

# THE ENTHUSIAST 100 OF 2019



## THE BEST WINES OF THE YEAR

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST

It isn't easy tasting more than 24,000 wines in a year, but someone's gotta do it. Well, O.K., we really can't complain: We here at *Wine Enthusiast* love the job and are happy to take on the burden of providing resources to aid your vinous adventures.

Each year, we recap a full calendar's worth of wine tasting with our three Top 100 lists. In the November issue, we share our Top 100 Best Buys, a roster of wines that provide the most bang for your buck. Then, in the December 1 issue, our Top 100 Cellar Selections list showcases a compilation of stand-out wines with serious long-term potential.

Now comes the ultimate: The Enthusiast 100.

This best-of-the-best list is a showstopper in its own right and exemplifies a dazzling variety of wines available to consumers today. With selections from 16 countries and nearly every wine style—dry whites and reds, rosés, bubbles and beyond—there's truly something for everyone. Boasting an average score of 93 points and an average price of \$33, this is a list of the top wines to crack open and revel in right now.

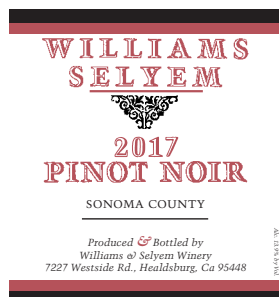
The selections here are not to be missed and are sure to be snapped up fast, so find your favorites, grab a glass and enjoy!

1



**94 Nino Franco NV Rustico Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Aromas of white spring flower, Bartlett pear and citrus waft out of the glass. The racy, refreshing palate is full of energy, offering crisp yellow-apple, lemon drop and orange zest flavors balanced by vibrant acidity. A perlage of small, refined and continuous bubbles provides the silky backdrop. Terlato Wines International. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O. **abv:** 11% **Price:** \$20

2



**98 Williams Selyem 2017 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** This is a perfumed and seductive wine made from a range of sites across the county. Fresh acidity is seamlessly integrated between textured layers of black cherry, forest floor and cardamom. The overall experience is balanced and undeniably beautiful. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B. **abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$39

3

**99 Domaine de la Janasse 2016 Vieilles Vignes Red (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Buxom and heady, this is a delightfully rich, hedonistic blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Sun-drenched mulberry and black cherry flavors are explosive on the palate yet it's an elegantly extracted, surprisingly charming wine edged with nuances of violet, dried thyme and earth. The tannins are soft in feel, making it hard to resist young, but there's plenty of time for improvement here too. European Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$114

4

**96 Grosset 2018 Polish Hill Riesling (Clare Valley).** This is a downright beautiful, textured and highly focused expression of Riesling. The nose is more open and fruit forward than the previous vintage, bursting with freshly sliced lime, guava, flowers and streaks of stony minerals. The palate is bone dry, slippery and fresh, with bright limey fruit and an endlessly long mouthwatering finish. Drink now–2039. Hudson Wine Brokers. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$52

5

**97 CVNE 2011 Imperial Gran Reserva (Rioja).** This is a fabulous gran reserva from a very good but lightly heralded vintage. Aromas of spiced plum, black olive, fig, tobacco and cassis come together like a puzzle. A deep, pure palate shows near-perfect balance, while this tastes of plum, berry fruits and earthy spice. Smooth, elegant and chocolaty on the finish, this delivers all one can ask for from Rioja. Drink through 2035. Arano LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$88

6

**96 Adriano Marco & Vittorio 2016 Basarin (Barbaresco).** Spearmint, black-skinned berry, blue flower and new leather aromas lead the way along with a whiff of menthol. Tight and taut, the elegant, structured palate delivers juicy black cherry, crushed raspberry, wild herbs and white pepper alongside assertive, close-grained tannins. Bright acidity provides balance. Best 2024–2036. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

7



**97 Massican 2018 Annia White (Napa Valley).** Made from 48% Tocai Friulano, 41% Ribolla Gialla and 11% Chardonnay, this wine is fresh and floral in tones of lemon rind, white flower and green apple. Fermented in both French oak and stainless steel, it is structured yet vibrant, gorgeously aromatic and remarkably long-lasting on the palate. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B. **abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$30

8



**98 Quinta do Vale Meão 2016 Red (Douro).** This is a major, impressive wine. Its power and tannins are matched by its style, rich dark-fruit flavors and dense structure. The potential of this wine, with its poise between juicy acidity and structure, is enormous. A mineral texture provides the essential connection with the terroir of the Douro Superior. It comes from one of the top Douro estates, the last to be created by Dona Antonia Ferreira and one that is still in the hands of her descendants. Drink from 2024. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$99

9

**97 Fritz Haag 2017 Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese Grosse Lage (Mosel).** Intensely ripe aromas of pineapple and blossom perfume this exuberantly sweet auslese. It's a stunningly concentrated, intoxicating wine, laden with sweet honey and stone-fruit flavors balanced by zippy lime acidity. Fresh and primary now, it is nuanced enough to gain complexity for decades to come. Loosen Bros. USA. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I. **abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$44

