruits that are woven into the toasty texture and the spice. The wine will take time to develop but will become impressive. Drink from 2022. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$124

93 **Henri de Villamont 2015 Sous le Puits Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).** This naturally cool vineyard fared well in warm 2015, giving wine that has retained minerality and a crisp texture. It is fruity, while having a tight edge as well as layers of acidity. Drink from 2020. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Louis Latour 2015 Sous le Puits Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).** This is one of the higher elevation premier crus in Puligny. In this warm vintage it has managed to give a wine that is crisp and mineral. To contrast with this, the wine also has a creamy, toasty character from the wood aging. Drink from 2021. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

92 **Louis Latour 2015 Les Referts Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).** Rounded and warm, this wine shows ripe yellow fruits and spice from the wood aging. It's richly endowed, full of toast and with a generous texture. The minerality and acidity are a hint in this rounded wine. Drink from 2020. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$99

91 **Château de Santenay 2015 Puligny-Montrachet.** Ripe and fruity, this has a rich texture that comes both from the generous white fruits and from the cut of lemon acidity. A mineral-textured wine, it's crisp now and will likely round out to bring out the ripeness. Drink from 2019. Bertrand's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

91 **Louis Latour 2015 Puligny-Montrachet.** This wine is ripe with yellow fruits and apple acidity. The richness of the year is balanced by crispness, minerality and delicious fruitiness. It will age well, so drink from 2019. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

90 **Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Puligny-Montrachet.** This wine, while rich, has all the minerality and crisp texture associated with the appellation. Wood aging adds spice. It needs some aging, not much, and will be ready to drink from 2019. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$86

SAINT-AUBIN

92 Roux Père et Fils 2015 Les Corton Premier Cru (Saint-Aubin). Rich, fruity and with a full texture, this smooth, creamy wine has great fruit, deliciously cut with acidity. The wine is smooth, hinting at toast, with a tighter, more textured after-taste. Drink from 2020. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Roux Père et Fils 2015 Les Murgers des Denys de Chien Premier Cru (Saint-Aubin). While this wine is rich, its tight texture brings out the minerality. Yellow fruits and toast are balanced with zingy acidity for a wine that will need time to broaden out. Drink from 2021. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Château de Santenay 2015 En Vesvau (Saint-Aubin). The wine comes from this small appellation tucked into the hills behind the Côte de Beaune. It is ripe and warm, full of tropical fruits. Wood and spice are there from the barrel aging, while the texture is smooth and rich. Drink now. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

93 Louis Latour 2015 La Grande Montagne Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This crisp wine comes from one of upper vineyards of the village. It is packed with apples and citrus, plus a touch of toast. With lively acidity, this wine will age well. Drink from 2021. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

93 Louis Latour 2015 Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Rich and rounded with a creamy texture, this wine is ripe with apricots and has a strongly mineral character. Full of fruit, the wine also has a texture that means it needs to age. Drink from 2021. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

92 Bouchard Aîné et Fils 2015 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This is a tight and textured wine. Spice and bright fruitiness are balanced with a strong mineral character. The wine will take time to reveal its full, generous fruit and richness. Drink from 2022. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château de Santenay 2015 Abbaye de Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). A rich, fruity wood-aged wine, this offers ripe white fruits and plenty of smoky toast flavors. Acidity and minerality give the wine its distinctive tangy texture. These elements result in a ripe wine that will age further. Drink from 2020. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$105

92 Roux Père et Fils 2015 Les Macherelles Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This wine has the weight that is typical of this appellation. It is full bodied, ripe with melon and yellow fruits. Contrasting with that, a crisper edge brings out minerality and a nervy texture. Drink from 2022. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$69

91 Henri de Villamont 2015 Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This is a ripe wine, concentrated with spice, wood aging as well as the rich fruit of the vintage. Its bold fruits are generous and opulent, demanding aging. The wine comes from one of the best known of the Chassagne premier crus. Drink from 2020. Wegmann. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château de Santenay 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet. Rich and structured, this firm wine has concentration from dense white and yellow fruits plus richness from the wood aging. This intense wine is still developing, so drink from 2018. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

90 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Les Morgeots Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This dense wine is still very young. The fruit still needs to express itself in a wine that is broad and ripe. Give this rich wine, with its creamy texture and touches of spice from wood aging, until 2021. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$114

90 Louis Latour 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet. This wine has weight and richness. It is ripe with apricot and peach flavors that are happily balanced by a crisp edge of acidity. Its texture will give it a good future. Drink from 2019. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$78

87 Château de Chassagne-Montrachet 2013 Chassagne-Montrachet. Soft and creamy, this wine has attractive white-flower perfumes. It is soft, hinting at some wood aging, and with a rounded texture that is now ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

SANTENAY

91 Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Les Gravières Premier Cru (Santenay). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Jaffelin 2015 Passetemps Premier Cru (Santenay). A rounded, ripe wine, this is packed with yellow fruits and touched with melon softness. It has toast as well as a mineral texture that give strong backing to the ripe fruitiness. This is likely

to develop quickly, drink from 2019. Angel's Share Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

89 Château de Santenay 2015 La Comme Premier Cru (Santenay). Produced from vines close to the chateau of Santenay, this is a tight, mineral wine. It has intense crisp acidity, tangy citrus and excellent potential. The fruit is asking for time to fill out, so drink from 2018. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

OTHER CÔTE DE BEAUNE

90 Louis Max 2015 Grechons Premier Cru (Ladoix). This wine has a mineral texture, cool and crisp. It is packed with citrus and green-apple flavors that give a bright, tight character. At the end, the vanilla flavor from wood aging comes through. Drink from 2019. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$68

89 Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Les Ecussaux Premier Cru (Auxey-Duresses). The wood-aging flavors show strongly in this ripe wine, balancing with the apple acidity and the touches of green-plum fruits. A streak of minerality adds to the complexity of this delicious wine. Drink from 2018. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Domaine d'Ardhuy 2015 Le Rognet et Corton Premier Cru (Ladoix). Superripe tropical fruit aromas go through to the palate of this soft wine. Mango and pineapple dominate, giving a round, very ripe wine. Drink from 2019. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Domaine Françoise André 2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune. Crisp, citrus fruit and attractive acidity mark this wine. Vanilla flavors give it a rounded character while the acidity and green fruits add freshness. Drink from 2019. Langdon Shiverick. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

87 Château de Santenay 2015 Clos de la Chaise Dieu Monopole (Hautes Cotes de Beaune). From the hills behind the main Beaune vineyards, this is a soft style of Chardonnay. It is all white-stone fruit with a creamy texture and warm acidity. Rich and easy, it is ready to drink. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

MERCUREY

91 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey La Mission Premier Cru (Mercurey). This premier-cru vineyard, wholly owned by the Devillard

BUYINGGUIDE

family, has produced a broad, ripe wine. It is generous, somewhat muted at this stage although promising plenty of citrus and yellow fruits and acidity as it ages. The wood aging creates a smooth hint at the back. Drink from 2021. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey En Pierrelet (Mercurey). Although this wine does not come from a premier-cru vineyard, it hails from a single vineyard that regularly produces delicious white wines. This bottling, rich as befits the year, also has an attractive bright, crisp edge that contrasts with the warm yellow fruits. Drink the wine from 2019. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 Château de Santenay 2015 Le Closeau (Mercurey). This wood-aged wine comes from a single vineyard in Mercurey. It is lightly toasty with touches of apricot, a crisper edge of citrus and a mineral aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2018. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

88 Château de Santenay 2015 Mercurey. This ripe Chardonnay is smooth, showing a subtle use of wood and good acidity to balance. Creamed apple and white peach are given brightness by the acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

88 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey (Mercurey). This blend from several vineyards is a soft, rounded wine. It has a good balance between acidity and ripe white and yellow fruits, shot through with acidity. A touch of toast adds spice to the mix. Drink from 2019. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

84 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Collection (Mercurey). This wine is very soft and only lightly fruity. Some spice and touches of acidity give a crisp edge to the otherwise dull wine. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

MONTAGNY

90 Vignerons de Buxy 2015 Les Chaniots Premier Cru (Montagny). This single-vineyard wine is ripe, toasty and already delicious. With a honeyed aroma, wood-aging spice and rich apricot and almond flavors, it is full of character. The acidity and mineral texture show it will age. Drink from late 2018. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Arnaud Baillet 2015 Vieilles Vignes Premier Cru (Montagny). This Côte Chalonnaise appellation has done well in 2015 with its broad, ripe wines. This wine has the same character, with touches of wood and concentration from old vines.

It is rich, the yellow fruits cut with some acidity. Drink this full, ripe wine from 2019. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

84 Vignerons de Buxy 2015 Buissonnier (Montagny). This is a soft, rounded wine, with ripe fruit that seems unfocused. The fruit and the acidity are reticent, not giving the wine much shape. A simple, ripe wine, it can be drunk now. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

CÔTE CHALONNAISE

88 Domaine Michel Goubard 2015 Mont-Avril (Côte Chalonnaise). This soft, fruity wine is well balanced. Crisp fruit, lively acidity and zingy texture make it bright and refreshing. A mineral edge gives it a tight aftertaste. Drink this wine now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

POUILLY-FUISSÉ

92 Château des Rontets 2015 Clos Varambon (Pouilly-Fuissé). This wine is pure apricot fruitiness, giving it acidity as well as the warmth that comes from the year. It also delivers balance and a delicious, refreshing character. The wine is ready to drink. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Domaine Ferret 2015 Pouilly-Fuissé. Fresh fruit aromas are a delicious part of this crisp, fruity wine. It is well balanced, with lively acidity sharing the stage with the ripe pear and pineapple flavors. It's ready to drink now. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Domaine Ferret 2015 Le Clos (Pouilly-Fuissé). Ripe tropical fruits star in this opulent, bold wine. The acidity is there, just enough to give this rich wine the support it needs. It is a complete wine—ripe and spicy, just give it some more time. Drink from 2018. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Domaine Ferret 2015 Tournant de Pouilly (Pouilly-Fuissé). A delicious, refreshingly crisp wine, this has an excellent balance between acidity and bright apple fruits. In the background, the wood aging and vanilla flavors give an extra dimension. Drink now. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

92 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2016 Cuvée Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé). This rich wine is dense and concentrated, with beautiful apple and spice flavors lifted by acidity. The fruit and the minerality typical of the appellation give this wine both its fine texture and its tangy fruiti-

ness. Drink from 2018. DHI Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

92 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2015 Aux Insarts (Pouilly-Fuissé). This east-facing vineyard is in the village of Fuissé. With the wood-aging giving spice and toast flavors, it is a ripe wine. The wood marches well with the apple and green-plum fruits. Still young, this rich wine has a mineral texture that comes from chalky soil. Drink from 2019. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2014 Aux Bouthières (Pouilly-Fuissé). Produced from 100-year-old vines, this wine has been aged for nearly three years and has lost its intense fruitiness. Wood and spice flavors are present along with a perfumed intensity and toastiness. Drink this wine now. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Domaine Sangouard-Guyot 2015 Terroirs (Pouilly-Fuissé). While there is plenty of ripe fruit in this wine, it also has a delicious, crisp edge that gives the generous texture a good lift. Spice and toast lend rich support to this full, rounded wine. Drink now. Grapevine Distributors. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Domaine Saumaize-Michelin 2015 Clos sur la Roche (Pouilly-Fuissé). This wine has an attractive crisp edge that gives it a refreshing character, making a happy contrast to the rich fruits, the spice and the rounded texture. This ripe and tangy wine is ready to drink. Atherton Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Collin-Bourisset 2015 Château la Vernalle (Pouilly-Fuissé). With its crisp texture, this wine is bright and fruity, with good acidity and a complex background of spice, vanilla and yellow fruits. The wine is deliciously balanced and ready to drink. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Domaine Vincent Girardin 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé). This smooth wine is rich with yellow fruits, an opulent texture and a sprinkling of spice. The acidity and the crisper citrus flavors in the background give the essential lift to this ripe wine. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

91 Rijckaert 2015 Vers Chanes (Pouilly-Fuissé). Ripe, smooth and deliciously rounded, this is a generous wine. Spice and yellow fruits are right up front, supported by just enough acidity. The wine is rich and ready to drink. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

91 Yves Giroux 2015 Les Raidillons (Pouilly-Fuissé). This balanced wine, full of ripe fruits, also has good acidity and a crisp citrus edge. It conveys a warm character, the apricot freshened by lemon flavors and given a tangy aftertaste. Drink now. Jerome Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Cave des Grands Crus Blancs 2016 Pouilly-Fuissé. A smooth and creamy wine, this is tight and structured, with good acidity to match. The mineral texture and tangy character are matched by generous fruitiness. The wine needs some time. Drink from late 2018. T. Elenteny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Château de Beauregard 2015 Vers Cras (Pouilly-Fuissé). This wine is full of acidity, with a crisp edge that's a delicious part of the riper fruit. The wood-aging spiciness is well judged to give a balanced wine that is generous and ready to drink. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Domaine des Deux Roches 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé). Spicy, toasty aromas are the theme of the wood-laden palate of this wine. Apricot and mango fruit lies behind this vanilla character. The wine is rich, needing further time for the wood to integrate. Drink from 2018. J.A.E. Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Domaine Saumaize-Michelin 2015 Vignes Blanches (Pouilly-Fuissé). This rich wine is full of ripe yellow and melon fruitiness, showing the ripeness of the vintage. It has just the right acidity to balance the opulent fruit and the spice from wood aging. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

90 Georges Duboeuf 2015 Domaine Beranger (Pouilly-Fuissé). Full and rich, this single-estate wine is generous and ripe. Spice and yellow-fruit flavors are right up front, giving the wine generosity. Good balancing acidity offers the lift the wine needs. Drink now. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Loron et Fils 2015 Domaine des Sanson (Pouilly-Fuissé). In this opulent, full-bodied wine, mango and other tropical fruits give a smooth, creamy character that is just lightly spiced by wood. Drink this rich wine now. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Vins Auvigue 2015 Solutré (Pouilly-Fuissé). The smoothness of white wines in this vintage is very apparent in this ripe, rounded bottling. With enough acidity and citrus flavors to balance the melon and peppered-pear flavors, the wine is

balanced and full in the mouth. Age until 2019. Cape Classics. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Vins Auvigue 2014 Solutré (Pouilly-Fuissé). Full of yellow fruits, this is a ripe and lightly wood-aged wine. Great acidity and plenty of rich but lively fruitiness play well together, leading into a crisp aftertaste. It needs to age a bit more, so drink from 2018. Cape Classics. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine de la Garonne (Pouilly-Fuissé). Citrus aromas reveal this wine's essentially crisp character. Plenty of acidity balances the rich white fruits while the mineral texture adds bite to this well-made wine. It will be ready to drink from 2019. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

89 Jean-Claude Debeaune 2015 Pouilly-Fuissé. This ripe, spicy wine offers apple, pear and apricot flavors, giving ripeness and warm juicy acidity. The wine is smooth and rounded, with a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Pascal Rollet 2015 Les Grands Climats (Pouilly-Fuissé). This wine has an attractive crisp edge refreshes and balances the ripe fruit and the generous texture. Toast flavors from the wood aging underline the richness. Drink now. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Union Beaujolaise 2015 Domaine des Trois Tilleuls (Pouilly-Fuissé). The wine has delicious acidity as well as lively fruitiness. An attractive mineral texture offers a tangy view of a ripe vintage. Drink this crisp wine now. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Château de Beauregard 2015 Pouilly-Fuissé. This wine is soft and full. Its spicy edge is balanced by rich yellow fruits to offer a generous wine that fully reflects this warm vintage. The aftertaste is smooth and creamy. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Domaine Ferret 2015 Hors Classe Les Ménétrières (Pouilly-Fuissé). Perfumed spice aromas give this wine its toasty character. The wood aging dominates the fruit. The fruit, though, is ripe and will develop. Give this wine until 2024. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

88 Domaine Ferret 2015 Le Clos des Prouges (Pouilly-Fuissé). This spice and tropical-fruit-flavored wine is rich and rounded. It has enough acidity to give the fruit a lift. Otherwise, it

reflects the vintage in its broad, rounded character. Drink now. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

88 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2016 Vers Cras (Pouilly-Fuissé). This wine is tight and flinty. Crisp lemon and apple flavors are textured with a steely character that needs time to broaden out. Drink this mineral wine from 2019. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Domaine Saumaize-Michelin 2015 Les Ronchevats (Pouilly-Fuissé). Packed with tropical fruits, this is a warm, rounded and opulent wine. It is superripe, just hinting at spice from wood aging. Drink now. Atherton Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Georges Duboeuf 2015 Clos Reysie (Pouilly-Fuissé). This smooth and creamy wine is spicy with wood aging and rich with yellow fruits. It presents a generous character, rounded and open. The wine is ready to drink. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

88 Georges Duboeuf 2015 Domaine du Bois Rosier (Pouilly-Fuissé). This mango-flavored wine is ripe, generous and fruity. Its richness and spice are right up front. It is a gorgeous wine, smooth, creamy and ready to drink. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

88 Meurgey-Croses 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé). This smooth wine has a rounded, soft texture, but acidity and a citrus edge creep into the peach and pineapple fruits. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$47

88 Pascal Rollet 2015 Aux Bouthières (Pouilly-Fuissé). A smooth and creamy wine, this is packed with tropical fruits and spice. Acidity gives the wine its lift, bringing a crisp edge to the full-bodied character. Drink now. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Sylvaine et Alain Normand 2015 Les Crays (Pouilly-Fuissé). This is a smooth, rich wine, full of tropical mango and pineapple flavors, with the lightest touch of acidity. Drink this super-rich wine now. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

87 Château de Beauregard 2015 Vignes Blanches (Pouilly-Fuissé). This soft, ripe wine has good apricot and peach flavors alongside the crisper citrus acidity. It is spicy, fruity and ready to drink. Craft + Estate—The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Château de Lavernette 2015 Cuvée Jean-Jacques de Boissieu (Pouilly-Fuissé). Ripe tropical fruits permeate this ready-to-drink wine. Pineapple and mango flavors have just enough acidity to keep this generous wine crisp. Drink now. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

87 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Collection (Pouilly-Fuissé). Apricot and peach fruits dominate this creamy, soft wine. It's smooth, lightly toasty and ready to drink. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

87 Maison Champy 2015 Pouilly-Fuissé. This spicy, wood-laden wine has strong burnt-toast flavors that have suppressed the fruit. Hints of ripe fruits lie behind the spice and vanilla. Drink this from 2018, in case the wood integrates better. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Marcel Couturier 2015 Le Clos Reysie (Pouilly-Fuissé). This is a tight, textured wine, with plenty of acidity to balance the ripe fruit. It has the generous texture typical of the vintage and ripe yellow fruits, with an attractive crisp aftertaste. Drink now. De Maison Selections, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

87 Pascal Rollet 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé). A strongly toasty aroma leads to a spicy, wood-laden wine. The fruit has been suppressed by the over-enthusiastic wood aging. It might soften, so wait until 2018. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Hervé Kerlann 2015 Pouilly-Fuissé. This wine is tight, with layers of yellow fruit and spice that are masked by wood flavors. Drink from 2018. Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

83 Mommessin 2015 Grandes Mises (Pouilly-Fuissé). This broad wine is soft, indistinct and suffers from overripe fruit. It needs a shot of acidity to give it life and interest. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

POUILLY-LOCHÉ

90 Clos des Rocs 2015 Clos des Rocs Monopole (Pouilly-Loché). This wine is ripe, rounded and well balanced. It has great fruitiness, spice from wood aging and a generous texture. The wine is delicious, rich and ready to drink. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Marcel Couturier 2015 Le Bourg (Pouilly-Loché). With its spice and wood flavors, this wine is rich and deliciously concentrated. It has

a bold yellow fruit and spice character that is warm and rounded. The wine is ready to drink. De Maison Selections, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

89 Cave des Grands Crus Blancs 2016 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Loché). A selection from a single plot of 40- to 70-year-old vines, this full-bodied wine is juicy with a tight texture that comes from the terroir. It offers a crisp edge as well as bright acidity, the apple fruits lifted further by a lemon streak. Drink from 2019. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Clos des Rocs 2015 En Chantone (Pouilly-Loché). Full of warm fruit and light spice, this generous wine is rich with yellow fruits balanced by bright acidity and vanilla. The rounded texture and ripe fruit mean the wine is very ready to drink. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Clos des Rocs 2015 Les Barres (Pouilly-Loché). This warm, ripe wine is smoothly creamy and ready to drink. Touches of yellow fruits are balanced with just the right amount of acidity. The wine is rich and generous. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

87 Clos des Rocs 2015 Les Mures (Pouilly-Loché). This is a rich, rounded wine. The smooth, creamy texture comes from the warmth, the wine's full spice and toast flavors, and the light acidity at the end. The wine is ready to drink. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

SAINT-VÉРАН

88 Château de Beauregard 2015 Saint-Véran. This ripe, warm wine is balanced between rich fruits and acidity. A lightly toasty edge accompanies ripe apricot and pear flavors. The acidity is just in balance, giving an attractive edge. Drink from 2018. Craft + Estate—The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Domaine des Deux Roches 2015 Pommard Carette (Saint-Véran). This wine has strong wood aromas that also dominate the palate. Happily, the yellow and citrus fruit behind the wood is ready to shine through. Give this rich wine time to balance out, from late 2018. J.A.E. Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2015 Saint-Véran. This rounded wine is soft and ripe. Along with its smooth, warm texture it offers generous pear and melon flavors. Acidity adds an

attractive final crispness. Drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Domaine Perraud 2015 Saint-Véran. A mineral-driven wine, this is tangy-zesty, with a tight texture. Great fruit shines through the crispness. Balanced, ripe and with some potential, the wine will be ready from late 2018. Encore Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Pierre Chardigny 2015 Les Cornillaux (Saint-Véran). Wood and spice flavors add extra richness to an already-ripe wine. Opulent and full, it's laced with toast and warm mango and peach fruits. A wine to drink young, it's ready now. American B.D. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Rijckaert 2015 Saint-Véran. This ripe wine is already delicious with its full, bold fruits and peach and mango flavors. It's full of rich fruits and touched lightly by spice. Drink this generous wine from 2018. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

88 Vins Auvigüe 2015 Saint-Véran. This is a full and creamy wine. The richness is happily cut with citrus and apple acidity to give a crisp edge and tang to the ripe yellow fruit. It finishes with a lively, bright aftertaste. Cape Classics. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Cave des Grands Crus Blancs 2016 Vieilles Vignes (Saint-Véran). The appellation, at the southern end of the Mâcon vineyards next to Pouilly Fuissé, is on limestone soil that gives great minerality to the texture. This wine, from old vines, is textured, tight and nervy, needing time to boost its white fruits. Drink from 2018. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Domaine Sangouard-Guyot 2015 Au Brûlé (Saint-Véran). Offering attractive, tropical-fruit flavors, this wine is smooth and creamy. To balance that, a refreshing moment of tanginess gives a crisp shot of lemon. Drink from 2018. Grapevine Distributors. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

87 Domaine Saumaize-Michelin 2015 Creches (Saint-Véran). This is a lively, ripe wine. Peach and apricot fruits are laced with spice and acidity. Rich and fruity, it has a tropical, warm feel, a product of the ripe vintage. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Pascal Rollet 2015 Les Perriers (Saint-Véran). This balanced wine is ripe with the bold fruitiness of the vintage and crisp with a tight mineral edge. Rich apricot and pear flavors are attrac-

tively cut with lime acidity. Drink from 2018. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 Vins Auvigue 2014 Saint-Véran. This is an attractively crisp, citrus-flavored wine. With lime and ripe apple fruits, the tangy texture bursts with freshness. The wine is ready to drink. Cape Classics. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

86 Domaine des Deux Roches 2015 Tradition (Saint-Véran). Crisp and lively, this is a tight and mineral wine. Baked-apple fruitiness is balanced by bright acidity and a tangy aftertaste. Drink from 2018. J.A.E. Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

86 Ferraud et Fils 2015 Saint-Véran. A bright wine, this offers attractive fruit and a crisp texture. The tangy, zesty edge is refreshing, giving the wine a delicious lift at the end. Drink now. The Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

86 Jean-Claude Debeaune 2015 Saint-Véran. This wine is crisp, tangy and bright with acidity. With a lively touch of vanilla and spice over the crisp fruitiness, it is developing well. Drink from 2018. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

86 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Collection (Saint-Véran). There is an attractive orange-zest tang to this rounded wine. It brings out ripe yellow fruits that have acidity to add to the mineral texture of this balanced wine. It is ready to drink. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

85 Domaine des Deux Roches 2015 Rives de Longsault (Saint-Véran). Bright, soft and attractively fruity, this is an easy, open wine. An edge of acidity and minerality give the wine a good, crisp texture. Drink now. J.A.E. Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$21

85 Georges Duboeuf 2015 Domaine de la Batie (Saint-Véran). Mango aromas bring out the tropical character of this superripe wine. It is soft and creamy, maybe too much so, since it lacks a crisper edge. It is ready to drink. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

85 Marcel Couturier 2015 La Cour des Bois (Saint-Véran). Spiced-apple aromas lead to a soft, perfumed wine that has a crisp, fruity edge. The apple and green-plum flavors give attractive acidity. Drink now. De Maison Selections, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

82 Pierre Chardigny 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Saint-Véran). Lemon-jelly aromas give this a strange character. The fruit reflects the same artifi-

cial flavor. It is hard to see where it is going. American B.D. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

VIRÉ-CLESSÉ

90 Domaine Michel 2015 Viré-Clessé. Big and ripe, this rich wine offers a good combination of spice and tropical fruits. It is bold, smooth and creamy. Deliciously ripe, it's ready to drink. Alain Junguenet Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

89 Seguin-Manuel 2015 Viré-Clessé. Rich tropical fruits are balanced by attractive acidity in this full, mineral-textured wine that's ripe and crisp at the same time. Drink this attractive, balanced wine now. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

88 Chanson Père et Fils 2015 Viré-Clessé. Smooth textured, this wine is packed with ripe fruits that are touched with spice. Rounded and laden with apricot and mango flavors, it's ready to drink. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

88 Domaine Guillemot-Michel 2015 Quintaine (Viré-Clessé). This ripe, full-bodied wine is made from biodynamically grown grapes. Although rich, it has enough acidity to keep it crisp and fruity. The wine is balanced and delicious, ready to drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$33

88 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Collection (Viré-Clessé). This ripe, smooth and lightly toasty wine is a rich product of this warm vintage for whites. Yellow and ripe melon fruits are balanced by sufficient crisp acidity to give the wine a bright edge. Drink from 2018. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$26

88 Rijckaert 2015 Verchères (Viré-Clessé). Crisp and bright, this wine has retained plenty of acidity even in this ripe vintage. Attractive and spicy, it offers citrus fruits as well as apricots. Drink now. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

87 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Viré-Clessé. This is a creamy wine with soft fruitiness. The roundness is happily cut with acidity and with a citrus edge that lifts the melon and pear flavors. The aftertaste is tangy and zesty. Drink now. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

87 Meurgey-Croses 2015 Vieilles (Viré-Clessé). Smoky and with strong wood flavors, this wine also has an attractive crisper edge that gives it a bright character. A lively wine, it's both rich and crisp. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

MÂCON-MILLY LAMARTINE

89 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2015 Closier des Alisiers (Mâcon-Milly Lamartine). This is a delicious, crisp wine full of minerality, acidity and a zesty texture. Tight and lively, it offers citrus and green-plum fruitiness with a hint of spice. Drink this attractive wine now. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

88 Domaine Carrette 2016 Mâcon-Milly Lamartine. Strong wood aromas show in the toasty edge of this spicy wine. Ripe yellow fruits are full in the mouth, with a crisp, bright aftertaste to give a final lift. Winemonger. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

88 Louis Max 2016 Mâcon-Milly Lamartine. Wood and spice aromas lead to wood and rich yellow-fruit flavors, creating a warm character that's immediately attractive. With final acidity, this tangy wine is well balanced. Drink now. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$21

86 Château La Greffière 2016 Mâcon-Milly Lamartine. This attractive wine offers lemon and sliced-apple fruitiness. It has a lively character, crisp, tangy and ready to drink. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

MÂCON LA ROCHE VINEUSE

88 Domaine Perraud 2016 Mâcon La Roche Vineuse. This generous wine is packed with wood spice and tropical fruits, giving it richness and weight. Ripe, smooth and creamy, it will be ready to drink from 2018. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 Sylvaine et Alain Normand 2016 Mâcon La Roche Vineuse. Ripe fruit aromas show alongside an equally rich, creamy palate. This wine has attractive lemon and crisp apple flavors, touched by wood to give a smooth, rich aftertaste. Drink from 2018. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$20

