

WINEENTHUSIAST IMPORTER CONNECTION™

About Wine Enthusiast Importer Connection

Wine Enthusiast Importer Connection is a program designed to make the connection between importers and producers easier. Producers who are not currently imported in the United States can submit their products for a fee to be reviewed by expert tasters at our headquarters in New York. Each review will include a numeric rating, a detailed review, the full name of the product, detailed contact information for the producer, a suggested retail price tier (as reflected by a scale of one to four dollar signs \$-\$\$\$\$) and the product's alcohol, in abv, as reported by the submitter. All ratings and reviews of products that receive a score of 80 points or higher will be published in our [searchable database](#). Importers who are interested in a product can contact producers directly for more information and to discuss potential business relationships.

About the Scores

Ratings reflect what our reviewers 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 situation.

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

Symbol	FOB Winery	SRP (USD)
\$	< 4 euros	< \$10
\$\$	4–10 euros	\$10-25
\$\$\$	10–20 euros	\$25-50
\$\$\$\$	> 20 euros	> \$50

Tasting Methodology and Goals

All tastings are performed blind. Typically, products are tasted in peer-group flights of 4–8 samples. Pricing tier, production size, provenance and grape variety are not factors in assigning scores. When possible, products considered flawed or uncustomary are retasted.

Submitting Products for Review

Producers who are completely devoid of U.S. representation (excluding Puerto Rico) may submit products for review. Products submitted by producers that have any current U.S. representation, even in just one state, will be deemed ineligible for tasting, and the submission fee will not be reimbursed. There is a \$370 charge per wine for submitting products. In addition to the \$370 submission fee, producers will be responsible for any international shipping costs, import taxes, and U.S. customs filing and handling fees incurred, which will be billed separately by our preferred clearing house, The American Spirits Exchange Ltd. Once cleared and received, all products will be reviewed and published in the Wine Enthusiast Importer Connection newsletter as well as online in the searchable [Wine Enthusiast Importer Connection database](#). Submissions received without authorization and a completed online application will not be reviewed. Additional inquiries should be addressed to IC@wineenthusiast.net

Find all Importer Connection reviews on our fully searchable database at Importer-Connection.com

AUSTRALIA
SHIRAZ

Contact Company: Leogate Estate Wines Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Mark Woods
Contact Email: mark@leogate.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.12.46.12.86

94 Leogate Estate Wines 2014 Brokenback Vinyard Shiraz (Hunter Valley). This black and fully opaque wine sports a dashing sexy and seductive nose. It's restrained when first poured, primarily displaying its excellent intensity of minerals, asphalt and gunflint. With some time in the glass, flavors of black plum coulis, cassis and black cherry jam begin to unleash their charm. There's loads of power here, with an intense and dense midpalate, dry and textured tannins and a long finish. A food-friendly wine, it would benefit from cellaring but is fully enticing now. Drink through 2024.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Cape Barren Wines
Contact Name: Patrick Dowling
Contact Email: patrick@capebarrenwines.com
Contact Phone: 61 4.99.99.83.05

93 Cape Barren 2016 Native Goose Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Inky black at the core, this wine smells beastly in its promising, youthful complexity, offering aromas of black cherry-cough drops, violets and cassis. It is a richly fruited and approachable sip that surprisingly diverts to an intensely savory palate that doles out hints of peat, gunflint and grated hard spice. Round in feel, the scruffy tannins and lifting acidity hold this richly textured wine well within the boundaries of over-opulence. Toasty, spicy and chocolaty veins come through on the engaging finish. Drink now–2024.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Farmer's Leap Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Andrew Martin
Contact Email: admin@farmersleap.com
Contact Phone: 61 8.87.65.51.55

93 Farmer's Leap 2013 The Brave Shiraz (Padthaway). Boisterously ripe and full-bodied, this is a classy, nuanced and bewitching Shiraz. The warm, spicy flavors are reminiscent of mulled wine on the palate. An exotic array of peak summer plums and nuances of oil-cured black olives are attractive, while the moderately lingering finish is slightly heady. Drink now–2021.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$\$\$

Contact Company: Glen Eldon Wines
Contact Name: Richard Sheedy
Contact Email: richard@gleneldonwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.18.81.20.07

93 Glen Eldon 2014 Eight Barrels Single Vineyard Shiraz (Eden Valley). This wine is opaque black at the core and supremely ripe on the nose, expressing an onslaught of beautifully ripe fruit sprinkled with aged balsamic vinegar. They all fall in the baked category in some positive way, like black figs or confit black plums, and they are generously doused with an array of baking spices. Yet the wine is clearly dry and savory, with a combination of lightly leathery tannins and Goldilocks-like acidity pulling the wine into a long finish. Drink now–2024.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Irvine Wines
Contact Name: Will Hancock
Contact Email: whancock@irvinewines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.77.61.58.78