10



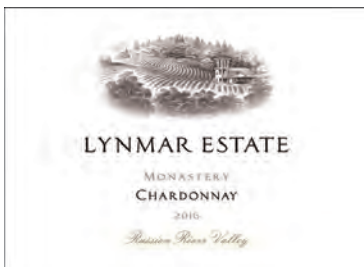
**95 Austin Hope 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** This bottling remains as impressive and delicious as it did upon debut two vintages ago. Aromas of black cherry, hickory smoke and vanilla cookie lead into a palate of brown sugar, sea salt, caramel and black-cherry foam, all framed by polished tannins and just enough acidity. —M.K. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

11



**94 Salcheto 2015 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano.** Made with organically cultivated Sangiovese, this fragrant elegant red opens with enticing scents of underbrush, sunbaked earth, wild berry, violet, crushed mint and a balsamic whiff of camphor. Smooth and savory, the linear palate has surprising vibrancy for such a hot vintage, delivering juicy Marasca cherry, strawberry compote, star anise and white pepper. Elegant fine-grained tannins lend polished support while a coffee note lingers on the close. Drink through 2025. Massanois Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

12



**98 Lynmar Estate 2016 Monastery Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Salty, briny and beautifully spicy, this wine offers full-bodied richness that's completely in balance and remarkably memorable on the palate. Everything is well integrated, from the entry to the long, lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$55

13

**93 Mendel 2017 Estate Grown & Bottled Malbec (Mendoza).** Great midtier value is found in this full-force Malbec from a powerful vintage. A blueberry pie aroma is ripe to the max, alongside a whiff of graphite. The fully extracted palate bursts with cassis and berry flavors, while the more this breathes, the less heavy it seems. Drink through 2028. Vine Connections. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$25

14



**96 Tiefenbrunner 2017 Feldmarschal Von Fenner Müller-Thurgau (Alto Adige).** Heady aromas of yellow stone fruit, alpine herb and white spring wildflower virtually leap out of the glass. Made from a single vineyard nearly 3,300 feet above sea level, it's delicious, elegant and enveloping, delivering ripe apricot, peach, white grapefruit and mineral alongside fresh acidity. A wet stone note lingers on the finish. LLS-Winebow. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

15



**97 Roar 2017 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Rich and ripe in aromas of red cherry, caramel and oak, this bottling is made elegant and complex from the crushed slate and stony qualities that thrive throughout. A concentrated Bing cherry flavor rings on the bone-dry palate, lifted by mint and more chiseled stone. This is amazingly ripe and delicious, yet hewn with impressive minerality. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$58

16

**93 Château Cambon la Pelouse 2016 Haut-Médoc.** This rich wine is built by generous tannins and dense black-plum fruits. A hint of dark chocolate offers depth and an edge of extraction that does not detract from the delicious ripe fruitiness. Drink from 2023. Kysela Père et Fils. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

17

**94 Ben Haines 2017 Roussanne (Upper Goulburn).** Ben Haines has emerged as one of Australia's finest Marsanne producers, and here he proves he's just as deft with Roussanne, balancing heady aromatics, texture, freshness and complexity. Pale gold in hue, it bursts with aromas of bruised apple, nectarine, fresh ginger, flowers, nuts and smoke. It's creamy with phenolic complexity, sliced through with mouth-watering acidity and closing on a long apple note. Little Peacock Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$25

18

**95 Paltrinieri 2018 Radice (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** One of the best Lambruscos out there, this delicious, vibrant wine opens with enticing scents of wild red berry, yellow stone fruit, citrus blossom and a yeasty, comforting whiff of pastry dough. Made by carrying out the secondary fermentation in the bottle, the dry, delicious palate delivers pink grapefruit, crushed strawberry and tangerine alongside crisp acidity and a saline note. Lyra Wine. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$24

19

**93 Bonny Doon 2018 Le Cigare Volant Cuvée Oornuamua (Monterey).** Randall Grahm's ever-evolving ideology shifted again for the new label and blend of this bottling, which includes 52% Grenache, 35% Cinsault and 13% Syrah. Aromas of plum, cracked pepper, crumpled carnations and dried mint lead into a bright, refreshing palate of hibiscus, anise and a curry-like spice. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

20

**96 Malat 2017 Ried Steinbühel Riesling (Kremstal).** A ripe, intense pear aroma melds with touches of lemon and grapefruit on the nose. Juiciness is evident from the start, and the palate presents a joyfully vivid blend of ripe abandon countered by lovely freshness. It is lemony zestiness that wins over on the finish. This is lip-smacking, textured and pithy. Circo Vino. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

21



**96 Holus Bolus 2017 Presqu'île Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** Cool-climate Syrahs are often a bit brawny and untethered, yet this version raises the elegance factor like few others. Snappy raspberry, crumbled hibiscus and white pepper aromas are pinpointed and lean on the nose. Framed in a grippy tension, the palate combines black raspberry with rosemary, bay leaf and green peppercorns. Endless sensory fascination. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