85 Château La Greffière 2016 Sous le Bois (Mâcon La Roche Vineuse). This wine is soft, rounded and already ripe. With its gentle acidity and touches of spice and pepper, it is smooth and ready to drink. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

MÂCON-LOCHÉ

87 Clos des Rocs 2016 En Près Forêt (Mâcon-Loché). This is a crisp, lightly wooded wine. Tangy texture and mineral acidity are part of the

BUYINGGUIDE

lively character of this still young, zesty bottling. Drink from 2018. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

87 Marcel Couturier 2015 Les Longues Terres (Mâcon-Loché). This wine is smooth, mature and rich with yellow fruits and a rounded texture. A hint of wood and spice has plenty of crisp acidity to balance. Drink now. De Maison Selections, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

85 Cave des Grands Crus Blancs 2016 Minéral (Mâcon-Loché). The name, Mineral, says everything you need to know about the texture of this wine. It is also rich, generous and ripe with apricot and melon flavors. This easygoing wine has a soft aftertaste that makes it drinkable now. T. Elen-teny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

MÂCON-LUGNY

88 Albert Bichot 2016 Les Charmes (Mâcon-Lugny). This ripe, smoothly textured wine is rich with apricot and white-peach fruits. Light wood flavors add spice and fill out the texture. With its generous weight, the wine is going to be full and ripe from 2018. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 Cave de Lugny 2016 Les Charmes (Mâcon-Lugny). This is a rounded and rich wine, packed with citrus fruits and delicious acidity. Lemon and orange-zest flavors balance well with the mineral texture. Drink from 2018. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

84 Patriarche Père et Fils 2016 Les Charmes (Mâcon-Lugny). This soft, light wine has hints of citrus and acidity. It is fruity, crisp and bright with orange zest at the end. Drink now. Barton & Guestier USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

MÂCON-VILLAGES

87 Domaine de la Jobeline 2016 Mâcon-Villages. This delicious wine balances acidity and citrus fruits with riper melon and pear flavors. It offers an attractive, refreshing crisp edge. Drink now. Original Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 Domaine Sangouard-Guyot 2016 Clos de la Bressande (Mâcon-Villages). This fruity wine is full of bright acidity. Crisp and clean, it shows yellow fruits and a shot of citrus. The after-taste is lively and bright. Drink now. Grapevine Distributors. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

87 Domaine Touzot 2016 Mâcon-Villages. Bright and fruity, this delicious wine is crisp, clean and refreshing. With yellow fruits followed by zesty acidity, it's both open and textured. Drink now. World Wine Consultant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

87 Dupuis 2016 Mâcon-Villages. This wine, smooth and round, is full bodied with a rich backdrop. Apricot aromas are followed through on the palate with ripe yellow fruits. It will be ready from 2018. World Wine Consultant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

87 Louis Max 2016 Mâcon-Villages. This tangy, ripe and fruity wine is crisp with acidity. It's attractively brimming with fruit and ready to drink. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

86 Albert Bichot 2016 Mâcon-Villages. Yellow fruit and toast aromas set the scene for this soft, rounded wine. The apricot flavors are right there, lightly lifted by acidity. A gentle wine, it's ready to drink now. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

86 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2016 Mâcon-Villages. A simple, soft Chardonnay from the Mâconnais region, this is rounded. A touch of caramel adds extra flavor to the warm fruit. Green plum and melon dominate this wine that is ready to drink. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

86 Loron et Fils 2016 Château de Mirande (Mâcon-Villages). Smooth and creamy, this is a simple, soft wine. Clean, full of yellow fruits with just enough acidity, it is rounded, finishing with orange-zest tang. Drink now. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

86 Maison Champy 2015 Mâcon-Villages. This bright, fruity wine has attractive acidity plus crisp sliced apple and green plum fruitiness. It is open, soft and ready to drink. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

85 Cave de Lugny 2016 La Côte Blanche (Mâcon-Villages). This is a crisp, lively and fruity wine, bright with acidity and lightly textured. A vanilla edge adds extra interest. Drink now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

85 Domaine Michel 2016 Mâcon-Villages. This soft wine offers ripe yellow fruits and a gentle texture. Bright with acidity, it also has peach and melon roundness. Drink now. Alain Junguenet Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

85 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2016 Petit Valons (Mâcon-Villages). Light and crisp, this wine has citrus and green-plum flavors. It is still developing, with plenty of acidity as well a perfumed character. Drink this attractive wine from 2018. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

85 Joseph Drouhin 2016 Mâcon-Villages. This wine is crisp and refreshingly fruity. A lively texture gives brightness, and a light touch of acidity finishes the wine on a citrus note. Drink now. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

85 Loron et Fils 2016 La Crochette (Mâcon-Villages). This rounded, smooth wine has attractive ripe fruitiness. A tangy edge adds extra interest to an easy, open wine. Drink now. David Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

84 Domaine des Deux Roches 2016 Tradition (Mâcon-Villages). This soft wine is open, rounded with a balance between fruit and crisp acidity. Simple and gentle, it's ready to drink. J.A.E. Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

84 Domaine des Verchères 2016 Mâcon-Villages. This rounded, creamy wine is attractive, with rich apricots and balanced zesty acidity. It is ready to drink. World Wine Consultant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

84 Domaine Perraud 2016 Mâcon-Villages. Bright and fruity, this wine is light, crisp and shot through with acidity. Lively and tangy, it's ready to drink now. Encore Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

84 L. Tramier & Fils 2016 Collection (Mâcon-Villages). This soft, gentle wine has some attractive citrus and apple fruits. Easy to drink, it offers a crisp tangy aftertaste. It is not a wine for aging, so drink now. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

84 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2016 Mâcon-Villages. This soft wine is full of citrus and spice flavors. A lightly zesty edge brings out the acidity. Fruity and easy to drink, it is ready now. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

83 Pierre-Yves et Olivier Fichet 2016 La Crepillonne (Mâcon-Villages). A soft, dilute wine, this is gently fruity. Acidity gives a lift at the end. Drink now. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

OTHER MÂCONNAIS

90 Joseph Drouhin 2015 Pouilly-Vinzelles. This crisp wine is packed with delicious fruit and balanced acidity. It shows some of the richness of the vintage, but goes more in a tangy, mineral direction. With lively acidity, it is refreshing and ready to drink. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Domaine Sophie Cinier 2016 Mâcon-Verze. This is a tight, tangy wine, laced with attractive wood flavors. Plenty of crisp citrus and spicy flavors balance each other. It is already delicious, so drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Domaine de la Jobeline 2016 Mâcon-Verze. Mineral, crisp and full of acidity, this wine offers a tangy texture and fresh acidity. The refreshing style features just a touch of spice and plenty of fruitiness. Drink now. Original Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2016 Le Clos de la Tournache (Mâcon-Chardonnay). This is a monopole, which in Burgundian terms means a vineyard that is wholly owned by one producer. With its ripe hints of apricots as well as gold plums, this wood-aged wine delivers a warm, full aftertaste. Drink from 2018. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2016 Mâcon. This is a ripe, fruity wine from a village that also has vines in the Pouilly Fuissé appellation. Soft and rounded, it conveys apricot and melon flavors that are shot through with acidity. Drink the wine from 2018. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 Domaine de l'Echelette 2016 La Belouse (Mâcon-Cruzille). A crisp, tangy and mineral-driven wine, this is also ripe with generous citrus and apple flavors. The texture is still tight, which will allow it to age. Drink from 2018. Golden Vines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Pierre-Yves et Olivier Fichet 2016 Château London (Mâcon). This is a warm, rich wine. Its fruit is muted at this stage although there's potential in the good acidity and smooth, juicy texture. Let it open out more and drink from 2018. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Raphael Sallet 2016 Mâcon-Uchizy. Tight and nervy, this wine is still finding its future. White fruits under the mineral texture promise an attractive wine with a rich backdrop of citrus in the

next months. Drink from 2018. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Cave des Grands Crus Blancs 2016 Floréal (Mâcon Chaintré). Apple aromas give this wine a lift even before it has begun. The crispness and the delicious acidity are refreshing, bringing out minerality and brightness. Drink from 2018. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Domaine de l'Echelette 2016 Mâcon-Cruzille. This wine is crisp and deliciously fruity. With bright acidity, apple and citrus flavors and a strong mineral texture, it is ready to drink. Golden Vines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine de la Garenne (Mâcon-Azé). A deliciously rich wine, this is full of ripe fruit and rich wood and spice flavors. It is generous, layering peach and pear fruitiness cut with acidity. A tangy edge gives the wine an attractive bite. Drink now. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Domaine Sangouard-Guyot 2016 Sur la Roche (Mâcon-Vergisson). This is a soft wine, with simple, ripe fruit flavors. It has weight, pear and melon flavors and an attractive, juicy zesty aftertaste. Drink the wine now. Grapevine Distributors. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

85 Cave des Grands Crus Blancs 2016 Mâcon-Vinzelles. This is a ripe and sunny wine full of tropical fruit and ripe apple flavors. Smooth and open, it has just enough crisp acidity at the end. Drink from 2018. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

85 Pierre-Yves et Olivier Fichet 2016 Les Trois Terroirs (Mâcon-Burgy). This ripe wine has rich white stone fruit and only light acidity. The warmth of the wine comes from the ripeness and the smooth texture that will allow it to age quickly. Drink now. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

84 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine de la Garenne (Mâcon-Bussières). This wine is soft and very rich. That takes away from the fruit and leaves a broad wine, smooth and with a touch of pepper from alcohol. It is too big. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

84 Gerald Talmard 2016 Mâcon-Chardonnay. While this wine is full, it has an indistinct character. A soft texture and only light fruitiness leave a dull impression. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

BOURGOGNE

88 Arnaud Baillet 2015 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). With wood aging and the rich flavors from lees stirring, this is a ripe wine, gently oxidative as well as full of yellow fruits. It is a broad wine, typical of the vintage, although happily with a crisper citrus aftertaste. Drink now. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Henri de Villamont 2015 Prestige Chardonnay (Bourgogne). This fruity wine shows acidity and plenty of spice as well as touches of wood over the citrus. Warm and ripe, it offers tropical fruits as well as balancing acidity. It is ready to drink. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Maison Jessiaume 2015 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). A round and generous wine, the pair of an equally rich red wine, this is full and ripely fruity. A soft, creamy texture underlines the broad fruitiness. The apple and melon fruit is softening and filling to give a delicious, ready-to-drink wine. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Boutinot 2015 Domaine des Terreaux Chardonnay (Bourgogne). This soft wine is ripe and creamy. With fruit mainly from the southern Burgundy, it offers warm apricot and spice flavors. As a contrast, the zesty texture adds a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Boutinot USA, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine des Perdrix (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). From vines in the vineyards behind the Côtes de Nuits, this wine is warm, smooth and ripe. It offers yellow fruits as well as rich apple and enough acidity to give a crisp edge. It's attractive and will be ready to drink from 2018. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

87 Domaine Bernard Moreau 2016 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). Crisp apple aromas lead to a spicy, yellow and melon-flavored wine. With its touches of vanilla and warm, ripe character, the wine is full and generous. Drink now. World Wine Consultant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Florent Descombe 2015 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). This is a rich style of Burgundy, broad and full of yellow fruits. These are cut by acidity, a lime-zest character that pushes the fruitiness right forward. Drink now. Gourmet Food & Wine International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 Vignerons de Buxy 2015 Buissonnier Chardonnay (Bourgogne). A touch of wood aging gives this wine richness, aided by the ripe fruit of

the vintage. The wine is full with citrus, crisp apple and ripe pear. With its nervy texture and acidity, it needs to age a bit more. Drink from 2018. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

86 Château de Pizay 2016 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). This crisp, citrus-flavored wine has bright acidity and a touch of vanilla. It has great fruitiness, dominated by lemon with the tang of orange zest. It is ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Domaines Devillard 2015 Le Renard Chardonnay (Bourgogne). This soft wine, full of ripe apricots and melons, summarizes this rich white-wine vintage. It is creamy, laced with just enough acidity and fruity. It is ready to drink. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

86 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Laurent Dufouleur Cuvée Eléonore Chardonnay (Bourgogne). This is a soft wine, ripe with apricot and melon flavors. It shows the warmth of the vintage, round and gently fruity. Almonds and a tangy aftertaste give a crisp finish. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

86 Vignerons de Bel Air 2016 Grande Cadole Chardonnay (Bourgogne). This young wine is all fruit. With its citrus acidity and crisp texture, it is bright, lively with a mineral edge to the attractive structure. The wine is ready to drink. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Vignerons de Buxy 2016 Buissonnier (Bourgogne Aligoté). A crisp and fruity wine, this is full of citrus and lightly herbal flavors. It is tangy with layers of acidity as well as minerality from the chalk soil of the vineyards. Floral and full of fruit, the wine is ready to drink now. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

COTEAUX BOURGUIGNONS

85 Domaine de Millet 2016 Colombard-Ugni Blanc (Coteaux Bourguignons). This typical, fruity wine from Gascony offers lemon and herbal flavors and a crisply tangy texture. It's a light, breezy wine, full of fruit and tight with acidity. Drink this refreshing wine now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

85 L. Tramier & Fils 2016 Collection White (Coteaux Bourguignons). With its small proportion of Aligoté in the blend, this crisp, fruity wine is lively with acidity. Citrus flavors are given an extra

fillip by a zingy aftertaste. Drink now. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

CRÉMANT DE BOURGOGNE

88 Albert Bichot NV Brut Réserve (Crémant de Bourgogne). This delightfully fruity wine also has a great tang of acidity and minerality. It shows a crisp character, with a bite of apple peel and a lively mousse at the end. Drink now. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

ROSÉS

86 Domaine Gueguen 2016 Rosé (Bourgogne). The producer, based in Chablis, has vines in nearby Saint-Bris, the source of this wine. This wine is soft, with ripe red-currant fruit and just a tang of spice and minerality. It's an attractive wine, ready to drink now. T. Eleny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

86 Domaine Gueguen 2016 Domaine Marie B. Rosé (Bourgogne). After several years working in wine commerce and tourism, Céline Gueguen-Brocard in 2013 studied winemaking. This is a bright result in partnership with Frédéric Gueguen, a former winemaker for her father, and Jean-Marc Brocard. This rosé is bright, crisp and full of cranberry fruit and tangy acidity. Drink now. T. Eleny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

85 Robert Gouley 2016 Rosé (Bourgogne). This 100% Pinot Noir rosé, produced in the northern Burgundy village of Saint-Bris, is packed with fruit. It shows a light touch of red cherry fruit and plenty of bright acidity. Along with the citrus aftertaste, this is a refreshing apéritif wine. T. Eleny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

BURGUNDY RED WINES

CORTON

95 Domaine Arnoux Père et Fils 2015 Le Rognet (Corton). This is the Arnoux family's top wine coming from vines on the revered hill of Corton. It is a powerful wine, properly rich and structured from the vintage. Wood and spice come through although they will soon integrate with the dense black-plum fruits and mineral texture. Drink the wine from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

95 Louis Latour 2015 Château Corton Grancey (Corton). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

94 Henri de Villamont 2015 Renardes (Corton Les Renardes). This is a powerful wine with concentration and dark tannins. It is rich, packed with black fruits and acidity. The wine has spice, a bold structure and a great future. The wine, from one of the vineyards within the Corton Grand Cru, is likely to be ready to drink from 2025. Wegmann. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Corton Vergennes. From one of the parcels that make up the larger Corton Grand Cru, this is a powerful wine with a proper sense of its dignity. It is stylish as well as rich—an elegant blending of ripe red fruits, tannins and acidity. The wine of course has great potential and will not be ready to drink until 2025. La Ville Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Collection Tramier (Corton). This still-young wine is jammy while firmly structured with dry tannins. There is a foursquare character that misses subtlety with its broad-brush approach. The wine does need to age and will be ready to drink from 2023. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$140

OTHER GRAND CRU

95 Domaine Bertagna 2015 Clos Saint-Denis. Aged for a year in new wood barrels, this powerful, concentrated wine shows both richness and considerable aging potential. It is a powerhouse of ripe damson fruits and impressive tannins. Structured and intense, it needs to age for many years. Don't drink before 2026. Esprit du Vin. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$200

95 Henri de Villamont 2015 Grands-Echezeaux. Big, rich while also smooth, this is going to be a impressive wine. It has power and firm tannins as well as plenty of ripe black fruits and acidity. This wine, from one of the range of grand crus in Vosne-Romanée, will age well. Drink from 2026. Wegmann. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Louis Latour 2015 Cuvée Héritiers Latour (Chambertin). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$400

95 Louis Latour 2015 Echézeaux. From the largest Grand Cru in Vosne-Romanée, this wine has plenty of the structure as well as the fruit that shines in this vintage. It is rich and smoky with

black fruits and red-berry flavors. The wine is still young, drink from 2026. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$360

95 **Louis Latour 2015 Les Quatre Journaux (Romanée-St.-Vivant).** This structured wine comes from one of the lesser-known Grand Crus of Vosne-Romanée. But it does have the structure and density of the wines from this run of grand crus, with bold tannins over the red-cherry fruits. It is likely to be a structured wine for many years. Drink from 2027. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$650

94 **Château de Santenay 2015 Clos de Vougeot.** Powerful tannins and wood flavors dominate the wine at this young stage. It has plenty of the richness of the vintage to promise a generous future. Packed with ripe red-berry fruits and balanced acidity, it will be a very fine wine. Drink from 2024. Bertrand's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$260

88 **L. Tramier & Fils 2011 Collection Tramier (Clos de Vougeot).** This wine hints at some of the power and structure of this famous grand cru. But it is power reflected through a glass darkly, with its red-berry fruits, tannins and acidity all indistinct. The wine is likely to be ready to drink from 2018. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$280

GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

92 **Château de Santenay 2015 Gevrey-Chambertin.** This is a generous wine with fine potential. Its rich red fruits and acidity are contrasted with dense tannins and spice from the wood aging. It will be slow but sure to develop into a delicious wine. Drink from 2021. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$79

91 **Louis Latour 2015 Gevrey-Chambertin.** Structured and firm with fine red fruits and acidity, this is a wine that brings out all the structure of the appellation. It has acidity and red cherry and berry fruits that are shot through with a crisp texture. Drink from 2020. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$79

90 **Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Gevrey-Chambertin.** This rich and structured wine is packed with both ripe black fruits and concentrated tannins. It is a big wine, a fine representation of this appellation with its dense flavors and aging potential. The wine should be ready from 2021. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY

93 **Henri de Villamont 2015 Châtelots Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny).** Packed with tannins, this dark-hued wine is concentrated, demanding aging. It has spice and layers of wood as well as black plums and acidity. It is a powerful wine, full of dark chocolate as well as fruit and tannins. Drink from 2023. Wegmann. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **L. Tramier & Fils 2012 Collection (Chambolle-Musigny).** This is a soft wine with red-berry fruits and only light acidity. Its tannins and perfumed fruitiness are now mature. The aftertaste is elegant and easy. Drink now. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$120

VOSNE-ROMANÉE

95 **Albert Bichot 2015 Domaine du Clos Fran-tin Les Malconsorts Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée).** From one of the high-quality Premier Crus that have much of the reflected glory of the Vosne-Romanée grand crus, the beautiful wine is ripe and packed with great red fruits. Its wood aging is a rich support to this opulent wine with considerable potential. Drink from 2025. Albert Bichot USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$195

94 **Domaine Bertagna 2015 Les Beaux Monts Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$106

NUITS-ST.-GEORGES

93 **Château de Santenay 2015 Les Pruliers Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges).** There is a fine perfumed character with this wine. It floats above the ripe cherry and berry fruits and the firm structure of rich tannins. The vineyard, centrally located in Nuits-Saint-Georges, has given a firm wine with the great potential to be generous. Drink from 2021. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$105

93 **Domaine Bertagna 2015 Les Murgers Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges).** This young, richly structured wine comes from a vineyard to the north of the town of Nuits Saint-Georges. It is powered by spice and toast from wood aging that are balanced by the ripe red-plum fruits and acidity. The combination is going to produced an impressive, four-square wine as it ages. Drink from 2024. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$106

92 **Louis Latour 2015 Les Damodes Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges).** A big firmly structured wine with solid tannins and black-plum-skin tex-

ture, the wine is rich and dense. Its fruits are balanced by the concentrated tannins and by the sense of restrained power. Drink from 2023. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$105

91 **Louis Latour 2015 Nuits-St.-Georges.** The wine is structured with solid tannins and a foursquare character. Ripe fruits with plenty of balancing acidity give this wine its density and its crisp edge. This is a fruity wine that will develop slowly and well. Drink from 2020. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$79

90 **Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Domaine Aegerter (Nuits-St.-Georges).** Nuits Saint-Georges is the home of the Aegerter family and its Domaine. This ripe spicy smoky wine is rich both from the vintage and from the core of tannins that are typical of the appellation. It is a smooth rounded wine although it will need some aging. Drink from 2020. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

89 **L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Laurent Dufouleur (Nuits-St.-Georges).** Firmly tannic and structured this is a young wine that will need time to soften. It has the foursquare character that is often found in Nuits Saint-Georges. The fruit weight is there, promising a ripe red-fruit future. The wine should be ready from 2020. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$83

OTHER CÔTES DE NUITS

93 **Domaine Bertagna 2015 Clos de la Perrière Vougeot Premier Cru (Vougeot).** This vineyard is wholly owned by Domaine Bertagna, making it, in Burgundy terms, a monopole. The wine is still showing its wood aging, although the weight of ripe fruit will surely come through as it matures. It is a rich reflection of this fine vintage, dense and with packed with black-plum fruits and with a smoky aftertaste. Drink from 2022. Esprit du Vin. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$106

92 **Louis Latour 2015 Morey-Saint-Denis.** The wine has density and a good structure. It also has the acidity that marks the vintage. Red-cherry fruits and a crisp texture are balanced by the firmer tannins and solid character at the end. Drink from 2020. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$79

88 **Louis Latour 2015 Marsannay.** This is ripe and fruity with attractive red-fruit flavors and a touch of tannins to keep it all in place. The wine is soft with just a layer of tannin and plenty of red cherries at the end. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

ALOXE-CORTON

92 Louis Latour 2015 Les Chaillots Premier Cru (Aloxe-Corton). The wine is dense with fine concentration and a solid dry tannin character at the back. It is full of black fruits and balanced acidity. Its richness reflects the quality of the vintage and its aging potential. Drink from 2022. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

90 Château de Santenay 2015 Les Brunettes et Planchots (Aloxe-Corton). Vines at the base of the famed Corton grand cru hill produce this rich attractively fruity wine. Bold and with warm tannins and light wood-aging flavors, the wine is generous and full of red-berry fruits. It also has a more serious side as witnessed by the tannins. Drink from 2019. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

90 Louis Latour 2015 Domaine Latour (Aloxe-Corton). The wine has a good structure with sophisticated tannins and perfumed acidity. Black cherry and spice from the wood are balanced by the freshness of the acidity and the rounded aftertaste. Drink from 2019. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

SAVIGNY-LÈS-BEAUNE

93 Albert Bichot 2015 Aux Clous Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). Firm and tannic, this is a dense wine. Its weight and richness promise a good future. It is juicy, full of red-cherry flavors and with plenty of perfumed acidity. The wine will be ready to drink from 2023. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Domaine Arnoux Père et Fils 2015 Les Peuillets Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). Bold and ripe, this is a rich wine. It has great red-cherry and berry fruits that are filled out by the dry core of tannins. It comes from a vineyard that is close to the premier crus of Beaune and it has something of the extra structure and texture of that appellation. That means it will need to age. Drink from 2022. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Maison Champy 2015 Les Vergelesses Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). Structured, ripe and with great fruit, this is a bold warm wine. It has plenty of rich berry fruits, ripe tannins and layers of spice and toast. With its concentration, this is going to be a rich wine. Drink from 2022. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$53

92 Chanson Père et Fils 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune. Structured and dense with tannins, this is a big wine with a big future. Its black fruits, acidity and solid texture all point to its weight and

richness. It is going to be a rich fruity wine. But wait until 2023. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

92 Domaine Antonin Guyon 2015 Les Goudelettes (Savigny-lès-Beaune). The juiciness of this wine, made by a producer based in Savigny, is what makes it so good. It is so fruity, with the tannins really only in a supporting role. That means it will develop quickly with the typical Savigny generosity. There is an attractive sprinkling of spice at the end. Drink from 2020. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 Henri de Villamont 2015 Clos des Guettes Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). While there are wood aromas and wood flavors, the wine is equally about ripe fruit and generous tannins. It has spice, red-berry fruits and a rounded structure. It will age well, giving a rich wine from 2022. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Jaffelin 2015 Les Vergelesses Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). This wine is structured and concentrated with solid tannins. It has great ripe red fruits and plenty of berry flavors. It is going to be a fine wine, full of both fruit and structure as it develops. Drink from 2022. Angel's Share Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$51

92 Seguin-Manuel 2015 Les Lavières Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). This is a structured, full-bodied wine that has solid tannins and concentrated fruitiness. It is packed with red-berry flavors, ripe tannins and spice from the wood aging. The wine will take time to develop. Drink from 2022. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

91 Denis Père et Fils 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune. A ripe and full wine, packed with fruit. It has a toasty character, spice and bright red-berry fruits that give the wine its crisp acidity and balance the riper smooth texture that is developing. Give this wine until 2022. Cru Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

91 Domaine Arnoux Père et Fils 2015 Domaine des Meix Poron Vieilles Vignes (Savigny-lès-Beaune). Produced at a Domaine that is run by the Arnoux family, the wine has both a rich side and a firm side. The rich side is expressed in the bold red fruits, while the firm side comes through in the tannins and structure that will allow the wine to age. Drink this dense wine from 2020. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 Domaine d'Ardhuy 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune. The wine is structured, dense with tannins and smokiness from the wood aging. Its fruits, though in the background at this stage, offer fine

black-cherry potential. Drink this concentrated wine from 2022. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine Pierre Guillemot 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Savigny-lès-Beaune). A smoky spicy wine that is full of berry fruits and with some toasty wood-aging flavors. With its tannic structure it will need to age, although already the bright berry fruits are generous and ripe. Drink from 2022. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Jean-Claude Boisset 2015 Planchots (Savigny-lès-Beaune). A ripe, balanced wine that has juicy red strawberry and raspberry fruits and fine acidity to balance. It is warm and rounded, full of dense fruits, with its tannins surrounded by the cushion of the fruit. Drink this already delicious wine from 2021. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

90 Domaine Françoise André 2015 Les Vergellesses Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). This smoky wine is ripe with a fine balance between tannins and rich red fruits. It is warm, rounded and attractively spicy. The structure and dry core will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2022. Langdon Shiverick. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

90 Domaine Rossignol-Trapet 2015 Les Bas Liards (Savigny-lès-Beaune). Concentrated tannins balance this juicy red-berry flavor wine. The wine is still very young, showing its tannins strongly. They will certainly integrate. Drink this potentially rich wine from 2022. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Louis Latour 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune. The wine is ripe with red-cherry and plum flavors and plenty of acidity to balance. It is a rounded wine, generous with fruitiness and with a touch of tannin at the end. This is a fine village wine from this attractive appellation. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Domaine d'Ardhuy 2015 Aux Clous Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). Soft and aromatic, the wine is fruity with open tannins and plenty of acidity. It is smooth and developing quickly, showing its red-currant fruit. Drink from 2019. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir (Savigny-lès-Beaune). Old vines on the Aegerter Domaine in Savigny-lès-Beaune give a rounded ripe wine. It has a crisper red-cherry side to its otherwise smooth texture. The tannins support all this juicy fruit and offer a chance for the wine to age. Drink from 2020. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

89 **Laleure-Piot 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune.** While the wine is fruity, it does have a bitter edge that comes from the toasty wood aging. Red-berry fruits have potential, offering a future when this bitter edge will go. Wait until 2021. Integrity Wines LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

88 **Domaine Pierre Guillemot 2015 Aux Gravains Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** This is a softly fruity wine, full of raspberry flavors. It is rich, juicy and with fine acidity. The wine will develop easily and quickly, so drink from 2020. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

88 **Henri de Villamont 2015 Le Village (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** Ripe red fruits are given a soft cushion of tannins in this smooth rounded wine. It has a fine juicy balance with rich fruits and good acidity. Drink from 2020. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Seguin-Manuel 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** Dominated by red-currant fruits, this is a soft wine with tannins in the background. It has a toasty edge from the wood aging while leaving most of the singing to the fruit. Drink from 2021. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

87 **Domaine Pierre Guillemot 2015 Aux Serpentières Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** The wine is juicy with intense acidity. Its red-currant flavor is consistent with this acidity. Tannins are firm and will soften. The juicy aftertaste gives the wine crispness. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