93 Irvine 2016 The Estate Shiraz (Eden Valley). This wine's dark-black color, subtly nuanced by magenta-purple streaks, promises to stain glasses and teeth. Its aromas are just as attention grabbing: full-throttle power comes through in one whiff. From nose to palate, it shows a cohesive array of lush, peak-of-summer fruits, with cassis and black plum dominating. Licorice, cracked black pepper and a waft of evergreen freshen up the back-palate along with well-measured, medium-plus acidity. The prolonged finish that coats the tongue offers a slightly grainy textural balance. This is so well-structured that you'll likely get to the bottom of the bottle before you expect. Drink now–2024.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Farmer's Leap Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Andrew Martin
Contact Email: andrew@farmersleap.com
Contact Phone: 61 8.87.65.51.55

92 Farmer's Leap 2013 Shiraz (Padthaway). Crepuscular black with a faint purple rim, this wine looks like a palate-buster, but the finesse of the structure here is impressive. Aromas of sweet plums and prunes sprinkled with cinnamon carry to the palate joining more baking spices as well as a succulent bacon flavor. Pillowly, smooth ribbons of lithe tannins run through the muscular, solidly concentrated core, supported by a feisty touch of acidity. This wine's charm now stems from its pervading, youthful fruit, but it will develop well for several years in bottle. Drink now–2021.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Glen Eldon Wines
Contact Name: Richard Sheedy
Contact Email: richard@gleneldonwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.18.81.20.07

92 Glen Eldon 2014 Dry Bore Shiraz (Barossa). Bold, generous and forward, this is like a good-looking person that makes you shake at the knees. It has a straight-on purity, the perfect amount of tone offset by curves and ample yet well-structured fruit. It all leads to a mouthwatering and moreish dousing of blackberries, succulent blueberries and elderberries. Lingering on the palate, with generous baking spice tones and an explosively vinous finish, this is one to keep around for any wine-friendly crowd. The forgiving but just-there tannins give way to highly refreshing acidity through the close. Drink now–2022.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Irvine Wines
Contact Name: Will Hancock
Contact Email: whancock@irvinewines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61. 4.77.61.58.78

92 Irvine 2016 The Estate Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This wine is so impressively black and opaque, with a Bonne Maman's Blackberry Preserves aroma. However, on the first sip it was actually rather fresh, delightfully nuanced and not at all approaching overripe. The first whiff offers a pine needle scent before the blackberry, black currant and tar pour in. It's an in-your-face wine that divulges highly nuanced layers once you taste past the bluster. The feathered, grippy feeling at the end of the long finish is a testament to its well-structured tannins. Drink now–2022.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Commodity Traders Australia Pty Ltd
Contact Name: John Sautner
Contact Email: john@trifonestatewines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.87.88.89.96

92 Trifon Estate 2012 Family Reserve Shiraz (Australia). Dense and brooding on the nose, as well as on the sultry palate, this wine is thoroughly saturated with the black-hued flavors of creosote and licorice. Well-balanced, high-toned aromas of, anise and dried wildflowers pop. Scruffy tannins and straightforward quinine bitterness are pleasant on the finish. Drink now–2022.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Glen Eldon Wines
Contact Name: Richard Sheedy
Contact Email: richard@gleneldonwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.18.81.20.07

92 Twisted Trunk 2013 Reserve Shiraz (Australia). Crepuscular in color, this wine is as mystical on the nose, with scents of purple fruits and violets. Despite the foreboding color, it is impressively fresh in fruit and structure on the palate. That's not for nothing, as the wine is dense, mouthcoating in extraction and decidedly full-bodied. The eucalyptus freshness aids the medium acidity and relaxed, creamy tannins impressively well. Perfect for big game or duck confit dishes in the midst of winter, this doesn't have to be popped open soon. It will age well for snowfalls to come, so enjoy through 2024.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$\$\$

Contact Company: Cape Barren Wines
Contact Name: Patrick Dowling
Contact Email: patrick@capebarrenwines.com
Contact Phone: 61 4.09.99.83.05

91 Cape Barren 2015 Old Vine Reserve Release Shiraz (McLaren Vale). This red smells generous and pleasant. Boisterous in its ripeness, it is nicely accentuated by cheek-piercing acidity and vaguely sand-papery tannins. Everything here is in primo balance. Vivaciously fresh, pure and spirited, it is ready to pour, but this should age well in the medium-term if not longer. Drink now–2021.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Haselgrove Wines Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Christophe Forel
Contact Email: cforel@haselgrove.com.au
Contact Phone: 88 3.23.87.06

91 Haselgrove 2016 First Cut Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Though deep, inky and brooding in the glass, this is surprisingly refreshing on the nose, with reviving scents of evergreen, licorice and myrrh. There is substantial vigor here, between the feisty, textured attack that brusquely rushes into the palate to the solidly vivacious, almost nervous refreshment that hits the lingering finish. This is all about unabashed texture and zip. Dashing and flamboyant, the layers of licorice, tar, charcoal and black currant should ease into several stages of delicious enjoyment. Drink now–2022.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Barramundi Wines
Contact Name: David Birch
Contact Email: d.birch@qws.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 3.50.24.99.00