22

**94 Château Clos Haut-Peyraguey 2016 Sauternes.** Dominated by Sémillon, this rich, luscious wine has layers of ripe fruit and intense concentration. Wood aging has sustained the richness of the wine and not overshadowed the ripe honey, candied citrus peel and hint of almond. It will age for many years. Drink from 2025. Bernard Magrez. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$21/375 ml

23

**93 Marangona 2018 Lugana.** Aromas of white spring flower, ripe orchard fruit and saline waft out of the glass in this fragrant, elegant white. Made from organic grapes, the smooth, savory palate possesses charm and tension, delivering flavors of creamy apple, tangy citrus and mineral before a white almond finish. Oliver McCrum Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

24



**93 Brandborg 2015 Gewurztraminer (Elkton Oregon).** Sourced from 30-year-old vines, this wine is exceptionally rich and concentrated, managing the trick of reflecting the characteristically floral aspect, yet not letting it dominate. Hints of hibiscus and baby powder are subtle and quickly let the ripe fruit flavors of apple, pear and orange marmalade carry the palate. Complex and long, it finishes dry, but with just enough ripeness to round it off. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$18

25

**94 Domaine Olga Raffault 2014 Les Picasses (Chinon).** Chalk soil on the slope up to the plateau above the town of Chinon gives this organic wine its mineral texture, which is allied to great fruit and spice. Wood aging lends generous, ripe tannins, the layers of black fruits are impressive and have aged well. Enjoy this fine wine now. Louis/Dressner Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

26

**95 Winzerkeller Andau 2017 Scheurebe Beerenauslese (Burgenland).** Subtle aromas of lemon and elderflower are bathed in glossy honey on the nose. The palate is rounded and sweet, with an alluring edge of nettle and lemon balm. Honey and candied lemon blossom are on the midpalate of this aromatic sweet wine. It is concentrated, vivid and long. Winemonger. —A.K.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$20/375 ml

27



**94 Ventisquero 2014 Vertice Apalta Vineyard (Colchagua Valley).** This blend of Carmenère and Syrah is sourced from the winery's best slopes at Apalta in Colchagua. Foresty aromas of cool underbrush, mint, menthol and blackberry feed into a palate with steely acidity, which this full-bodied red needs. Cassis, blackberry, mocha and tobacco flavors wind down on an appealingly oaky finish. Drink through 2030. Austral Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

28



**95 Iron Horse 2014 Wedding Cuvée Estate Bottled Sparkling Wine (Green Valley).** A blend of 72% Pinot Noir and 28% Chardonnay, this is a stunning vintage of the perennially impressive sparkler. Nutty and earthy, it sings in strawberry, wet stone and rose petal. The palate offers a lively mousse and persistent acidity, making it vibrant and easy to enjoy. —V.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

29

**93 Château d'Aqueria 2018 Tavel.** This medium-bodied, dry rosé offers intensely fresh, concentrated flavors of strawberry, raspberry and watermelon. It's juicy yet invigorating and mineral driven. A blend of Grenache, Clairette, Cinsault and Mourvèdre, it's a structured, penetrating wine that will gain depth and complexity through 2022 and serve well in the colder months with game or poultry. Kobrand. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

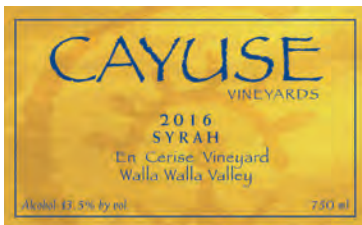
Price: \$22

**30**

**96 Renato Ratti 2015 Marcenasco (Barolo).** Enticing scents of ripe wild berry, star anise, menthol and fragrant blue flower mingle with whiffs of camphor and espresso. The smooth, precise palate offers crushed raspberry, Marasca cherry, licorice and dried botanical herbs alongside fine-grained tannins. Fresh acidity lifts the finish. Enjoy through 2027. LUX Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
abv: 14% Price: \$65

**31**

**95 Seghesio 2016 Pagani Heritage Grower Series Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley).** From a historic site comes this well-made wine, which includes 22% Alicante Bouschet in the mix. Barrel-aged for 16 months in French and American oak, it is lively, vibrant and fresh in acidity. Flavors of rich red fruit, tobacco, clove, rose and pepper are lush and lingering. —V.B.  
abv: 15.7% Price: \$48

**32**

**97 Cayuse 2016 En Cerise Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine displays an overt sense of funkiness out of the gate, with the rest of the aromas not entirely ready to reveal their charms. Charcuterie board, green peppercorn, asparagus, fresh tobacco, ashtray and soot notes emerge over time. Full, dense-feeling black olive and other savory flavors follow. The

intensity on the finish is commanding, and it lasts for a solid minute. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$90

**33**

**93 Château Peyros 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Madiran).** This blend of 80% Tannat and 20% Cabernet Franc is dense and boldly structured. Firm tannins dominate the powerful black-fruit flavor, producing a wine that still needs more aging. Drink from 2022. Baron Francois Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$21