BEAUNE

95 **Albert Morot 2015 Les Cent Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune).** Ripe, warm and with delicious strawberry and red-plum fruits, the wine is generous and full of fruit. The tannins are also there, a structure just to support all this fruit. It will be an opulent and beautiful wine as it ages. Drink from 2025. Domaine et Saveurs Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 **Albert Morot 2015 Les Algrots Premier Cru (Beaune).** This is a smooth-texture wine with a great future. It has acidity, ripe tannins, generous fruit and balance. As the wine develops, the rich red-berry fruit will show strongly. The wine is concentrated, with a solid base. Drink from 2025. Domaine et Saveurs Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 **Albert Morot 2015 Les Teurons Premier Cru (Beaune).** This structured firm wine is full of tannins as well as ripe fruit. It is concentrated, showing smoky wood flavors as well as plenty of red berries. The wine will develop slowly, with the rich

fruits coming through to give a generous wine. Drink from 2024. Domaine et Saveurs Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 **Albert Morot 2015 Les Toussaints Premier Cru (Beaune).** The wine is beautiful—ripe with generous red fruits and with balanced acidity. It has concentration, juicy acidity and a smoky background. This is going to be an opulent wine, rich in tannins and in fruit. Drink from 2022. Domaine et Saveurs Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 **Chanson Père et Fils 2015 Les Fèves Premier Cru (Beaune).** This is a generous wine, although one that will need some serious aging. It is rich in tannins and powered by a firm structure. The fruit offers the weight to counter the tannins. It just needs time. Drink from 2024. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$93

94 **Domaine Arnoux Père et Fils 2015 En Genêt Premier Cru (Beaune).** This is a rich opulent wine. Its red-berry fruits are just the starting point for a series of layers of fruit, tannins and intense perfumed ripeness. The wine is firm at this young stage with great potential to develop into a generous wine as it matures. It comes from vines at the northern end of the Beaune premier crus. Drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

94 **Jean-Claude Boisset 2015 Les Grèves Premier Cru (Beaune).** A structured wine that is also full of ripe fruit. Its red-berry fruits are encased in the tannins that still need to soften. The wine will be generous, full of berry flavors and with a dense texture. Drink this big wine from 2024. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

94 **Seguin-Manuel 2015 Champs Pimont Premier Cru (Beaune).** This is a rich wine with great potential. Its juicy spice and acidity are balanced with the red fruits, the generous texture and the fine structure. It is a wine that sums up the ripeness of the vintage. Drink from 2024. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 **Bertrand Ambroise 2015 Les Tuvilains Premier Cru (Beaune).** This opulent wine has great fruitiness. The red-cherry fruits are already generously integrated with the tannins, offering richness. At the same time, acidity gives the wine a crisp edge. Drink from 2023. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 **Bouchard Aîné et Fils 2015 Clos du Roi Premier Cru (Beaune).** Red-berry fruits dominate this already delicious wine. Allied with the acidity and the toasty wood aging, it is balanced while, of course, still young. It has potential, rich with tannins and with fine fruits. The wine is struc-

tured, needing time. Drink from 2025. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

93 **Château de Santenay 2015 Clos du Roi Premier Cru (Beaune).** This is a serious wine, firm with tannins. Its juicy red fruits are still shy in coming forward, although they are certainly there. With its structure and the potential of its rich fruits, the wine will develop well and impressively. Drink from 2022. Bertrand's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

93 **Château de Santenay 2015 Montée Rouge Premier Cru (Beaune).** This is a structured rich wine. It has great ripe fruit, generous with red berry and acidity in fine balance. It has a solid backbone of tannins although these are already well integrated into the opulent wine. Drink from 2021. Bertrand's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

93 **Domaine Françoise André 2015 Les Reverses Premier Cru (Beaune).** A structured wine, full of tannins and with good concentration. The wine is juicy, bringing acidity and red-plum and berry fruits together with the tannins. It is a wine that will need aging. Drink this powerful wine from 2023. Langdon Shiverick. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$78

93 **Domaine Rossignol-Trapet 2015 Les Teurons Premier Cru (Beaune).** This is a ripe jammy wine, full of creamed-strawberry flavors. All this fruitiness is balanced by the acidity. The tannins are a comfortable cushion under the fruit. The wine will develop easily and it should be ready to drink from 2023. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Les Grèves Premier Cru (Beaune).** From one of the top Beaune premier crus, this wine is structured and dense with tannins and with wood aging. At the same time, it has the rich fruitiness of the year, broad red berries and plums. They provide the delicious potential of this fine wine. Drink from 2022. La Ville Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

93 **Louis Latour 2015 Perrières Premier Cru (Beaune).** Among the most northerly of the run of Beaune premier crus, the wine is structured but the structure is cushioned by the ripe red-berry fruits to give a generous wine. Backed by tannins, the wine will age well. Drink from 2022. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

93 **Maison Champy 2015 Aux Cras Premier Cru (Beaune).** A firmly structured wine, solid with tannins and with structure. The wine is also full of fruit potential, ripe with red berries. It is dense

BUYINGGUIDE

wine that needs to age. Drink from 2025. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$50

93 Meurgey-Croses 2015 Domaine Clos de la Chapelle Champs Pimont Premier Cru (Beaune). This is a structured wine, dark and firm as tannins meld with the ripe berry fruits. It has the weight to have great potential. The wine, with its concentration and dense tannins, will be ready to drink from 2025. Marquee Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$54

92 Albert Morot 2015 Les Bressandes Premier Cru (Beaune). While the wine does have plenty of fruit, at this stage it shows more structure than fruitiness. Give it time, the weight of the fruit will balance the tannins to deliver a ripe, always structured, wine. Drink from 2025. Domaine et Saveurs Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

92 Domaine Pascal Prunier-Bonheur 2015 Les Sizies Premier Cru (Beaune). Crisp, juicy and fruity, this is a wine that has red-currant flavors under the tannic structure. It is a delicious wine that is light, fruity and likely to age quickly. Drink from 2023. AHD Vintners. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$150

91 Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Les Cents Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

89 Albert Bichot 2015 Clos de l'Ermitage (Beaune). Showing a dry character from the wood aging, this spicy wine also has fruit weight. While it is still young, its ripe berry flavors laced with black cherries are right up front. It does have the rounded character of a Beaune and this will develop more strongly. Drink from 2021. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$48

89 Domaine Faiveley 2015 Clos de l'Ecu Premier Cru (Beaune). Perfumed spice aromas give this wine its toasty character. The wood aging dominates the fruit. The fruit is ripe and will develop. Give this wine until 2024. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$77

POMMARD

94 Albert Bichot 2015 Domaine du Pavillon Clos des Ursulines (Pommard). The walled Clos des Ursulines is wholly owned by this producer. This perfumed wine is showing strong wood aromas as well as concentrated spice. Underneath, the generous juicy fruit has a fine balance between red plums and bright acidity. Drink from 2022. Albert Bichot USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$79

93 Arnaud Baillet 2015 Les Platières Premier Cru (Pommard). This wood-aged and structured wine is concentrated and dense. It comes from the Premier Cru vineyard just to the west of the village. With generous tannins and juicy ripe red fruits, the wine is broad and going to be rich. Drink from 2023. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$100

93 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Les Rugiens Hauts Premier Cru (Pommard). This firmly structured wine is packed with solid tannins as well as ripe juicy red fruits. It comes from the upper part of the Rugiens Premier Cru, one of the top sites in Pommard. Dense and needing to age, the wine will be ready from 2023. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$103

93 Louis Latour 2015 Epenots Premier Cru (Pommard). With the structure that is typical of Pommard, this wine also has a ripe richness from the vintage. The two together give a generous full wine with acidity and black-cherry fruits. Bold and ripe, it will age well. Drink from 2023. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$85

93 Meurgey-Croses 2015 Domaine Clos de la Chapelle Les Chanlins-Bas Premier Cru (Pommard). This is a ripe rounded wine, backed by the firm tannins that mark Pommard. It is bold, ripe with plenty of concentrated red fruits and finishing acidity. The wine has a crisp edge that lifts the tannins. Drink from 2023. Marquee Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$94

92 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Les Arvellets Premier Cru (Pommard). This is firm, in the Pommard style. But because this is a 2015 vintage, the wine is also generously rich and with great red berry fruits. The acidity is in the back of this wine with its bold flavors and concentrated texture. Drink from 2023. La Ville Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$103

92 Meurgey-Croses 2015 Les Grands Epenots Premier Cru (Pommard). The wine has barnyard aromas that need to blow off. It has firm dry tannins and dense red fruits that, again, need to integrate. It has a good future, though, as a wine that will be solid, rich and dense. Drink from 2024. Marquee Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$95

91 Château de Santenay 2015 Pommard. This is a ripe wine, soft on the normal tannins of this appellation and big on the black-cherry and berry fruits. It does have a firm core, cushioned by the generous fruitiness. Drink this wine from 2020. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$78

90 Bouchard Aîné et Fils 2015 Les Charmots Premier Cru (Pommard). The wine is full of

acidity—crisp and tight. With firm tannins to back up the red-currant fruit, it is going to take time to open up. Then it will become a rich serious wine. Drink from 2023. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$90

VOLNAY

94 Louis Latour 2015 En Chevret Premier Cru (Volnay). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% Price: \$95

93 Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Les Brouillards Premier Cru (Volnay). Translated, the name of this vineyard means fogs, maybe a reference to a predisposition to get misty in the morning. Adjacent to Pommard, the wine has some of the structure of that village allied to the rounder character of Volnay. Together, these elements make for a wine that is likely to age well. Drink this ripe and smoky wine from 2023. MS Walker. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$50

93 Meurgey-Croses 2015 Clos de la Chapelle Premier Cru (Volnay). The wine is tight with a strong mineral element over the acidity. It shows a sense of chalky terroir, full of red-currant fruits and a nervy aftertaste. It will take some time to fully develop, so wait until 2023. Marquee Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$109

93 Meurgey-Croses 2015 Domaine Clos de la Chapelle En Carelle Premier Cru (Volnay). This is a ripe generous wine with soft tannins and already delicious red fruits. It lives up to the ideal of Volnay, rich and sumptuous, although with an attractive cut of acidity to balance. Drink this wine from 2022. Marquee Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$84

92 Domaine Rossignol-Février Père et Fils 2015 Carelle sous la Chapelle Premier Cru (Volnay). With ripe fruits and solid tannins, this is going to be a rich wine. It has plenty of acidity to balance this richness. At the same time, the tannins are going to allow it to age well. Drink from 2023. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$120

92 Domaine Rossignol-Février Père et Fils 2015 Les Angles Premier Cru (Volnay). Fruity and with plenty of acidity, this is a crisp wine, still exposing the tight mineral texture. The red-currant and raspberry fruits are prominent, shot through with acidity. Drink from 2023. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$125

91 Domaine Rossignol-Février Père et Fils 2015 Robardelle Premier Cru (Volnay). Dominated by its young tannins, this perfumed wine is bright with acidity. It has spice, an intense, crisp character

and the need to age for a considerable time. Drink from 2023. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$130

90 **Maison Jessiaume 2015 Volnay.** While the producer does have vines in Volnay, this wine comes from the negociant side of the business. The wine has structure and some firm tannins. At this stage, the Volnay roundness lies behind the dry surface. But it does have weight and the potential to age well. Drink from 2021. MS Walker. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$40

AUXEY-DURESSES

89 **Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Les Ecussaux Premier Cru (Auxey-Duresse).** The wine is structured and with bold red fruits. It also has a firm texture, layers of tannins and a solid texture. Acidity shines through at the end. These elements promise a serious wine that will age well. Drink from 2021. MS Walker. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

88 **Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Auxey-Duresse.** Behind the main vineyards of the Côte de Beaune, this village makes some delicious wines, both red and white. This village wine, full of fruit, also has wood-aging flavors and firm spicy tannins. It is coming together well and will be ready to drink from 2020. MS Walker. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$30

CHESSAGNE-MONTRACHET

88 **Château de Chassagne-Montrachet 2012 Chassagne-Montrachet.** A soft ripe wine, this is elegant and with a light layer of tannins to give structure. The wine is now mature with juicy acidity giving way to secondary flavors. The finish brings out a more structured dryness. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$50

88 **Florent Descombe 2014 Chassagne-Montrachet.** In the rush for white wines, it is sometimes forgotten that Chassagne-Montrachet once produced more red than white. This soft perfumed wine shows the generous nature of the wines from this appellation with red-cherry flavors coming from the Pinot Noir. Rich, soft and fruity, the wine will be ready from 2018. Gourmet Food & Wine International. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$14

SANTENAY

90 **Domaine Jessiaume 2015 La Comme Premier Cru (Santenay).** The Domaine, which is based in Santenay, has produced a wine that has structure as well as ripe fruits. The combination promises good aging with the red-plum fruits

likely to mellow into a rich concentrated wine. It is a wine to keep and age, and not drink before 2021.

MS Walker. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

88 **Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Clos du Clos Genet (Santenay).** This clos within a clos has produced a crisp red-fruit and light-tannin-flavored wine. Its red-currant and raspberry fruits are balanced with acidity as well as tannins. The wine has a bright aftertaste. Drink from 2019. MS Walker. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

88 **Domaine Jessiaume 2015 Les Gravières Premier Cru (Santenay).** The red wine from this vineyard (which also produces a white) is firm with layers of toast from wood aging as well as the potential for ripe red fruits. It is going to need some time to lose that spicy flavor that currently dominates the wine. Give it until 2021. MS Walker. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

OTHER CÔTE DE BEAUNE

90 **Domaine Arnoux Père et Fils 2015 Les Beaumonts (Chorey-lès-Beaune).** This perfumed wine comes from the home vineyard of the producer. With soft tannins and juicy red-berry fruit, the wine is straightforward, delicious and very much in the style of the vintage. It has a crisp end of acidity that gives it just the right lift. Drink from 2018. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$35

89 **Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2016 Premier Cru (Maranges).** The wine comes from a new appellation at the southern end of the Côte de Beaune. It is a blend of different premier cru vineyards to give a juicy raspberry flavored. Tannins show a solid dry background to the attractive perfumed fruitiness. Drink from 2019. La Ville Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

GIVRY

90 **Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine de la Ferté Clos de Mortières (Givry).** This walled vineyard in the Côte Chalonnaise forms part of the 12-acre Domaine de la Ferté. The wine has structure with some firm tannins behind the ripe berry and crisp cherry fruits. It is developing well although it will need some more time. Drink from 2020. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$38

90 **Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine de la Ferté Servoisine Premier Cru (Givry).** The line of premier cru vineyards runs to the west of the town of Givry, with Servoisine touching the town's last houses. The wine is ripe and juicy, hiding its tannins in the heart of generous rich red fruits. It is likely to

be a wine that will develop quickly and should be ready from 2019. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

89 **Vignerons de Buxy 2015 Clos Jus Premier Cru (Givry).** This is a smoky, obviously wood-aged wine. The fruit is dominated by the high toast flavors needing time to integrate into the blueberry fruit flavor. That will happen, allowing this crisp, balanced wine to shine. Drink from 2020. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$40

87 **Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine de la Ferté (Givry).** Wood aromas and spice show strongly in this wine. On the palate, there is a toasty character that gives a bitter edge to the ripe red fruits. That needs to go, so wait to drink this wine from 2019. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$35

MERCUREY

94 **Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey Les Cinq Premier Cru (Mercurey).**

This wine is the essence of the five premier crus that belong to the Devillard family (they also vinify them separately). It brings out the essential Mercurey: rich, generous and with great ripe red fruits. Tannins are there allowing this impressive wine to age. Drink from 2022. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 14% Price: \$90

93 **Domaine de Suremain 2015 Clos l'Evêque Premier Cru (Mercurey).** From perhaps the best known of Mercurey's premier crus, this is a firm solid wine, dense with tannins and concentrated berry fruits. It has a ripe character that is still embedded in the tannins. That means aging and this wine should not be drunk before 2023. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$44

93 **Domaine de Suremain 2015 En Sazenay Premier Cru (Mercurey).** This is a perfumed wine, opulent and with a fine smoky structure. With great ripe berry and red-currant fruit, the wine has a juicy character, bright and crisp with acidity while also solidly textured. Drink this wine from 2023. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$46

93 **Domaine de Suremain 2015 La Bondue Premier Cru (Mercurey).** A seven-acre vineyard on the eastern side of Mercurey gives a wine that is broad and ripe. Both its structure and its juicy red fruits are generous and with a firm core of tannins. The wine is likely to age well. Drink from 2022. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$45

93 **Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey Champs Martin Premier Cru (Mer-**

curey). Big, bold and rounded, this is a rich wine from a single vineyard. Red-plum fruits go with a plush texture that masks the firm tannins and dry core. The acidity and structure both promise long-term aging. The wine is still young, needing time. Drink this from 2022. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey Clos des Ruelles Premier Cru (Mercurey). This small Premier Cru vineyard is wholly owned by the Devillard family. It is a rich wine, boasting layers of beautiful jammy red fruits and just the lightest touch of wood. Tannins are there, forming a core that will stand the wine in good stead as it ages. Drink from 2023. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey Clos l'Evêque Premier Cru (Mercurey). This is a firm wine that is structured with dense tannins. At the same time, its ripe black fruits and acidity promise a generous rich future. From a walled vineyard, once belonging to the local bishop, the wine is set for some long-term aging. Drink from 2023. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Château de Santenay 2015 Les Crêts Premier Cru (Mercurey). Firm and structured, this is a solid wine that will take time to mature. The vineyard, backed by woods, is considered one of the top premier crus in Mercurey. Certainly, this wine with its solid tannins and wood flavors that are backed by acidity and red-berry fruits, is one with a serious future. Drink from 2021. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Domaine de Suremain 2015 Les Crêts Premier Cru (Mercurey). The Suremain family winery in the main street of Mercurey has cellars going back to the 17th century. This wood-aged wine will have been kept here, where it has developed into a structured and firm wine, full of dry tannins as well as ripe red-berry fruits. Drink from 2023. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

92 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey Clos du Roi Premier Cru (Mercurey). The wine comes from a single vineyard in the large 90-acre Château de Chamirey estate. It is beautifully balanced, rich and generous. Great red-plum fruits are there along with acidity and finely textured tannins. This is going to be a warm wine with a fine future. Drink from 2022. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey En Sazenay Premier Cru (Mercurey). At the heart of the 90-acre Chamirey estate are five premier cru vineyards of which this is one. It has produced a firm and tannic wine, solidly textured and concentrated. Along with the red-berry fruits, this

structure shows the wine needs some serious aging. Drink from 2023. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Château de Santenay 2015 Les Puillets Premier Cru (Mercurey). From one of the highest of the Mercurey premier crus, this wine has a crisp edge to its otherwise ripe red fruits. It has a fine line of wood as well as the juicy fruitiness and acidity. The wine is already balanced, likely to develop easily and quickly. Drink this from 2019. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey Clos de la Maladière (Mercurey). This is a single-vineyard wine which is beautifully rich and already soft and smooth enough to drink. To be sure, it will age further and mellow with time, but for now it is the ripe red-berry fruits and generous tannins that are so attractive. Drink now and until 2026. AHD Vintners. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Château de Santenay 2015 Les Champs Martin Premier Cru (Mercurey). Ripe tannins and rich red-plum fruits give this wine a generous rounded character. Bringing out the generosity of this vintage, the wine is a balance between the broad fruits and acidity. In the background, the tannins give the wine extra weight. Drink from 2019. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

90 Domaine de Suremain 2015 Mercurey. This family vineyard, based in the village of Mercurey has produced a richly fruity wine, generous with its red-plum and spice flavors. Tannins do go through the wine, giving it the possibility of further aging. Ripe and with attractive acidity, the wine will be ready from 2018. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Château de Santenay 2015 Le Bois de Lalier (Mercurey). This single-vineyard village wine comes from a small parcel close to woods on the western edge of the Mercurey appellation. With soft red fruits and attractive acidity, the wine is fruity, easy and with a crisp aftertaste. It will be ready to drink from 2018. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

88 Domaines Devillard 2015 Château de Chamirey (Mercurey). This is a crisp fruity wine, full of red-berry fruits and acidity. It has the vintage's rich character, juicy and with a core of tannins that will soften quickly. Drink from 2020. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

88 Vignerons de Buxy 2016 Buissonnier (Mercurey). The ripeness of Mercurey in this vintage is very apparent in this rich, smooth and soft wine. Juicy red fruits dominate, backed by a core of

tannins and the spice from wood aging. It is a wine with a good medium-term future. Drink from 2019. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

87 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Laurent Dufouleur Château Mi-Pont (Mercurey). This large appellation in the Côte Chalonnaise can produce fruity wines like this. With red-berry fruits and light tannins, the wine has spice and crisp edge of acidity that comes from fruit that was just ripe, surprising in the rich 2015 vintage. The wine will be ready to drink from 2018. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

CÔTE CHALONNAISE

88 Domaine Michel Goubard 2015 Mont-Avril (Côte Chalonnaise). This aromatic wine is delicious Pinot Noir. With fine ripe red fruits that are shot through with tannins for aging and crisp acidity for refreshing drinking, this is a rich wine that should be drunk now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

87 Vignerons de Buxy 2015 Buissonnier (Côte Chalonnaise). This is an open delicious wine, full of red-cherry and red-currant fruit with a touch of minerality to add texture. Some wood aging has smoothed out the crisp fruit and added vanilla to the mix. Drink this ripe wine from 2018. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

BOURGOGNE

88 Arnaud Baillet 2015 Bourgogne. It is not clear while a simple appellation Bourgogne should need a wax capsule and heavy bottle. It all makes it that much harder to get to the warm ripe wine inside. With its strawberry fruit that is laced with acidity, the wine is generous, reveling in the fine 2015 vintage. Drink from 2018. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine des Perdrix Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). The Domaine des Perdrix is based at Nuits Saint-Georges, so this wine comes from the Côte de Nuits. It is richly fruity with layers of warm red fruits and soft tannins. Rounded and ripe, the wine is an instant success. Drink now. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). The wine is ripe and warm with generous red-berry fruits and touches of spice. The wine is rounded, full of fruitiness with a layer of tannins that is nicely judged to give support and breadth to the fruit. Drink from 2019. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$31

88 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Laurent Dufouleur Cuvée Grégoire (Bourgogne). Laurent Dufouleur is the current director of Tramier and has created a series of wines under his name. This wood and red-fruit-flavored wine is likely to be attractively ripe and jammy as the wood softens and integrates. There is fine acidity at the end and the wine will be ready to drink from 2019. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Maison Jessiaume 2015 Bourgogne. This wine really benefits from the delicious ripe fruit of the vintage. So broad, rich red-berry flavors give the wine a generous character with just the right amount of the balanced acidity. The wine is full, fruity and ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Domaines Devillard 2015 Le Renard Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Showcasing the rich vintage, this is a generous fruit-driven wine. With red-berry flavors and plenty of acidity to balance, the wine is soft and juicy. Drink it from 2018. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

87 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2016 Les Belles Roches (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune). This is a lightly smoky wine from vineyards in the hills behind the Côte de Beaune. It is spicy with a touch of wood as well as red-cherry fruitiness. The wine needs to age a few months, so drink from late 2018. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2016 Belle Canaille (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits). Vines in the hills west of Nuits Saint-Georges are the source for this crisp red-currant-flavored wine. It has a juicy character, bright with red fruits. The wine will be ready from 2018. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2016 Vieilles Vignes (Bourgogne). Soft and fruity, this young wine is full of red fruits and attractive acidity. It has a core of tannins that will soften over the next few months. Drink from 2018. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2015 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Produced from old vines in the Aegerter Domaine, this wine is dominated by red fruits and spice from wood aging. It is fruity, perfumed and likely to be ready to drink soon. Drink from 2018. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

85 L. Tramier & Fils 2016 La Minée Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Lightly perfumed, this soft, single-vineyard wine is full of black-cherry fruits.

Its acidity and round texture make it a wine to drink young. Drink from 2018. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

COTEAUX BOURGUIGNONS

86 Louis Latour 2015 Les Pierres Dorées (Coteaux Bourguignons). Pure Pinot Noir from the south of Beaujolais, this is soft, fruity and with attractive acidity. Red fruits and a crisp acidity give this wine its bright character. Ready to drink now. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

85 L. Tramier & Fils 2015 Collection (Coteaux Bourguignons). A blend with 85% Gamay, this wine comes from the Beaujolais region. It has delicious red-cherry fruit and attractive acidity. The wine with its layer of tannins is ready to drink—fruity and bright. Vitis Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Vignerons de Buxy 2015 Buissonnier Pinot Noir-Gamay (Coteaux Bourguignons). This blend of Gamay and Pinot Noir is soft and ripe with red fruits. The wine is all fruit: red cherry and raspberry with a light touch of spice and tannins. The wine is ready to drink. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

84 Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2016 Léon (Coteaux Bourguignons). This blend of Gamay and Pinot Noir, mainly from Beaujolais, is fruity with soft cherry flavors. Its attractive fruitiness and balanced acidity are immediately accessible and ready to drink. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

PROVENCE

WHITE WINES

89 Château d'Ollières 2016 Prestige (Coteaux Varois en Provence). This is a generous wine, finely balanced and with great fruit. It has a touch of spice to balance the lively acidity and green crisp fruits. A waft of Mediterranean herbs passes over this ripe, generous wine. Drink from late 2017. Rising Wine Domains. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Château d'Ollières 2016 Coteaux Varois en Provence. The Ollières vineyard is set at the heart of a 1,500-acre estate close to the Sainte Victoire mountain. This white wine is fruity, fragrant and with plenty of tangy acidity. It is lifted by the citrus and filled out with the green plums. Drink from late 2017. Rising Wine Domains. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Provence Wine Maker 2016 Rose Infinie White (Cotes de Provence). This is a light-hearted wine, delicious with acidity and with a

light perfume. It has good concentration, with tight lemon and lime flavors. The wine is made by consultant Benjamin Mei. It is ready to drink. Holiday Beverage. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Château Rimauresq 2016 Cru Classé (Cotes de Provence). This is a wine that tastes of the wild herbs and pines that surround the vineyard. It is spicy, perfumed with the contrast of the crisp green fruit. Low-yielding vines have produced a wine with concentration and plenty of tangy citrus and lime zest. Drink now. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Château des Bormettes 2016 Cuvée Hélène (Cotes de Provence La Londe). From vines close to the sea, this wine does have a salty tang to its ripe soft fruits. Flavors of creamed apples and spice fill the glass, giving a smooth wine with just enough acidity. Drink now. Palateur Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Commanderie de la Bargemone 2016 Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence. A ripe while also herbal wine, this is spicy, tight with acidity and with delicious apple and citrus flavors. It is a young wine still, showing a strongly mineral character as well as tangy spice. Drink from late 2017. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Château du Carrubier 2016 Côtes de Provence. This is a herbal wine, crisp and with a lively gooseberry and spice character. It is full of acidity that lifts the fruitiness and gives it a mineral texture. Drink the wine now. Wine Trust Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

ROSÉS

91 Château Miraval 2016 Miraval Rosé (Cotes de Provence). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

90 Château de Berne 2016 Rosé (Cotes de Provence). The showpiece chateau of Berne has produced this later bottling of rosé, a wine that is ready to drink. Crisp red fruits are underlined by acidity and a bitter orange edge. The wine is lightly structured, zesty and fruity right the way through. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

88 1752 Signature Wines 2016 Marion Rosé (Cotes de Provence). Classic Provence pale-pink-colored rosé, this is a soft red-fruit flavored wine. With bright acidity and a smooth texture, the wine is balanced. There is a touch of vanilla at the end to finish the wine easily. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Château Malherbe 2016 Malherbe Rosé (Côtes de Provence). There is just a touch of tannin in this light-colored wine, enough to shape the red-berry fruits and acidity. It is rich in character, full of pepper and spice as well as concentrated fruitiness. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Kirkland Signature 2016 Rosé (Côtes de Provence). For full review see page 14. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

88 Vindivin 2016 Château Terrebonne Coeur de Cuvée Rosé (Côtes de Provence). As with many Provence rosé producers, this wine comes from grapes harvested at night to preserve the freshness of the fruit. It has produced an attractive crisp wine with a pale-rosé color and lively red-currant fruits. Drink now. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$17

84 Fabre en Provence 2016 Rosé (Côtes de Provence). This is spicy with a strong floral character. Its red-berry fruits are shot through with acidity. The crispness and attractiveness of the wine are spoiled just by the hint of candy and caramel. Drink now. August Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

84 Marrenon 2016 Trinité Rosé (Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire). This blend of Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault is light and fruity, with a touch of red-fruit candy. It has a soft aftertaste that suggests the wine is not bone dry. Drink now. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