90 Barramundi 2017 Shiraz (Australia). This wine's nose shows oodles of pure, youthful, energetic enticement. Deep magenta at the rim, it looks like a strand of black licorice at the core. On the nose, there are sweet cherry preserves to start, but with time and aeration, a tinge of beetroot turns up. It's a whirlwind of succulent summer berry fruits on the palate, with a savory black-pepper tone that is incredibly moreish. Everything here is poised—the perfectly curved, medium body; the well-placed acidity; and the just-perceptible film of tannin pressure on the solid finish. Drink now–2020.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$

Contact Company: G. Patritti and Co.
Contact Name: Ben Heide
Contact Email: ben@patritti.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.02.90.00.92

90 Patritti 2015 JPB Single Vineyard Shiraz (McLaren Vale). This wine smells like an irresistible come-on. It's wildly fruity, forwardly ripe and layered in fascinating scents from sweet summer fruits to savory, North African spices. The palate is more schoolmistress in its exacting qualities, with less plush, ripe fruits than the nose suggests. Moreover, the palate is seriously rigorous in grippy, gruff tannins. The wine's acidity is nicely knit, but its character is perky enough to strikingly emphasize the tannins. With some air, infiltrating notes of leather and smoky barbecue create a rusticity that makes you wonder if the wine will really age that long. For the medium-term, this should be a fun one. Drink 2019–2021.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$\$\$

Contact Company: Haselgrove Wines Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Christophe Forel
Contact Email: cforel@haselgrove.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 8.83.23.87.06

89 Haselgrove 2016 Catkin Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Blackout dark across the glass, this wine has a miniscule, black cherry-fleshed rim. The nose is dense, unyielding and seems to need time to air out. The palate is in total contrast to the wine's aromas, a knockout of flavor and power riddled with black currant, black raisin, glazed fig and a hint of top-notch balsamic vinegar. Full bodied, highly extracted and viscous, there's nonetheless a solid and racy backbone to make this work for bold-wine lovers. Drink now–2020.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Haselgrove Wines Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Christophe Forel
Contact Email: cforel@haselgrove.com.au
Contact Phone: 88 3.23.87.06

88 Haselgrove 2016 H Shiraz (South Australia). This wine boasts a Kalamata olive color coupled with magenta tears. Smelling of charcoal, peak-season mulberries and fig skin, this is a deeply ripe and intense wine. Vinous, weighty and a bit heady, this is a wine for hearty dishes or exuberant blue cheeses. There's plenty of extract, almost like an Amarone, with a resin-like tannic texture that keeps this in check. Very primary at this point in time, give this at least a year, if not longer, for a little more maturation; the black plum-preserve note crossed with a black olive flavor and dark chocolate sprinkle will meld delightfully for a while. Drink 2019–2021.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Terra Felix
Contact Name: Scott Washington
Contact Email: scott@periscopemanagement.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.02.41.31.25

88 Terra Felix 2015 Regional Series Shiraz (Heathcote). Once the bashful aromas are coaxed out of the glass, delicate notes of black cherry, plum, baking spice, graphite and subtle oak are quite delightful. The palate exposes intricate notes of milk chocolate, black pepper and sweet spice, which help to create quite a charming composition. Slightly bitter dark fruit and gripping tannins close things out with a fulfilling, medium-length finish.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Farmer's Leap Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Andrew Martin
Contact Email: andrew@farmersleap.com
Contact Phone: 61 8.87.65.51.55

87 Farmer's Leap 2015 Random Shot Shiraz (Padthaway). A touch of cloudiness peeks through this wine's dark appearance, and its reticent nose proves just as mysterious. This first sip, however, shows a wine ready to reveal all. Its flavors of mulberries, eucalyptus, aloe and bay leaf are nicely developed and saturate the finish. Interestingly, it's the wine's plant- and herb-based flavors that add the freshness, and they nicely prop-up the boisterous body in place of the rather laid-back acidity. The medium-length finish indicates this is better slurped up in the near- to medium-term. Drink now–2020.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Rockcliffe
Contact Name: Scott Washington
Contact Email: scott@periscopemanagement.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.02.41.31.25

86 Rockcliffe 2015 Single Site Shiraz (Great Southern). Hints of garrigue, juniper and vanilla give way to a core of high-toned black fruits on the nose and palate. There is a subtle floral note that lightens up this fruit-driven Shiraz, keeping it pleasant and playful. It's not overly complex, but a balance of fine tannins and medium acidity make it enjoyable right now.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Tertini Wines
Contact Name: Paul Dadd
Contact Email: paul.dadd@tertiniwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.88.34.22.46

81 Tertini 2015 Shiraz (Hilltops-Gundagai). Funky aromas of barnyard, earth, mushroom and wet dog mask the fruit in this wine. The palate reveals a sliver of blackberry and black cherry before the edgy, astringent finish leaves you feeling a little high and dry.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Contact Company: Byron & Harold Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Scott Washington
Contact Email: scott@periscopemanagement.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.02.41.31.25

90 Byron & Harold 2015 The Partners Cabernet Sauvignon (Great Southern). Unmistakably Cabernet, this is loaded with notes of black cherry, cassis, vanilla, licorice and forest floor. A medium- to full-bodied wine on the palate, it shows staunch balance, giving way to silky tannins and dark Bakers chocolate on the lengthy, satisfying finish.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Commodity Traders Australia Pty Ltd
Contact Name: John Sautner
Contact Email: john@trifonestatewines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.87.88.89.96