**34**

**93 Diora 2017 La Splendeur du Soleil Chardonnay (Monterey).** Bright aromas of lemon candy, sea spray and lime balm meet with a touch of pastry on the nose. Rich flavors of white peach and sea salt ride a light and bright texture on the palate, which grows more oaky toward the finish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

**35**

**94 Giovanni Rosso 2017 Bianco (Etna).** Spanish broom, lemon drop and ripe orchard fruit are just some of the aromas you'll find on this stunning white. The aromas carry to the linear, elegant palate, with additional tones of Meyer lemon, apricot, Mediterranean herbs and salt. Tangy acidity provides balance throughout. Vias Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$39

**36**

**93 Domaine de la Pirolette 2017 Saint-Amour.** The 37-acre vineyard, one of the cru's largest, is on the hill of Saint-Amour, close to the village church. It has produced a juicy wine, full of a ripe strawberry flavor and bright acidity. Perfumed and textured, this wine is developing, but needs some time. Drink from 2020. David Bowler Wine. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

**37**

**94 Hyland 2017 Old Vine Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** Hyland has blended multiple clones for this old vine cuvée, and to good effect. A lush, tightly woven fabric of mixed berries, spicy plum and stewed cherries brings accents of bramble and underbrush. There's a seam of graphite, and the tannins carry a hint of dark chocolate. While lovely already, it can be enjoyed over the next decade. Drink through 2030. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$45

**38**

**95 Jean-Luc Baldès 2014 Clos Triguedina Les Selections Parcelles Les Galets (Cahors).** This is a beautifully structured wine, perfumed from wood aging and ripe in a black plum flavor. It is powered by concentrated tannins and dynamic, juicy fruit. This bottling is one of a trilogy of wines sourced from the different terraces in the vineyards, with this coming from the third terrace above the river. Drink from 2021. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$49

**39**

**94 Von Buhl 2016 Brut (Pfalz).** Whiffs of cookie crumbles and blossom introduce this bold Riesling sparkler. The palate is loaded with crisp pear and yellow apple flavors edged by a hint of copper and spine-tingling acidity. It's a rich, luxuriously textured wine with a long, penetrating finish. Rudi Wiest Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

**40**

**96 Lail 2016 Blueprint Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This is a stunningly beautiful wine that is ageworthy, complex and will stay with you long after it's gone. Tones of cedar, clove and cinnamon start it off, followed by a dusting of cocoa powder and toasted oak. Lingering threads of crushed rock, violet and currant carry the finish. It finishes soft and silky. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$80

41



**93** Elena Walch 2017 Vigna Castel Ringberg Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Structured and elegant, this Pinot Grigio shows enviable class and pedigree. It opens with delicate scents of white spring flowers, ripe pears and a whiff of dried Alpine herbs while the round, polished palate delivers creamy apple, honeydew and white almond. Fresh acidity lifts the rich flavors, while a tangy mineral note suggesting saline lingers on the close. USA Wine West. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

42

**93** Marc Kreydenweiss 2017 Andlau Riesling (Alsace). Citrus pith and zest appear first on the nose of this wine before peachy ripeness joins in. The palate surprises with its citrusy, absolutely dry concentration. It offers zippy slenderness and a yeasty backdrop. The wine needs a few more months to integrate but promises a bright future with its intense citrus freshness. Drink now–2030. AP Wine Imports. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

43

**95** Escarpment 2017 Kiwa Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Martinborough). From 30-year-old vines in deep alluvial gravels, this is a spicy and pristine wine that's approachable now but is also cellarworthy. A heady perfume of blueberries, pomegranates, tobacco leaves, scrubby Mediterranean herbs, florals and crushed stones kicks it all off. The palate takes it all to another level, bursting with crunchy, juicy fruit, crystalline-like minerality and savory spices, all threaded together with structured ultrafine tannins. Drink now–2029. Empson USA Ltd. —C.P.  
abv: 13% Price: \$60

44

**93** Soter 2017 North Valley Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). North Valley is the blended, midpriced tier of the Soter portfolio. This is a bright, spicy Chardonnay, with a

jumble of pear and melon fruit highlighted by a white flower aroma. It gains weight through the midpalate, with just a hint of barrel flavor from 6% new French oak. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$30

45

**92** Mustilli 2017 Sant'Agata dei Goti (Falanghina del Sannio). Enticing scents of green apple, peach blossom and crushed stone mingle together on this elegant white. It's vibrant and loaded with finesse, offering Anjou pear, Meyer lemon and minerality alongside bright acidity. The crisp, dry finish closes on a ginger note. Communal Brands. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$34

46



**93** García Figuero 2016 12 Crianza Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Full, smoky blackberry and cassis aromas are concentrated and ripe. Typical of Ribera del Duero, this feels full and flush, with fierce tannins. Blackberry, coffee and chocolate flavors soften a bit on a firm finish that holds off on the hammer. Drink through 2030. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$32

47

**93** Snake and Herring 2017 Tough Love Chardonnay (Margaret River). A graceful nose of grapefruit and orange starts off this wine and melds with salt, smoke, toast and crushed stone. The palate slithers along with a slick texture but cracks with crunchy acidity and a long, oyster shell finish. Drink now–2023. Saranty Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

