

# THE ENTHUSIAST 100 OF 2017

*Our definitive list of the year's  
most exceptional wines.*

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST

**As** the number of wines reviewed in *Wine Enthusiast* continues to climb higher and higher, with nearly 23,000 wines tasted in 2017, we are perpetually seeking opportunities to tell thirsty readers about what we're drinking. We strive to offer resources that please all palates and help make the most of your vinous adventures.

To that end, we take it upon ourselves to annually recap a year's worth of tasting with our three Top 100 lists. In the November issue, we compile our Top 100 Best Buys, a roster of wines that exhibit excellent quality-to-price ratios. For the December 1 issue, we share our Top 100 Cellar Selections, a list of stand-out wines with serious long-term potential.

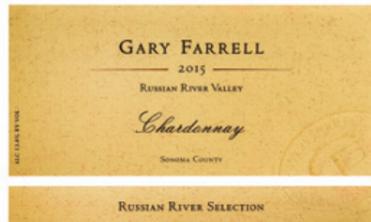
Now comes the *pièce de résistance*: The Enthusiast 100.

A showstopper in its own right, this best-of-the-best list illustrates the fantastic variety of wines available to consumers today. It features selections from 17 countries—including vibrant whites, rich reds, succulent rosés, brilliant bubbles and intense sweet wines—ensuring there's something for even the most discerning wine lover. Beyond the bewildering array, this list boasts an average score of 94 points and median price of \$35, which translates to an incredible bang for your buck.

This year's top spot goes to a Russian River Valley Chardonnay, the first No. 1 white wine in over 10 years! For its display of excellent quality, competitive pricing and wide availability—a veritable triple threat—the Gary Farrell 2015 Russian River Selection Chardonnay could not be overlooked as the top wine this year.

You'll find plenty of other killer selections on the list. And all of them, from California, Italy, France and beyond, are waiting for you. Just act quickly before stocks run out.





**95 Gary Farrell 2015 Russian River Selection Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A scent of French butter offers an immediate invitation to this excellent wine. Austerity on the palate gives way to a juicy core of invigorating tangerine and white peach flavors. The gravelly minerality on the midpalate finishes softly and with ease. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$35



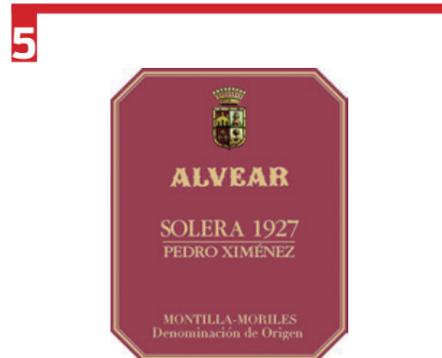
**97 Produttori del Barbaresco 2011 Rabaja Riserva (Barbaresco).** Combining finesse and structure, this impressive wine opens with alluring aromas of mature berry, pressed rose, aromatic herb, star anise, new leather and a balsamic note. The palate shows depth and tension, offering raspberry compote, Marasca cherry, licorice, clove and pipe tobacco alongside taut refined tannins. Hold for even more complexity. Drink 2019–2031. Vias Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**96 Alta Vista 2013 Single Vineyard Temis Malbec (Mendoza).** Just when you think Alta Vista has gotten everything it can from Temis (see the 2012), this comes along to reset the benchmark. Ripe, round and lush on the nose, with full-force blackberry and prune aromas, this shows titanic grip, depth and ripeness on the

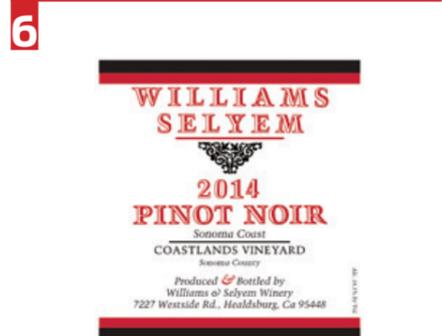
palate. Flavors of raisin, chocolate and blackberry finish with hefty tannins and a smear of mocha flavor. Drink from 2018–2026. Kobrand. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$48



**95 Trimbach 2013 Réserve Riesling (Alsace).** Pure citrus zest rises from the glass: lovely, ripe lemon and zesty lime. The palate reinforces these flavors in a rapier-like fashion, with drive and energy in a very linear, energetic way. This seems like an elixir or a tonic full of vim, all informed by a central dynamic freshness. It has barely blossomed, but promises much future pleasure. This genie should be contained in its bottle for a while longer before letting it loose. It's something to look forward to. Drink 2020–2035. Esprit du Vin. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$34



**96 Alvear NV Solera 1927 Pedro Ximénez (Montilla-Moriles).** One of the world's best PX wines is Solera 1927, the pride of Alvear. Whatever solera stocks went into this bottling were well selected. Aromas of maple and fine wood turn to fig and caramel. Saturation and weight on the palate are expected, but this has some (though not a lot) acidic cut. Deep flavors of fig and Nutella finish with nuttiness and warmth. Drink or hold. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$30/375 ml



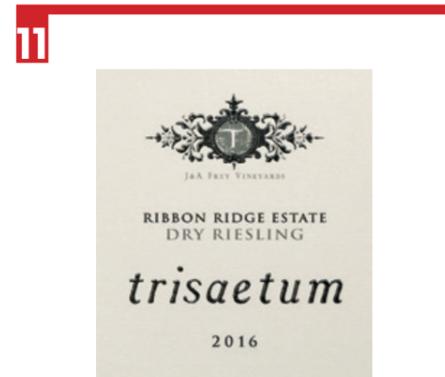
**98 Williams Selyem 2014 Coastlands Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Pretty as all get-out, this wine is a floral masterpiece—a study in coastal rose and forest scents with a counterpunch of white pepper that leaves one wanting more. Juicy raspberry, strawberry and tangerine flavors are seasoned in allspice and tobacco, the palate so beautifully delicate yet fully realized in savory complexity and length. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$75