RED WINES

92 Château d'Ollières 2013 Haut de l'Hermitage (Coteaux Varois en Provence). From selected parcels of the Ollières estate, this wine is impressive. It has weight but that is balanced by the acidity and the generous black fruits and acidity. This is certainly a wine that has been well aged, although it would pay to wait another year before drinking. So drink this very fine wine from 2018. Rising Wine Domains. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Château Grand Boise 2015 Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire. A part of this estate's vineyards are in the Sainte-Victoire subappellation close to the landmark mountain of that name. This is a dense wine with serious tannins at this stage. It also has generous potential, along with the tight black-currant and blackberry fruits. Drink this wine from 2020. Soilair Selection. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2015 Cuvée G (Côtes de Provence). This is a superbly rich wine that is packed with generous black fruits and bal-

anced acidity. It has structure and concentrated plum and damson fruits. The wood aging still shows in what is young wine, although this will go. Drink this impressive wine from 2019. The Winebow Group. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

92 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2014 Cuvée Cros du Loup (Bandol). This is a beautiful spice and mint-flavored wine. The wood aging has left a strongly perfumed character to the rich black fruits and acidity. Structured and firm, this will develop into a ripe intense wine. Drink from 2019. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

91 Château du Carrubier 2015 Côtes de Provence. This is a dark-hued wine, full of tannins as well as rich black-currant fruits. It is densely textured with a strong herbal mineral character. Acidity and spiciness come with a firm edge that suggests this young wine will age further. Drink from 2019. Wine Trust Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Château Grand Boise 2015 Cuvée 1610 (Côtes de Provence). The year 1610 was the year the estate was created, so it does have some history. The wine is smooth, rich and with a dense character that gives it an almost inky black color. Solid and concentrated, it is a powerful wine, with dense berry fruits and acidity. It will be ready from 2019. Soilair Selection. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Château d'Ollières 2013 Prestige (Coteaux Varois en Provence). A soft and smooth wine that has attractive red-berry fruits and a light touch with the tannins. It is juicy, lifted by the acidity and the touches of wood spice. Drink this fruity and structured wine from 2019. Rising Wine Domains. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2014 Cuvée G (Bandol). While the wine is dry from the austere tannins, it also has a core of ripe berry fruits that are laced with acidity. It should develop some more and the tannins will soften, although they will always be very present. Drink from early 2018. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

86 Château du Carrubier 2014 Côtes de Provence. This firm and tannic wine is more structure than fruit. It is dense with a dry core. The acidity suggests that there may be some fruit there, although the rest of the wine is ready to drink. Wine Trust Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

86 Château Rimauresq 2014 Cru Classé (Côtes de Provence). This wine is fruity with attractive black currants. The tannins are very present, suggesting the wine is young. It is a wine with

potential, so drink from 2019. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

PAYS D'OC CHARDONNAY

88 Le Jade 2016 Chardonnay (Pays d'Aude). Medium-intense notes of golden apple skin, lime peel and wild yellow flowers are graced by a hint of gingery spice. The medium-weight palate is slightly round and creamy, but not overly so, with a generous wood-grilled-apple flavor that lingers on the toasty finish. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Les Collines du Bourdic 2016 Le Prestige Chardonnay (Pays d'Occ). This wine is toasty and rich upfront, with decadent aromas of cedar-grilled apple and peach pit that are graced with hints of *garrigue* and gardenia. The floral character gains intensity on the palate, before giving way to fresh fruit flavors of apple slices and lemon pith. It's well balanced and clean on the close; drink now. Mélusine Wines. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Calmel & Joseph 2016 Villa Blanche Chardonnay (Pays d'Occ). There are pretty white-flower aromas that grace the bouquet of this wine, with a supporting core of pink apple, peach and ripe honeydew. Despite its light weight, there's a pleasant roundness to the midpalate, with lasting fruit impressions on the close. VRolland Selection. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Fortant 2014 Mountains Grand Reserve Chardonnay (Pays d'Occ). Peach and yellow apple aromas lead the nose, with sweet orange oil and fresh honeydew adding depth and character. There's ample acidic lift to the palate, keeping the mouthfeel bright and the finish clean. A hint of peach pit accents the close. Boisset Collection. —L.B.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

86 Laroche 2016 La Chevalière Chardonnay (Pays d'Occ). Scents of yellow apple, white peach and ripe melon continue through to the medium-weight palate. A touch round, though not quite flat, this is a touch straightforward, but certainly pleasant and enjoyable. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —L.B.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

84 Barton & Guestier 2016 B&G Réserve Chardonnay (Pays d'Occ). Delicate aromas of red apple and dried grass tease on the nose of this soft wine, while slightly more assertive flavors of lime and white melon rind unfold on the medium-weight mouth. Ample acidity keeps the finish fresh, but short. Barton & Guestier USA. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

84 **Domaine Saint-Nabor 2016 Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc).** Mealy apple and orange custard aromas set the stage for this ripe, fleshy white. There's a roundness to the mouthfeel, as those notes continue through to the palate, though the finish offers a pithy citrus astringency that helps to enliven the experience. Marquee Selections. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

WHITE BLENDS

87 **Domaine Rives-Blanques 2016 White (Pays d'Oc).** This Chardonnay-based wine, with 10% Chenin Blanc, opens with aromas of pressed yellow flowers, peach blossom and just-ripe tropical fruit. There's good zip to the bright fruit flavors, finishing fresh and clean. Drink now. Encore Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

87 **Gayda 2015 Figure Libre Freestyle White (Pays d'Oc).** A blend of 50% Grenache Blanc, 25% Macabeau, 15% Marsanne and 10% Roussanne, this opens with intense floral aromas of jasmine, apple blossom and peony. It's grounded by a core of ripe, opulent apple and melon fruit, with nutty accents that linger on the waxy finish. Ascent Wines Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 **Les Domaines Auriol 2015 La Villa de Maison Vialade White (Pays d'Oc).** Pretty pink-flower tones lead the nose of this white blend, framed by fruity notes of white peach, lychee and musky grape. The palate is surprisingly light in feel, with ripe fruit flavors and good acidity to keep the finish fresh. Knows Imports. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

OTHER WHITE WINES

86 **Wild Pig 2016 Viognier (Pays d'Oc).** Light scents of fresh grass, white flowers, waxy melon and sweet orange dance in the bouquet of this easy-drinking white. Those notes continue through to the fruity palate, with a pleasant roundness to the midpalate. Drink now. Gabriel Meffre America. **Best Buy.** —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

84 **Les Jamelles 2016 Viognier (Pays d'Oc).** This wine is fairly soft and muted, with delicate aromas of straw, apple and underripe white melon. The palate is similarly light in feel and intensity, with low acidity and a short finish. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

84 **Sainte Marie des Crozes 2016 Le Clandestin Sauvignon Blanc (Pays d'Oc).** Clean notes of apple, melon and lime peel unfold of the nose and carry through to the lightweight mouth. There's

ample acidity to keep the palate fresh, with a short finish. Marcus Brothers Imports. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

87 **Famille Fabre 2016 Grande Courtade L'Instant Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** White peach, cherry and cranberry fruits are coupled with attractive scents of white tea, talc and peony on the nose of this wine. There's a subtle texture to the lightweight palate, thanks to notes of lime pith and bitter melon rind. It's well balanced and easy to like. Williams Corner Wine. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Gérard Bertrand 2016 Gris Blanc Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** A pale pink color, this starts with dainty, delicate aromas of white cherry and strawberry hull. The palate is similarly light in intensity, with a clean, mouthwatering finish that's immensely refreshing. Drink now. USA Wine West. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 **Les Collines du Bourdic 2016 Éclat de Gris Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** Soft white cherry and strawberry are hit with a pink floral accent on the nose of this easy, breezy rosé. Lightweight and refreshing, the finish is clean and bright in white berry flavor. Drink now. Mélusine Wines. **Best Buy.** —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

86 **Bistro 2016 Signature Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** Notes of peach, green melon and white cherry are accented by hints of carnation and talc. The palate is light and lively, with citrus peel and melon rind flavors that carry through to the close. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10/1 L

86 **Le Grand Noir 2016 Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** A white chocolate accent adds a touch of weight to the white cherry and watermelon aromas in the nose of this wine. The palate offers surprising weight, but it's countered by ample acidity and a citrus zest flavor that livens up the finish. Prestige Beverage Group. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

85 **Gayda 2016 Flying Solo Grenache Cinsault Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** There are some pleasant gamy tones to the plum and cherry fruit on the nose of this wine, with decadent touches of white chocolate and peach pit. Zippy acidity picks up the palate, finishing fresh and easy. Ascent Wines Inc. **Best Buy.** —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

85 **Les Vignobles Foncalieu 2016 Le Versant Grenache Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** Pretty, delicate and soft, initial scents of red cherry and strawberry carry through to the lightweight easygoing plate. It's

fresh and easy to like, with good zip to the finish. Kindred Vines. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

84 **Pierrick Harang 2016 Le Petit Balthazar Cinsault Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** Menthol and sweet grass are upfront on the nose of this herbal rosé, supported by notes of strawberry hull and black currant. There's a slight prickle to the palate, with a pithy astringency on the finish. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —L.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

83 **Château Guilhem 2015 Pot de Vin Syrah Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** Baby powder and carnation grace the ummy peach and strawberry fruit tones in this wine. It's a touch sharp through the close, while mealy fruit dominates the palate. The French Corner. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

83 **Fortant 2016 Coast Select Grenache Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** This offers notes of white strawberry, cherry and melon rind on the nose and mouth. Medium-minus in weight, flavors of lime peel and tart cherry skin lend astringent grip to the close. Boisset Collection. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

88 **Gérard Bertrand 2016 Réserve Spéciale Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** This is a plush and pleasantly concentrated wine, with rich notes of black plum, cherry, and boysenberry that are spiced by notes of licorice and minty pepper. The medium-weight mouthfeel boasts velvety tannins and a well-build, solid structure. A hint of char unfolds on the lingering finish. USA Wine West. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 **Fortant 2016 Coast Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** Touches of crushed purple violets add depth and interest to the brambly black berry and raspberry core of this lush wine. Hints of menthol and charred oak dance in the background, with flavors of cherry skin and blackberry taking centerstage on the solidly structured palate. Boisset Collection. **Best Buy.** —L.B.
abv: NA **Price:** \$11

86 **Villa des Anges 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** Medium-intense scents of black plum- and cherry-skin lead the way on the nose of this rich wine. The palate is dense, with mouthcoating tanning that retail their grip through the tight finish. The fruit is secondary to the structure. Hand Picked Selections. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

85 **Les Jamelles 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc).** For full review see page 15. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

84 Iconique 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc). Black cherry, currant and plum swirl in the bouquet, with hints of baking spice and bittersweet chocolate in the background. It's promising, but the palate comes across a bit flat, with soft tannins and a fleeting finish. Prestige Beverage Group. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

PINOT NOIR

85 Domaine de Cabriac 2015 Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). Delicate notes of earthy herbs and cola spice grace the red cherry, currant, rhubarb and cranberry tones on the nose and mouth of this easy-going wine. It's light in weight and softly structured, with ample acidity lending freshness through the close. Wines & Beyond Import. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

84 Domaine de Brau 2016 Pure Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). A meaty, gamy character graces the red-fruit core of this lightweight wine. The tannins are soft, with light acidity and a subtle cherry-cola flavor that unfolds on the close. Drink now. Summit Selections. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

84 Vignobles Jeanjean 2016 Secret de Lunès Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). This wine opens with delicate scents of red currant, spiced cherry and tart currant. Light tannins and slightly astringent red-cherry flavors unfold on the palate, finishing short but clean. Cannon Wines Limited. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

RED BLENDS

88 Condamine Bertrand 2015 Elixir (Pays d'Oc). A blend of 84% Syrah and 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is bold and flavorful, with decadent tones of wild purple flowers, church incense, chocolate-covered cherry and raspberry brownie throughout. It's hard not to like, framed by medium tannins and a lingering toasted-oak spice that dominates the finish. Vin du Mini Wine Importing. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Domaine de l'Engarran 2014 La Lionne (Pays d'Oc). Aromas of high-toned cherry and berry lead the nose of this wine, with secondary scents of tar, balsamic and leathery spice. Medium weight and smooth in body, the satiny tannins provide a subtle, accessible structure, framed by juicy black-cherry and -raspberry flavors. Drink now. Solstars. *Best Buy.* —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

88 Gayda 2014 Chemin de Moscou (Pays d'Oc). Sweet oak spice and a hint of plum sauce jazz up the strong black-fruit core of this bold wine. Made from 60% Syrah, 35% Grenache and 5% Cinsault, it offers earthy, peppery hints to the black

fruit flavors that linger powerfully on the finish. Ascent Wines Inc. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

88 La Cuvée Mythique 2015 Limited Edition (Pays d'Oc). Medium-intense aromas of black plum, cherry and berry are upfront on the nose of this ripe wine, with supporting notes of woodspice, char and black pepper for added depth. The tannins are structured yet fine, with a firm hold and rich, grippy fruit-skin flavors that carry the close. Vinadeis Americas USA. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Le Grand Noir 2016 Black Sheep G-S-M (Pays d'Oc). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Marius 2016 Grenache-Syrah (Pays d'Oc). This wine is quiet at first, with tight scents of dark berries, black currant leaf and German chocolate cake. A pleasant tartness enlivens the slightly round palate, expressed in hints of cassis and underripe black cherry. Ample tannins provide some structure, with a medium-length finish. Terlato Wines International. *Best Buy.* —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Lorigeril 2016 Château de Pennautier Syrah-Viognier (Pays d'Oc). There's a slight mealy presence to this wine, with warm aromas of muddled plum and cherry. Hints of black tea and plum skin lend some texture and astringency to the palate, coupled with soft tannins and an overall light, approachable character. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

OTHER RED WINES

89 Domaine des Deux Ruisseaux 2015 Merlot (Pays d'Oc). A touch of green pepper dances on the nose of this otherwise bold, darkly fruited wine. Notes of coffee and brownie lend richness to the palate, fleshing out the crushed-velvet texture and black plum and currant flavors. A final hit of tobacco spice graces the finish. Marquee Selections. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Fat Bastard 2016 Syrah (Pays d'Oc). Dark purple in color, this opens with a rich, dense bouquet of blackberry, plum, boysenberry, purple violet and cocoa nib. The plush palate boasts velvety tannins and good overall balance, with earthy, spicy tones that linger through the finish. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. *Best Buy.* —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

87 Les Domaines Auriol 2016 La Villa de Maison Vialade Marselan (Pays d'Oc). Dense and dark in color, this leads with jammy, superripe scents of blackberry, plum and cherry preserves, hit by a touch of bramble. The palate is similarly ripe

and fruit-driven, with soft tannins and a fruity, overall immensely accessible character. Bacchus Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Barton & Guestier 2016 B&G Réserve Grenache Noir (Pays d'Oc). Quite forward in character, this opens with powerful scents of purple flowers, black berry, cherry and plum. The palate is juicy and fruit forward, with hints of sweet spice and berry preserves that carry through to the medium-length finish. Drink now. Barton & Guestier USA. *Best Buy.* —L.B.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

86 Lorigeril 2016 1620 Cabernet Franc (Pays d'Oc). This wine is bright and fruity at first, with ripe and juicy black-fruit tones that dominate the nose. Hints of banana cream and vanilla sauce lend an overwhelming richness to the plush, medium-weight palate, finishing with loads of sweet spice. David Milligan Selections. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

84 Fortant 2015 Hills Reserve Malbec (Pays d'Oc). Accents of cola spice and cardamom lend a spicy overlay to the black plum and berry core of this wine. It's surprisingly light in weight, with soft tannins and plush, sweet oak-spice tones that dominate the finish. Boisset Collection. —L.B.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

PIEDMONT BARBARESCO

95 Rizzi 2014 Nervo (Barbaresco). Enticing aromas of balsamic, leather, menthol, crushed herb, blue flower and dark culinary spice unfold on the nose. The focused palate boasts wonderful, nervy energy, showing red cherry, cranberry, white pepper, cinnamon and clove flavors framed by firm, elegant tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink 2022–2032. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

94 Cascina Alberta 2014 Giacone (Barbaresco). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

94 Nada Giuseppe 2014 Marcarini (Barbaresco). Enticing violet, berry, new leather and cake spice aromas lead the nose of this wine. Its precise, structured palate offers Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, cinnamon and star anise flavors set against youthfully exuberant but refined tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink 2024–2034. Vintage '59 Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

94 Rizzi 2014 Pajorè (Barbaresco). Enticing new leather, dark baking spice and violet aromas emerge in this taut red. Succulent and savory, it delivers juicy Marasca cherry, raspberry

compote, flinty mineral and star anise flavors while firm, refined tannins and fresh acidity offer support. Drink 2020–2029. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$69

93 Castello di Neive 2014 Albesani Santo Stefano (Barbaresco). This wine's classic Nebbiolo scents of fragrant blue flower, new leather, aromatic herb and red berry waft out of the glass. The firmly structured palate offers Marasca cherry, sage, truffle and ground clove flavors framed by tightly woven but refined tannins and vibrant acidity. A licorice note rounds out the finish. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$81

93 Rizzi 2014 Barbaresco. Chopped herb, fragrant blue flower, woodland berry and menthol aromas take center stage in this vibrant red. On the palate, clove and star anise notes underpin red cherry, cranberry and tobacco flavors. A hint of orange zest marks the finish while refined tannins and bright acidity provide the framework. USA Wine West. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Sottimano 2014 Cottà (Barbaresco). This wine's iris, perfumed berry, truffle and baking spice aromas emerge in the glass as it opens, along with a whiff of crushed herb. The structured, elegant palate shows ripe Marasca cherry, vanilla and mocha flavors alongside fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2019–2029. MS Walker. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Adriano Marco & Vittorio 2014 Sanadaive (Barbaresco). This wine's inviting blue flower, dark berry and cake spice aromas emerge in the glass. The vibrant palate delivers juicy Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon and star anise flavors while firm, refined tannins and fresh acidity provide support. Novo Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Cascina Luisin 2014 Asili (Barbaresco). Alluring Nebbiolo aromas of dark berry, purple flower, baking spice, truffle and herb slowly unfold in this wine. The savory, succulent palate doles out Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, cinnamon and licorice flavors against a backdrop of firm, refined tannins and bright acidity. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Cigliuti 2013 Serraboella (Barbaresco). Intense scents of violet and iris lead the nose of this wine, along with a whiff of woodland berry. The fresh, linear palate offers Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and chopped herb flavors framed by youthfully assertive, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Giuliana Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

92 La Spinona 2013 Bricco Faset (Barbaresco). Classic scents of dark-skinned berry,

chopped herb, dark spice and new leather take the lead in this wine. On the firm elegant palate, youthfully assertive, noble tannins support dried Marasca cherry, licorice and clove flavors while bright acidity lends balance. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Negro Giuseppe 2014 Pian Cavallo (Barbaresco). This leads with blue flower, camphor, crushed herb and red berry aromas. Firmly structured and linear, the palate delivers succulent red cherry, crushed strawberry, cinnamon and star anise flavors supported by a backbone of vibrant acidity and firm, refined tannins. Drink 2022–2032. Simply Stated Wines, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Sottimano 2014 Currà (Barbaresco). This wine's truffle, underbrush, dark berry and baking spice aromas take center stage. Still young and primary, it shows unripe red berry, sage, ground clove, truffle and star anise flavors on the palate, structured with bracing tannins and vibrant acidity. Give it time to fully come together. Drink 2021–2028. MS Walker. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 Cascina Saria 2014 Colle del Gelso (Barbaresco). This expresses pretty Nebbiolo aromas of violet, saddle leather, truffle and red berry. The vibrant palate offers crushed raspberry, Morello cherry, cinnamon and tobacco hints while assertive tannins and bright acidity provide support. Drink 2021–2029. Aventine Hill LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Piero Busso 2013 Albesani Vigna Borgese (Barbaresco). You'll find earthy aromas of truffle, new leather, game and pressed violet and whiffs of menthol and toast in this firmly structured red. The taut palate shows red cherry, crushed cranberry, cinnamon and ground clove flavors set against fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink after 2023. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

91 Rivetti Massimo 2014 Barbaresco. This wine's woodland berry, rose petal, dark spice, chopped herb and espresso aromas fill the glass. Elegantly structured, the palate offers Marasca cherry, clove and star anise flavors framed by fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity. Private Reserve Fine Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Ugo Lequio 2014 Gallina (Barbaresco). Woodland berry, fragrant blue flower, camphor and exotic spice aromas take center stage in this wine. The linear, vibrant palate still shows its youth, offering juicy Marasca cherry, cranberry, white pepper and crushed herb flavors alongside fine-grained tannins that leave a firm finish. Bright acidity lends balance. Drink after 2024. Vino Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Adriano Marco & Vittorio 2014 Basarin (Barbaresco). Underbrush, camphor and new leather aromas unfold in this taut red. The linear palate shows red cherry, pomegranate, espresso and star anise flavors alongside a crushed sage note. Assertive tannins and racy acidity lend grip to the finish. Drink 2022–2032. Novo Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Ca' del Baio 2014 Vallegrande (Barbaresco). New leather, underbrush, menthol, dark spice and chopped dill aromas lead the way in this structured red. The firm palate offers dried black cherry, raspberry jam and licorice flavors alongside taut, fine-grained tannins and firm acidity. It's youthfully austere and needs a few years to unwind. Drink 2022–2029. Omniwines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Cantina del Pino 2013 Albesani (Barbaresco). Blue flower, dark-skinned berry, star anise, menthol and espresso show on the nose. The aromas carry to the palate, along with dried black cherry, licorice, toast and a hint of sage. Firm, close-grained tannins provide support. Drink 2012–2033. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Cantina del Pino 2013 Ovello (Barbaresco). Fragrant purple flower, red berry, exotic spice, crushed herb and new leather scents set the tone in this wine. The firm palate shows cranberry, star anise and clove flavors framed by fine-grained tannins. Drink 2019–2028. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Castello di Neive 2012 Albesani Santo Stefano Riserva (Barbaresco). Balsamic notes of menthol and crushed mint mingle with dark culinary spice, coffee bean and stewed fruit aromas in this wine. The forward palate shows sweet and sour notes of mature, fleshy black cherry, prune, licorice and clove alongside seasoned tannins. A toasted hazelnut note closes the finish. Drink soon to catch the remaining fruit and freshness. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Luigi Voghera 2014 Barbaresco. This leads with menthol, new leather, exotic spice and balsamic notes. The concentrated palate offers dried black cherry, tobacco and star anise flavors set against firm, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Bon Vivant Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Nada Giuseppe 2012 Casot Riserva (Barbaresco). This wine's new leather, exotic spice, truffle and chopped herb aromas lift out of the glass while the full-bodied palate delivers dried berry, orange zest, exotic spice and espresso hints. Fine-grained tannins provide firmness. Vintage '59 Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Negro Giuseppe 2014 Gallina (Barbaresco). Balsamic aromas of menthol, saddle leather, crushed herb and exotic spice mingle together in this Barbaresco. The solid palate shows crushed raspberry, Morello cherry, cinnamon and espresso flavors alongside firm, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Simply Stated Wines, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

90 Piero Busso 2013 Gallina (Barbaresco). This opens with subtle aromas suggesting underbrush, exotic spice, vanilla, menthol and toast. On the structured palate, bright acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins support ripe Marasca cherry, clove and star anise flavors. Drink 2021–2031. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

90 Ressa 2014 Canova (Barbaresco). This wine's assertive game, toast, leather, underbrush and balsamic aromas carry over to the tight, linear palate, along with cranberry, red cherry and white pepper notes. Close-grained tannins and racy acidity provide the framework. Tradizione Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 Rivetti Massimo 2014 Froi (Barbaresco). Chopped mint, menthol, blue flower and red berry aromas take the lead in this wine. The taut palate offers Marasca cherry, raspberry, star anise and ground clove flavors alongside fine-grained tannins. Private Reserve Fine Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Adriano Marco & Vittorio 2012 Basarin Riserva (Barbaresco). This wine's prune, menthol, tobacco and grilled herb aromas carry over to its bracing palate, along with dried black cherry and licorice hints. Assertive, tight-knit tannins grip the finish. Drink after 2020. Novo Imports. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Cantina del Pino 2013 Gallina (Barbaresco). This wine's chopped herb, dark culinary spice, eucalyptus and oak aromas unfold in the glass. The firm palate offers raw cherry, ground clove, star anise and tobacco set against close-grained tannins that grip the finish. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Cascina Luisin 2014 Rabajà (Barbaresco). Menthol, camphor, pressed violet, crushed herb and toast aromas come together in this wine. The solid, chewy palate delivers crushed raspberry, red cherry, espresso, star anise and toast flavors alongside firm tannins. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

89 Cigliuti 2013 Vie Erte (Barbaresco). This wine's exotic spice, leather, toast and vanilla aromas unfold in the glass. The taut, linear palate offers dried black cherry and pomegranate flavors, with a sprinkling of cinnamon, assertive,

fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Collina Serragrilli 2014 Staderi (Barbaresco). This leads with aromas suggesting freshly picked violet, toast, espresso, menthol and crushed herb. The vibrant palate delivers Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, coffee bean and licorice flavors in a frame of youthfully assertive tannins. Village Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

89 Dante Rivetti 2014 Bric' Micca (Barbaresco). This wine's underbrush, truffle, leather and herb aromas unfold in the glass. The firmly structured palate offers dried black cherry, licorice, espresso, oak-driven spice and toast flavors framed by close-grained tannins. Roasted coffee bean and powdered sage notes mark the finish. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$46

89 La Spinetta 2014 Valeirano (Barbaresco). Dill, crushed herb, oak, toast and balsamic aromas emerge in the glass as this wine opens. Its firm palate offers dried cherry, licorice and espresso flavors framed by close-grained tannins and vibrant acidity. It has structure but lacks fruit richness. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

89 Nada Giuseppe 2014 Casot (Barbaresco). This wine's balsamic notes of camphor, oak, toast and crushed mint emerge in the glass while the linear palate offers licorice, sour cherry, cranberry, thyme and tobacco flavors. Close-grained, somewhat astringent tannins lend grip to the finish. Vintage '59 Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

89 Orlando Abrigo 2014 Meruzzano (Barbaresco). Balsamic aromas of camphor, toasted oak and oak-driven spice take center stage in this wine. On the tightly wound palate, taut tannins enwrap Marasca cherry, cranberry, white pepper and clove flavors. It's balanced with bright acidity. Ionia Atlantic Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Pio Cesare 2013 Barbaresco. Menthol, violet, exotic spice and tobacco aromas take center stage in this wine. The firm palate shows red cherry, licorice and crushed herb flavors set against a backdrop of close-grained, grippy tannins. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$77

89 Sassi San Cristoforo 2014 Barbaresco. Star anise, camphor and toast aromas lead the nose of this wine. The firm palate shows red cherry, crushed strawberry and chopped mint flavors alongside fine-grained tannins. Tutto Bene Winery. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Scarpa 2013 Tettineive (Barbaresco). This leads with truffle, underbrush, pressed violet and camphor scents. The taut, linear palate offers sour cherry, cranberry, licorice, sage and orange peel notes alongside bracing tannins and vibrant acidity. Give it a few more years for the tannins to unwind then drink. Porto Vino Italiano. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

89 Sottimano 2014 Fausoni (Barbaresco). Balsamic aromas of menthol, eucalyptus and new leather lead the nose of this wine, along with a whiff of oak-driven spice. On the firm, linear palate, espresso and mocha notes accent raw red berry fruit while assertive, close-grained tannins grip the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

88 Ca' del Baio 2014 Autinbej (Barbaresco). Dark spice, camphor, menthol and crushed herb aromas take center stage in this wine. The palate offers dried black cherry, mocha and licorice flavors alongside assertive, close-grained tannins. A hint of candied orange zest signals the close. Omnivines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

88 Cantina del Pino 2013 Barbaresco. You'll find blue flower, exotic spice, truffle and camphor aromas in this firm, medium-bodied red. The linear palate shows sour cherry, cranberry, licorice and espresso notes held tight with fine-grained tannins. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

88 Ceretto 2014 Bernardot (Barbaresco). This opens with French oak, vanilla, toast and coconut aromas. The oak-derived qualities carry over to palate, along with sour cherry, raspberry compote and espresso flavors while tight, close-grained tannins grip the finish. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$121