48

**95** Arietta 2016 Quartet (Napa Valley). Winemaker Andy Erickson coaxes beautiful fruit and structure from this blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, many of the grapes from Coombsville and Carneros. Juicy and weighty on the palate in blackberry and blueberry, it offers firm, integrated tannin and undeniable

elegance, with lovely teases of dried herb, graphite and exotic spice. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$68

49



**96** Pyramid Valley 2016 Field of Fire Chardonnay (North Canterbury). The last vintage of the Weersing's gorgeous Chardonnays before the winery changed hands, this slightly cloudy, unfiltered Chardonnay sings of its place. Electric charges of minerals crackle with notes of lemon peel, bay leaf and fistfuls of freshly plucked wild herbs and flowers. The palate is utterly beautiful, with crystalline acidity that lifts flavors of limestone, citrus, salt, herbs and flowers. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

50



**95** Le Chiuse 2014 Brunello di Montalcino. Showing the firm's hallmark of remarkable elegance, this fragrant, linear red opens with enticing scents of red berry, blue flower, rose, white pepper and crushed herb. The vibrant palate boasts compelling finesse and tension, delivering juicy red cherry, strawberry compote, star anise and a hint of tobacco. Taut, refined tannins and bright acidity provide balance and seamless support. It screams out for food. Drink 2021–2029. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
abv: 14% Price: \$79

**51**

**95 Storm 2015 Vrede Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley).** There's an herbal edge right upfront on the nose of this wine, with some earthy foliage, raw cocoa nib and fresh-tilled dirt aromas that are amply supported by a fruity core of red cherry flesh, plum, wild strawberry and raspberry. The bright palate offers beautiful minerality, as pristine, pure red-fruit flavors are coupled with a saline burst on the midpalate and through the close. Fine tannins lend a subtle structure. It's well balanced, focused and precise, a gorgeous wine that is hard to resist now and should evolve well through 2028. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**52**

**94 Moët & Chandon 2012 Grand Vintage Brut (Champagne).** Collected, balanced and poised, this Champagne combines richness with freshness; fruit with minerality. It is still a young wine with acidity shining through the texture. It will age impressively, ready to drink from 2022. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$75

**53**

**92 Volpaia 2017 Chianti Classico.** Black-skinned berry, violet, new leather and tobacco aromas are front and center. Reflecting the nose, the smooth, approachable palate doles out juicy Marasca cherry, ripe plum, nutmeg and a hint of licorice framed by polished, pliant tannins. Drink through 2024. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**54**

**92 Château Tanunda 2016 Matthews Road Cabernet Sauvignon (Barossa).** This historic producer excels at Cabernet. This wine is broody and savory in notes of graphite, dried herbs and flowers amid the red currant and spicy oak notes. It's lifted by a focused line of acidity, which slices neatly through the savory tannins and grainy texture, making the fruit feel crunchy and tangy. There's something rustic yet classy

about this wine. Drink now–2026. AUSA Pacific. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**55**

**92 Bernhard Ott 2018 Am Berg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram).** Lemon zest, white pepper and salty yeast on the nose promise complexity. The palate is juicy and imbues that savory core with juicy pear and orange peel freshness. This is rounded but fresh with a lovely, long salty finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**56**

**92 José Maria da Fonseca 2017 José de Sousa (Alentejano).** Made in amphorae, this wine is ripe and full bodied, with an open character. Bold black fruits and ripe tannins bring out the richness of the wine. Spice comes from the wood aging, which adds an extra dimension. Drink from 2020. Palm Bay International. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**57**

**92 Elk Cove 2018 Estate Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley).** Intense in juicy, succulent fruit, this opens with lovely botanical aromas and flavors of ripe lime, grapefruit and fresh apple. The flavors are layered and deep, lifted by refreshing minerality. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**58**

**92 Barkan 2016 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee).** Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of black plum and earth. There is a pleasing mélange of fruit and savory flavors, with cassis, blackberry, anise and smoked meat backed by rigid tannins. The bright finish is laced with notes of Seville orange. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**59**

**92 Anselmo Mendes 2018 Muros Antigos Alvarinho (Vinho Verde).** From the Monção and Melgaço region, home to the producer, this wine is rich, deliciously smooth in texture while not losing sight of the bright acidity that is the hallmark of the grape. It is rich in white fruits that are shot through with layers of citrus. Grape2Glass. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**60**

**92 Margerum 2018 Sybarite Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Crisp pear flesh, lemon rind and white flowers show on the nose of this zesty, refreshing bottling by Doug Margerum. There's a stony grip to the sip, where citrus and Asian pear flavors compete for attention against the tremendously chalky texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**61**

**92 W.T. Vintners 2018 Underwood Mountain Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Columbia Gorge).** This is the first vintage where half the fruit was macerated for 36 hours. The variety is unmistakable, with aromas of green apple, citrus, pear, lentil and herb. Racy, intense acidity frames a textured palate. A sense of salinity heightens the interest. It's a benchmark for the state. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$22