**95 Abbazia di Novacella 2015 Praepositus Kerner (Alto Adige).** You'll need to swirl the glass a few times to release the enticing scents of yellow stone fruit, Alpine herb and an intriguing smoky note. The savory vibrant palate is more expressive, delivering layers of crunchy green apple, zesty tangerine and juicy yellow peach set against crisp acidity. A flinty mineral note graces the lingering finish, lending even more depth. Drink through 2020. Abbazia di Novacella USA. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**94 Château Vignelaure 2016 Rosé (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** This is one of the classics among Provence rosés. Produced from organically grown grapes and coming from an impressive red-wine-producing estate east of Aix-en-Provence, the wine is structured and ageworthy with its blend that includes Cabernet Sauvignon. Rich and full of red fruits, the wine is ready to drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**97 Taylor Fladgate NV 325 Anniversary Port.** This is a superb blend of aged tawny Ports, blended to celebrate the company's 325th anniversary. Filled with rich fruit, it has great depth and spicy richness although it is also impressively fresh. Dried fruits and red plums are lifted with a hint of smoky wood and good acidity. Like any tawny Port, it is ready to drink. Kobrand. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$40

**95 Easton 2014 Old Vine Rinaldi Vineyard Zinfandel (Fiddletown).** A gorgeous aroma like roses and blackberries meets richly concentrated and ripe black-fruit flavors in this full-bodied, luxuriously textured wine. While extremely ripe and bold, the wine is also smooth and voluptuous, balanced out by silky tannins that keep the mouthfeel lively and fresh sip after sip. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30



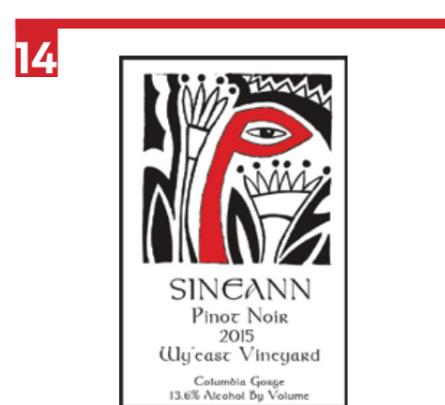
**96 Trisaetum 2016 Ribbon Ridge Estate Dry Riesling (Ribbon Ridge).** Stunningly good, this hits you with waves of fruit, acidity and spice. It reverberates across, down and through the palate, recalling clover, citrus zest and grapefruit, all underlaid by bracing minerality. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$32

**96 Colomera & Garella 2013 Pizzaguerra (Lessona).** This stunning red is all about finesse and light. It opens with lovely scents of violet, rose, perfumed berry and balsamic aromas while the radiant, almost ethereal palate delivers

crunchy red cherry, strawberry, white pepper and mineral intensity. It's impeccably balanced, with bright acidity and firm but elegant tannins. While it's so tempting now, hold for even more complexity. Drink 2018–2033. Porto Vino Italiano. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35



**95 Cartuxa 2014 Pêra-Manca Branco (Alentejo).** The 2014 is only the fourth white release of this iconic label in 12 years, with 2005, 2009 and 2013 as the most recent vintages. It is impressive with structured white fruits and great acidity. A touch of minerality in the texture supports the vanilla and spice flavors. The balance is impeccable and elegant, with the potential to age further. Drink now; better from 2018. Tri-Vin Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50



**95 Sineann 2015 Wy'east Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge).** Sineann's Wy'east designate continues on a roll in 2015, and is simply one of the finest values in any Oregon Pinot Noir. Streaked with black tea, leavened with rose petals, dusted with cocoa and spiced up with a hint of anise, it's a wine of stunning complexity and length. Vivid berry fruit flavors

bring pinpoint focus throughout a seemingly endless parade of flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$36

**95 Heitz 2016 Grignolino Rosé (Napa Valley).** Heitz has made this stellar rosé from the rare Grignolino grape since 1961. Ruby-grapefruit red, it's sultry in strawberry, watermelon, orange zest and salty spice flavors, highlighted by vibrant floral aromas. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

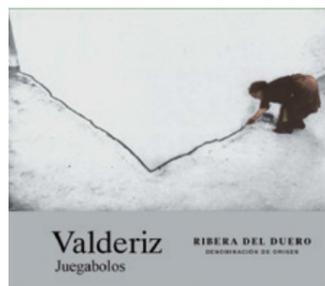
**94 Domaines Dominique Piron 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Moulin-à-Vent).** Wonderful old vines facing south and southeast give a powerfully tannic, structured wine. They also give great black fruits, spice and a toasty edge from the wood aging. This is a dense wine with a serious future. Drink from 2020. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**95 Shea 2014 Shea Vineyard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** As fabulous as ever, this brilliant compendium of nutty-toasty-buttery scents and flavors is never tiring. It's vivid, fruit-loaded and bracing. Well-ripened citrus and stone fruits come into focus, along with streaks of vanilla and lemongrass. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$35



