

# The Top 100 Wines of 2021: Wines 11 to 100



Calcareous's Syrah Paso Robles Devil's Canyon 2018 gets its name from its steep slope, which is considered a treacherous site to farm. (Acacia Productions)

From the Dec 31, 2021, issue

Read the profiles of wines 1 through 10, along with more about the Top 100 of 2021, [here](#).

## 11. AUBERT

Chardonnay Russian River Valley Eastside 2019

97 | \$85 | California

This is the highest-rated California Chardonnay tasted in the past year, and it stands out for its voluptuous flavors and texture. The Eastside vineyard, on a hill above the Russian River in Sonoma County, is rich with gravelly loams and volcanic-based soils that provide excellent drainage and exposure, according to owner and winemaker Mark Aubert. "The wine has so much *terroir*," Aubert says. "It features firm, natural acidities at 15% alcohol, but it tastes like 14%." It was 100% barrel-fermented and aged mostly in new French oak. 1,014 cases made.

## 12. POGGIO LANDI

Brunello di Montalcino 2016

97 | \$59 | Italy

Argentinian entrepreneur Alejandro Bulgheroni purchased the 185-acre Poggio Landi estate from Fattoria dei Barbi in 2012. Its vineyards lie in both the northern part of the zone near Torrenieri and the southern part around Castelnuovo dell'Abate. With the help of renowned enologist Alberto Antonini, the Brunello here has improved rapidly. Bolstered by near-ideal growing conditions in the 2016 vintage, this 100% Sangiovese, aged for 38 months in 3,000- and 5,400-liter French oak casks after a two- to three-week fermentation, reached new heights. It's also one of the top values of the vintage from Montalcino. 6,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.

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## 13. CHÂTEAU CARBONNIEUX

Pessac-Léognan White 2018

94 | \$44 | France

Marc Perrin purchased Carbonnieux in 1956 and promptly started renovating the estate. Sixty-five years later, it is in the hands of his grandchildren: Eric, Christine and Philibert. Eric's elder sons also work in the business—Marc on the business side and Andréa as lead enologist. The 2018 growing season started with a hailstorm and heavy rain, but fortunately improved, with ideal conditions persisting through harvest. Despite the limited grape quantities, the resulting Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon blend is a success. It spent 10 months in 25% new oak. 10,835 cases made.

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## 14. ALEXANA

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Revana Vineyard 2018

94 | \$55 | Oregon

Madaiah Revana built a prosperous cardiology practice in Houston after immigrating from India in the early 1970s, but wine and vineyards are his passions. Alexana is one of his three wineries (the other two are Revana in Napa Valley and Corazón del Sol in Argentina). The 80-acre Revana Vineyard is situated on the northern edge of Dundee Hills and ranges in elevation from 320 to 650 feet, with a mix of soil types and exposures. Winemaker Bryan Weil aged this wine for 11 months in French oak, 37% new. The bottling is consistently among

Alexana's top-scoring Pinots, and the 2018 continues a winning streak. 1,858 cases made.

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### **15. GIUSEPPE NADA**

Barbaresco Casot 2017

95 | \$43 | Italy

In 1900, Antonio Nada moved to the town of Treiso, one of the three villages of Barbaresco, and bought a plot of land in what is now the Casot MGA from the Gaja family. Today, Nada remains a family business: Giuseppe and his wife, Nella, do most of the vineyard work, daughter Barbara manages the office, and son Enrico makes the wine. They switched to organic farming in recent years. The Casot is fermented in steel vats by ambient yeast and aged in large oak casks for 18 to 20 months. The price makes it an incredible value for a classic-rated single-vineyard Nebbiolo. 1,166 cases made, 666 cases imported.

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### **16. CALCAREOUS**

Syrah Paso Robles Devil's Canyon 2018

94 | \$56 | California

The steepest slope of Calcareous Vineyard was dubbed Devil's Canyon because it is such a treacherous site to farm. Beneath a thin layer of topsoil lie deep deposits of limestone left over from an ancient sea, and that factor combined with the hot summer days and cool nights of west Paso Robles results in wines of richness and intensity. Winemaker Jason Joyce blended in a modest amount of Grenache from a head-trained plot to lighten the wine's touch, then aged half in large-format new French oak and the rest in neutral barrels. 845 cases made.

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### **17. TALENTI**

Brunello di Montalcino 2016

95 | \$50 | Italy

Pierluigi Talenti, who moved from Romagna to Montalcino in 1958, acquired the Pian di Conte estate in 1980. He studied Sangiovese in the 1960s and '70s, developing a mass selection and two clones subsequently planted in a 5-acre

plot. Since 1999, his grandson, Riccardo, has farmed the 52 acres of vineyards and made the wines. This Brunello is a blend of the best cuvées in the cellar. Traditional yet willing to adopt new techniques, Talenti ages this Brunello in both 500-liter *tonneaux* (60%) and 1,500- to 2,500-liter casks (40%). About 15% to 20% is new oak each vintage. 2,600 cases made, 660 cases imported.