62

**92** **Herdade do Rocim 2017 Rocim Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano).** This densely colored wine is packed with tannins, a black plum flavor and a firm structure. All of which suggests that this Catarina Vieira wine, from a warm south-facing vineyard, will age very well. Certainly don't drink before 2021, when the tannins will have softened. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

63

**92** **Granbazán 2017 Etiqueta Ámbar Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Lovely aromas of green melon and apple are on the money, as is all of this top-end Albariño from a highly reliable winery. Tight acidity matched with bold but fresh fruit make for an ideal palate, while this tastes of melon, apple and white pepper. A lively finish is jewel-like in its precision. Drink now. Europvin USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$24

64



**92** **Shannon Ridge 2017 High Elevation Collection Petite Sirah (Lake County).**

This full-bodied, full-flavored wine practically bursts with flavors of cocoa powder, blackberry and blueberry. It is dark, rich and concentrated, supported by a massive layer of fine-grained tannins but not so heavy that one couldn't drink it now with a nice, juicy cut of meat. Best after 2027. —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$23

65



CAMPAIGN FINANCED ACCORDING TO EU REG. N. 1380/2  
CAMPAGNA FINANZIATA AI SENSI DEL REG. UE N. 1380/2

**92** **Rivera 2013 Cappellaccio Riserva Aglianico (Castel del Monte).**

Grown on the limestone hills of the Castel del Monte region, this is an elegant Aglianico that displays an intense nose of crushed pink peppercorn, dried violet, hibiscus and tobacco. The medium-bodied palate is driven by persistent acidity and a mineral vein that are tightly coiled around tart red berry, spice and earth flavors. There's a lot of intensity to this wine that needs to unravel, including its firm, grippy tannins. Drink from 2022. Liber USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

66

**92** **Leon Beyer 2017 Gewurztraminer (Alsace).** Ripe pear, canned and fresh peach and Amalfi lemon have an edge of Damask rose about them on the nose of this wine. The palate is juicy but light, dry and lemony, carrying peachiness as a memory on the slender body. The finish is dry, lemony and refreshing. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$28

67

**92** **Raats Family 2017 Old Vine Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).**

On first sniff, a soft wood note jumps from the glass, but once you look past that, you get to toasted apple slices, orange peel and Honeycomb cereal tones beneath, with hints of dried fynbos, sage and lemon wax at the back. The mouthfeel is fleshy, almost generous, with solid wood-grilled apple and orange oil flavors that carry through to the close. Ample acidity and a pleasant texture kicks in to enliven the feel, with lovely spiced orange tea and dried fynbos tones lingering on the close. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —L.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

68



**92** **Scharffenberger NV Brut Rosé Excellence Méthode Traditionnelle (Mendocino County).**

This crisp and classy wine tastes dry and tight, but complex from the persimmon and raspberry aromas to the lively white raspberry and white peach flavors. It has taut acidity balanced by touches of spicy maturity that keep it interesting through the lingering finish. —J.G.

abv: 12%

Price: \$26

69



**93** **Domaine Jessiaume 2017 Les Cents Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune).**

One of the larger premier crus at the northern end of the Beaune vineyard, Les Cents Vignes is also one of the best known. This wine's ripe, juicy and generous fruit is a good reason why. With spice from wood aging and inspiring acidity, the wine is immediately attractive while also likely to age well. Drink from 2022. MS Walker. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$47

70

**93** **Abad Dom Bueno 2015 Carracedo Mencía (Bierzo).**

An opaque color and rich but mineral aromas of graham cracker, iodine, schist and mixed berry fruit tell you a lot about this excellent Mencía. Flavors of black cherry and dark plum maintain a brisk pace on a juicy finish that's tight and chiseled. Drink through 2028. Frontier Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50



71



**91 Sebastiani 2016 Merlot (North Coast).** Well-balanced and nicely concentrated, this full-bodied wine fills its firm frame with a core of rich black cherry and shades of roast beef and pepper. It shows firm tannins and good acidity to counter the deep fruit notes. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

72



**91 Domaine Bousquet 2018 Reserve Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato).** A deep color and ripe aromas of black fruits and prune convey the friendly conditions of 2018. This Cab is saturated and full in volume. Blackberry, raisin and cassis and chocolate flavors finish warm. If you like your Cabernets ripe and rich, this is in that mold. WISD LLC. —M.S. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

73

**91 Douloufakis 2017 Dafnios Liatiko (Crete).** Aromas of red currant, dark chocolate and black cherry start this delicious red from Crete. Structured and focused on the palate, its flavors of red berry and spices have a refined overall character. Diamond Importers Inc. —S.K. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

74

**91 Nobile 2018 Icon Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Despite a tough vintage, this wine is showing all of the hallmarks of classic Marlborough Sauvignon. Aromas and flavors of snow peas, tropical and citrus fruits and touches of salty oyster shell are ensconced in a creamy texture and deftly balanced by citrusy acidity. Constellation Brands, Inc. —C.P. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