**94 Iron Horse 2013 Wedding Cuvée (Green Valley).** Exuberant in mousse, this wine is luxurious and rich, the perfect quaff for a wedding of any sort. Made from 75% Pinot Noir and 25% Chardonnay, and aged for three years, this is bright in bolts of green apple and strawberry. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$44

19



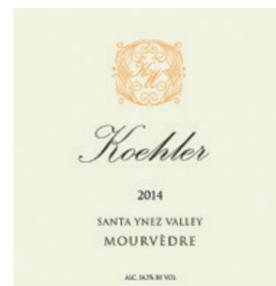
**96 Valderiz 2014 Juegabolos (Ribera del Duero).** Toasty aromas suggest maple, along with a note of sawdust to accompany earthy berry scents. A rich, pure palate is intense but shows balance and comportment. Blackberry, cassis, peppery spice and integrated oak flavors are detailed, with a smooth finish. Drink this full-bodied wonder through 2028. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$50

20



**95 Chateau Dereszla 2009 Aszú 5 Puttonyos (Tokaji).** This golden-colored wine has enticing aromas of butterscotch, vanilla, caramel and pineapple upside-down cake. In the mouth, there are great flavors of dried apricot, mango, honeycomb and marzipan candies. It has elegant heft on the palate and balanced acidity in the finish. Enjoy now or keep in your cellar for another decade or so. Cognac One, LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —J.J.  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$43/500 ml

21



**95 Koehler 2014 Mourvèdre (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is a complex and layered Mourvèdre. Fragrances of rose petals, cinnamon, mace, blackberry and black cherry prove almost overpowering, yet delicious. The palate puts black plum and black cherry together with star anise, clove and an array of baking spice. There's a lot going on, but it's harmonious and balanced. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

22

**96 Il Colle 2011 Brunello di Montalcino.** Red berry, wild mint, crushed rose, forest floor and new leather are just some of the aromas you'll find on this fragrant delicious red. Seamlessly boasting structure and finesse, the full-bodied palate displays layers of succulent morello cherry, raspberry compote, licorice and cinnamon while firm velvety tannins lend support and a polished texture. A savory saline note wraps up the lingering finish. Drink 2018–2026. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

23

**94 Gundlach Bundschu 2016 Estate Vineyard Dry Gewürztraminer (Sonoma Coast).** With zero residual sugar, this winning white comes as advertised: dry and delightful in its floral, fresh and fleshy character, vibrantly supported in acidity. Peach, lime and pear flavors find length and purpose along a medium-bodied texture that's just the right amount of plush. —V.B.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$25

24

**94 Monte da Ravasqueira 2014 Vinha das Romãs Red (Alentejano).** This single-vineyard wine is richly structured and seriously impressive, coming from a parcel planted with Syrah and Touriga Franca. Wood-aging for 20 months has given the wine both spice and concentration. With the acidity and the firm tannins at the end, the wine will be ready to drink from 2019. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

25

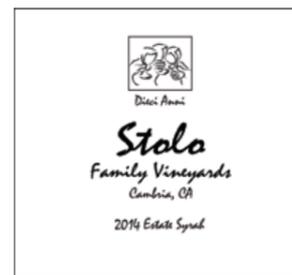


**94 Tre Monti 2015 Vitalba Albana in Anfora (Romagna).** Fermented in clay amphorae, this fascinating orange wine opens with alluring aromas of dried yellow stone fruit, baking spice, aromatic herb, pressed yellow flower and a balsamic note. Boasting more fruit and flavor than many other wines in this genre, the savory enveloping palate presents apricot, yellow peach, candied nectarine zest, crystallized ginger and a hint of flinty mineral. Tangy acidity provides balance and lift while a honeyed note closes the lingering finish. Simply gorgeous. Bacchanal Wine Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
abv: 15% Price: \$24

26

**95 Chapel Down 2011 Three Graces (England).** A restrained but impressive notion of honeyed oatmeal on the nose makes for a promising opening. A crisp green-apple note plays alongside ripe lemon. The palate shows fine, elegant mousse, amplifying those restrained aromas of honey, oatmeal and biscuit. This wine is at a perfect juncture of freshness and evolution, with wonderfully developed autolytic notes and great balance. The finish is long and moreish. ABCK Corp. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

27

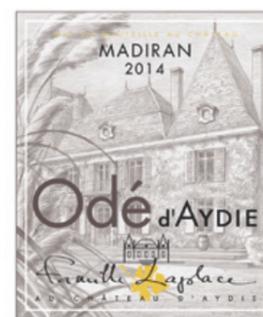


**96 Stolo 2014 Estate Syrah (San Luis Obispo County).** This is possibly the most savory rendition of Syrah made on the Central Coast, each vintage as feral as the last. This bottling shows bloody lamb, crushed peppercorn, soy and barnyard elements on the nose. The palate is tense with tarry structure, revealing unusual kelp, stewed peppercorn, miso and teriyaki flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$40

28

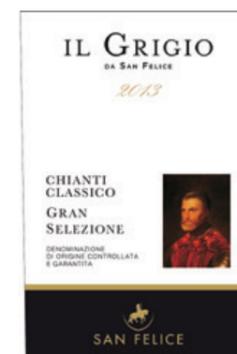
**93 Jurtschitsch 2016 Stein Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** A spray of white pepper, lemon and green pear plays on the nose. The spicy palate majors in savory, yeasty notes of white pepper, miso, pea shoot and arugula, all brightened by lemon freshness. The slender and balanced palate is chock-full of flavor and leaves a lasting impression to savor. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