88 Collina Serragrilli 2014 Serragrilli (Barbaresco). This offers oak, toast, espresso, eucalyptus and earthy game aromas. The tight, no-frills palate offers Marasca cherry, mocha, orange peel and roasted coffee bean flavors. Close-grained tannins leave a firm finish. Village Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 La Spinona 2012 Bricco Faset Riserva (Barbaresco). Blue flower, crushed mint, dark spice and new leather aromas take center stage in this wine, along with a whiff of hazelnut. The palate doesn't quite live up to the nose, offering dried black cherry, licorice and powdered sage notes and bracing tannins. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 La Spinona 2009 Bricco Faset Riserva (Barbaresco). Truffle, stewed prune, pressed violet and camphor aromas lead the way in this

wine. The palate is somewhat evolved, showing cooked fruit, licorice and baking spice hints alongside firm but rather fleeting tannins. Drink sooner than later. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

88 Molino 2014 Teoramo (Barbaresco). This leads with aromatic herb, wild berry and oak-driven spice notes. The tight, taut palate offers licorice, clove, baking spice, crushed sage and dried black cherry flavors but lacks fruit richness. It's framed by firm, close-grained tannins and vibrant acidity. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

88 Nada Fiorenzo 2013 Manzola (Barbaresco). This opens with licorice, chopped herb, eucalyptus and dark spice aromas. The assertive palate offers dried black cherry, coffee bean and sagenotes framed by close-grained tannins. Premium Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Nada Fiorenzo 2013 Montaribaldi (Barbaresco). This has earthy aromas suggesting underbrush, new leather, menthol and truffle, along with a whiff of medicinal herb. The palate is tightly wound and still rather closed, offering hints of espresso, anise and raw berry framed by drying, close-grained tannins. Premium Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Piero Busso 2013 San Stunet (Barbaresco). This wine's underbrush, menthol, dried herb and game aromas follow through to the firm, linear palate, along with sour cherry, pomegranate, espresso and clove flavors. Tightly woven tannins provide grip while a star anise note marks the close. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

88 Pio Cesare 2013 Il Bricco (Barbaresco). This opens with oak, coconut, toast and camphor aromas while the tightly wound palate offers Marsasca cherry, espresso, mocha and star anise flavors. It's still oak-dominated, with raspy tannins that grip the finish. Drink after 2021. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$129

87 Battaglio 2014 Barbaresco. Aromas recalling new leather, menthol, toast and raspberry jam meld with a whiff of mocha in this wine. On the taut, assertive palate, tightly wound, bracing tannins and bright acidity hold up sour cherry, cranberry and espresso flavors. A hint of sage underscores the lean, clenching finish. Vino Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

87 Francesco Rinaldi 2014 Barbaresco. This leads with mocha, herb and leather aromas. The palate is still tight and closed but offers red berry, clove and sage hints with some air. Clenched tannins grip the close. Polaner Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

87 Icardi 2014 Montubert (Barbaresco). French oak, coconut, exotic spice and camphor aromas meld with whiffs of marinated prune in this wine. The solid palate shows cranberry, mint and oak-driven spice framed by assertive close-grained tannins that clench the finish. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Nada Fiorenzo 2013 Rombone (Barbaresco). Blue flower, menthol, red berry, dried herb and woodshop scents lead the nose of this wine. The linear palate offers cranberry, star anise, espresso and clove flavors, with a backbone of vibrant acidity. Tightly wound tannins grip the finish. Premium Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

87 Oddero 2014 Gallina (Barbaresco). This wine's herb, clove, coconut, leather and camphor aromas slowly take shape. The palate is rather raw, offering unripe sour cherry, cranberry, vanilla, espresso and star anise flavors framed by tight, grainy tannins that leave a raspy finish. Soil-air Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Pasquale Pelissero 2014 Cascina Crosa (Barbaresco). Toasted nut and balsamic notes and a whiff of cellar floor dominate the nose of this wine. Although shy in terms of fruit richness, it shows assertive and brooding licorice, espresso, fig and dried cherry notes on the palate. The tannins are close grained. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

87 Poderi Elia 2012 Serracapelli (Barbaresco). Prune, leather, oak and balsamic aromas lead the nose of this wine. The palate shows oak, vanilla, coconut and fig flavors alongside close-grained tannins. The fruit is already starting to dry out so drink soon. August Wine Group. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

87 Prinsi 2014 Gaia Principe (Barbaresco). Aromas suggesting dark berry, exotic spice and toasted oak come together in this. The tight palate is more subdued than the nose, recalling sour berry and powdered herbs alongside astringent tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

87 Prinsi 2014 Gallina (Barbaresco). Woodshop, camphor and oak-driven spice aromas lead the nose of this wine. The oak sensations carry over to the bracing palate, along with raw cherry, licorice and confectionary notes. Astringent tannins and firm acidity provide an assertive framework, leaving little room for fruit richness. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

87 Rivetti Massimo 2013 Serraboella (Barbaresco). This wine's menthol, new leather, toast, eucalyptus and exotic spice aromas lift from the glass. The firm palate shows dried cherry, pome-

granate, chopped sage and roasted coffee bean flavors while grainy tannins lend a raspy finish. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

87 Sassi San Cristoforo 2012 Riserva (Barbaresco). Oak-driven spice, camphor and coconut aromas lead the nose of this wine. Tight, bracing and lacking fruit richness, it shows instead roasted coffee bean, toasted oak, dried cherry and vanilla notes. Astringent, grainy tannins leave a raspy finish. Tutto Bene Winery. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Socré 2013 Roncaglie (Barbaresco). This opens with French oak, exotic spice, coconut and toast aromas. They follow through to the palate, which offers coffee bean and sage notes in place of fruit richness. Grainy tannins leave a raspy finish. Estelle Imports. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$59

86 Ada Nada 2012 Cichin Riserva (Barbaresco). This opens with camphor and coconut aromas and a whiff of exotic spice. The assertive palate shows dried cherry and clove flavors alongside grainy, drying tannins. Vignaioli Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Cantina del Nebbiolo 2013 Meruzzano (Barbaresco). Underbrush, grilled herb, camphor and toasted notes lead the nose of this wine. The palate is raw, showing unripe cherry, orange peel and clove flavors alongside bracing tannins. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Castello di Neive 2014 Barbaresco. Aromas suggesting cellar floor, camphor and paraffin lead the nose of this wine. The camphor note follows through to the lean palate, along with red berry, ground clove and powdered sage flavors. Bracing tannins leave an astringent, drying finish. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

86 Dante Rivetti 2012 Bricco di Neive Riserva (Barbaresco). This wine's oak, toasted nut and menthol aromas carry over to its evolved palate, along with a coffee note and bracing tannins. It's shy on fruit richness and intensity. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$78

86 La Spinetta 2014 Gallina (Barbaresco). Grilled vegetable, celery and camphor aromas lead the nose of this wine. The palate is raw, tight and tense, showing oak, roasted coffee bean and bitter sage flavors alongside raspy tannins. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

86 La Spinetta 2014 Staderi (Barbaresco). This has dill, minestrone soup, toast and

chopped celery aromas. The lean, assertive palate shows oak, raw red fruit and a green note of powdered sage. Grainy tannins leave an astringent finish. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

86 La Spinetta 2013 Vigneto Bordini (Barbaresco). This wine's oak, weedy underbrush, celery and vegetable broth aromas carry over to the lean palate, along with a roasted coffee bean note. Raspy tannins clench the finish. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

86 Molino 2013 Ausario (Barbaresco). This opens with camphor, medicinal herb and cellar floor aromas. The lean, racy palate shows oak-driven spice and powdered sage flavors framed by raspy tannins. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

86 Orlando Abrigo 2012 Rongalio (Barbaresco). Oak, underbrush and eucalyptus aromas lead the nose of this wine while its mature-seeming palate offers dried cherry, prune orange zest and clove flavors. Raspy tannins clench the abrupt finish. Ionia Atlantic Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

86 Paitin 2014 Serraboella (Barbaresco). This wine's camphor and toast aromas follow through to the bracing palate, along with raw sour cherry and espresso notes. Raspy tannins leave an astringent finish. Wine Warehouse Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

86 Paitin 2014 Sori Paitin (Barbaresco). This opens with moist underbrush, dried herb and light cellar-floor aromas. The lean, racy palate shows Marasca cherry and a rather green note of powdered sage. Bracing tannins clench the abrupt finish. Wine Warehouse Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

86 Pasquale Pelissero 2014 San Giuliano (Barbaresco). This opens with French oak and toasted hazelnut aromas. The lean, assertive palate offers roasted coffee bean and licorice flavors alongside grainy tannins that leave an astringent finish. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

86 Pietro Rinaldi 2013 Santo Cristoforo (Barbaresco). This wine's nose suggests game, forest floor, truffle and leather. It's tight and raw, offering roasted coffee bean, powdered sage, licorice and unripe cherry notes set against a backdrop of raspy tannins and firm acidity. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

86 Punset 2012 Basarin Riserva (Barbaresco). This opens with prune, menthol, nail varnish and plastic aromas. The palate is tired and evolved, showing dried black cherry and fig flavors,

with a hint of orange peel and worn tannins. It finishes short. Zancanella Importing Co. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 Ca' del Baio 2012 Asili Riserva (Barbaresco). This wine's menthol, oak-driven spice, toasted oak and dried herb aromas slowly take shape. The lean palate offers sour cherry and roasted coffee flavors alongside grainy, astringent tannins that leave a tongue-drying finish. Omnivines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$112

85 Cantina Terre del Barolo 2012 Riserva (Barbaresco). This wine's fragrance evokes underbrush, toast, chopped celery and prune. The tight, angular palate offers dried cherry, star anise, espresso and sage notes alongside bracing tannins that clench the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

85 Cascina Saria 2013 Colle del Gelso (Barbaresco). This opens with raw oak and toasted hazelnut aromas. The closed, bracing palate lacks fruit richness, offering instead oak-driven spice notes bolstered with astringent tannins. Aventine Hill LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

85 Dezzani 2011 Canello del Barone Riserva (Barbaresco). Oak, toasted nut and menthol aromas lead the nose of this wine. The tired palate is evolved and dried out, showing coffee bean and green powdered sage notes and raspy, fleeting tannins. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 Poderi Elia 2007 Riserva (Barbaresco). This wine's toast, oak, scorched earth, burnt rubber and nail varnish aromas carry over to its tired, evolved palate, along with a hint of menthol. Raspy tannins clench the lean finish. Small Vineyards LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 Ricossa 2013 Barbaresco. This opens with toasted oak, eucalyptus and violet aromas. The palate is tight and compressed, showing toasted oak and black spice flavors alongside grainy tannins that leave an astringent, mouth-drying finish. Touchstone Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Salvano 2007 Riserva (Barbaresco). Charred earth, toast and menthol aromas come together in this evolved wine. The palate is dried out, showing licorice and powdered sage notes alongside worn tannins. Minu Import. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Punset 2012 San Cristoforo Campo Quadro (Barbaresco). This has an unusual mix of aromas, from Asian spice and menthol to weedy underbrush and celery. The muddled palate is

slightly fizzy, suggesting sweet and sour sauce, oak-driven spice and dried fruit. Bracing tannins leave a lean, raspy finish. Zancanella Importing Co. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

84 Taliano 2010 Tera Mia Riserva (Barbaresco). This wine's grilled herb, celery, dark spice and camphor aromas follow through to its bracing palate. The fruit is completely dried out, leaving toasted notes framed by aggressive, astringent tannins. Bravo Wine Cellar. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

83 Dezzani 2013 Stardè (Barbaresco). This lean and bracing wine offers raw cherry and powdered sage notes. Astringent, raspy tannins leave a dry finish. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

82 Battaglio 2012 Serragrilli Riserva (Barbaresco). This wine's musty cellar floor and weedy underbrush aromas carry over to its lean palate. It completely lacks fruit richness and has tannins that are evolved and fleeting. Vino Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

82 Taliano 2014 Montersino (Barbaresco). This has vegetal aromas reminiscent of minestrone soup and chopped celery that carry over to its muddled, fizzy palate. Bravo Wine Cellar. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

BAROLO

98 Brovia 2013 Garblèt Suè (Barolo). This stunning wine opens with classic Nebbiolo aromas of new leather, rose, wild berry, crushed herb, dark spice and menthol. The palate is chiseled and loaded with finesse, doling out juicy red cherry, ripe strawberry, licorice and cinnamon flavors. It's structured with polished tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2023–2043. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$83

97 Brovia 2013 Brea Vigna Cà Mia (Barolo). This textbook Barolo's new leather, cake spice and menthol aromas jump out of the glass. On the firmly structured palate, cinnamon and licorice notes underscore red cherry, cranberry and orange zest flavors. Tight, noble tannins and bright acidity provide the framework, suggesting it will age beautifully for decades. Drink 2023–2043. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$96

92 Bric Cenciurio 2013 Coste di Rose (Barolo). This wine's inviting aromas of tar, menthol and rose take shape in the glass. The elegant palate doles out red cherry, cranberry and dried herb flavors set against a backdrop of refined tannins

and bright acidity. Drink 2021–2028. Quigley Fine Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 Brangero 2013 Monvigliero (Barolo). Iris, menthol, perfumed berry and chopped mint aromas come together in this. The savory, approachable palate delivers crushed raspberry, juicy red cherry, star anise and cinnamon notes framed by velvety tannins. Drink 2018–2023. Blicher Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$62

BARBERA D'ASTI SUPERIORE

92 Bava 2013 Stradivario (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Intriguing aromas of forest floor, dark berry, new leather and crushed herb lead the nose of this wine. The savory, firm palate offers succulent Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and white pepper flavors, with refined tannins and a backbone of firm acidity. A smoky note closes the finish. Wine Wave. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 Coppo 2009 Riserva della Famiglia (Barbera d'Asti Superiore Nizza). This wine's mature black plum, exotic spice, French oak and underbrush aromas take shape in the glass. Bold, full-bodied and savory, it delivers dried black cherry, raspberry jam, vanilla and tobacco flavors enveloped in velvety tannins. Fresh acidity lifts the mineral-laced finish. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

89 Castello Gabiano 2011 Adornes (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This dense, savory wine has tobacco, black-skinned berry and red plum aromas and licorice, blackberry jam and black pepper flavors. Fine-grained tannins provide support. Drink through 2022. Esprit du Vin. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$41

89 Il Cascinone 2014 d'Annona (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

89 Vigne dei Mastri 2014 Galileo (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Intense aromas of blackberry, violet and eucalyptus take shape in this. The juicy, concentrated palate doles out raspberry jam, ripe black cherry, clove and licorice flavors framed by fine-grained tannins. Enjoy through 2022. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$22

89 Vite Colte 2015 La Luna e i Falò (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This leads with forest floor, blue flower and black-skinned berry aromas while the structured, savory palate offers black cherry, red plum and Asian spice hints. Supple tannins and vibrant acidity provide easygoing support

and freshness. Enjoy through 2021. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

88 Bersano 2015 Cremosina (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This opens with spiced blueberry, red plum and tilled earth aromas while the medium-bodied palate doles out blackberry, black cherry and clove flavors. Fine-grained tannins and firm acidity provide support. Drink through 2020. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

88 Ca' de Lion Ghione 2010 Barrique (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This has subdued aromas of baking spice and black-skinned fruit. The smooth, rounded palate delivers clove, black cherry and licorice flavors alongside polished tannins. It's already rather evolved so drink soon. 4Front Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

88 Il Cascinone 2014 Rive Barbera d'Asti Superiore. Ripe black-skinned berry and black plum aromas take center stage in this wine, along with a whiff of toast. The dense palate shows black cherry, licorice and mocha touches framed by firm tannins. Drink through 2020. Boutinot USA, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$19

87 Bersano 2015 Costalunga (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This offers subtle black-skinned berry and cooking spice aromas. The straightforward palate evokes ripe blackberry, tobacco and licorice and is blanketed with velvety tannins. Drink through 2019. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

87 Cà Bianca 2014 Antè (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This has black-skinned berry, forest floor and toast scents. The easygoing palate delivers tart cherry, vanilla and clove flavors alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2019. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

87 Daniele Reale 2013 La Fiù (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This opens with delicate aromas of baking spice and black-skinned fruit. The simple palate offers black cherry jam, vanilla and white pepper hints while smooth tannins lend supple support. Drink through 2019. Caput Mundi Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

87 Fratelli Ponte 2015 Barbera d'Asti Superiore. At first shy on the nose, this opens to reveal baking spice and dried violet aromas. A tobacco note underscores its mature black plum and ripe blackberry flavors while smooth tannins offer easygoing support. Drink through 2019. Tuscany Import. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

87 Il Cascinone 2015 Crocera (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Black plum, crushed violet and cooking spice aromas lead the nose of this easy-drinking red. The round palate delivers dried cherry, blackberry jam and licorice notes alongside firm tannins. Drink soon. Boutinot USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$12

87 San Silvestro 2014 Barbera d'Asti Superiore. This opens with tobacco, black-skinned fruit and underbrush aromas. The straightforward palate offers black cherry fruit with hints of white pepper and nutmeg structured with rounded tannins. Enjoy through 2019. Kindred Vines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

87 Scagliola 2014 Sansi (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This leads with vanilla, ripe black-skinned berry and baking spice aromas. The firm palate delivers tobacco, licorice and black cherry jam flavors alongside chewy tannins. It finishes on an astringent note. Drink through 2019. Ethica Wines. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$55

87 Tenuta San Mauro 2013 Barbera d'Asti Superiore. This wine's subtle aromas of black-skinned berry, pressed violet and cooking spice emerge in the glass. The dense palate offers ripe black plum, licorice and leather hints, with chewy tannins and heat from evident alcohol. Drink through 2019. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$NA

87 Vinchio-Vaglio Serra 2015 I Tre Vescovi (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This Barbera's black cherry, blackberry and clove aromas segue to its simple palate. Supple tannins and brisk acidity lend support. Drink through 2019. Ionia Atlantic Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

86 Araldica 2015 Castelvero Alasia (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Restrained at first on the nose, this wine eventually reveals black fruit, cooking spice and underbrush aromas. The simple palate offers dried blackberry and tobacco hints while smooth tannins provide easygoing support. Drink soon. Boutinot USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$11

86 Araldica 2015 Castelvero Albera (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Subdued aromas of dried black fruit and baking spice set the tone in this wine. Its easygoing, straightforward palate offers mature Morello cherry and vanilla flavors alongside round tannins. Drink soon. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

86 Ca' de Lion Ghione 2014 Le Mucchie (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This opens with restrained cooking spice and dark-skinned berry aromas. The lively, informal palate offers red cherry, white pepper and anise hints, with soft tannins

and brisk acidity. Drink soon. 4Front Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

86 Cascina Radice 2015 Roccanera (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This leads with subtle black plum and cooking spice scents. The simple palate shows clove, tobacco and blackberry flavors. Drink soon. Chatelaine Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$16

86 Cascina Radice 2015 S. Martino (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This wine's subdued baking spice, clove and mature black-skinned fruit aromas follow through to the lively, simple palate. Round tannins provide easygoing support. Drink soon. Chatelaine Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

BARBERA D'ASTI

94 Braidia di Giacomo Bologna 2014 Bracco dell'Uccellone (Barbera d'Asti). One of Italy's most iconic wines, this structured red opens with heady aromas of red berry, menthol and dark spice. Those alluring qualities carry over to the full-bodied, inviting palate, along with raspberry compote and licorice notes. Firm yet velvety tannins and bright acidity provide balance and the structure to age. Drink 2019–2029. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

94 Braidia di Giacomo Bologna 2014 Bracco della Bigotta (Barbera d'Asti). Dark-skinned berry, exotic spice, leather and pressed blue flower are just some of the aromas you'll find in this gorgeous red. The elegant, firmly structured palate doles out juicy Marasca cherry, cassis, licorice and espresso flavors framed by polished tannins. It's extremely well balanced, with bright acidity. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Braidia di Giacomo Bologna 2014 Monte Bruna (Barbera d'Asti). Enticing scents of fragrant blue flower, forest berry and Alpine herb take center stage in this elegant and structured red. The vibrant palate delivers juicy red cherry, raspberry compote, star anise and tobacco hints alongside bright acidity and polished tannins. Impeccably balanced and delicious, it also offers incredible value. Drink through 2029. Soilair Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

93 Coppo 2014 Pomorosso (Barbera d'Asti). This is the 30th anniversary edition of this wine and it doesn't disappoint. It opens with intense dark-skinned berry, exotic spice, blue flower and French oak aromas. The savory and fresh palate delivers crushed red cherry, cassis, licorice and espresso flavors structured with fine-grained tannins. Bright acidity lends balance while a min-

eral note lingers on the finish. Drink through 2029. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Coppo 2015 Camp du Rouss (Barbera d'Asti). This wine's ripe, dark-skinned fruit, culinary spice and new leather scents lead the way, along with a menthol note. The firmly structured, chewy palate offers dried Morello cherry, raspberry jam, licorice and espresso flavors alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2020. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

90 Cascina Castlet 2015 Passum (Barbera d'Asti). This offers alluring black-skinned berry, violet and tobacco aromas. The savory, structured palate delivers black cherry and chopped mint flavors, with clove accents, bright acidity and fine-grained tannins. Tutto Vino. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

90 Marchesi Incisa della Rocchetta 2016 Valmorena (Barbera d'Asti). For full review see page 11.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

90 Michele Chiarlo 2015 Le Orme (Barbera d'Asti). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Cascina Castlet 2015 Litina (Barbera d'Asti). This wine's violet and red-skinned berry aromas lift out of the glass. The palate is bright and racy, with juicy raspberry, red cherry and cake spice notes and lively acidity. Drink through 2020. Tutto Vino. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Coppo 2016 L'Avvocata (Barbera d'Asti). This textbook Barbera opens with classic varietal aromas of dark berry, blue flower and ground spice. The vibrant, full-flavored palate offers juicy black cherry, crushed raspberry and licorice notes alongside fresh acidity and smooth tannins. It's made for sheer drinking pleasure, so enjoy soon. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Damilano 2016 Barbera d'Asti. Inviting aromas of violet and ripe red-skinned berry take center stage in this wine. The lively, full-bodied palate doles out juicy raspberry, red cherry and cinnamon flavors framed by velvety tannins and zesty acidity. Enjoy through 2020. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Scagliola 2015 Frem (Barbera d'Asti). This boasts violet, red-skinned berry and white pepper aromas. The juicy palate delivers strawberry, red cherry and anise notes against a backdrop of round tannins and refreshing acidity. Drink through 2020. Ethica Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

89 Vinchio-Vaglio Serra 2015 Barbera d'Asti. Black-skinned berry, tilled soil and baking spice aromas lead the way in this wine. Made from very old vines, it delivers blackberry, star anise and clove flavors alongside round tannins and fresh acidity. Enjoy through 2021. Ionia Atlantic Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

89 Vite Colte 2016 Rossofuoco (Barbera d'Asti). Made from organic grapes, this bright red opens with violet, red-skinned berry and white pepper scents. The juicy palate doles out ripe raspberry, red cherry and star anise notes, with fresh acidity and velvety tannins. Enjoy through 2020. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Caldera 2015 Barbera d'Asti. This opens with rose petal, red-skinned berry and cake spice aromas. It's bright and easy drinking on the palate, with Morello cherry, raspberry jam and cinnamon flavors. Vibrant acidity and smooth tannins lend easygoing support. Enjoy through 2020. HB Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Cascina Castlet 2016 Barbera d'Asti. This opens with aromas of red-skinned berry, blue flower and a whiff of clove. The straightforward palate offers tart red currant, orange zest and ground pepper alongside brisk acidity. Drink soon to catch the fruit richness. Tutto Vino. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Castello del Poggio 2015 Barbera d'Asti. This opens with black-skinned berry, dried violet and star anise aromas. The savory, easy-drinking palate delivers blackberry, black pepper and clove flavors set against bright acidity and supple tannins. Enjoy through 2020. Zonin USA. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Castello Gabiano 2015 La Braja (Barbera d'Asti). Red-skinned berry, red plum and baking spice aromas come together in this wine. The bright palate offers black cherry, ground black pepper and anise flavors framed by fresh acidity. Drink soon. Esprit du Vin. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Il Falchetto 2016 Pian Scorrone (Barbera d'Asti). Intense violet, red-skinned berry and cooking spice aromas set the stage in this bright red. The lively palate delivers red cherry, blackberry and cinnamon touches alongside round tannins and lively acidity. Enjoy soon. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Podere dei Bricchi Astigiani 2015 Barbera d'Asti. This has violet, black-skinned berry and herb aromas. The bright, savory palate offers juicy raspberry, star anise and clove flavors along-

side velvety tannins and refreshing acidity. Enjoy through 2020. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

88 Poderi dei Bricchi Astigiani 2014 Bricco del Perg (Barbera d'Asti). This wine's black-skinned berry, cooking spice and violet aromas drift out of the glass while the racy palate offers ripe black cherry and cranberry jam flavors with a touch of clove. Brisk acidity and supple tannins provide the framework. Enjoy through 2020. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

88 Vigne dei Mastri 2015 Arturo (Barbera d'Asti). This leads with black-skinned berry, violet and eucalyptus aromas. The solid palate doles out blackberry jam, clove and black pepper notes alongside polished tannins. Enjoy through 2020. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$14

87 Antale 2015 Barbera d'Asti. Violet, baking spice and dark berry aromas lead the nose of this zesty, straightforward wine. The palate offers dried cherry, black currant and clove flavors framed by rounded tannins. Enjoy soon. Jandell Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

87 Dogliotti 1870 2016 Barbera d'Asti. This opens with violet, red plum and white pepper aromas that carry over to the solid, straightforward palate alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon to enjoy the fresh fruit. Lipman Bros. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$13

87 Fonte 2016 Barbera d'Asti. This has red-skinned berry and baking spice aromas and a lively palate accented with clove. Smooth tannins provide supple support. Drink soon. Tuscany Import. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

87 Il Falchetto 2015 Bricco Paradiso (Barbera d'Asti). This chewy wine has vanilla, mature black-skinned berry and clove scents. The palate doles out black cherry jam, marinated prune and licorice flavors, with a warm finish that suggests elevated alcohol. Drink through 2019. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$30

87 Natale Verga 2015 Barbera d'Asti. This opens with red-skinned berry, blue flower and clove aromas. The racy, straightforward palate offers cassis, orange zest and ground pepper flavors alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. Jandell Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

87 Pico Maccario 2016 Lavignone (Barbera d'Asti). This opens with black-skinned berry, clove and cooking spice aromas. The straightforward palate shows ripe black cherry, black plum

and white pepper notes alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

87 Pico Maccario 2015 Tre Roveri (Barbera d'Asti). This wine's baking spice, vanilla and black-skinned berry aromas drift out of the glass. The straightforward palate offers mature black cherry, clove and tobacco flavors while rounded tannins lend easygoing support. Drink soon. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

87 Travaglini 2015 Sorangela (Barbera d'Asti). Ripe black plum, toasted oak and menthol aromas lead the way in this wine. The firm palate offers blackberry jam, vanilla and licorice flavors set against grainy tannins. Drink through 2019. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

86 Carlind Paolo 2016 Cursus Vitae (Barbera d'Asti). This informal red has delicate black-skinned fruit and baking spice aromas. The simple palate suggests black plum and clove, with a touch of tobacco. It's not very intense and already extremely accessible, so drink soon. Curious Cork Imports LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

86 Viotti 2014 Barbera d'Asti. This simple wine has subdued red-skinned berry and truffle aromas. The lively, easygoing palate suggests black cherry and clove. Vibrant acidity and rounded tannins provide structure. Drink soon. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

85 San Silvestro 2014 Barbera d'Asti. This has subdued prune and tilled soil aromas. The simple, informal palate offers Morello cherry and black pepper flavors alongside loose-knit tannins. Drink soon. Kindred Vines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

OTHER RED WINES

92 Marcarini 2015 Boschi di Berri (Dolcetto d'Alba). One of Italy's most fascinating wines, this rare red is made from the grapes of 100-year-old, ungrafted vines. It opens with intense, inviting violet, dark spice and woodland berry aromas that carry over to its smooth, juicy palate, along with ripe Morello cherry, cranberry and ground pepper notes. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

90 Michele Chiarlo 2014 Cipressi (Nizza). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

89 Vite Colte 2015 La Luna e i Falò (Nizza). This has black-skinned berry, mocha and tilled soil aromas. The concentrated palate doles out

blackberry, clove and anise flavors alongside fresh acidity and fine-grained tannins. Enjoy through 2021. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

88 Marchesi di Barolo 2016 Barbera d'Alba. This leads with violet, black-skinned berry and baking spice aromas while red cherry, raspberry and white pepper flavors mark the savory palate. Smooth tannins and bracing acidity provide balance. Enjoy through 2020. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

86 Veglio 2015 Dolcetto d'Alba. Black-skinned fruit, underbrush and game aromas lead the nose of this wine. The round, simple palate evokes mature black cherry and clove. Drink soon. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