89 Trifon Estate 2013 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Australia). This wine is raven black in color, with a cooper-infused, garnet rim. Its shy, guarded nose smells of gravel and camphor, seeming to nod at old school Bordeaux styles. The palate, however, is markedly juicier, boldly accessible in ripe forest fruits accented by meaty, gamy tones. It is a consequential and somewhat foursquare red, with smooth yet chunky tannins and a whisper of acidic lift. It's sure to please, and would make a nice pick for a bistro menu. Drink now–2019.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Glen Eldon Wines
Contact Name: Richard Sheedy
Contact Email: richard@gleneldonwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.18.81.20.07

87 Glen Eldon 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Barossa). Deep black with a pleasantly rusty-colored edge, this wine is reticent in fruit, smelling of old meat, bouillon cubes and snippets of fresh herbs. Speaking of such ingredients, it would pair well with a traditional Provençal daube (or meat stew). It's definitely a wine for those who welcome touch of maturity, earthiness and grit in their wines. Those hankering for fruit-packed, easy-going sippers should pass here. It's solidly structured, muscled and full-bodied, with pronounced acidic brightness and gangly tannins. Drink this up while the remaining sloe jam-fruit tones remain. Drink now–2019.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Farmer's Leap Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Andrew Martin
Contact Email: andrew@farmersleap.com
Contact Phone: 61 8.87.65.51.55

86 Farmer's Leap 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Padthaway). Opaque in color, with a miniscule raspberry rim, this wine has a moderately fragrant nose. With the first sniff, there's an impressive lift of fresh aromas of camphor, cardamom and loganberry. The fruit is reserved, suggesting it has likely been a few years since it was released. It is now just a bit past its prime and ready to be drunk up. Those who like savory flavors will appreciate its evolution to tertiary tones, particularly the sanguine notes on the modest finish. Drink now–2019.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$

MERLOT

Contact Company: Irvine Wines
Contact Name: Will Hancock
Contact Email: whancock@irvinewines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.77.61.58.78

93 Irvine 2016 Spring Hill Merlot (Australia). Beetle-shell black and just shy of opaque, this wine's nose evolves enticingly. Its initial scents are blackberry and black plum, while thirty to ninety minutes of air coaxes out additional aromas of cola, licorice and menthol. In an impressive acrobatic move, the full-bodied palate feels impressively buoyant thanks to the lifting acidity. Slightly gravelly tannins nicely counter the lightly gummy texture. There's a compelling umami meatiness and sanguine hint on the medium-plus finish that seems to demand dry-aged rib-eye, though with this lovely balance and excellent depth of character, it will pleasantly partner any cut of steak. Drink now–2022.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Commodity Traders Australia Pty Ltd
Contact Name: John Sautner
Contact Email: john@trifonestatewines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.87.88.89.96

90 Lagoon View 2013 Single Estate Merlot (Goulburn Valley). This dark, black cherry-colored wine displays lots of dried flower-petal character dabbed with menthol. The palate tacks on a cornucopia of flavors, starting with blueberries and sweet strawberries and progressing to savory notes of musk and dried mushroom. Full-bodied, nuanced, lightly spicy and briskly balanced, this is destined to be a terrific wine by the glass. Its finish is just a touch short for more than medium-term keeping, and it's drinking so well now, why miss out on the moment? Drink now–2020.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$\$

PINOT NOIR

Contact Company: Tertini Wines
Contact Name: Paul Dadd
Contact Email: paul.dadd@tertiniwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.88.34.22.46

94 Tertini 2015 Pinot Noir (Southern Highlands). Dark maroon in the glass, with hints of copper, this wine's aromas are unmistakably enticing. The multilayered nose smells of mulberry, damp underbrush and well-worn leather. The palate intensifies those notes and adds dried rose petal and beef bouillon. With vibrant acidity, pleasantly tugging tannins and a noticeably, yet pleasantly, dry finish, this is a table-worthy, thought-provoking Pinot Noir that would take well to cellaring. The impressively long finish is the sort of denouement Pinotphiles pine for. Drink now–2024.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Barramundi Wines
Contact Name: David Birch
Contact Email: d.birch@qws.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 3.50.24.99.00

88 Barramundi 2017 Pinot Noir (Australia). This moderately pale yet bright ruby-red wine is delightfully forward. It smells of cherry candies, strawberries and violets, and its youthful effusiveness promises easy drinking. The palate delivers, with richly fruited, mouth-drenching flavors of watermelon and red plum plucked from a fresh-baked cobbler. The attack spreads smoothly and quickly across the tongue then lights up the back-palate with near-pungent acidity. Nicely balanced, with plenty of fruit freshness, this smartly-crafted, unoaked wine will charm the crowds. With only moderate concentration and complexity but terrific liveliness, there's no reason not to enjoy this bottle now. Drink through 2019.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$

OTHER RED WINES

Contact Company: G. Patritti and Co
Contact Name: Ben Heide
Contact Email: ben@patritti.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.02.90.00.92