29



**93 Familie Laplace 2014 Odé d'Aydie (Madiran).** The third generation of the Laplace family has produced a black-colored, juicy and richly balanced wine. Its black plum and Damson fruit is enclosed in young, firm tannins that will gradually soften. It's a dark, dense wine that will be ready to drink by 2020. The Wine Company. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

30



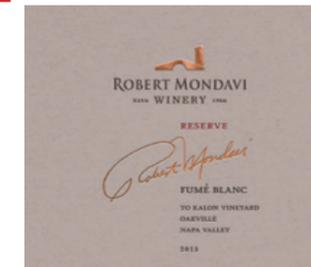
**95 San Felice 2013 Il Grigio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Smooth and delicious, this boasts enticing scents of violet, berry, leather, tilled soil and aromatic herb. The radiant, elegant palate offers ripe red cherry, crushed raspberry, white pepper and licorice, while a note of pipe tobacco closes the finish. Polished tannins and bright acidity provide balance and structure. Drink 2018–2025. San Felice USA. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

31



**93 Two Vintners 2014 Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This is a true pan-Washington Syrah, with fruit coming from Discovery, Olsen, Stone Tree, Pepper Bridge, Dineen, Stoney Vine, Yellow Jacket and Boushey Vineyards—all top sites rarely seen in a bottle at this price. Scents of smoke, blue and black fruit, crushed flowers, sagebrush and herb leap out of the glass, demonstrating a lot of aromatic complexity. The palate shows intensity, purity and layering. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$21

32



**92 Robert Mondavi 2015 Reserve To Kalon Vineyard Fumé Blanc (Napa Valley).** From an historic block of the famous vineyard long known as Robert's Block, this white is incredibly complex and concentrated, with richly woven layers of pear, Key lime and peach. A handful of Sémillon is blended in, adding extra oomph and flavor, the finish balanced in acidity and marked by freshness. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$52

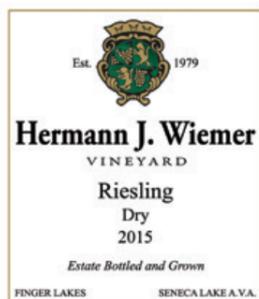
33

**93 Stadlmann 2015 Classic Pinot Noir (Thermenregion).** This wine's fresh, ripe red cherry and aromatic strawberry touches make for an inviting nose. The palate shows the same intense primary fruit, bolstered by freshness and a fine, filigreed structure. Its supple, pure fruit makes it very enjoyable now, but it's sure to evolve further with bottle age. Drink now–2025. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

34

**93 Mouchão 2012 Ponte das Canas Red (Alentejo).** From the historic Herdade do Mouchão in northern Alentejo, this is a powerful wine, full of dense tannins and impressively ripe, juicy black fruits. Syrah and Alicante Bouschet bring southern richness to Touriga Franca and Touriga Nacional. Drink this wine now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

35



**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

36

**96 Clendenen Family 2013 Le Bon Climat Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** This bottling showcases Jim Clendenen's brilliance at making light wines packed with flavor. Rustic sagebrush, oak forest and animal pelt aromas meet red plum and alpine strawberry fruit on the nose. There's a salt and white pepper quality to the palate, where wild sage and more chapparral spice decorates the pomegranate and red plum fruit flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

37



**94 Gini 2015 La Frosca (Soave Classico).** Hands down one of Italy's best whites, this boasts alluring white flower and yellow stone fruit scents. The enveloping, delicious palate delivers white peach, mature pear, ginger

and lemon drop flavors. Fresh acidity brightens the creamy flavors while a mineral note energizes the finish. de Grazia Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$29

38

**93 Prieler 2015 Johanneshöhe Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** The nose is still shy and closed. Likewise, the body is taut and will take time to unfurl, but all the structure and promise is already here. This wine is firm and bright, slowly showing dense blueberry notes edged with cinnamon and pervaded by freshness. The structure is firm and still crunchy but with a juicy release. On the finish, white pepper shimmers in the blueberry fruit. Drink 2019–2029. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

39

**95 Duménil 2012 Premier Cru Special Club (Champagne).** This impressive dry wine is made as part of a club of producers who taste and evaluate each other's wines before release. A blend of 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay, it is full of white fruit with a toasty edge that gives the wine weight. Behind this is a strongly mineral character with bite and zest that will allow it age further. Drink from 2020. Plume Ridge. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$65

40



**95 Miraflores NV Muscat Canelli (El Dorado).** What a rare, complex and spectacular wine. Well-aged and fortified wines like this are uncommon in California, but this full-bodied and very sweet example proves it's possible. It has gorgeous aromas of apricot, honey and toasted nuts followed by expansive, ripe-and-spicy fruit flavors transformed by the aging process. The mouthfeel is lavish and full, enabling a wonderful finish that lasts for minutes. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 18%

Price: \$50

41

**93 Xanadu 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River).** This paints a true picture of Margaret River in its sage and bay leaf shadings and concentrated cassis fruit. It's all framed by hints of vanilla and toasty oak, but the emphasis remains on dried herbs and fruit through the long, mouthwatering finish. Drink now–2030. Rathbone Wine Group. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$29

42

**93 Cave Spring 2015 Estate Riesling (Beamsville Bench).** This is a dry-style Riesling, though it still lends a ripe, fruity impression. Lemon, lime and grapefruit are shuffled into a winning hand, with ample details of cilantro, fennel and wet stone. It's a vibrant, refreshing wine that is immensely food friendly. Cave Spring Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 12%

Price: \$18

43

**93 Paltrinieri 2016 Radice (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** This vibrant, slightly sparkling wine is one of the best Lambrucos 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