CENTRAL ITALY

LAMBRUSCO DI SORBARA

93 Paltrinieri 2016 Radice (Lambrusco di Sorbara). This vibrant, slightly sparkling wine is one of the best Lambruscos out there. Made entirely from the Sorbara variety, it opens with enticing citrus, woodland berry and wildflower scents. Its crisp, delicious palate doles out strawberry and pink grapefruit notes alongside baking spice accents and racy acidity. The lees that have settled at the bottom of the bottle gives the last glass even more flavor. Lyra Wine. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

92 Caviccholi 2016 Vigna del Cristo (Lambrusco di Sorbara). Fragrant and loaded with finesse, this boasts enticing blue flower, wild berry and cake spice scents. The fresh, elegant palate evokes strawberry, raspberry, candied nectarine and ginger, the flavors framed by vibrant acidity. It finishes crisp and dry. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 11% Price: \$18

91 Cleto Chiarli 2016 Vecchia Modena Premium (Lambrusco di Sorbara). Violet, wild rose and woodland berry aromas lead the nose in this lively, polished and joyful wine. The lightly sparkling palate doles out red cherry, crushed strawberry, candied tangerine zest and ginger hints. Crisp acidity lends a clean, dry finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 11% Price: \$16

90 Cleto Chiarli NV Vecchia Modena Premium (Lambrusco di Sorbara). Lovely, fresh and lightly sparkling, this vibrant, delightful wine opens with heady violet and red berry scents. The refined, almost ethereal palate delivers crushed raspberry,

BUYINGGUIDE

strawberry, tangerine and ginger notes alongside tangy acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

90 Paltrinieri 2016 L'Eclisse (Lambrusco di Sorbara). This wine's enticing red raspberry, rose and orange scents segue to its dry, elegantly foamy palate, along with a sprinkling of baking spice flavors. Crisp acidity gives it a clean, bright finish. Lyra Wine. —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$NA

90 Paltrinieri 2015 La Riserva Brut (Lambrusco di Sorbara). This bright, savory sparkler delivers Rainier cherry and orange zest flavors, along with hints of bread crust and pastry cream. Crisp acidity and a foamy mousse lend balance and finesse. Porto Vino Italiano. —K.O.

abv: 12% Price: \$NA

89 Cantina di Sorbara NV Omaggio a Gino Friedmann (Lambrusco di Sorbara). Violet, red berry and crushed herb aromas lead the nose while the juicy, fruity palate doles out wild cherry, crushed strawberry and white pepper notes. Crisp acidity lends a clean finish. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$14

86 Cantina di Sorbara 2016 Emma (Lambrusco di Sorbara). This sweet red sparkler has pretty violet and red berry aromas and a vibrant palate that doles out ripe cherry, raspberry and candied orange peel notes. Bright acidity keeps it fresh, balancing the sweetness. USA Wine West. —K.O.

abv: 8.5% Price: \$14

LAMBRUSCO GRASPAROSSA DI CASTELVETRO

91 Fattoria Moretto NV Monovitigno (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). This wine's heady crushed grape and wild red berry aromas segue to its dry, slightly tannic palate along with ripe blackberry and blueberry notes and savory herbal hints. It's frothy, vibrant and balanced, with firm acidity and a pleasantly bitter note on the finish. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —K.O.

abv: 12% Price: \$23

90 Villa di Corlo NV Corleto (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). An alluring fragrance of blue flower and plum leads the nose of this wine while the smooth, vibrant palate delivers ripe blackberry and Marasca cherry flavors. Bright acidity provides the framework. Ethica Wines. —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$24

89 Cleto Chiarli NV Vigneto Enrico Cialdini (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). Rose, violet and black-skinned fruit aromas lead the nose. On the dark, frothy palate, a white pep-

per note adds depth to black cherry and blackberry fruit. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.

abv: 11% Price: \$NA

89 Fattoria Moretto NV Rosato (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). Tangy, dry and fruity, this opens with enticing red berry and citrus aromas. Mirroring the nose, the lightly sparkling palate doles out strawberry, cranberry and orange zest notes alongside vibrant acidity. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —K.O.

abv: NA Price: \$21

89 Zanasi NV Tradizione (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). This wine's fragrant blue flower and red berry aromas lift out of the glass. On the savory palate, ground clove accents raspberry jam and wild cherry notes, all hemmed in with refined tannins. Summit Selections. **Best Buy.** —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$12

88 Cavicchioli 2016 Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro. Deeply colored and lightly effervescent, this offers black-skinned fruit and dark spice aromas. The refreshing palate doles out blackberry and cassis flavors, with a note of bitter almond. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 11% Price: \$18

88 Fattoria Moretto NV Secco (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). This wine's ripe Morello cherry, blackberry, prune and pressed violet scents carry over to its crisp, easygoing palate. It has vibrant acidity and a pleasantly bitter finish. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$NA

87 Cleto Chiarli NV Centenario 1960 Amabile (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). Here's a charming sparkling red dessert wine offering intense violet, fruitcake and blackberry jam aromas. With its fresh acidity, it's sweet but not cloying, doling out cherry tart and baked plum flavors. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.

abv: 8% Price: \$NA

87 Villa di Corlo NV Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro. Freshly crushed grape and blackberry aromas lead this wine's nose, along with a whiff of crushed herb. The aromas carry over to the light, rounded palate, along with dusty tannins and a light perlage. Ethica Wines. —K.O.

abv: 11% Price: \$NA

87 Villa di Corlo NV Amabile (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro). Here's a lively red dessert wine with ripe black-skinned fruit and candied orange zest aromas. The medium sweet, frothy palate offers blackberry jam, cake spice and confectionary notes alongside fresh acidity. Ethica Wines. —K.O.

abv: 9% Price: \$19

86 Zanasi NV Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro. This lean, racy red offers red cherry, citrus zest and raisin notes. Firm acidity contributes to its bone-dry finish. Summit Selections. —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$12

LAMBRUSCO SALAMINO DI SANTA CROCE

86 Cantina di Sorbara NV Dedicato ad Alfredo Molinari (Lambrusco Salamino di Santa Croce). Fun and refreshing, this deep-hued, informal wine has ripe red grape and raisin hints. The aromas follow through to the zesty, frothy palate, along with dried cherry and blackberry notes. It's easy-drinking and enjoyable, with a dry, tangy finish. USA Wine West. —K.O.

abv: 11% Price: \$14

LAMBRUSCO DI MODENA

92 Paltrinieri 2014 Grosso Metodo Classico (Lambrusco di Modena). Inviting red berry, pastry dough and cake spice aromas lead the nose of this wine. On the vibrant palate, white pepper, crystallized ginger and candied nectarine zest hints back up white cherry and juicy red currant fruit. It has a refined perlage and bright acidity that gives it a crisp, clean finish. Lyra Wine. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$37

88 Cleto Chiarli NV Pruno Nero (Lambrusco di Modena). This delightfully rustic, inky purple sparkler delivers prune, ripe blackberry and dried cherry notes alongside crisp acidity and small, persistent bubbles. It has a firm, dry finish and a lightly tannic grip. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$16

86 Cantina di Sorbara NV Il Duomo Amabile (Lambrusco di Modena). Blackberry jam and plum cake aromas lead the nose of this simple but well made semisweet sparkling wine. The palate mirrors the nose, while bright acidity lends freshness. USA Wine West. —K.O.

abv: 8.5% Price: \$12

REGGIANO

90 Medici Ermete 2016 Concerto Lambrusco (Reggiano). For full review see page 12.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$23

88 Medici Ermete 2016 Solo (Reggiano). This dark purple blend of 55% Ancellota and 45% Lambrusco Salamino has subtle mature grape and black-skinned berry aromas. The dry, foamy palate offers dried black cherry and raisin hints alongside bright acidity. Kobrand. —K.O.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

87 Medici Ermete NV Lambrusco I Quercioli Secco (Reggiano). Black-skinned fruit and violet aromas lead the nose of this Lambrusco. The zesty palate doles out tangy mouthfuls of dried black cherry, prune and graphite notes, all set against a backdrop of brisk acidity. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

87 Rinaldini NV Lambrusco (Reggiano). This wine's wild red berry aromas follow through to the flavorsome, zesty palate along with blackberry and grape notes. Lively acidity and a salty quality balance its fruity flavors. Pair this with hearty pasta dishes. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

LAMBRUSCO DELL'EMILIA

87 Paltrinieri 2016 Solco Frizzante Semisecco (Lambrusco dell'Emilia). Made entirely from Salamino, this has crushed grape and raisin aromas. Those aromas carry over to the semisweet palate, along with dried black cherry notes and hints of almond and citrus peel. Vibrant acidity keeps it fresh. Lyra Wine. —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Rinaldini NV Rosato Secco (Lambrusco dell'Emilia). Here's a charming sparkler with delicate aromas suggesting spring blossom and red berry. Made from 80% Lambrusco Marani and 20% Lambrusco Salamino, it's vibrant and lightly sparkling, with fresh strawberry and cranberry notes illuminated by crisp acidity. It finishes clean. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

86 Rinaldini NV Vecchio Moro (Lambrusco dell'Emilia). Inky black and foamy, this has wet earth, prune and peach pit aromas. The dry, vinous palate offers dried blackberry and crushed grape flavors set against firm acidity and slightly grainy tannins. It closes on a bitter note. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉS

87 Bosco Nestore 2016 Donna Bosco Rosato (Colline Pescaresi). This has delicate but alluring orange blossom, Mediterranean herb and wild berry scents. The bright, savory palate doles out crushed red cherry, raspberry and white pepper hints alongside crisp acidity. It has a clean, fresh finish. Orvino Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Ciavolich 2016 Donna Ernestina Rosato (Colline Pescaresi). This leads with wild berry, citrus and herbaceous tomato leaf aromas. It's vibrant and easygoing, with pink grapefruit, sour

cherry and dried herb flavors. Zesty acidity gives it a bright, clean finish. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Il Feuduccio Di S. Maria D'Orni 2016 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo. Orchard fruit, Mediterranean scrub, violet and wild berry aromas take center stage in this fragrant wine. The fresh, enjoyable palate doles out Marasca cherry and juicy raspberry flavors alongside zesty acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 San Lorenzo Vini 2016 Rosato (Colli Aprutini). Made from Nero di Troia grapes, this has wild rose, citrus peel and Mediterranean brush aromas. The bright, informal palate offers sour cherry and crushed strawberry flavors accompanied by zesty acidity. R.S. Lipman Co. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Talamonti 2016 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo. Black and red berry aromas take center stage in this tangy, fruity *rosato*. Made from Montepulciano, it doles out crushed raspberry, juicy blackberry and wild cherry flavors. Panebianco. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

WHITE WINE

89 Giovanna Madonia 2015 Neblina Albana (Romagna). Acacia, ripe yellow stone fruit and honey aromas lead the way in this wine. The bright palate evokes dried apricot, juicy nectarine and toasted hazelnut alongside lively acidity. Orleans Wine & Spirits. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

SWEET WINE

90 Tre Monti 2012 Thea Passito (Romagna). Made from dried Albana grapes, this desert wine opens with ripe yellow peach and apricot aromas that carry over to the savory palate together with acacia honey and toasted hazelnut notes. Fresh acidity balances the sweet flavors. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

SPAIN

WHITE WINES

RÍAS BAIXAS

90 Morgadío 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Peach aromas include a note of stone-fruit pit, while citrus is the other standout scent on an elegant nose. This wine is citrusy in feel, with good body and clarity. Flavors of orange and ripe grape-

fruit finish in fresh, clean fashion. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Valmiñor 2016 Edición Especial 10 Años Albariño (Rías Baixas). Dry aromas of pithy citrus fruits come with a hint of fresh-cut grass. This feels steely and pure, with flavors of citrus fruits, nectarine and green apple. A racy finish offers tropical fruit flavors and a spot of bitterness. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

89 Bouza de Carril 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Briny aromas of cactus and lightly pickled cucumber are more neutral than loud. This is lively on the palate, with citrusy flavors that include a note of orange peel. Mild green-herb flavors and a touch of bitterness on the finish are not uncommon for Albariño. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Senda Verde 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This juicy Albariño opens like a bowl of fresh fruit, with aromas of apple, pear, peach and melon. Stone-fruit and citrus flavors are slightly pithy and oily in character, while tangy orange and pineapple echo on a brief but clean finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Don Olegario 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Apple and vanilla-cookie aromas are mild. The slightly chunky mouthfeel suggests grape skins. Skins-driven flavors of lime and grapefruit finish with an oily texture and a taste of citrus peel. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 La Caña 2016 Albariño Albariño (Rías Baixas). Light apple and pear aromas are clean and basic. This wine feels refined and elegant, with apple, peach and leesy flavors suggestive of mild oak. A friendly but standard finish concludes this easy-drinking Albariño. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Fillaboa 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Aromas of white flowers and oily melon set up an agile palate with racy citric acidity. Pithy citrus and green-herb flavors are a touch salty. The wine is fresh with an herbal flavor on the finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Lagar de Indra 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Fresh white-fruit aromas are pure in their set up of a citric, racy palate. Salty orange leads to a briny finish with salty apple and citrus flavors. Assa Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Mar de Envero 2016 Troupe Albariño (Rías Baixas). Briny citrus aromas announce a

BUYINGGUIDE

palate with citric acidity. Similar briny citrus flavors are one-dimensional, while notes of hay and green herbs pop up on a racy finish. Sacred Thirst Selections. —M.S.

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

82 La Val 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Briny aromas include too much mussel shell, sea water and compost. This wine is spritzzy and coarse-feeling, with briny, pickled flavors of sauerkraut, scallion and sea shell. A briny finish leaves offputting lasting flavors. Tradewinds Specialty Imports. —M.S.

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

RUEDA

90 Blanco Nieva 2016 Pie Franco Verdejo (Rueda). This old-vines Rueda delivers green-leaning aromas of Granny Smith apple, lime and lettuce. A citric, stony palate is linear and direct, with fine-tuned acidity. Citrusy flavors of lime and green apple turn briny on the finish. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Blanco Nieva 2016 Verdejo (Rueda). Punchy citrus and tropical fruit aromas punctuate a stony, varietally correct nose. This Verdejo is slightly plump in feel, with penetrating acidity. Salty, briny apple and nectarine flavors finish clean and minerally. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Marqués de la Concordia 2016 Federico Paternina Verdejo (Rueda). Tropical-fruit aromas are slightly oily but on target for Verdejo. This wine displays a full, round palate held together by acidity and white-fruit tannins. Lightly salty grapefruit flavors finish moderately long, with citrus overtones. Drink as soon as possible. The Haciendas-Company. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Vetus 2016 Flor de Vetus Old Vines From Segovia Verdejo (Rueda). White-fruit aromas and a prickly scent of cactus or nettle opens this tight, citrusy old-vines Verdejo. Matching the aromas, this tastes of pithy citrus, grapefruit and green herbs. A racy finish fades out nicely. European Cellars. —M.S.

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

88 Martín Berdugo 2016 Verdejo (Rueda). Floral aromas mixed with citrus notes are appealing. This wine feels round but solidified by bright core acidity. Ripe flavors include pineapple, mango and peach. On the finish, lime and tropical notes are good but short. Tradist Corp. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Palacio de Bornos 2016 Verdejo (Rueda). This Verdejo is pungent and angular on the nose, with pyrazinic aromas of green citrus, sweat

and cactus that are common to the variety and Rueda. An oily, grabby palate is cut by firm acidity, while flavors of tangerine, nopal and bell pepper finish short despite lively acidity. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.

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

87 12 Linajes 2016 Verdejo (Rueda). Clean, fresh, basic white-fruit aromas are stony. This is lemony, lean and crisp in feel. Flavors of briny citrus turn salty on a finish that tastes of fresh green herbs and scallion. USA Wine West. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Marqués de la Concordia 2016 Vega de la Reina Verdejo (Rueda). Light apple and peach aromas are good and solid before turning a bit woolly and oily with airing. The tight, citric palate is typical of Verdejo, with a snappy, cleansing finish. The Haciendas-Company. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Martinsancho 2016 Verdejo (Rueda). Grapefruit and grit show on the nose. A narrow palate with a hint of spritz delivers short green melon flavors that turn slightly bitter prior to a peppery-tasting finish. Classical Wines. —M.S.

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

85 Lagar del Rey 2016 Verdejo (Rueda). Obtuse, unfocused aromas of squash, carrot and citrus are not as zesty and direct as Verdejo should be. This feels wide, with spritz to the palate. No single fruit flavor stands out in front of a soft finish with mild apple and stone-fruit notes. Misa Imports. —M.S.

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

RIOJA

89 Remelluri 2013 Blanco (Rioja). A mature nose of cornbread and oxidized fruits suggests a wine older than this. A white blend, it features a multitude of grapes led by Viura. On the palate, acidity is the key ingredient, while a mix of oxidized apple, melon and corn flavors runs long on the finish. Drink through 2022. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

88 Muga 2016 White (Rioja). Spiced apple and light oak aromas are clean and attractive. This wine feels racy and pure, with good acidic kick. Flavors of nectarine and wood are compatible, while this barrel-fermented Viura (with 10% Malvasia) is solid on the finish. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.

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

87 Marqués de la Concordia 2016 Lagunilla Viura (Rioja). Fresh but basic apple and pear aromas lead to a direct palate with citric acidity. Dry, simple peach and nectarine flavors are replaced by a

mild briny character on the finish. The Haciendas-Company. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Olivier Rivière 2016 La Bastid (Rioja). Dusty, minerally white-fruit aromas are generic but appealing. This blend of Viura, Malvasia and Garnacha Blanca has a chunky palate with modest acidity. Green-melon flavors are round but flatten out and turn slightly bitter in front of a basic finish. European Cellars. —M.S.

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

85 Alberto Orte 2013 La Antigua Clásico (Rioja). Chemical resinous aromas stand out more than fruit. This Viura-led blend feels tight, tangy and acidic. Salty flavors of persimmon lack fruitiness. This 12% ABV wine from a cold vintage tastes salty on a finish that's living off acidity. Ole Imports. —M.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

85 Carlos Serres 2016 Viura-Tempranillo Blanco (Rioja). Apple and stone-fruit aromas are basic. This wine feels lean and stringy. Tart nectarine, citrus and salty flavors finish light and simple in this Viura with 15% Tempranillo blanco. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Olivier Rivière 2015 Mirando al Sur Viura (Rioja). Heavy oak gives off sawmill aromas, with only touches of apple and stone-fruit scents lurking below the surface. This feels creamy, heavy and striving for balance. With a ton of oak flavor leading the charge, it tastes woody, candied and spicy, but also jumbled and unfamiliar. European Cellars. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

85 Urbina 2016 Viura (Rioja). A light-gold color and mild white-fruit aromas set up a palate with lightly oxidized apple flavors. This Viura seems to be losing steam given that the finish is more breadly and cidery in flavor than fresh. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.

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

83 Larchago 2016 Viura (Rioja). Dilute melony aromas are slightly spoiled. This feels bland and unfocused. Modest white-fruit flavors are short and mildly bitter, while almond skin is the key flavor on a struggling finish. Assa Imports. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

COSTERS DE SEGRE

88 Castell d'Encus 2015 Ekam (Costers del Segre). A blast of petrol opens this blend of Riesling and Albariño from the Pyrenees. After the harshness blows off, this displays a citric person-ality and stony minerality. Ripe white-fruit flavors

are offset by a yeasty finish. Drink now. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

87 Raimat 2015 Castell de Raimat Albariño (Costers del Segre). A yellow color and yeasty aromas announce a mature wine that's still holding onto a flowery essence. A plump body is balanced by citric acidity, while this tastes of tangerine and sea brine. A citric finish is lively, but this wine needs to be drunk soon. Aveniù Brands, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Castell d'Encus 2014 Taleia (Costers del Segre). A severe sense of funk and sweat is the aromatic greeting on this Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon blend. A crisp, citric palate tastes green, like lime and tarragon. On the finish, this is tight and stony, with overt citric acidity. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

PRIORAT

91 Terroir Al Límit Soc. Lda. 2014 Pedra de Guix (Priorat). Despite a tan-meets-orange color, this Priorat white is fresh on the nose with apricot aromas. A solid texture with grip controls the palate, while dry white-fruit and orange-peel flavors end with slightly rubbery white-grape tannins. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

90 Cellers Unió 2015 Roureda Llicorella Poboleda Pedro Ximénez (Priorat). A mix of pulpy citrus fruit and citrus-peel aromas is ever so slightly oxidized. This dry varietal Pedro Ximénez feels full, integrated and balanced. Mild oxidation lends a bready note to apple and melon flavors, while this is lasting on the finish. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$54

87 Terroir Al Límit Soc. Lda. 2015 Terra de Cuques (Priorat). Dusty, peachy aromas are mellow, while overall not a lot is happening on the nose. A somewhat collapsed, fallen palate is ultimately a bit flat. Mild apple and spice flavors last on a finish that's slightly bitter and tastes of almond. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

85 Mas d'en Gil 2012 Como Blanca (Priorat). Aromas of pear and cured meat are oxidized but also a touch harsh. This Garnacha Blanca and Macabeo blend weighs in as heavy and chunky. Flavors of grape skins, bitter melon and honey lose steam on a spent, oxidized finish. While this still has some good qualities, its best days have passed. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

85 Portal del Priorat 2016 Gotes del Blanques Grenache Blanc (Priorat). This almost-colorless Grenache Blanc smells of generic white fruits. The palate is lean, shearing and shares much in common with lime juice. Flavors of lime, tart apple and scallion are tangy on a clattering finish. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

82 Terroir Historic 2016 White (Priorat). A fruitless nose smells of mealy grape skins, spoiled apple and peach pit. Unfocused white-fruit flavors are mealy and funky on the finish. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

MONTSANT

90 Portal del Montsant 2013 Santbru (Montsant). Fleshy pumpkin and squash aromas are mature and lightly oxidized but in good form. A round, full palate offers vitality and balance. Earthy flavors of acorn squash and baked apple finish long and peppery. Drink through 2019. Cordelina Wine Company. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

87 Portal del Montsant 2011 Santbru (Montsant). Fully mature, oxidized aromas include a heavy note of popcorn and oak along with aged pear and apple. This wine is ripping with acidity, while flavors lean towards salty, lightly baked apple. A finish based mostly on acid means this should stay vital for years to come. Cordelina Wine Company. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

86 Portal del Montsant 2015 Bruberry Blanc (Montsant). Dry apple and pine-needle aromas are punchy on this blend of 80% Grenache Blanc and 20% Macabeo. An uneventful palate is fresh but simple. This wine tastes mostly of bitter grape skins and almond skins. Modest apple and grapefruit notes show on the finish. Cordelina Wine Company. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

PENEDÈS

90 Huguet de Can Feixes 2016 Blanc Selecció (Penedès). Apple, melon and apricot aromas are pure and come with zero interference from natural funk or oak. A blend of mostly Parelada with Macabeo and other white grapes, it hails from the highest vineyards in the Penedès. Flavors of melon, lime and wet stones reflect gravelly soils, and it's steady on a long finish. Classical Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Vins El Cep 2016 GR5 Senders Xarel-lo (Penedès). Apple and pear aromas are clean as a whistle. This is varietal Xarello, a key grape in

Cava production. It is citrusy and minerally in feel, with lemon, tangerine and stony flavors mixed with a touch of yeast. A tight, exact finish is juicy and stony. Fine Estates From Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Castelloig 2014 Terroja de Sabaté i Coca Xarel-lo (Penedès). Briny citrus-peel aromas show a pyrazinic green side and a touch of corn tortilla. A somewhat dilute palate is bolstered by a shock of citric acidity, tasting of stone fruits and citrus. On the finish, early nectarine notes are replaced by briny flavors. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

MÁLAGA

91 Telmo Rodríguez 2010 Molino Real Mountain Wine Moscatel (Málaga). On the nose, this wine is both woody and a touch oxidized, with clove and ginger notes. In the mouth, you can feel the resinous weight of French oak. Forceful spice, clove and woody flavors are dominant, but with such a long finish and good structure this old-vines Moscatel is singing. Drink through 2023. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60/500 ml

89 Jorge Ordoñez & Co. 2016 Botani Old Vines Moscatel (Málaga). A light color and classic aromas of white flowers, citrus blossom and wet stones open this dry Moscatel from Málaga. A lean, crisp palate with lime-like acidity deals flavors of lime, lychee and white pineapple. A low-volume but racy finish is fresh and tangy. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Telmo Rodríguez 2012 MR Mountain Wine Moscatel (Málaga). Aromas of orange blossom, clove and honey are true to sun-dried Moscatel grapes. This feels thick and chunky on the palate, but also a bit soft and flat. Flavors of honey and brown sugar are creamy, with modest acidic cut. A slightly cloying finish continues that theme. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38/500 ml

88 Telmo Rodríguez 2013 Mountain Blanc Moscatel de Alejandría (Málaga). Oily aromas of orange peel, orange blossom and wild flowers set up a slightly viscous palate. Flavors of pear, lychee and bitter melon barely hold up on a plump finish. Drink this aging Moscatel right away. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Comandó-G 2014 El Tamboril Navatalgordo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). While this high-elevation (4,035 feet) white Garnacha is

mostly neutral smelling, it offers stony notes that are direct, minerally and clean. On the palate, it is tightly wound and showing vital malic acid. Salty but fresh persimmon and quince flavors are lasting on the finish. For a 2014, this is in fine shape; drink now. European Cellars. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Suertes del Marqués 2015 Trenzado (Valle de la Orotava). Hailing from the volcanic soils of Tenerife in the Canary Islands, this blend of Pedro Ximénez and Listán Blanco opens with aromas of citrus peel and honey. A powerful palate is angular and smacking. Salty citrus flavors reflect an ocean influence, while the wine is strong on the finish. European Cellars. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

85 Viñas del Vero 2015 La Miranda Secastilla Garnacha Blanca (Somontano). Waxy pear and apple aromas lead to a lean, acidic palate. This Garnacha Blanca from the highest vineyards in Somontano tastes of briny citrus and tart apple. A slightly green finish with pickled notes closes it out. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

CAVA

90 Alta Alella 2015 Mirgin Reserva Brut Nature (Cava). Light, fresh and direct describes the white-fruit aromas this brut nature is exuding. In the mouth, this is just round enough but mostly linear in plane. Flavors of dry lime, apple and fresh-baked white bread finish mild yet agile. This is affordable brut nature taken to a high level. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

90 Maria Casanovas NV GLAÇ Brut Nature (Cava). Dusty, bready apple aromas are direct and not too yeasty. This feels tight and refined, with citric acidity. Lightly briny apple and citrus flavors finish steady and fresh, but also smooth. For brut nature, this gets things right. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Maria Casanovas 2014 Brut Nature Gran Reserva (Cava). Yeasty, bready aromas reflect time in the bottle, although for a gran reserva this is still young. Depth and cushion are present on a slightly foamy palate, while this wine is less about ripe fruit flavors and more about sourdough and fermented citrus notes prior to a lasting finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$37

89 1+1=3 NV Cygnus Brut Made With Organic Grapes (Cava). Apple and mild citrus aromas are touched up by vanilla but also green notes of lettuce leaf. A citric, acid-driven palate delivers flavors of briny orange and grapefruit, while this

wine feels healthy on a long finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

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

89 Maria Casanovas NV Brut de Brut Reserva (Cava). Light, clear aromas of white fruits and lime offer notes of yeast and vanilla cookie. This wine is citric and tangy on the palate, with tangerine and lime flavors and a minerally finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

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

89 Montserrat Canals Torres 2014 Eunoia Vintage Reserva Brut Nature (Cava). Kiwi and lemon-lime aromas lead to a tight, stony palate. White-fruit flavors are more savory and briny than pure, while this evaporates and finishes with elegance. For a fresh style of cava, this brut nature rings true. Beacon Wine Company. —M.S.

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

88 Biutiful NV Brut Nature (Cava). White-fruit aromas are without frills. Like the nose, this wine feels fresh and clean. Flavors of white peach and slightly underripe honeydew are mild and don't force anything on a pleasant finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Lonia NV Brut Reserva Selección de la Familia (Cava). Solid white-fruit aromas blend with a grassy note of hay as well as dusty floral scents. A smooth mouthfeel is devoid of edginess, while friendly white peach, melon and apple flavors are round on the finish. Integrity Wines LLC. —M.S.

abv: NA **Price:** \$16

88 Mas Pere NV Selecció Brut (Cava). Yeasty aromas of sourdough bread blend with notes of white fruits, clover and flowers. An easygoing palate is short on tension. White-fruit flavors exhibit a hint of green, while pear and green melon notes are present on the finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —M.S.

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

88 Minguett NV Brut Nature (Cava). A mostly complete mix of apple, stone fruit, mineral and yeasty aromas leads to a firm palate that's dry and tight. In terms of flavors, this brut nature is a touch salty, with apricot and orange notes. On the finish, yeasty, bready complexity is positive. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.S.