92 Patritti 2014 Saperavi (Barossa Valley). This jet-black wine shows impressive color saturation. Its rather straightforward nose is wound up in youthful angst for now, but the palate is more demonstrative, showing blackberries, cassis, fresh fig paste and violets. In fact, with about half an hour of air, enormous flavor punches out of the glass. The flavors drift into a sultry realm of cracked black pepper and creosote, while the pleasantly pithy palate offers layers of texture that lead into the lingering finish. The nicely full-bodied and viscous palate shows tannic crunch and zippy acidity, suggesting this well-concentrated wine should age nicely. Drink now–2022.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Haselgrove Wines Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Christophe Forel
Contact Email: cforel@haselgrove.com.au
Contact Phone: 88 3.23.87.06

90 Haselgrove 2016 Switch GSM (McLaren Vale). This fresh and chirpy wine is packed generously with crunchy blackberries and black plum peels. The feisty attack tastes like a zingy mouthful of early summer berries. Highly structured, with racy acidity and slightly stringy tannins, the mouthfeel seems a dichotomy to its moderate alcohol. There's no evident sign of new oak here, and all the elements are nicely aligned. This big red is a terrific choice for summer sipping when you're looking for a heftier, but not too hefty, red. Drink now–2020.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: G. Patritti and Co Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Ben Heide
Contact Email: ben@patritti.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.02.90.00.92

90 Patritti 2015 Marion Vineyard Grenache-Shiraz (Adelaide). This dark, blackberry-colored wine smells strikingly like an exotic bazaar. Savory North African and Silk Road spices swirl together with accents of gaminess. Surprisingly, the palate turns out less brooding than the nose suggests. It starts with some candied cherries and tart pomegranates then shows edges of nougat and violet candies. Decisively well-balanced, it's silky in texture, with excellent acidic liveliness that segues into a pithy, dry finish. Big boned yet showing subtle oak, this would be a good wine by the glass. It's drinking well now and while it might hold, there seems little reason to wait. Drink now–2020.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: G. Patritti and Co Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Ben Heide
Contact Email: ben@patritti.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.02.90.00.92

89 Patritti 2015 Red (McLaren Vale). This fresh and pure dark-cherry-colored wine is rather monotone on the nose. This first impression extends onto the palate, delivering a pure and straightforward flavor of mixed forest berries. It's a deeply Grenache-like wine, with no evident new oak and very little Mourvèdre showing through. With only moderate extraction delivering some pleasantly textured tannins to the dense yet vivacious midpalate, this would pair perfectly with barbecue fare. Drink now–2022.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Cape Barren Wines
Contact Name: Patrick Dowling
Contact Email: patrick@capebarrenwines.com
Contact Phone: 61 4.99.99.83.05

88 Cape Barren 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Cabernet Franc (McLaren Vale). Dense, roasted black fruits explode from the overtly lush nose of this wine. Endowed with youthful vigor, its explosive ripeness has broad appeal. However, its exuberant alcohol, soft acidity and even softer tannins could make this a polarizing bottling: a race-to-the-last-glass glugger for some and a one-glass wonder for those preferring a more restrained selection. Toward the finish, a tarry, fruit leather-like quality brings on some definition and palate-drying texture. The finish is medium in length, with those same rather monotone though innocuous black-fruit notes. Drink now–2020.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Leogate Estate Wines Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Mark Woods
Contact Email: mark@leogate.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.12.46.12.86

88 Leogate Estate Wines 2015 The Gatecrasher Balmain (Central Ranges). Very close to opaque, this wine's jammy nose also shows a pleasantly lifting note of eucalyptus. Dense and concentrated on the brooding midpalate, it is packed with smashed, uberripe mulberry and plum, as well as musk and pipe tobacco. It's a bit thick on the palate thanks to a plush, full body and velvety texture, but there's just enough lift to make this a go-to for those liking chunkier, more rustic reds. An ambitious wine with good fruit concentration and a hint of toasty oak, drink this now–2020.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$

Contact Company: Leogate Estate Wines Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Mark Woods
Contact Email: mark@leogate.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 412 461 286

87 Leogate Estate Wines 2016 The Gatecrasher La Perouse Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Central Ranges). This wine's penetrating color ranges from blood orange to auburn, a surprising palette for a wine with such vividly youthful fruit flavors. Bright and perky on the nose, its ample, full-bodied fruit plumps up the midpalate with plums and boysenberries. A light brushstroke of oak spice expands the wine's limited flavor dimensions. The sandy and somewhat gruff tannins give the wine a grainy texture and dry finish, dominating the lightly lifting acidity. Drink now–2020.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$

Contact Company: Irvine Wines
Contact Name: Will Hancock
Contact Email: whancock@irvinewines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.77.61.58.78

84 Irvine 2015 The Estate Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Cabernet Franc (Eden Valley). A somewhat generous nose brings about aromas of candied cherry, plum, cola and Concord grape. Hints of tomato leaf and dried Italian herbs add an intriguing character. The palate offers a soft and juicy mouthfeel, with plenty of black fruit flavors, yet it can't shake a persistent grape juice character that carries through to the medium-length finish.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$\$