44

**95 CVNE 2010 Imperial Gran Reserva (Rioja).** Certain wines exude a sense of elevated excellence. This one gets to that level via aromas of spice cake, baked plum and tobacco aromas. A stocky saturated palate is structured and built to age, while this tastes of cool blue fruits, herbs, coffee and chocolate. A smoothly textured finish deals cocoa and mocha notes. Drink through 2040. Europvin USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$88

45



**95 Talley 2015 Oliver's Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Plump aromas of lemon mousse, meringue, wet limestone, white flowers and ripe key lime pith show on the nose of this excellent bottling. The palate bursts with cool cream, sea salt and lemon-pith flavors, set against a chalky texture, yet expertly retreats before exploding. A mysteriously compelling experience. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$38

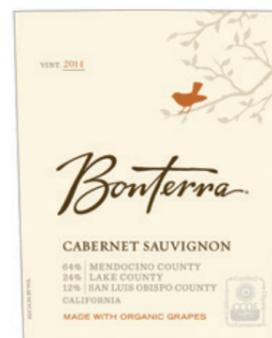
46

**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

47



**92 Bonterra 2014 Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Beautifully integrated oak and a firm structure combine in this rather tight but superbly balanced wine. It smells like black cherries and tastes like raspberries and blueberries, accented by toasted baguette, cinnamon and fresh cedar notes. The finish is long and lightly spicy. Best after 2018. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$16

48

**94 Le Fraghe 2015 Brol Grande (Bardolino).** Showing Bardolino's more serious side, this delicious red opens on aromas of wild berry, pressed blue flower, spice and a balsamic note. With a blend of Corvina and Rondinella, the elegant, well-structured palate delivers morello cherry, black pepper and clove. Refined tannins provide the polished framework. Drink through 2019. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

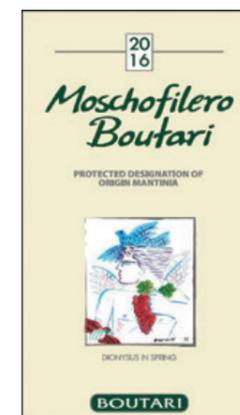
49

**94 Domaine Laporte 2016 Le Rochoy (Sancerre).** From a sloping flinty vineyard, this is an impressive wine. It is powered by its tight tense texture to give a concentrated essence of Sauvignon Blanc. The wine, with its green and citrus fruits, is tangy, steely and needing to age. Drink from 2019. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

50



**92 Boutari 2016 Moschofilero (Mantinia).** Lemon, orange blossom and rose aromas start this exotic and refreshing wine. On the palate, bright flavors of citrus mingle with melon and pepper. Easygoing but distinctive. Terlato Wines International. —S.K.

abv: 11%

Price: \$17

51



**93 Stolpman 2016 Para Maria de los Tecolotes (Santa Barbara County).** This Syrah, which is enhanced by 15% Petit Verdot, is one of the better wines from the region on the market for less than \$25. Awesome aromas of pepper, blackberry and charred beef are intense and deep, while the palate is lifted by bountiful acidity and flavors of boysenberry, white, black and green peppercorns, incense and sagebrush. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

52

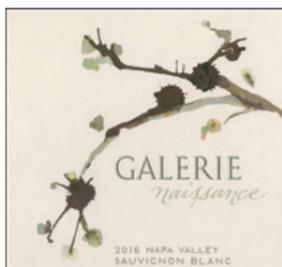


**93 Mascota 2014 Unánime Gran Vino Tinto (Mendoza).** Dusty berry and plum aromas are inviting and come with notes of vanilla and coconut. This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Cabernet Franc is flush while displaying a firm grip. Flavors of vanilla, mocha, black cherry and blackberry finish deep and with a lasting hint of fig. Drink through 2024. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$27

53



**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

54



**95 Renato Ratti 2013 Marcenasco (Barolo).** Wild berry, crushed herb, violet and baking spice scents lift out of the glass along with a whiff of menthol. Focused and elegantly structured, the delicious palate doles out ripe Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, cinnamon, sage and white pepper, while refined tannins and bright acidity provide supple support and impeccable balance. Drink 2023–2033. LUX Wines. —K.O. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

55

**95 Moulin Touchais 1996 Coteaux du Layon.** This estate, owned by the same family since 1787, has amazing stocks of old sweet wines maturing in its cellars. With red apple, honey and apricot aromas, this wine, mature and yet so fresh, is proof of the aging ability of Chenin Blanc. It is the balance between the ripe honeyed flavors and the intense acidity that keeps it so vibrant. Drink this superb wine now. Polaner Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

56

**93 Quinta da Rede 2015 Grande Reserva Branco (Douro).** Packed with ripe fruit, this wood-aged wine is dense and rich. A blend of Arinto and the Douro's local white grape, Rabigato, it is full of the ripest yellow fruits, laced through with stony minerality. The acidity and the spice from the wood give this wine its aging potential. Drink from 2019. M Imports, LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

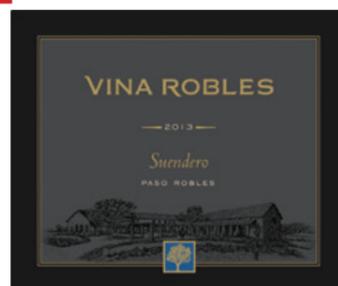
57

**93 Château du Cèdre 2014 Cahors.** This wine is ripe in spicy black-currant aromas on the nose and intense in juicy black fruit on the dense palate. The rich, generous layers of fruit perfectly balance the tannins that build up to a harmonious whole. Still young, it will be best from 2019. Martine's Wines. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