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

88 Segura Viudas NV Reserva Heredad Brut (Cava). Briny citrus aromas sit side by side with notes of celery stalk and tropical fruits. This brut is simple in feel, with a mild to flat bubble bead. Dry, lightly bready flavors of white fruits and vanilla are a bit toasty on the finish. Freixenet USA. —M.S.

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

88 Valdelavia NV Made With Organic Grapes (Cava). Aromas of yeasty pastry, powdered sugar and apple pie come prior to a nervy palate with a mix of tropical melon and papaya flavors along with salad-like garden notes. Flavors of green herbs are prominent on the finish. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.S.

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

87 Aranleón NV Deshora Brut Orgánico (Cava). Aromas of pickled lime and not much else define the nose on this medium-bodied brut. Flavors of lettuce and lime are dry, while this remains dry and fresh on a clean, simple finish. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.

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

87 Clos Pons NV Flocs Reserva (Cava). Briny green-apple aromas are typical for Cava and include a note of vanilla. A simple, plump palate has just enough acidity and tension. Lemon-lime and vanilla flavors are mildly sweet from the dosage, while this shortens up on the finish. USA Wine West. —M.S.

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

87 Codorníu NV Anna Blanc de Blancs Brut Reserva (Cava). Basic white-fruit aromas get this wine going. The palate is full and mostly smooth, although maybe a touch flat. Citrus flavors include green notes of scallion and herbs, while this blanc de blancs tastes slightly bitter on the finish. Avenü Brands, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Minguett NV Brut (Cava). Grassy white-fruit aromas are basic. This feels soft and easy, with mild acidity. Basic white-fruit flavors are undistinguished and are mellow on the finish. Everything about this brut strikes as good but standard. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.S.

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

87 Penelope Sanchez NV Made With Organic Grapes (Cava). Grassy green-fruit aromas blend with yeasty notes of white bread and croissant. This cava feels solid but a touch foamy. Dry, lightly briny apple and citrus flavors finish with notes of orange, lime and green herbs. Axial Vinous USA. —M.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Vicente Gandia NV Hoya de Cadenas Brut (Cava). Dusty, lightly briny apple and citrus aromas are good in a standard way. Despite feeling a bit foamy, this blend of Macabeo and Chardonnay is direct with its core flavor of tart, briny nectarine. A tangy finish with citrus and stone-fruit notes is lasting. Vicente Gandia USA. —M.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Los Monteros NV Brut Metodo Tradicional (Cava). Apple and peach aromas are clean at first but struggle to stay vital. This is citrusy on the tongue, with acidity similar to orange juice. Mild

flavors of orange and pink grapefruit finish light and fresh. Boutinot USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$13

86 Mont Marçal NV Brut Reserva (Cava). Lean aromas of green fruits include notes of grass and vanilla. This feels about average, with some flatness to the palate. Dry, slightly bitter flavors of green fruits and arugula end with briny citrus. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

86 Pere Ventura NV Tresor Reserva (Cava). A yeasty, bready nose and a fairly flat palate are not all that vibrant. This cava tastes yeasty like the aromas suggest, but also offers a bitter melon flavor component on the way to a soft, wayward finish. Palm Bay International. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

86 Ramón Raventós NV Brut (Cava). Mildly briny citrus aromas lead to a palate that's fine but standard. Yeasty, bready, lightly oxidized apple and orange flavors are complex on one hand and a bit stale on the other. A mostly fruitless finish takes this to the tape. Cordelina Wine Company. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$14

85 Biutiful NV Brut (Cava). Pear and clove aromas include a note of scrambled egg. A tight, chalky, citric mouthfeel and flavors of under-ripe nectarine, green apple and citrus fruits finish more like a dry white wine than a sparkler. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

84 Chatel NV Brut Selección (Cava). Unfocused, somewhat compromised aromas of green banana and papaya are a bit soapy. This is acceptable but coarse in feel. Peppery green-fruit flavors echo in milder fashion on the finish. Kosher. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

84 Conde de Subirats NV Brut (Cava). Dusty white-fruit aromas are grassy and smell of vitamins. This is plump on the palate, with little cut or edge. Generic apple and melon flavors are cloying on the finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$14

83 Altos de Sueño NV Brut (Cava). Cidery aromas suggest sourdough bread and citrus. This cava feels raw and clipped, with little to no friendliness to the palate. Briny, cidery flavors finish with a funky pickled aftertaste. Votto Vines Importing. —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$16

82 Heretat Mastinell NV Brut Real Reserva (Cava). Dull, oxidized aromas lead to a foamy, obtuse palate that makes drinking this a rough experience. Mealy white-fruit flavors result from oxidation, while this is bready and mildly

green on the finish. Tasted twice with mixed results. Heretat Masatinell S.L. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

ROSÉS

92 Terroir Al Límit Soc. Lda. 2016 Roc d' Aubaga Rosé (Priorat). Like an ugly duckling that's a beautiful swan in waiting, this unique rosé, if you can call it that given its rusty, almost brown color, is something only Terroir Al Límit would bottle. Earthy in aromas, this mix of several Grenache strains tastes of apricot and dried red fruits. It's mildly spicy throughout, with actual tannins from skin contact. Drink this quasi rosé as you would a serious white or red, meaning with good food like a Catalan-style rice dish. And drink now. European Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

89 Rioja Vega 2016 Edición Limitada Rosado (Rioja). Raspberry and plum aromas are fresh and inviting. A full, fresh, popping palate is lively, while a cross of cherry, raspberry and citrus flavors is whetting and tasty. A zesty, steady finish confirms the fairly high quality. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

87 Bodegas Faustino 2016 VII Tempranillo Rosado (Rioja). For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

87 Urbina 2016 Rosado (Rioja). A salmon color and aromas of cantaloupe, peach and grape skins lead to a tight but pulpy palate. Fleishy peach and papaya flavors, like the nose, come with a sense of skins. A round, chewy finish is bold and fairly serious. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

85 Sierra Cantabria 2016 Rosé (Rioja). A yeasty nose smells all right but somewhat artificial and not that fruity. A low-acid palate has flavors of melon and grape skins, but the total package seems a touch nutty and prematurely stale. A flat finish is consistent with what came before. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

SPAIN RED WINES

BIERZO

93 Casar de Burbia 2013 Tebaida Mencía (Bierzo). Dark, smoky, oaky aromas of tobacco, leather and black fruits lead to a palate that's muscular, tannic and solid as a pile of rocks. Cool, earthy black-fruit flavors include woodspice and dark-chocolate notes. This Mencía from a cold year is flush, rugged and dry on the finish. Drink

through 2025. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$76

93 Dominio de Tares 2015 Cepas Viejas Mencía (Bierzo). Leathery aromas of dark berry fruits and various spices comprise a deep and impressive bouquet. This wine is full on the palate, widespread and displays tannic scratchiness. Immense flavors of wild berry fruits and spice end with intensity and firm, sturdy tannins. Drink through 2023. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

93 Dominio de Tares 2012 Bembibre Mencía (Bierzo). Grapy blackberry and cassis aromas come with charred oak and pastry-like richness. In the mouth, this notoriously ripe Mencía is loaded with tannins. Spicy blackberry flavors can handle the classy oak this wine has seen, while flavors of tobacco, lemon and spice drape over a full-fruited finish. Drink through the 2020s. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

92 Dominio de Tares 2015 Baltos Mencía (Bierzo). The 2015 harvest produced a bumper crop of excellent Bierzo wines, Baltos included. Aromas of black fruits and violets are full and floral, with a hint of nicely scented candle. There's balance to the palate along with toasty, blackened flavors of blackberry and spice. Toasty notes persist on a well-balanced finish. Drink this fairly dense and wholly delicious Mencía through 2020. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

92 Losada 2015 Altos de Losada Viñedos Viejos Pequeñas Parcelas Mencía (Bierzo). Dark aromas of graham cracker, blueberry, prune and creamy oak push the ripeness meter to high. This Mencía feels tight and a bit tannic, but also lush and a mile deep. Woody, smoky blackberry flavors finish with firm acidity, balance, depth and residual oak flavors that still need to be resolved; drink through 2024. Classical Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$55

92 Losada 2011 Altos de Losada La Bienquerida Mencía (Bierzo). Jammy, slightly reduced aromas of blackberry and prune are concentrated, with mocha and vanilla side notes. Density and pounding tannins make for a full-force palate. Flavors of graphite and grapy berry fruits are enriched by pastry and chocolate-cake notes, while this wine is lasting on a black-fruit finish. Drink through 2024. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 Luna Beberide 2015 Art Mencía (Bierzo). Foxy blackberry and cassis aromas are young and untamed, with a note of wet animal fur. This Mencía is grapy and rich, with a dense, saturated palate. Chocolatey black-fruit flavors finish with hard tannins, lots of residual fruit and a structure that suggests that this wine is here to stay for

BUYINGGUIDE

a while. Drink 2019–2025. Grapes of Spain. **Cellar Selection.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

91 Losada 2015 Mencía (Bierzo). Ripe, fleshy, minerally blackberry and black-cherry aromas are pure, deep and suggest high quality that's confirmed later on. In the mouth, this Mencía from an excellent vintage is racy and pumped up, with acidic energy and tannic grab. Roasted black-fruit flavors come with notes of spice cake and salt. A long, full finish confirms how good this is; drink through 2022. Classical Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Paixar 2015 Mencía (Bierzo). Grapy aromas of cassis and blackberry are fairly foxy, with a whiff of wet animal fur. An intense palate is held together by firm, rubbery tannins. Black cherry and dark-plum flavors are lasting on a finish that's ripped with intensity. Best from 2019–2024. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

89 Pittacum 2015 Petit Pittacum Mencía (Bierzo). Slightly rustic, meaty aromas of berry fruits are savory and include notes of iodine and dried blood. This feels a bit hard, raw and rubbery, but leathery dark-fruit flavors are quite good. On the finish, rubbery tannins return. Drink through 2019. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

COSTERS DEL SEGRE

90 Castell d'Encus 2014 Thalarn Syrah (Costers del Segre). An unusual opening of cookie dough and black-fruit aromas suggests a ripe wine, and this is definitely on the full side. While the palate is chunky and lacks a distinct focal point, flavors of tomato, herbs and baked plum are complex and meaty. A leathery feel along with herbal plum flavors defines the finish. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

89 Castell d'Encus 2014 Quest (Costers del Segre). Hailing from high in the Pyrenees, this wine dances to the beat of its own drummer. Floral red-fruit aromas suggest hot stones and wild brush, accompanying leather and tomato scents on this blend of Bordeaux grapes. A tight, tannic palate is home to herbal plum and tea flavors. The wine is earthy tasting but a bit muddled on the finish. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

88 Castell d'Encus 2014 Acusp (Costers del Segre). Like all of Raul Bobet's Castell d'Encus wines from the Pyrenees, this Pinot Noir displays a personality all its own. Raspberry and strawberry aromas are floral and herbal, but feel chunky and a bit obtuse. Tea, herbal plum and

Asian spice flavors end with notes of wild flowers and black tea. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

87 Rimat 2013 Castell de Rimat Tempranillo (Costers del Segre). Floral black-fruit aromas share space on the nose with olive and rubber notes. This Tempranillo feels rubbery and a touch collapsed, however its baked plum and jammy berry flavors are pleasing. Drink this easygoing wine now. Aveniù Brands, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

86 Clos Pons 2015 Jan Petit (Costers del Segre). Cherry and raspberry aromas are also stalky and gamy, a likely reflection of the 75% Syrah in this blend with Garnacha. A hard, grabby palate holds flavors of herbal plum and grape skins, while an obtuse finish tastes a little green. USA Wine West. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Clos Pons 2012 Alges (Costers del Segre). Stalky, herbal berry and plum aromas are gamy as well. This blend of Tempranillo, Syrah and Garnacha feels clipped, with tomato-like acidity. Herbal plum flavors come with a note of oregano and a dash of salt. USA Wine West. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

RIBERA DEL DUERO

96 Valderiz 2014 Juegabolos (Ribera del Duero). Toasty aromas suggest maple, along with a note of sawdust to accompany earthy berry scents. A rich, pure palate is intense but shows balance and comportment. Blackberry, cassis, peppery spice and integrated oak flavors are detailed, with a smooth finish. Drink this full-bodied wonder through 2028. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Dominio de Atauta 2014 Ribera del Duero. A pretty nose shows violet notes alongside leather, blackberry and cassis aromas. The palate is full and edgy, with rubbery tannins that could use some years to resolve. A roasted, beefy flavor profile includes nuances of smoked meat that make this about more than just black fruit. Drink through 2028. Aviva Vino. **Cellar Selection.** —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Dominio de Atauta 2012 Llanos del Almendro (Ribera del Duero). Massive blackberry, vanilla and marshmallow aromas are voluptuous. A just-right mix of lushness and tannins determines the palate, which hosts toasty flavors of chocolate and blackberry. A smooth finish with firm but manageable residual tannins is intense but not rough. Drink through 2028. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$130

93 Balbas 2012 Ardal Reserva Selección Especial (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of barrel spice

and vanilla lead the charge on this Tinto Fino that also contains 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. A tough, tannin-driven palate deals toasty flavors of black fruits, char and chocolate, which carry over to the finish. Call this an oak bomb, but at the very least the oak is of high quality and well integrated. Drink through 2025. Votto Vines Importing. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Dominio Basconillos 2014 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Toasty oak and graphite aromas fortify a nose that's lemony on the surface and ripe and fruity at the base. A creamy, resinous mouthfeel is toughened by hard tannins, while this wine tastes of toasty oak and black fruits. A dark, woody finish is chocolaty and rich. Drink through 2027. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

92 De Bardos 2012 Suprema 30 Meses (Ribera del Duero). A smoky, heady nose is defined mostly by char, coffee and black-fruit aromas. In the mouth, this wine is solidly built but not too heavy. Toasty, chocolaty blackberry and cassis flavors don't change much on a bold, blocky finish that stays the course. Drink through 2027. Askari O.H. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Dominio de Atauta 2015 Parada de Atauta (Ribera del Duero). Appealing black-fruit aromas include notes of tobacco and chocolate. This is a brooding, deep Tinto Fino with grippy tannins. Ripe berry, plum and cassis flavors are flush, while this wine finishes dark, with a reprise of young, rubbery tannins. Best from 2019–2030. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 De Bardos 2012 Mítica Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Earthy aromas hint at stewed fruit, while this wine is beefy and not very bright on the nose. Rubberly tannins and flavors of roasted, meaty berry fruits finish dense, brooding and dark, with residual tannins. This wine reflects the warm, dry conditions of 2012; drink through 2023. Askari O.H. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Lleiroso 2012 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Initial murky aromas clear up while remaining a bit gritty and stalky. This crianza has a raw, choppy feel. Gritty, earthy flavors of leathery plum and berry fruits finish peppery and spicy. Drink through 2022. HPS Epicurean. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

90 R+ 2012 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Ripe, earthy berry and cassis aromas smell damp at first but unfold nicely. Bright acidity and abrupt tannins make for a packed palate. Lightly oaky flavors of plum and berry show a note of vanilla. It finishes crisp and choppy due to the aforementioned bold acidity. Drink through 2022. Alphapac A Marketing Company. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Tierra Aranda 2012 Ribera del Duero.** Savory notes of olive and rubber share space on the nose with dark berry aromas. This wine feels thick and fleshy, and ultimately a touch heavy and collapsed. Dark, spicy, slightly bitter blackberry flavors finish with a reprise of savory accents. Drink through 2022. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Viña Mayor 2014 Barrel Aged (Ribera del Duero).** Earthy black cherry and blackberry aromas are moderately spicy and complex. This wine feels plump and round, without the tannic clamp that some RDD wines display. Savory black-fruit flavors reflect the nose. It finishes smooth and with medium length. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 **12 Linajes 2015 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** Brambly berry aromas are woody and a bit fiery. This roble feels sinewy, with structure and intensity. Black-fruit flavors are toasty but not charred or burnt. The finish is full and dark but short. USA Wine West. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 **Catania 2014 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Ripe berry, black cherry and leather aromas come together nicely in front of a creamy palate with just enough acid-tannin tension. Lightly herbal, spicy blackberry flavors are savory rather than dark and fruity. The wine tastes spicy and peppery on a finish that feels right. USA Wine West. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

89 **Conde de Siruela 2012 Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** Unusual but not unpleasant aromas of cinnamon and coffee cake lead to a saturated palate with rugged tannins. Flavors of fig paste, chocolate and baking spices confirm the wine's ripeness, while blackened flavors and rock-hard tannins drive the finish. Holiday Beverage. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **De Bardos 2015 Epica Roble (Ribera del Duero).** Grapy berry aromas are a bit reduced and jammy. In the mouth, this wine is dense and saturated, with solid tannins and a sense of thickness. Savory blackberry and cassis flavors finish earthy and slightly baked, with drying tannins. Askari O.H. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 **Marqués de Vargas 2014 Conde de San Crisóstobal (Ribera del Duero).** Rooty aromas of licorice and sarsaparilla are out front, followed by a big wave of barrel char. This wine feels good but a little abrupt and choppy. Savory flavors of barbecue and meaty berry fruits finish blackened and peppery, with a lasting note of charred wood. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

88 **Viña Mayor 2015 Tinto Roble Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Ripe aromas of baked berry and plum offer a window into this slightly jumpy, acidic Tempranillo. Roasted, blackened berry flavors show the "roble," meaning this is a bit oaky. On the finish, this is short but solid and fruity. Vinum International. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Viña Mayor 2012 Reserva Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Full, round aromas of berry fruits are oaky and appealing. In the mouth, this wine is ultradry, tannic and raw. Flavors of blackberry, plum and coffee finish hard and abrasive due to scraping tannins. Vinum International. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 **Viña Mayor 2014 Crianza Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Saucy plum and berry aromas are a touch stewy and gritty. This wine shows a blocky body with sinewy tannins. Savory, saucy flavors match the bouquet, and it feels supple and tastes roasted on the finish. Vinum International. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Portia 2015 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** This young, oaky Tinto Fino opens with charred aromas, but soon scents transition to cheesy and chocolaty. This wine is bullish in texture, with a ton of oak-driven clove, spice and burnt flavors. For the most part, fruit is not a big factor, as the "roble" in this wine drives the car. Palm Bay International. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Protos 2015 Ribera del Duero.** A heavily oaked nose of berry fruits quickly gets taken over by creamy milk chocolate and clove scents. An overextracted tannic palate holds flavors of burnt wood and blackened spices. On the finish, this wine is so charred and woody that it tastes bitter. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

84 **Rios de Tinta 2015 Ribera del Duero.** This rustic, herbal Tinto Fino has tarry blackberry and cassis aromas that turn horsey, minty and herbal on a nose that struggles to hold up. After hinting at savory berries, flavors turn green, bitter and underripe. It finishes with rough tannins and heat. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

81 **Pagos de Valcerracin 2014 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** This clipped, sharp wine leads with berry and plum scents. In the mouth, it's all acid and no fruit, tasting extremely sour. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

SIERRA DE SALAMANCA

88 **La Zorra 2014 Sierra de Salamanca.** Plum and berry aromas are tight and focused, with no indication of oak. A blend of Tempranillo and Rufete, this wine is snappy and drawing in feel. Plum and currant flavors finish long and juicy, with ripping acidity. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 **La Zorra 2014 La Moza Calabrés Garnacha (Sierra de Salamanca).** Earthy cherry aromas are downright raw, with a touch of green grass woven in. An acidic, choppy palate follows the nose, while this Garnacha from the Sierra de Salamanca region tastes of tart red currant and cranberry. A crisp finish is fresh but abrupt. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

86 **La Zorra 2014 La Moza Suelo de Pizarra Rufete (Sierra de Salamanca).** Aromas of herbal red-berry fruits, tomato, leather and grass lead to a snappy, tight, drawn palate. Red-currant and plum-skin flavors are racy, while this Rufete, a variety rarely seen, is grabby and fairly astringent on the finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

85 **La Zorra 2014 Teso de la Media Fanega Rufete (Sierra de Salamanca).** Earthy aromas of roasted red plum blend with scents of latex and cured meat on a jumbled nose. Like any Rufete, this feels drawing and rubbery, with choppy tannins. Flavors of tomato, currant and red plum are tart and narrow on a drawing finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

RIOJA

93 **Olivier Rivière 2015 Ganko (Rioja).** Here's another raring red from Bordeaux-born Rivière that needs time to settle. Ripe aromas are all about fruit, while this wine is clamping on the palate, with a sense of skins one hopes will resolve with time. Peppery plum and wild berry flavors finish with cheek-grabbing tannins and lasting toastiness. Drink 2019–2035. European Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 **Olivier Rivière 2015 Pozo Alto (Rioja).** For-esty berry aromas come with a whack of charred wood. In the mouth, this wine is rugged and loaded with intensity and acidity. Spicy oak and high-toned red-fruit flavors finish dry, juicy and with the structure to last years. Drink 2019–2035. European Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$135

92 **Olivier Rivière 2014 Las Viñas de Eusebio (Rioja).** This single-vineyard Tempranillo

opens with smooth, straightforward dark-fruit aromas that are calm and collected. A deeply stacked palate is a touch fierce but well structured. Toasty blackberry and cherry flavors linger on a toast-etched finish. Drink through 2032. European Cellars. *Cellar Selection*. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Bodegas Riojanas 2009 Viña Albina Gran Reserva (Rioja). Savory, mature aromas of woodspice and earthy berry fruits form the greeting on this gran reserva that's more lively than subdued or silky. Spicy, oaky berry flavors have a ripe, rooty component, while there's just enough pop to a bold, baked, chocolaty finish. Drink through 2026. Bodegas Riojanas. —M.S.

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

91 Olivier Rivière 2015 Gabaxo (Rioja). Spiced plum and cherry aromas get this live-wire Rioja going. A clawing palate with rubbery tannins needs time to settle. Toasty flavors of black fruits and oak finish with a rubbery texture due to drying tannins. Give this more time; drink from 2018–2028. European Cellars. *Cellar Selection*. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Viñedos de Paganos 2012 El Puntido (Rioja). Richly oaked aromas of burnt wood, caramel and sawmill compete with jammy blackberry and cassis notes. A rugged, drawing palate is fiercely tannic and dry. Blackberry, burnt oak and coffee flavors dry out quickly on the finish, leaving simmering toasty mint. Drink through 2025. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$61

90 Bodegas Palacio 2014 Cosme Palacio 1894 (Rioja). Cheesy oak and raw cherry and plum aromas create a nose that needs time in the glass to show its best. This Rioja feels fresh and tight, with pulling tannins. Zesty plum and cherry flavors carry a peppery side note prior to a snappy finish with similar flavors. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.

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

90 Bodegas Palacio 2012 Cosme Palacio Viñedos Viejos Reserva (Rioja). Ripe, spicy berry aromas are a touch reduced. This warm-vintage reserva feels jammy and wide, with rugged, pulling tannins. Peppery dark-fruit flavors turn more savory on a tannic, rocky finish. Drink through 2022. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.

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

90 Bodegas Palacio 2009 Glorioso Gran Reserva (Rioja). Spicy plum aromas are accompanied by appealing oak scents. While this wine doesn't show the greatest of ease and flow on the palate, flavors of plum, cassis, clove and cinnamon are persuasive. A blocky, rubbery, tannic finish with roasted notes is more about power than finesse. Drink through 2023. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.

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

90 Olivier Rivière 2016 Rayos Uvas (Rioja).

Blueberry and blackberry aromas are spunky and a little earthy. A juicy, jammy palate is angular and fairly sharp. Wild berry flavors seem right off the bush, while this wine is tight and narrow on an acidic finish. Drink through 2023. European Cellars. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

89 Bodegas Palacio 2013 Cosme Palacio Viñedos en Altitud Crianza (Rioja).

Floral red-berry and cassis aromas are steady and fresh. In the mouth, this wine turns raw and jagged. Cranberry, currant and red-plum flavors show very little oak before a lean, powerful finish. This cool-vintage wine will last for years but probably not improve. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.

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

89 Bodegas Palacio 2013 Glorioso Reserva (Rioja).

Berry, cola and chocolate aromas are pretty. In the mouth, this wine is bright and brash, with rough tannins and high acidity. Flavors of plum and wild berry are a touch salty and then comes a hard-pounding finish. Drink through 2026. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.

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

89 Bodegas Perica 2009 Viña Olagosa Reserva (Rioja).

Baking spice and smoky wood-grain aromas are classy but dominate fruit scents. This wine feels crisp and snappy, with hard tannins. Spicy, woody flavors match the nose and are backed by chocolate and berry fruit notes, carrying through to the spicy, oaky finish. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Luis Cañas 2014 Crianza (Rioja).

Smooth, floral berry aromas are easy to like. This crianza feels whole and plump. Lightly herbal tomato flavors blend with richer plum and berry notes in front of a balanced, mostly ripe finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 Marqués de Vargas 2012 Reserva (Rioja).

Lightly charred aromas of coffee, wood smoke and chocolate outweigh berry and plum scents. A tight palate shows firm tannins and carries roasted berry and plum flavors. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

88 Bodegas Palacio 2014 Glorioso Crianza (Rioja).

Aromas of creamy vanilla and mixed berry fruits are a bit jumbled. This has a full, grabby, chunky palate, with spicy plum and peppery flavors that don't show a lot of variation or complexity. On the finish, there's heat and oak to cut through. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.

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

88 Marqués de Vargas 2014 Crianza (Rioja).

Roasted aromas of tomato and red plum are spicy. This has a chunky, blocky mouthfeel that's

searching for its groove. Herbal plum and tomato flavors finish a bit raw in feel and salty in flavor. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.

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

88 Mileto 2009 Reserva (Rioja).

Aromas of spicy oak and dried berry fruits lead to a clumpy, rubbery palate. Plum and berry flavors are slightly saucy, while the finish, which is still fresh for a 2009, is tannic and pulling. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Valdelacierva 2014 Crianza (Rioja).

Savory, spicy, herbal berry aromas lead to a sinewy palate that's full of acidity and chop. Oaky plum flavors are woody and a bit muddled, while this wine tastes of oaky red fruits on a fiery finish. USA Wine West. —M.S.

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

86 Finca del Marquesado 2009 Reserva (Rioja).

Reserved aromas of plum, raisin and oak lead to a pinched palate that pulls to the center like a magnet. Peppery blackberry and cassis flavors are raw and without volume prior to a collapsed finish. Lionstone International. —M.S.

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

82 Urbina 2009 Crianza (Rioja).

Stale, stewy aromas lack vitality and suggest compost. This wine is edgy as well as creamy in feel, while flavors of cottage cheese and broken-down berry fruits finish with rooty, tomatoey notes. This is now eight years old and fading. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

SOMONTANO

90 Viñas del Vero 2011 Secastilla Garnacha (Somontano).

Ripe, slightly sunbaked aromas of berry fruits, plum and raisin include notes of vanilla and oak grain. A medium-bodied palate is agile, fresh and juicy. Oak-aided flavors of coffee, mocha and chocolate accent plum and berry fruit. Despite a drawing, dense finish, this high-elevation Garnacha remains upright in stature. Drink through 2023. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

89 Enate 2011 Syrah (Somontano).

A tight beam of oak and char runs through prune, blackberry and cassis aromas. This Somontano Syrah feels tight like a fist, with rough tannins and bright acidity. Peppery oak and black-fruit flavors are lightly herbal and spicy on a snappy finish that doesn't lay down. Drink through 2019. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

88 Viñas del Vero 2014 La Miranda Secastilla Garnacha (Somontano).

Raspberry, plum and rose-petal aromas are dusty, floral and elegant.