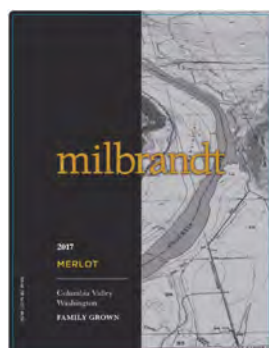
75

**92 Torres 2015 Salmos (Priorat).** Tarry black-fruit aromas include notes of grilled beef, licorice and peppery spice. A flush palate is smooth and friendly, with moderate acidity creating balance and layering. Flavors of blackberry and cassis include chocolatey oak, while this deals a lot of vanilla and mocha on the finish; enjoy through 2022. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —M.S. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

76

**92 E. Guigal 2015 Gigondas.** Pert black-cherry and blackberry flavors are anchored by an invigorating granite backbone in this bold but elegant red. It's lush and silky in mouthfeel, augmented by feathery tannins and sunny acidity, but maintains a vitality and earthen complexity that should hold well through 2025. Vintus LLC. —A.I. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

77



**91 Milbrandt 2017 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Plush red fruit, herb and eucalyptus aromas lead to scrumptious fruit flavors. This wine possesses a compelling sense of balance—a superb value that brings a sense of purity not always seen at this price. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

78



**91 Orgo 2018 Dila-O Dry Amber Wine (Rkatsiteli-Mtsvane (Georgia)).** Medium amber to the eye, this wine proffers a bouquet of apricot and jasmine. As expected, it is a bit grippy on the palate, with bright flavors of peach, Seville orange, baking spice and a

touch of brambles. Georgian House of Greater Washington, LLC. —M.D.

**abv:** 12.5%**Price:** \$16

79

**91 Cantina Zaccagnini 2018 Dal Tralcetto Dry Rosé (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** A wild strawberry and herb aroma carries a slight balsamic edge on the nose. The palate is well rounded and juicy in feel, with delicious red-cherry and strawberry flavors that are honed by bright acidity and a tangy slick of wet stone. Cherry-skin astringency marks the close, extending the fruit flavors into a medium-length finish. WinesU. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

80

**92 Avennia 2016 Gravura (Columbia Valley).** A blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon and 41% Merlot make up the majority of this wine, with the balance Cabernet Franc. With fruit coming from a who's who of vineyards, the aromas draw you into the glass, with notes of dried herb, flower, thyme, cherry and graphite, showing a sense of delineation and detail that heightens the appeal. Exquisitely balanced fruit flavors follow. Bittersweet chocolate notes linger on the long finish. It brings a sense of gracefulness but has enough structure to reward some time in the cellar. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S. **abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$40

81



**91 Empire Estate 2017 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** A well-honed mix of ripe peach and tangerine mingles with underscores of white blossoms and slate. The palate is broadly concentrated in fruit flavors of tart kumquat and passion fruit that are struck against a taut, astringent sensation. Persistent bursts of acidity keep this both succulent and tense, making the palate beg for more. —A.P. **abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$18

82

**91** Château d'Anglès 2017 Classique Syrah-Grenache-Mourvèdre (La Clape). This wine offers initial scents of iris and African violet that are coupled with dense fruit tones of black raspberry, boysenberry and plum. Hints of leathery spice, freshly tilled soil and garrigue oil also unfold with time. The palate is smooth upon entry, but then reveals a complex interplay between structured tannins, bold dark-fruit characteristics and ample acidity. The finish is enduring and evolving, with a lovely tea-like astringency and peppery spice on the back. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. **Editors' Choice.** —L.B.  
abv: 13% Price: \$18

83



**91** Terra d'Oro 2017 Barbera (Amador County). This full-bodied wine is polished, well-rounded and packed with generous fruit flavors. A baking spice aroma leads to rich berry flavors on the palate, while abundant yet soft tannins shape the velvety mouthfeel. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$18

84



**91** Lamadrid 2016 Single Vineyard Reserva Cabernet Franc (Agrelo). The combination of skilled Winemaker Hector Durigutti and this particular vineyard usually results in excellent Cab Franc, even in a poor vintage like 2016. This smells spicy, leathery and a touch earthy and green. A tight palate of firm tannins offers flavors of dark cherry, black plum and chocolate. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

85

**91** Commanderie de la Bargemone 2018 Rosé (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). This rich, structured wine, with its high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon, is ripe and fruity. It has a plenty of orange peel and red-berry freshness, finishing with a warm, full aftertaste. Drink now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$21

86



**91** Donnafugata 2018 Sur Sur Grillo (Sicilia). Loaded with fragrance, flavor and finesse, this savory white pushes all the right buttons, starting with inviting aromas of tropical fruit, citrus and white spring flowers. The fresh, medium-bodied palate doles out honeydew, Meyer lemon and Mediterranean herb alongside crisp acidity and a hint of saline. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
abv: 13% Price: \$21

87

**92** Vik 2015 Milla Cala Millahue (Cachapoal Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon-led blend opens with aromas of root beer, baking spices and cocoa along with naturally spicy berry scents. A lively palate is tannic while showing a firm grip and some bumpiness. Mocha and herbal berry and plum flavors are lightly chocolaty prior to a flush finish that echoes with spice. There's no mistaking this wine's Chilean DNA; drink through 2025. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.  
abv: 14% Price: \$45