58

**94 Johannishof 2014 Ruesheim Berg Rottland GG Riesling (Rheingau).** Dry in style but lusciously textured, this full-bodied Riesling stands out for its luminous ripeness. Layers of honey and decadent citrus and peach flavors are calibrated neatly by zesty acidity and notes of sweet spice and pollen. It's unctuously concentrated with a long, deeply penetrating finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

59



**95 Vina Robles 2013 Suendero (Paso Robles).** This is a show-stopping blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Petit Verdot and 9% Malbec by veteran winemaker Kevin Willenborg. A deep shade of mauve, the wine coats the glass and unleashes intense, lavish aromas of cassis, fig paste, mint and tarragon. It's as soft as it looks on the palate, where baked black cherry, roast beef,

turned earth and lilac flavors ride luxurious yet firmly structured tannins. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K. **abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$56

60

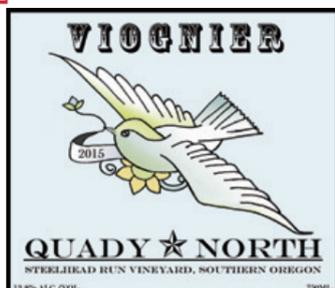
**93 Tornatore 2016 Bianco (Etna).** A few swirls of the glass release this white's heady stone fruit, Spanish broom and Mediterranean brush aromas. Mirroring the nose, the vibrant palate delivers green apple, lemon, tangerine and white peach flavors framed by crisp acidity. It has nice length and a hint of ginger that caps the inish. Enotria Wine Import. —K.O. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

61



**93 Simonnet-Febvre 2014 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** One of the most familiar and best situated Premier Crus, this vineyard has produced a fine and ripe wine from the fruity, crisp 2014 vintage. It's lively, bright, textured and still packed with citrus and apple fruit. Drink now. Louis Latour Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

62



**93 Quady North 2015 Steelhead Run Vineyard Viognier (Applegate Valley).** Sharp and focused, with fine-tuned varietal expression, this is flat out loaded with rich fruit flavors. Orange, lime, pineapple and pear can be found, all beautifully polished. It's ripe and precise without being bitter or hot, and a fine value as well. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G. **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$23

63

**93 Dalton 2014 Alma (Galilee).** This deep garnet-colored wine proffers fragrances of black cherry and dark plum with a flourish of green pepper. It is smooth on the palate, with silky tannins and flavors of black cherry, raspberry, Mediterranean herbs and licorice. A mélange of bright berries and smoky spice permeates the sleek finish. Kosher. Allied Importers, USA, LTD. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

64

**94 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2014 Langenberg (Alsace).** Hints of sultana and cooked quince reach the nose suggesting richness. The palate, however, responds with streamlined freshness, ripe fruit and depth and gives us concentration rather than richness. Tangy citrus zest frames notions of ripe apple and quince while shadows of dried fruit still haunt aromatically. The finish is clean, totally satisfying and dry. This is soaring but hearty stuff. Becky Wasserman Selections. —A.K. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

65

**94 Celler Pasanau 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

66



**94 Pascual Toso 2014 Alta Barrancas Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Open-grain oak aromas are out front, followed by sweeter scents of marzipan, prune and chocolate. A full, tannic palate is deep and dense, while toasty blackened flavors of cassis and black-berry finish with notes of mocha, chocolate and pepper. This is a bit rough and tannic, so cellaring will help it calm down. Drink through 2023. Quintessential Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

67

**94 K Vintners 2014 The Boy Grenache (Washington).** A blend of fruit from Northridge Vineyard on the Wahluke Slope and Powerline Vineyard in the Walla Walla Valley, this pale colored wine delivers vibrant, complex aromas of strawberry, brown stems, fresh flowers, green olive, smoked meat and moist earth. The cranberry and smoked meat flavors are soft and sumptuous, leading to an extended fruit and savory note finish. It's all about elegance but the purity is dazzling. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

68

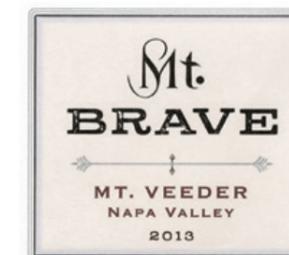
**90 Domäne Wachau 2016 Terrassen Federspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau).** Fresh Conference pear notes abound on the nose of this wine. The palate is sprightly and fresh, with a zestier core of lime and pear peel. Slender in frame, it dances on the palate, displaying seriousness and levity at the same time. The finish is totally refreshing. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.K. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

69

**94 Domaine de la Bégude 2014 La Bégude (Bandol).** This is an impressively rich, still very young wine. Dominated by Bandol's own Mourvèdre grape, it is dense and concentrated.