In the mouth, this wine is fit and spry, with crisp, pulling acidity. Herbal red plum and raspberry flavors finish with spice, mint and unabsorbed oak notes. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 Batán de Salas 2015 Syrah (Somontano). Aromas of dry brush, wiry cherry and road tar open this Syrah. In the mouth, high acidity creates sheer angularity. Plum and tart black-currant flavors are staunch and rubbery on a mildly abrasive finish. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Bodega Otto Bestué 2015 Joven Syrah-Garnache (Somontano). Savory, gritty raspberry and currant aromas are earthy, with a suggestion of Band-Aid. This Syrah-Garnacha blend feels rubbery and tannic, with a downward pull. Roasted red-berry and plum flavors finish with a note of grilled meat. Axial VinosUSA. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$6

86 Viñas del Vero 2015 Garnacha-Syrah (Somontano). A lean but lucid nose shows piquant floral scents. The palate on this Garnacha-Syrah is choppy and abrupt, with high acidity and rubbery tannins. Medicinal red plum and red-currant flavors finish with a rubbery grip. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

PRIORAT

96 Terroir Al Límit Soc. Lda. 2014 Les Tosses Carignan (Priorat). Ethereal aromas of baking spices, cinnamon and berry fruits convey exoticism. This Carignan from 90-year-old vines is saturated and a bit rubbery on the palate. Infinite flavors of nutmeg, spiced plum and berry fruits exude Priorat schist, while everything comes back on a strong finish with measurable tannins. Drink from 2019–2030. European Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$290

95 Terroir Al Límit Soc. Lda. 2014 Dits Del Terra Carignan (Priorat). This Carignan welcomes you with fresh berry aromas that are like jam, accented by spice notes. Secondary aromas of coffee and toast lead to a full, saturated palate with a vise grip. Deep, savory flavors of roasted plum are spicy on a complex finish that blends power and elegance to the end. Drink from 2018–2030. European Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Terroir Al Límit Soc. Lda. 2014 Les Manyes Garnacha (Priorat). Cinnamon and clove aromas stick out on a nose with light red-fruit scents. Power with restraint describes the palate on this varietal Garnacha from old vines. Dark, slightly baked flavors of brandied cherry and mulled berry fruits finish with a touch of oak and a recurrence of

lightly baked fruit notes. Drink through 2026. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$290

94 Pasanau Germans 2012 Finca La Planeta (Priorat). Crisp, focused aromas of ripe berry fruits, hot asphalt and spice are potent and excellent. From one of the Priorat's highest locales (2,400 feet), this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Garnacha tastes of spicy plum, crushed peppercorn and schist. Warm finishing notes of minerality combined with strong fruit flavors are thorough and complex; drink through 2028. Classical Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$43

94 Terroir Al Límit Soc. Lda. 2014 Arbossar Carignan (Priorat). A testament to the potential of Priorat varietal Carignan, Arbossar deals gamy, savory aromas of baking spices, earthy plum and mincemeat pie. The palate is dry on the edges and jammy in the middle. Raspberry and spiced cherry flavors are straight and intense on a saturated finish. For full-flavored, old-vines Carignan, look no further than this. Drink 2018–2028. European Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Cellers Unió 2013 Roureda Llicorella Gran Selecció Vitis 60 (Priorat). This red opens with reticent jammy aromas that expand to include licorice and asphalt notes. The wine is so saturated that it weighs down on the palate. Flavors of savory berry fruits are matched by saucy tomato and spice notes. On a sinewy finish, tomato sauce, raspberry and red-plum flavors stick out. Drink through 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$33

93 Cellers Unió 2011 Roureda Llicorella Gran Selecció Vitis 60 (Priorat). Smooth, integrated aromas of cookie dough, forest floor and briary berry fruits lead to a palate that's plump on the edges but more intense and pulling in the middle. Flavors of ripe berry fruits, vanilla and tobacco finish with dry tannins and bold acidity, meaning this has more gas in the tank; drink through 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$33

93 Clos Berenguer del Molar 2013 Vinya les Sorts (Priorat). Initial aromas of damp earth and coffee grounds are a bit misleading because this tastes almost entirely of ripe, slightly baked black fruits. This is a massive Cabernet-based wine with severely scratchy tannins. On the finish, rugged left-over tannins are like gravel, while this is saturated in a familiar Priorat way. Drink from 2019–2027. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$120

93 Sangenís I Vaqué 2006 Vall Por (Priorat). This ripe holdover from 2006 proves that Priorat wines can age well. This wine is full of licorice, spice cake and other heady aromas, while the

palate is lush and chewy, but still hanging in there. Flavors of black fruits, chocolate, burnt toast, black coffee and licorice finish dense and long. Drink now through 2020. Golden Ram Imports. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$37

92 Pinord 2010 +7 (Priorat). This ripe, healthy wine offers aromas of baked black fruits, licorice and raisin. In the mouth, it's more vital than on the nose; racy acidity and firm but pure tannins make sure of that. For flavors, look for savory tomato, plum, berry fruits, licorice and schisty minerality. Finishing notes of mocha, plum and coffee are braced by hard-driving tannins. Drink through 2024. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Simbolic 2012 16 Crianza (Priorat). Ripe berry aromas intermingle with toast and maple notes on the nose of this saturated, tannic blend of Granacha, Carignan and Cabernet Sauvignon. Flavors of black plum, tomato, spice and herbs hint at Priorat's famous schisty soils, while this expands on an aggressive finish. Drink through 2023. Columbus Wine and Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Terroir Al Límit Soc. Lda. 2015 Torroja (Priorat). Rose and violet aromas sit comfortably with tight, gritty cherry and plum scents. A tight medium-to-full palate is the staging ground for fresh plum and berry flavors that are powerful but not heavy. A long, warming finish maintains the wine's core potency. This is not ready to drink; best from 2019–2028. European Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Tosalet 2013 Vinyes Velles Carignan (Priorat). Flush aromas of raisin, blackberry and cassis are ripe through and through. This wine feels tight, with tannic scrape. Spicy, reedy flavors of red plum and berry fruits are textbook for Carignan, while mixed black fruits and fig show on a chocolatey finish. Best from 2020–2025. Hammeken Cellars USA. —M.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$90

89 Terroir Historic 2016 Priorat. Floral red-fruit aromas show a touch of wild animal. The tight and choppy palate holds racy flavors of cherry and plum. A long, fruity finish rolls out little by little, with a lasting feel of grape skins. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

UTIEL-REQUENA

88 Bodegas Vegalfaro 2016 Caprasia (Utiel-Requena). Malty, earthy, roasted berry aromas become more chocolaty as this wine breathes. An oaky, resinous palate is saturated and shows spicy, peppery black-fruit flavors along with some heat. This Bobal-Merlot blend sizzles on a full-throttle

finish that's not shy on oak. Wine Universe Corp. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Spartico 2016 Organic Tempranillo-Cabernet Sauvignon (Utiel-Requena). Granulated berry and plum aromas are slightly reduced and come with an animal note on this Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon blend. A flush, weighty palate is well balanced, while flavors of dark plum and cassis finish tannic and a bit rubbery. Natural Merchants LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

86 Bodegas Vegalfaro 2016 Rebel.lia (Utiel-Requena). Foxy, floral berry and plum aromas include notes of green herbs. A palate with big, rubbery tannins and herbal flavors of spiced berry fruits and cinnamon finishes with abrasive, drying tannins. This blend holds Garnacha Tintorera, Bobal and Tempranillo. Wine Universe Corp. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 Tarantas 2016 Organic Tempranillo (Utiel-Requena). Spicy berry fruit aromas are straightforward and pretty good. This wine feels firm and centered, with plum, berry and cherry flavors. A reasonably deep finish offers residual berry notes and peppery spice. Natural Merchants LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

JUMILLA

92 Casa Castillo 2014 Pie Franco Monastrell (Jumilla). Alluring aromas of cocoa powder, berry fruits, graphite and raw oak lead to a jammy palate with density and weight. This old-vines Monastrell tastes of chocolate oak and herbal blackberry. On the finish, it's tight and rugged, with mildly scratchy tannins and a saucy aftertaste. Drink through 2022. European Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

90 Casa Castillo 2015 Monastrell (Jumilla). This Monastrell gets going with roasted plum and berry aromas, with side notes of crushed stones. A full palate with an iron grip shows flavors of black fruits and coffee. A fleshy finish is spicy and dark in flavor. Drink through 2019. European Cellars. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$12

90 Casa Castillo 2015 El Molar Garnacha (Jumilla). Early aromas of latex and animal hide yield to earthy berry scents. A lively palate is full of energy, while blackberry, baked plum and chocolate flavors are more dense and generous than streamlined. Flavors of fudge, fig and berry fruits are bold on the finish. Drink through 2021. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Casa Castillo 2013 Las Gravas (Jumilla). This Monastrell-led blend smells like a pot of baked beans. A compact body is solid in the center but scratchy on the edges. Toasty, briary black-fruit flavors are herbal, and the wine tastes peppery and like tomato and oregano on the finish. Drink through 2021. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

87 Ego Bodegas 2014 Infinitio (Jumilla). This combination of Monastrell and Cabernet Sauvignon is so heavily oaked that it smells almost entirely of clove. A grabby palate delivers flavors of blueberry, blackberry and clove in front of a finish that's woody and tannic. Time will tell if the oak will subside; at this moment it's dominant. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

VALLE DE LA OROTAVA

92 Suertes del Marqués 2015 Los Pasitos Babosa Negro (Valle de la Orotava). Have you ever tried varietal Baboso Negro from the island of Tenerife? Give it a shot and you'll likely be impressed, as I was. Cherry and plum aromas are in the red zone, while this wine feels crisp and fresh, with edge. Salty raspberry and plum flavors end with racy snap. This is a versatile and elegant food wine; drink through 2020. European Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Suertes del Marqués 2015 7 Fuentes (Valle de la Orotava). This blend of Tintilla and Listán Negro opens with savory aromas of latex, plum and cherry dusted with minerals. The palate is full but racy. Flavors of plum and cranberry show spice and mineral notes before a long, peppery finish. Overall, this is bright, floral and interesting. Drink now. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Suertes del Marqués 2015 El Ciruelo Viñas Viejas Listán Negro (Valle de la Orotava). This varietal Listán Negro from Tenerife in the Canary Islands opens with mineral cherry aromas offset by notes of earth and leather. A juicy, clamping palate with salty plum and raspberry flavors ends with light spice notes. This is elegant and svelte, but packs punch. Drink through 2021. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Suertes del Marqués 2014 La Solana Listán Negro Cordón Trenzado (Valle de la Orotava). This Tenerife blend holds Listán Negro and Cordón Trenzado. The nose is a bit green and grassy, like cool-climate Cabernet. In the mouth, the wine is pulling and rugged, with rawness. Herbal, peppery red-fruit flavors feature a pyranzine-based taste of red chili, while the finish shows hard tannins and

simmering heat. Drink through 2021. European Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

91 Clunia 2014 Syrah (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Creamy oak and raisiny notes announce ripeness and richness that turn to complexity as this Syrah airs out. In the mouth, this is full-force, with choppy tannins and tomato-like acidity. Spice, herb and plum flavors finish dry, toasty and well balanced. Drink through 2021. Quigley Fine Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Marqués de la Concordia 2014 Hacienda Zorita Natural Reserve Unamuno Vineyard Syrah (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Dark, heady berry aromas are intense and oaky, with a cured-meat note of beef jerky. A deep, layered palate is savory and meaty in flavors, with light herbal notes embedded into berry and plum fruit. A spicy, peppery, lightly charred finish is the final chapter. Drink through 2019. The Haciendas-Company. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

TIERRA DE CASTILLA

91 Finca Constanca 2014 Altos de la Finca (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Floral-based aromas of violet and blueberry announce this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot that also smells of hickory and campfire. A choppy, drawn-in palate is herbal and savory, with blatant oak accenting earthy berry flavors. A roasted finish with hard tannins calls for more aging or decanting. Drink through 2023. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Finca Constanca 2014 Selección (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Floral berry aromas are drowned out by heavy scents of licorice and clove. A jumpy, fresh palate is raw but high in energy. Herbal, minty currant flavors are dry, oaky and toasty on the finish. This blend is made from six grapes, Syrah and Cab Sauvignon among them. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

OTHER RED WINES

94 Torres 2012 Mas la Plana Cabernet Sauvignon (Penedès). This Cabernet Sauvignon from Penedès is on the money. A smooth, creamy nose of vanilla, oak and berry aromas leads to a ripe, saturated palate with a meaty texture. Flavors of black fruits, wild herbs, licorice and spice are long, savory and chocolatey on a finish that lasts three

minutes. Drink from 2019–2030. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. *Editors' Choice*. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$70

92 Torres 2010 Grans Muralles (Conca de Barberà).

This blend of Carignan, Garnacha, Monastrell and several other local grapes opens with gritty, cheesy aromas of oak, tar and asphalt along with savory berry fruits. A saturated, dense palate weighs in as heavy and thick, tasting of reedy berry fruits, roasted plum, savory spices and grilled steak. A blackened, oaky finish is a touch syrupy in feel but quite deep and long. Drink through 2023. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —M.S.

abv: 15%

Price: \$140

90 Bodegas Vegalfaro 2014 Pago de los Balagueses Syrah (Spain).

Smoky, blackened aromas take their lead from heavy oak, which makes for a resinous, foresty nose with blackberry scents. This Syrah is saturated and full-tilt in feel. Clove, toast and blackberry flavors finish oaky and spicy. This woody monster needs time to settle and absorb more oak; drink through 2023. Wine Universe Corp. *Cellar Selection*. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

90 Escalada Do Sil 2014 Valdeorras.

For a different breed of cat, take a look at this blend of Merenzao (Trousseau), Mencía and Garnacha from Valdeorras in Galicia. An elegant, schisty nose displays gamy, savory plum and currant aromas similar to Pinot Noir. A choppy, astringent palate makes this wine less than smooth. Herbal plum and spicy oak flavors are bolstered by racy acidity and finish long and almost citrusy in flavor. Drink through 2022. Ole Imports. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

SPIRITS

Berry-based fruit liqueurs

Berry-based liqueurs don't often get the respect they deserve. For many years, they weren't regarded as much more than sticky sweets—perhaps poured into a tiny cordial glass at dessert time—since it was hard to stomach more than an ounce or two of the stuff. Today, spirits producers are emphasizing the character of the fruit itself; some are even dialing back on the sugar—a welcome change.

Two particular bottlings reviewed in this issue merit a shout-out as examples of the direction fruit liqueurs are capable of taking. The first is St. George's Raspberry Liqueur, which is barely sweet at all. It's made with a mix of raspberry brandy and raspberry juice, and has a surprising sour cherry and lemon curd-like acidity that sets the mouth watering.

Another bottle worth a second look is the Black Trumpet Blueberry Cordial made by New Hampshire's Tamworth Distilling. In addition to luscious dark fruit, this liqueur takes an intriguing turn thanks to an infusion lavender

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and lemon verbena, as well as the addition of Black Trumpet mushrooms for a subtle umami swagger that adds complexity and dimension.

Meanwhile, bartenders continue to reach for berry liqueurs to fill out cocktails like the classic Bramble, a cocktail created by Dick Bradsell in 1980s London—basically, a Gin Sour

(London dry gin, lemon juice, simple syrup) laced with good dose of *crème de mûre* (black-berry liqueur) for color and fruity flavor, usually served over crushed ice.

Of course, if that seems too summery, swap in blended Scotch, as bartenders from the Scotch Egg Club did at a recent Tales of the Cocktail event, mixing Dewars 12 with the more

traditional components for a season-spanning sip ideal for bringing fruit liqueurs into the colder-weather months.

On top of the berry-based fruit liqueur reviews, there are also a slew of new vodka reviews covered in this issue.

Cheers!

—Kara Newman

95 Merlet Crème de Fraise des Bois (France; Bedford & Grove, Louisville, KY). This wild strawberry liqueur reads like a glassful of strawberry jam, with a deep garnet hue and concentrated fruit flavor that goes down sweet and warming. Splash this easy-drinking, dessert-like cordial into Champagne or sip as a sweet ending to a meal.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$25

94 Merlet Crème de Mûre Sauvage (France; Bedford & Grove, Louisville, KY). A top pick for mixing into sparkling wine or cocktails, this wild blackberry liqueur has a deep plummy color and features a complex, moderately sweet mix of Concord grape, delicate violet and black cherry aromas and flavors, finishing with a pleasing vanilla and floral exhale. **Best Buy.**
abv: 18% **Price:** \$25

93 Jahiot Crème de Framboise (France; Heav- enly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). Overall, this

raspberry liqueur is rich and viscous, redolent with dark, ripe black cherry and blackberry compote—there's even a fortified wine note reminiscent of Manischewitz. The finish is long and clings to the palate, yet offers just enough mouthwatering tartness to keep things interesting. Dessert-worthy.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$19/375 ml

93 Metcalfe's Raspberry Liqueur (USA; Vermont Distillers, Marlboro, VT). Made with over a quart of raspberries in each bottle, look for a deep plum hue and bold, sweet raspberry jam aroma and flavor. Add sparingly to cocktails where a bit of fruity sweetness is desired, or follow the producer's suggestion to pour over ice cream. **Best Buy.**
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Mathilde Cassis Liqueur (France; W.J. Deutsch & Sons, Harrison, NY). Plush and velvety, this blackcurrant liqueur is a classic choice for mixing into Kir Royales. Look for a blackberry compote

aroma and a sweet, palate-coating mix of Concord grape, black cherry and prune, finishing long with a brush of vanilla. Made by Maison Ferrand.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$28

92 St. George Raspberry Liqueur (USA; St. George Spirits, Alameda, CA). Made with a mix of raspberry brandy and raspberry juice, this is not a classic sweet sipper. It has a fair amount of sour cherry-like acidity on the palate, and reads almost like a port or weighty red wine. It's deep and dark in the glass, featuring stewed berry and dried herb aromas, along with a fruit-forward palate that finishes on a mouth-puckering hint of lemon curd. Pair with dark chocolate.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$35

91 Chambord Black Raspberry Liqueur (France; Brown-Forman Beverages, Louisville, KY). Made with vanilla and a Cognac base, this liqueur has a muted plum hue and a rich, black cherry scent. The palate is lightly sweet and easy-sipping, with a warming, candied berry-cherry flavor. Sip or mix.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Ginja9 Cherry Liqueur (Portugal; Earth Delicacies, Carson, CA). The enticing scent is reminiscent of cherry pie filling. Meanwhile, the palate is not overly sweet, showing concentrated cherry flavor on the midpalate and finishing relatively clean for a liqueur. Mix into whiskey for a Black Manhattan-style sipper or pair with dark chocolate. Made from Morello cherries.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$28

90 Art in the Age Black Trumpet Blueberry Cordial (USA; Tamworth Distilling, Tamworth, NH). Mushroom cocktails are trendy right now, but this might be the first commercial bottling of a liqueur made with Black Trumpet mushrooms, along with blueberries, lavender and lemon verbena. Altogether, it's a heady, intriguing mix, purple in the glass and scented like crushed berries and dried herbs. The complex palate suggests a mix of mashed blueberries and Concord grape jam, enlivened by a faint savory note midpalate, and finishing with lush, palate-coating fruit. Try it in a Kir.
abv: 25% **Price:** \$40/375 ml

90 Mathilde Framboise Liqueur (France; W.J. Deutsch & Sons, Harrison, NY). This raspberry liqueur has a deep plum-skin hue and berry compote aroma. The relatively sweet flavor suggests cherry pie filling and strawberry jam, finishing long and warming on a hint of vanilla. Ideal to pour over vanilla ice cream. Made by Maison Ferrand.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$28

89 Fragola Liqueur (Italy; Niche Import, Cedar Knolls, NJ). This wild strawberry liqueur has a bright red hue. Look for a ripe berry scent, and a moderate amount of fruit on the palate. It's not overly sweet, and the grappa base supplies a medicinal tinge.
abv: 24% **Price:** \$30

89 Jules Theuriet Crème de Cassis de Dijon (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). Expect an inky hue and mild dark-berry aroma plus a gentle hint of violet. The palate leads with dark fruit and moderate sweetness, suggesting black-berry jam and Concord grape, finishing long, sweet and a little sticky, with a brush of raspberry. Desert-worthy.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$18/375 ml

89 Metcalfe's Blueberry Liqueur (USA; Vermont Distillers, Marlboro, VT). This is deep and dark in the glass and showing a bit of garnet glow around the edges. Look for moderate sweetness, with Concord grape on the nose and palate lightened by a whiff of rosemary freshness. Sip or mix. This is a corn-based spirit, made in small batches using wild Maine blueberries. Best Buy.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$25

88 Villa de Varda Blueberry Liqueur (Italy; Quintessential, Napa, CA). This grappa-based liqueur has a warm ruby hue and herbaceous scent featuring a perky, vegetal spearmint edge. The palate mixes dark fruit and mint, finishing on an anise twang. This relatively dry spirit almost drinks like a light amaro. It won't be for someone seeking a sweet dessert sip, but would add complexity to cocktails.
abv: 28% **Price:** \$70

87 Jahiot Crème de Cassis (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). This blackcurrant liqueur has a concentrated, inky hue and a mildly herbaceous scent, with not much fruit at all. The palate, however, is laden with sticky-sweet raspberry and stewed blackberry, leading into a moderate finish.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$19/375 ml

87 Merlet Crème de Cassis (France; Bedford & Grove, Louisville, KY). The fruit-forward aroma leads with luscious dark berry, freshened with a whiff of pine needle. The same powerful flavors are echoed on the bold palate: Lots of sweet-tart fruit, with that hint of pine returning on the finish. Some will find the thick, viscous blackcurrant liqueur a bit much to sip straight up; a little will go a long way in a whiskey cocktail.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$25

86 Jules Theuriet Crème de Framboise (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). This raspberry liqueur has a vibrant garnet hue and muted scent. The palate is light, with an oxidized fruit note reminiscent of port and a moderately long exit with a pleasing black cherry accent.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$17/375 ml

VODKAS

92 Cape Cod Vodka (USA; AstraLuna LLC, Medfield, MA). Produced from corn and Cape Cod potatoes, this versatile vodka offers feather-

light almond sweetness, carrying over into the gentle, creamy finish, plus a refreshing flicker of white pepper heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$28

92 Purity Vodka (Sweden; Purity Vodka, New York, NY). Clean, neutral and versatile to sip or mix, this brisk, bracing vodka has just a hint of almond sweetness and finishes crisp, with a faint white pepper tingle. Made from winter wheat and barley.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$30

91 VRTX Vodka (USA, Vertex Spirits, Las Vegas, NV). This corn-based vodka is generally neutral on the nose and palate, with just a hint of charcoal and a shadow of clove-like heat into the smooth, mouthwatering finish. Try it, well chilled, as a pairing for savory foods.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

90 Death's Door Vodka (USA; Death's Door Distillery, Madison, WI). Distinctly sweet on the nose and palate, this wheat-based vodka offers nuanced hints of vanilla, citrus and mint, finishing clean with an echo of mild almond-like sweetness and white pepper heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$NA

90 Droptine Vodka (USA; Droptine Spirits, Roscoe, NY). Look for a neutral scent and mildly sweet palate showing faint hints of tropical fruit and vanilla, plus mild cinnamon heat on finish. Distilled from corn.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$36

89 Anastasia Vodka (USA; Bend Spirits, Bend, OR). It's really all about the striking glacier-shaped bottle, although some will find the pointy-capped, angular vessel challenging to open and pour. The liquid inside is relatively neutral on the nose and palate, marked by hints of grapefruit peel and black pepper sizzle and a light, silky finish. Distilled from corn.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$34

BEER

Fall for American Double/Imperial IPAs

With fall in full swing, drinking preferences often trend toward more robust and full-flavored selections than those we typically enjoy during the summer. The holidays are also just around the corner, and family and friends will be gathering, so it's best to be prepared with a fridge stocked full of chilly weather's best friend: Imperial IPAs.

Imperial IPAs are basically India pale ales kicked up to 11—more malts, more alcohol and most importantly, more hops. The result is a complex, strong sipping beer with IBUs, or international bittering units, climbing above 60 and, in some cases, well beyond at upward of 100.

Imperial IPAs are perfect for the season. They lend themselves wonderfully to Thanksgiving fare, especially sweet potatoes, savory stuffing and even turkey—they offer assertive earthy flavors of rich hops and resinous or piny spice, all of which boost the often one-dimensional or bland flavors of the bird. Com-

Imperial IPAs are basically India pale ales kicked up to 11—more malts, more alcohol and, most importantly, more hops.

pared to regular IPAs, the higher alcohol content, richer mouthfeel and amped-up flavor profiles found in Imperial or Double IPAs all complement the traditional American Thanksgiving fare, as well as promising a lively dinner table conversation.

Today's selections—and there are many—are wonderfully varied. In these brews, perhaps more than any other style, the hops are the stars, taking center stage on the nose and palate. Brewers are playing with new hop varieties and ingredient bills to produce the exact final profile they want to achieve, and often list the hops they've used for those who look for selections made with their personal favorites.

For those who might not be pronounced hopheads, non-Imperial IPAs offer the same, albeit dialed-down, earthy spice and moderate astringency, so be sure to have both on hand to satisfy all of your guest's lupulin preferences.

Prost!

—Lauren Buzzeo

92 Reuben's Brews Blimey That's Bitter Triple India Pale Ale (American Double/Imperial IPA; Reuben's Brews, WA). This "triple" IPA pours a honey-gold color, with a dense head that leaves good lacing behind. With about 6 pounds of hops added per barrel, it offers intense aromas of citrus, pine and tropical fruits, all of which transition into the smooth, creamy palate. There's ample caramel malt at the core, grounding the hop flavors and appropriately bitter texture. Though slightly warm and round in body, it's not out of balance, and offers a pleasant hit of pine-resin flavor on the finish.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$NA/22 oz

91 Harpoon Hoppy Adventure Double IPA (American Double/Imperial IPA; Harpoon Brewery, MA/VT). This pours a clean golden-orange color, with a frothy off-white head that leaves nice lacing behind with each sip. Scents of cut grass, orange supreme, freshly baked bread, floral hops and just a touch of pine needle all dance in the bouquet. Those notes all continue through to the malty, robust palate, which showcases superb overall balance and

surprising drinkability for a DIPA. The finish is dry and lightly spiced with notes of mossy earth and peach pit.
abv: 7.8% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 4 pack

91 Lord Hobo Boomsauce IPA (American Double/Imperial IPA; Lord Hobo Brewing Co., MA). This is such a fun product, from the dark can to the clever name and the contents within. It's not for the faint of heart, leading with pronounced aromas of dank hops, candied orange rind, grapefruit pith and soft pine resin. The palate is fairly malty and rich, supporting the assertive hop profile, though ample carbonation keeps the slick mouthfeel from feeling too weighty. A pleasant warmth unfolds on the dry, astringent finish.
abv: 7.8% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 4 pack

90 Coronado Brewing Co. Stingray IPA Imperial India Pale Ale (American Double/Imperial IPA; Coronado Brewing Co., CA). Brewed with Citra, Mosaic, Simcoe and Southern Cross hops, this canned DIPA pours a gorgeous golden color and

shines with intense aromas of fresh citrus, pineapple, tropical fruit and cut grass. Herbal and floral hop tones override the nose, while the palate offers a rich caramel-malt spine to ground the hoppy bitterness through the slightly sticky finish. It's smooth and creamy in texture, though ample carbonation keeps the mouthfeel balanced and drinkable, with final hits of grapefruit feel and hop resin on the close.
abv: 7.9% **Price:** \$14/12 oz 6 pack

90 Lord Hobo Consolation Prize Double India Pale Ale (American Double/Imperial IPA; Lord Hobo Brewing Co., MA). There's loads to behold in this forward, flavorful brew. Intense aromas of orange and grapefruit peel as well as earthy, pressed hop flowers dominate the bouquet, with hints of peach skin and pineapple core in the background. The palate is bitter and chewy, with flavors of pine resin and citrus rind that carry through to the long, dry finish. Ample carbonation and notes of biscuit malt and caramel help to keep the hop profile in check, balancing out the sip.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 4 pack

89 Coronado Brewing Co. Idiot IPA Imperial India Pale Ale (American Double/Imperial IPA; Coronado Brewing Co., CA). Brewed with Nugget, Cascade, Centennial, Chinook and Columbus hops, this pours a burnt orange color with a foamy white head that shows good retention. The nose is all hop character, with scents of citrus pith, dried grass, peach pit and light pine resin. The palate starts off bitter, but then transitions to sweeter, malt-driven flavors of caramel and browned biscuit before veering back to the astringent hop characteristics that hang on through the dry finish.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$14/12 oz 6 pack

88 Coronado Brewing Co. 21 Imperial IPA (American Double/Imperial IPA; Coronado Brewing Co., CA). This beer, which celebrates the brewery's 21st anniversary, was brewed with a blend of Azacca, Citra and Centennial hops. It's surprisingly fruity in character, with forward notes of stone fruit, tangerine and red apple that mingle with the hoppy notes of grapefruit, green grape and pine resin. The medium-bodied mouthfeel is round and filling, with an oily slickness that lingers through the finish. Final hints of dried grass, citrus pith and pine needle unfold on the bitter finish.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$14/12 oz 6 pack

87 Tumwater White Water Double IPA (American Double/Imperial IPA; Fish Brewing Company, WA). This is a quite straightforward and malty IPA, with assertive notes of caramel, toasted grain and brown bread that dominate the nose and mouth. The hop profile is quite subdued for a DIPA, with faint notes of earth and grass that finish bitter and tangy. A faint hint of citrus peel unfolds in the medium-weight mouth.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$8/12 oz 6 pack