CHARDONNAY

Contact Company: Credaro Family Wines
Contact Name: Scott Washington
Contact Email: scott@periscopemanagement.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.02.41.31.25

92 Credaro 2015 1000 Crowns Chardonnay (Margaret River). This is a sophisticated and ageable Chardonnay. Layers of baked apple, pear and melon are delightfully balanced by the well-integrated oak flavors of buttered popcorn and yeasty lees. The soft, lush texture coats the palate, bringing on the long, elegant finish. This will certainly improve through 2023.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Cape Barren Wines
Contact Name: Patrick Dowling
Contact Email: patrick@capebarrenwines.com
Contact Phone: 61 4.99.99.83.05

87 Cape Barren 2016 Native Goose Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills). While somewhat guarded on the nose, exhibiting mineral and floral aromas, this wine's fruit expression is revealed on the palate by waves of grapefruit, lemon peel and green apple. The fresh green fruit delivers, while the mineral-driven acidity adds to the crisp, medium-length finish.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Tertini Wines
Contact Name: Paul Dadd
Contact Email: paul.dadd@tertiniwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.88.34.22.46

86 Tertini 2016 Chardonnay (Tumbarumba). This is tight at first, only showing just a glimpse of what it has to offer. However, with a little aeration, the lime zest, green apple and white floral flavors find their way onto the palate. A glimmer of earthy wet-wool character is revealed on the midpalate, while the stony minerality and exotic spices add to the crisp, medium-length finish.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Barramundi Wines
Contact Name: David Birch
Contact Email: d.birch@qws.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 3.50.24.99.00

84 Barramundi 2017 Crisp Chardonnay (Australia). Pale lemon in color, the nose features bright green apple and pear at odds with the quirky aromas of cough drops, smoked tobacco and sour lemon. Fairly high acidity keeps this wine moving along, but the ripe finish and confusing flavor profile are a bit off course.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$

OTHER WHITE WINES

Contact Company: Leogate Estate Wines Pty Ltd
Contact Name: Mark Woods
Contact Email: mark@leogate.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.12.46.12.86

91 Leogate Estate Wines 2014 Brokenback Vineyard Semillon (Hunter Valley). This wine is superpale in color and spicy on the nose. The palate leads to loads of resinous characters, with a pithy peach-skin flavor and texture. Though incredibly light in alcohol, it has plenty of heft to stand up to brioche-encrusted melted cheeses or savory apple and cheese sausages. Showing well now, it's so delightful that it's pointless to wait to enjoy it, though it can last. Drink now–2020.

abv: 11%

Price: \$\$

Contact Company: Glen Eldon Wines
Contact Name: Richard Sheedy
Contact Email: richard@gleneldonwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.18.81.20.07

88 Glen Eldon 2016 Riesling (Eden Valley). This wine offers a waxy nose, with hints of just-ripe pineapple and green bean. Though it feels medium in body, the high-energy acidity keeps this wine's spine nicely rigid. This is a savory wine for salty shellfish as well as well-aged, hard cheeses that can match the bitter, crystalline side of the palate's bite. The remaining fruit may soon start to fade, but this should develop nicely with secondary and tertiary characters, as Australian Riesling tends to do. Drink now–2020.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$\$

Contact Company: Commodity Traders Australia Pty Ltd
Contact Name: John Sautner
Contact Email: john@trifonestatewines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.87.88.89.96

87 Lagoon View 2015 Single Estate Riesling-Traminer (Goulburn Valley). All of the obligatory descriptions for these varieties happily apply here: orange blossom, golden raisin, kumquat and dried pineapple. A medium-bodied wine, it boasts serious juiciness and a strong aromatic appeal bolstered by scintillating acidity that many will find hard to deny. Ideal as an aperitif or with young cow or sheep cheeses. Drink Now.

abv: 12%

Price: \$\$

Contact Company: Tertini Wines
Contact Name: Paul Dadd
Contact Email: paul.dadd@tertiniwines.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 4.88.34.22.46

87 Tertini 2015 Arneis (Southern Highlands). This medium-deep, yellow colored wine is very restrained on the nose. The palate comes through with a nice youthfulness of daisies, yellow plums and just-ripe peach-skin tones. Its rather simple, mineral character showcases struck-flint tones and finishes modestly. Enjoy before the freshness fades, so drink now.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$\$\$

Contact Company: Barramundi Wines
Contact Name: David Birch
Contact Email: d.birch@qws.com.au
Contact Phone: 61 3.50.24.99.00

86 Barramundi 2017 Pinot Grigio (Australia). What a pretty nose this wine has, stuffed with a bouquet of spring flowers, apricot pit and walnut shell. It is supple and round in the blossom of youth, showing just enough mouth-watering relief to balance its sexy, vinous, curvy spirit. Despite the exuberance of fruit, the finish is nicely pithy and dry. Drink now–2019.

abv: 12%

Price: \$

RHÔNE VALLEY RED WINES

Contact Company: Nicolas Pere & Fils
Contact Name: M Nicolas François-Xavier
Contact Email: fxnicolasvins@orange.fr
Contact Phone: 64 7.33.19.21