Spice and dark red fruits are shot through with a wonderful herbal character that conjures the southern warmth. The wine is still just setting out and will not be ready to drink before 2019. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$44

70



**95 Mt. Brave 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** The mountain appellation speaks loudly in this wine, contributing juicy blackberry, tar and leather, all within a forested context of wild truffle and crunchy leaves. Concentrated and robust in body and ripeness, it unwinds slowly in the glass, imparting jolts of black pepper as it goes. —V.B. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

71

**93 Braida 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

72



**92 Les Frères Couillaud 2016 Château de la Ragotière Sélection Vieilles Vignes Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine).** Old vines, up to 60 years old, are the basis of this concentrated,

ripe and intense wine. It is impressive and tightly wound, with layers of rich citrus fruit and a chalky texture. This is still a little young, so drink from 2018. Vineyard Brands. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$16

73



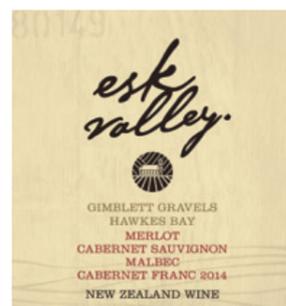
**92 Kilikanoon 2015 Killerman's Run Riesling (Clare Valley).** A pretty, mouthwatering Clare Riesling. Lemongrass, lime leaf and a touch of mint on the nose are followed by wet stone and a chalky texture with a long lemony finish. At twenty bucks, it's a bargain. Drink now – 2025. Old Bridge Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

74



**92 Aveleda 2015 Reserva da Familia Branco (Bairrada).** This producer, firmly established in Vinho Verde and the Douro, also has vineyards at Quinta da Agueira in the central coastal region of Bairrada. A blend of local white grapes along with some Chardonnay, this wine is ripe, with a touch of saltiness and minerality, plus plenty of concentration from old vines. With its rich texture and crisp aftertaste, this is ready to drink. Aveleda Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$20

75



**92 Esk Valley 2014 Gimblett Gravels Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Hawke's Bay).** This shows just how good Gimblett Gravels reds can be even at such a fair price point. Senior Winemaker Gordon Russell has fashioned a full-bodied, dark and dense wine that shows hints of vanilla and cedar that frame dark plum and cassis fruit, then slowly fade into a long, velvety finish. Drink 2020–2030. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

76

**92 Meerlust 2014 Chardonnay (Stellenbosch).** This wine shows superb balance between ripe fruit tones, attractive oak influence and natural freshness. It leads with scents of lightly toasted nuts, orange cream, freshly dried grass and yellow flowers. The medium-weight palate offers decadent flavors of toasted apple skin and brioche, with orange-flavored acidity that lifts the wine's richness. An evolving finish seals the deal. Drink now–2020. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Editors' Choice.** —L.B.  
abv: 13% Price: \$23

77

**94 Fritz Haag 2015 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel Riesling (Mosel).** Rich, sticky swirls of caramel and honey fill the palate of this lip-smackingly sweet Riesling. It's slight in body and electric with acidity, yet its heaving, sun-kissed tropical fruit flavors persist boldly on the finish. Stunning already, it's sure to improve through 2030. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.  
abv: 7.5% Price: \$52/375 ml

78

**92 Château Belle-Vue 2014 Haut-Médoc.** Situated in the southern Médoc village of Macau, on the edge of the deep Margaux gravels, this estate has produced an impressive and structured wine. It is concentrated with its black currants and dark tannins. It is likely to develop slowly over several years. Drink from 2021. Signature Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

79

**92 Kevin White 2015 Red (Yakima Valley).** A blend of 44% Syrah, 31% Grenache and 25% Mourvèdre, this wine is aromatically very pure, with plenty of red and blue fruit, speckled with bay leaf, herb and black-pepper accents. It possesses a thrilling plush mouthfeel, with olive and black-fruit flavors, showing a fine sense of purity. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$18

80

**92 Lucatoni 2013 Grand Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley).** This wine's ripe blackberry and spice aromas are a touch meaty and earthy. Its grippy, fleshy palate is balanced, tasting of berry and cassis. A dry, woody finish and a chocolate note renders it intriguing on the close. Spain Wine Collection. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

81

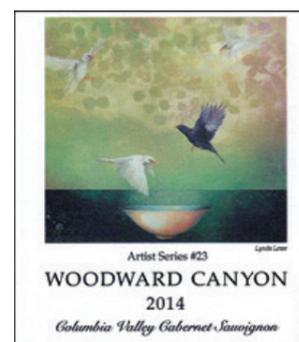
**94 Domaine Saint-Rémy 2015 Ehrhart Hengst Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace).** A lifted lemon-scented nose of peach gives and impression of ease and lightness. The palate, however, lays on generous sweetness to focus on ripe juicy peach notes. There is a huge concentration of flavor and richness, countered by that lemony freshness. This is a big but gentle wine that leaves your mind ringing with peach and lemon and a touch of honeysuckle spice. The medium-sweet finish is long and balanced. Drink 2017–2017. Robert Kacher Selections. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

82



**92 Raptor Ridge 2015 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** A pretty light gold hue, this wine shines bright from the first sniff to the last sip. It's clean and dense, with notes of bee pollen and lemon oil, flavors of apple and pear, and a touch of vanilla cookie. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$20

83



**93 Woodward Canyon 2014 Artist Series #23 Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington).** Fruit for this wine comes from top sites Champoux, Sagemoor, Woodward Canyon Estate and Summit View vineyards. It brings classic Cabernet Sauvignon aromas of black currant, black cherry and herbs along with generous barrel spices. The black-fruit and coffee flavors are lush and full, bringing a real sense of hedonism and delight. —S.S.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$59

84



**95 Numanthia 2012 Numanthia (Toro).** Deep, dense and pure from the opening bell, this Toro is a winner. Aromas of dark ripe black fruits are cool and moderately oaked. This feels massive on the palate but sensorially balanced. Flavors of blackberry, coffee, mocha and toasty oak finish spicy, smooth and heady. Drink this exemplary Toro through 2023. Moët Hennessy USA. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.  
abv: 15% Price: \$73