88

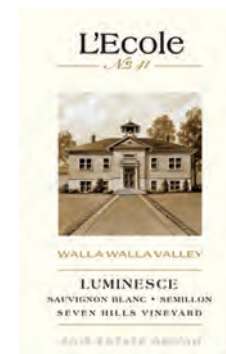
**91** Atwater 2017 North Block Six Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Bright aromas of cranberry, raspberry and hibiscus mix with shades of fresh green herbs and pepper in this vibrant Cabernet Franc. Flavors of juicy red berry and plum are propped up by tangy acidity and light, sandy tannins that extend the fruity tones on the lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

89



**91** Piattelli 2015 Trinità Grand Reserve (Luján de Cuyo). Ripe berry and fig aromas come with oak-based vanilla, cedar and tobacco notes. This Malbec-led blend is full and saturated on the palate, with measurable core acidity. A mix of oaky berry, vanilla and tobacco flavors finishes short, with more mocha and chocolate than anything else. Vinocopia. —M.S.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$22

90



**91** L'Ecole No. 41 2018 Luminesce Seven Hills Vineyard Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). Sauvignon Blanc takes the lead in this vintage, making up 55% of the blend. Aromas of fig, spice, corn husk and herb emerge on the nose. The palate is considerably more giving, with a creamy feel to the fig and spice flavors leading to a warm finish. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

91

**90** Carmen 2017 Frida Kahlo Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Beyond the cool concept label, there's a serious Cabernet Sauvignon in the bottle—one with steady aromas of cola and root beer along with berries and light oak. A flush palate deals a full fan of berry flavors, while rubbing tannins give grip to an otherwise easy finish. Drink through 2024. Trincherro Family Estates. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

92

**91 Contesa 2016 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo.** There's a fresh, bright intensity to this wine, with aromas of red plum, cherry, spiced barberry and crushed, mentholated herbs. The rounded palate shows ample concentration of red and black berries, supported by a firm grip of tannins and pervasive acidity. Drink from 2020. Vinifera Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

93

**91 Domaine Anthony & David Girard 2018 Les Monts Damnés Sauvignon Blanc (Sancerre).** A light touch of spice from partial wood fermentation has added to the richness of this wine. That is balanced against the steely edge of acidity and minerality. This wine is almost ready but will be better from early 2020. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

94



**90 Villa Sparina 2018 del Comune di Gavi (Gavi).** Spring blossom and white stone-fruit aromas shape the nose along with a whiff of botanical herbs. The savory palate doles out green apple, lemon drop and a tangy saline note alongside crisp acidity. It closes on an almond accent. Ethica Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

95

**90 Electra 2018 Moscato (California).** Quite sweet, but also quite tangy and well-balanced, this effusive, low-alcohol wine exudes lychee and floral aromas, offers honey and poached pear flavors and a rich texture buoyed by a touch of spritz and good acidity. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$16

96

**90 Franklin Tate 2017 Tate Shiraz (Margaret River).** This is a fine and affordable example of the spicy, elegant Shiraz produced in the moderate maritime climes of Margaret River. The nose is a mélange of plums, vanilla, pepper, baking spices and stalks, with a warm-stone minerality. The palate is full bodied but restrained. Sinewy graphite tannins slink around tangy fruit and savory, spicy nuances. Texturally, this feels like rolling a warm stone around in your mouth. The oak creeps in on the finish. Drink with a rare steak or juicy portobello mushroom burger. Indigo Wine Group. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

97

**90 St. Urbans-Hof 2017 Nik Weis From Old Vines Riesling (Mosel).** Slate and crushed earth tones permeate from start to finish in this racy, intensely mineral Riesling. Just a shade off dry on the palate, it offers concentrated tangerine and lemon-skin flavors offset by a steely tang. This vibrant wine should open and improve through 2022. HB Wine Merchants. —A.I.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$18

98



**90 Garzón 2017 Reserva Tannat (Uruguay).** For textbook, modern Uruguayan Tannat, look no further than this. A ripe black-fruit aroma melds with flowers, while this is smooth and balanced on the palate. Blackberry and spiced plum flavors are lightly touched by oak and peppery spice, with a steady finish that brings this home. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

99



**90 Odfjell 2017 Orzada Made With Organic Grapes Carignan (Maule Valley).** Ripe blackberry and dark plum aromas are aided by well-applied oak that gives off a note of maple. A high-intensity palate is full of fruit, which allows this to be both tough and lush. Bold flavors of wild berry and dark spices end with smoky notes and a hint of chocolate. Drink through 2023. Foley Family Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$21

100

**90 Barboursville Vineyards 2017 Reserve Viognier (Virginia).** Loads of fresh lemons are delivered on a bed of white flowers to make up the aroma. Ripe lemon and calamansi take on a lightly pithy edge on the palate, which is loaded with juicy acidity and crushed minerals. White pepper tones linger on the long, juicy finish. —F.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22