91 Nicolas Pere & Fils 2015 Le Jardin des Papes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A classic Châteauneuf nose from the get go, this opens with penetrating aromas of black cherry, olive, smoked meat, black pepper, tobacco and just a dollop of garrigue for good measure. Savory and round on the palate, there is a harmonious balance between focused fruit, ample acidity and firm, gripping tannins, providing evidence that this wine will only improve with a few years in the cellar.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$\$\$

Contact Company: SARL Wines and Brands
Contact Name: Radhouane Essakhi
Contact Email: radhouane@winesandbrands.com
Contact Phone: 33 7.83.93.24.51

86 Wines and Brands 2016 Finally! (Costières de Nîmes). Quirky branding aside, this is a pretty well-crafted Grenache-Syrah blend. Lots of dark fruit, black pepper, sweet spice and a hint of vanilla shavings make this wine super easy to enjoy. Soft, lush and round on the palate, this is a no-brainer everyday-value wine.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$

Contact Company: Nicolas Pere & Fils
Contact Name: M Nicolas François-Xavier
Contact Email: fxnicolasvins@orange.fr
Contact Phone: 64 7.33.19.21

85 Nicolas Pere & Fils 2015 Essentielle (Côtes du Rhône). This is fairly straightforward, with somewhat guarded aromas of red and black cherry, raspberry and black pepper. Light on its feet, faint floral and savory flavors emerge on the palate and carry through to the slightly austere, medium-length finish.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON RED WINES

Contact Company: Véronique JeanJean
Contact Name: Roger JeanJean
Contact Email: contact@millesimesud.fr
Contact Phone: 33 6.62.31.34.34

90 Domaine de l'Argenteille 2016 Garric (Terrasses du Larzac). This is a straightforward, enjoyable red from start to finish. It unleashes pure and rich black cherry, cassis, strawberry and vanilla aromas on the nose that carry through to the medium-bodied palate. With a soft, lush mouthfeel, there is nothing overly complex here, just a well-rounded and enjoyable wine.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Château Saint-Estève
Contact Name: Isabelle Fihey
Contact Email: contact@chateau-saint-esteve.com
Contact Phone: 33 4.68.43.32.34

89 Château Saint-Estève 2016 Cuvée Classique (Corbières). A complex fruit core of black cherry, blackberry and cranberry are at the heart of this sophisticated Corbières. Lacings of eucalyptus, roasted coffee and smoked meat accompany the fruit on the nose and palate, adding character along the way. Silky, smooth tannins and a medium-length finish cap things off.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Domaine La Toupie
Contact Name: Jérôme Collas
Contact Email: contact@domainelatoupie.fr
Contact Phone: 33 7.86.28.99.52

89 Domaine la Toupie 2016 Qua Tuor (Côtes du Roussillon Villages). Showing a glistening purple hue in the glass, the jammy red fruit, kirsch and black cherry aromas are surrounded by smoked cedar, graphite and touches of smoked meat and earthy funk. The palate reveals the same concentrated fruit, but with a little more cherry-cola spice. It's a rather full-bodied wine, with a moderately long, dry finish that will benefit from a few years of cellaring.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: SARL Famille Fabre
Contact Name: Clémence Fabre
Contact Email: clémence@famille-fabre.com
Contact Phone: 33 4.68.27.10.80

88 Bergerie de Rieux 2016 Minervois. The bright purple color is telling of the ripe and fresh fruit at play here. Sprightly red cherry, strawberry and pretty lavender notes leap out of the glass and continue on to the medium-bodied palate. Lively acidity and sleek tannins keeps the wine vibrant and expressive right through the finish.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$

Contact Company: Château Rouquette sur Mer
Contact Name: Jacques Boscary
Contact Email: bureau@chateaurouquette.com
Contact Phone: 33 4.68.65.68.65

88 Château Rouquette sur Mer 2015 Clos de la Tour Mourvèdre (La Clape). Deep ruby in color, the intense nose of this wine shows black cherry, blackberry, olive and peppery spice. It comes across more silky and full of finesse than the powerhouse it appears to be up front. The palate offers similar black fruit and spice as the nose, but thins out a bit in the middle. However, the medium-length finish is smooth and dry, leaving that lovely fruit and spice behind.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$\$

Contact Company: Domaine Chabbert
Contact Name: Patrick Besson-Léaud
Contact Email: patrick@lacroixdesaintjean.fr
Contact Phone: 33 6.10.60.44.48

87 Domaine Chabbert 2016 Minervois la Livinière. Dark and brooding on the nose, the black fruit core of this wine is enhanced by aromas of dark cocoa, sweet spice and vanilla. It has a s'more like quality on the palate—chocolate and smoky cedar are sandwiched by a graham cracker flavor that begs for a campfire cookout. The oak is a tad overly assertive, but it's certainly an enjoyable wine overall.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Domaine Costes-Cirgues
Contact Name: Imogen Berry
Contact Email: costescirgues@gmail.com
Contact Phone: 33 4.66.71.83.85