85

**94 Domaine du Pegau 2013 Cuvée Réservee (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** A great success from a challenging vintage, the 2013 Pegau is as aromatic as ever, loaded with scents of garrigue, smoke and saddle leather. Those are backed by ample dark-fruit flavors, hints of grilled meat and firm, dusty tannins. Drink 2018–2030. Hand Picked Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.  
abv: 14% Price: \$74

86

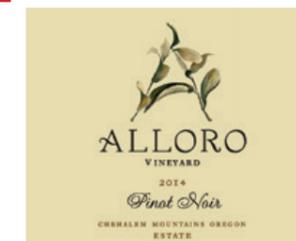
**92 Andreola 2016 Dirupo Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Fresh and balanced, this bright, savory sparkler delivers mouthfuls of green apple, white peach and lemon peel. Crisp acidity keeps it refreshing while a soft mousse gives it plenty of finesse. It has a dry juicy finish. Siena Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
abv: 11% Price: \$19

87

**92 Atze's Corner 2015 Estate Grown Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Made and grown by one of Barossa's most highly respected wine families, the Kalleskes, this Shiraz is a complex specimen of dried cherries, herbs and beef marinade, with soft tannins and a long, savory finish. It's elegant

and silky without having to flex its muscles. Wine Trees. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

88



**93 Alloro 2014 Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** A sensational bottle at this price, it's ripe and textural, with a plush mix of strawberry and cherry fruit. The flavors evolve throughout a lengthy finish, adding layers of chocolate, malt and caramel, all in beautiful proportion. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

89

**93 Michel Vattan 2015 Cuvée Calcaire (Sancerre).** This small production wine has a crisp crackly character with great fruitiness, as well as a tight mineral texture from the chalk soil. Its citrus and herbal flavor is balanced with taut acidity. The wine, one of two from this producer reflecting different soil types, is young. Drink from 2019. Bandol Wines Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

90



**92 Viña Tabalí 2013 Vetas Blancas Reserva Especial Syrah (Limarí Valley).** Boysenberry, cassis, woody spice and leathery aromas hit the right chords. This feels tight and juicy due to bright core acidity. A combination of spicy plum and red-berry aromas are intense and turn feral upon airing, while this limestone soil-based Syrah tastes of coffee, pepper, plum and various spices on a powerful finish. Drink through 2021. Biagio Cru & Estate Wines, LLC. —M.S.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

91

**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

**92 Thörle 2016 Trocken Weissburgunder (Rheinhausen).** Weissburgunder, or Pinot Blanc, can be a rather subdued grape. But it's delightfully bright and zippy here, boasting sunny shades of apricot, grapefruit and tangerine offset against dazzling lemon-lime acidity. It's brisk and cutting on the palate yet finishes with persistence. Ingenium Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

93

**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

94



**92 Alcance 2014 Gran Reserva Carmenère (Maule Valley).** A magenta color and ripe grapy aromas of black fruits accented by spice and olive open this plump wide-bodied Carmenère. Spicy black cherry and blackberry flavors are stout and rock solid on a unwavering finish. Drink through 2020. Majestic Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

95

**92 Eradus 2015 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Awatere Valley).** Aromas of ripe raspberry, chocolate, black olive and green herbs all combine in this well put together wine. The palate is taut and focused, with silky tannins, mouth-watering acidity and a long herbal finish. Tightly wound, this is best sipped with food or a few years of bottle age. Drink now—2024. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

96

**94 Tolpuddle 2014 Chardonnay (Tasmania).** The Pinot Noir is no slouch either, but Tolpuddle's 2014 Chardonnay is super. Faint hints of crème brûlée mark the nose, then ease into lime, pineapple and white peach notes on the palate. It's only medium in weight, but with a silky feel and a long mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2022. Craft + Estate—The Winebow Group. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.  
abv: 13% Price: \$60

97



**94 E. Guigal 2011 Château d'Ampuis (Côte-Rôtie).** The essence of the appellation smokes out from the glass, offering hints of cracked pepper, bacon, clove and leather. It's reasonably full-bodied for Côte Rôtie, with feral, smoked-meat flavors, ample spice and plenty of the concentrated plummy fruit. Tannins are silky, making this approachable now, but likely capable of aging well for at least 10–15 years. Vintus LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

98

**92 DeMorgenzon 2014 Maestro White (Stellenbosch).** A blend of 26% Roussanne, 25% Chardonnay, 19% Grenache Blanc, 17% Chenin Blanc and 13% Viognier, this is a complex and layered wine. A soft flinty character lies atop a rich bouquet of yellow apple, ripe green melon, tangerine and honeycomb. The medium-weight palate offers both weight and refinement, with a smooth texture and ripe fruit flavors that are cut by ample acidity and lingering sweet-spice accents. Drink now—2019. Cape Classics. **Editors' Choice.** —L.B.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25

99

**94 No Girls 2014 La Paciencia Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** Quite light in color, the aromas bring initially locked up but then broadly expansive notes of peat, green olive, white pepper, strawberry, Stargazer lilies, mineral and herb, showing a lot of complexity. The palate is textured, bringing a profound mixture of fruit and savory flavors that intertwine effortlessly on the long finish. It brings a sense of tension, texture and finesse that is completely captivating. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

100

**92 Curto 2012 Fontanelle Nero d'Avola (Eloro).** Made entirely from Nero d'Avola, this delicious wine opens with ripe black plum, carob and Mediterranean brush aromas. The smooth, chewy palate doles out layers of juicy blackberry, ripe Morello cherry, clove and white pepper flavors. A licorice note closes the finish while fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Enjoy through 2022. Premium Brands. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29