86 Domaine Costes-Cirgues 2014 Bois du Roi (Languedoc). A medley of black raspberry, dried herb and tobacco aromas are lifted by subtle savory and floral notes. The palate brings about a rustic, earthy and chewy character, with dark fruit flavors following through to the smooth, if somewhat brief, finish.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Domaine Mas Cremat
Contact Name: Jeannin Julien
Contact Email: mascremat@mascremat.com
Contact Phone: 33 6.16.58.06.61

86 **Domaine Mas Cremat 2016 MC L'Envie (Côtes du Roussillon).** Delicate and more reserved in style, the nose emits mostly red berry fruit with subtle though enticing notes of olive, pepper and black tea. An austere yet accessible wine, the medium-bodied palate echoes the aromas.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Les Caves Rocbere
Contact Name: Philippe Dunoguier
Contact Email: p.dunoguier@rocbere.com
Contact Phone: 33 7.88.36.24.54

84 **Tamaroque 2014 Corbières.** A little reserved on the nose, this offers some fresh red-fruit and blackberry aromas that emerge after a little swirling of the glass. The fruit is pretty enough to give this wine a little flash, but it remains fairly linear from start to finish.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$

ROSÉ

Contact Company: Domaine du Mas Rouge
Contact Name: Julien Cheminal
Contact Email: contact@domainedumasrouge.com
Contact Phone: 33 4.67.51.66.85

86 **Domaine du Mas Rouge NV Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** Fresh, clean and vibrant red-fruit aromas carry this perky rosé from start to finish. Boasting bright red cherry, strawberry and a touch of rose petal on the palate, the crisp acidity follows through on the surprisingly long, fruit-filled finish.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$

WHITE WINE

Contact Company: Mas du Chene
Contact Name: Emmanuelle Delon
Contact Email: delon.emmanuelle@gmail.com
Contact Phone: 33 6.81.56.02.65

85 **Mas du Chêne 2016 Marche Avant (Gard).** This gold-colored white wine displays its smoky and oaky side up front, with hidden doses of green apple, peach and burnt sugar hiding in the shadows. On the palate, the smoky and woody notes continue to take center stage. While the fruit is certainly detectable, the balance feels a bit off keel.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$\$

SOUTHWEST FRANCE RED WINES

Contact Company: Domaine Preignes le Neuf
Contact Name: Beatrice Lasserre
Contact Email: contact@preignesleneuf.com
Contact Phone: 33 4.67.21.51.48

88 **Domaine Preignes le Neuf 2016 Marselan (Coteaux de Béziers).** Crafted in a New World style, the fairly expressive nose offers a hearty combo of black cherry, vanilla and oak. The dark cocoa and baking spices kick in on the medium-bodied palate, a little lighter than expected for a wine that was boasting brawny muscles upon entry. Still, it maintains a healthy balance of acid, firm tannins and focused fruit straight through to the finish.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$

Contact Company: Eurl Clamens
Contact Name: Charlotte Humblot
Contact Email: charlotte.humblot@chateau-clamens.fr
Contact Phone: 33 6.98.70.52.14

87 **Château Clamens 2014 Caractères (Fronton).** This Negrette, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon blend comes out swinging, with high-toned black-fruit aromas that are accompanied by vanilla, licorice and lingering floral notes. Some dried fig and prune flavors join in on the medium-bodied palate, but it lacks a bit of depth and structure. What it wants in concentration it makes up for in its zesty, lively character.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$\$

Contact Company: Domaine Serre de Bovila
Contact Name: Philippe Romain
Contact Email: philippe@vignoblesromain.com
Contact Phone: 33 5.63.31.02.82

86 **Serre de Bovila 2012 La Conquista Malbec (Cahors).** Fruit-forward notes of red cherry, raspberry and cranberry lead the charge on the nose of this wine. It's a bit lighter than anticipated on the palate, with some bitter, stalky flavors emerging on the midpalate. There is enough complexity and balance here to keep it interesting and enjoyable. Drink now.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$\$

ROSÉ

Contact Company: Chateau Clamens
Contact Name: Charlotte Humblot
Contact Email: chateauclamens@orange.fr
Contact Phone: 33 5.61.82.45.32

87 Chateau Clamens 2017 Prestige Pinot Saint Georges Syrah-Cabernet Franc Rosé (Fronton). Exuding a light salmon color in the glass, this rosé offers well-developed red fruit on the nose, including baked cherry and strawberry, with a hint of oak in the mix. It thins out slightly on the palate, revealing some sourness, but the balance of acidity, hints of oak, baked fruit and spice flavors are enough to keep this wine interesting and enjoyable.

abv: 13%

Price: \$

WHITE WINE

Contact Company: Eurl Clamens
Contact Name: Charlotte Humblot
Contact Email: charlotte.humblot@chateau-clamens.fr
Contact Phone: 33 6.98.70.52.14

87 Clamens 2016 Juliette (Fronton). A lovely nose of lemon peel, apricot, green apple and honeysuckle pleasantly jumps out of the glass. This medium-dry wine exposes its sweeter side on the palate, with slightly overpowering apricot, peach and more honeysuckle flavors. This finish is quite long and sweet, but could use a bit more acidity to balance it out.

abv: 12%

Price: \$