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### 18. BURN COTTAGE

Pinot Noir Central Otago Burn Cottage Vineyard 2018

95 | \$65 | New Zealand

Marquis Sauvage grew up in rural northwest Kansas and says that “for some reason,” he just started drinking wine. First he opened a wine bar in Denver, then he distributed wine around the United States. In 2002, he decided to plant a Pinot Noir vineyard in New Zealand’s Central Otago, on a sloping landscape that reminded him of Burgundy. Calling on Ted Lemon of Sonoma’s Littorai to consult on the project, Sauvage was convinced to farm biodynamically. As they mature, the vineyards are hitting their stride and the lineup of wines is stronger than ever. Winemaker Claire Mulholland fermented with 16% whole cluster, using 23% new oak for aging. 1,642 cases made, 500 cases imported.

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### 19. CAYUSE

Syrah Walla Walla Valley Cailloux Vineyard 2018

96 | \$92 | Washington

The rocks make all the difference at Cailloux Vineyard. The ground is so thick with baseball-size cobblestones that it inspired a subappellation of the Walla Walla AVA: the Rocks District of Milton-Freewater. Planted in 1997 on an ancient riverbed, Cailloux is a 10-acre plot that is farmed biodynamically by owner-winemaker Christophe Baron. The highly stressed vines average only 2 tons (or less) of grapes per acre and produce distinctive wines such as this 2018 Syrah, which Baron cofermented with Viognier to bring out floral accents. 860 cases made.

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## 20. BADIA A COLTIBUONO

Chianti Classico 2018

93 | \$22 | Italy

This is a fantastic blend of *terroir*, quality and value. Badia a Coltibuono is located at an abbey that dates back a thousand years, and it has been a winery under the same family for more than a century. Winemaker Roberto Stucchi Prinetti and his siblings Emanuela and Paolo manage it today. The Chianti Classico is a blend of 90% Sangiovese and small amounts of Colorino, Canaiolo and Ciliegiolo sourced from organically farmed estate vineyards in Gaiole and Castelnuovo Berardenga. Grapes are fermented in stainless steel, and the wine is aged 12 months in large oak casks. 24,150 cases made, 5,295 cases imported.

## 21. LUCA

Malbec Uco Valley Old Vine 2019

93 | \$35 | Argentina



Laura Catena of Luca. (Dave Lauridsen)

When Laura Catena joined her father, pioneering winemaker Nicolás Catena, at the Catena Zapata family winery in Argentina, she sought to explore the potential of Argentine wine by creating Luca Wines. Named after Laura's oldest son, Luca started in 1999 as a project between Catena and winemaker Luis Reginato. Luca uses estate fruit and buys from small family producers, including Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in addition to Malbec from the Gualtallary



appellation, which Reginato helped establish. This 100% Malbec is sourced from 52-year-old vines across Tupungato, La Consulta and Paraje Altamira and is aged for 12 months in French oak. 13,000 cases made, 7,000 cases imported.

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## **22. ARTERBERRY MARESH**

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Old Vines 2018

**93** | \$39 | Oregon

Jim and Loie Maresh were farming cherries, prunes and walnuts on the farm they'd purchased in 1959 in the Dundee Hills when winemaker Dick Erath convinced them to plant grapes in 1970. Today, those vines are among the oldest in Oregon. Grandson Jim Arterberry Maresh continues the family history and tradition with this label, which he started in 2005. This Pinot Noir highlights those old vines as well as grapes from neighboring Weber Vineyard, planted around the same time. For all his wines, Arterberry Maresh favors neutral French oak, using less than 10% new in this case, for an elegant style. 1,598 cases made.

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## **23. JOHN DUVAL**

Shiraz Barossa Entity 2019

**94** | \$40 | Australia

John Duval made wine for 29 years at Penfolds before switching gears—becoming one of the new kids on the block by starting his namesake label in 2003 with his son, Tim, to explore other expressions of Barossa wines. Their lineup includes the classic-scoring Integro bottling released this year, a modern interpretation of the Aussie Cabernet-Shiraz blend. The Entity bottling is a stunning example of Barossa Shiraz and one of Duval's best to date, from a warm, dry, low-yielding vintage that Duval says made tannin management key. The grapes had limited time on skins and were handled gently compared to cooler years. 2,400 cases imported.

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## **24. RIDGE**

Geyserville Alexander Valley 2019

**93** | \$45 | California

This Zinfandel-based field blend has been a Ridge mainstay for 55 years. The grape source is the 130-year-old Whitton Ranch, specifically a section dubbed “Old Patch,” which is planted to a mix that includes Carignane, Petite Sirah, Grenache and Alicante Bouschet. The soils are deep, gravelly loam laced with ancient river rocks, which gives the wine a backbone of minerality and high acidity. John Olney and his winemaking team rely on indigenous yeasts for fermentation and age the Geyserville for 12 months in American oak, 20% new. 11,000 cases made.

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## 25. WITTMANN

Riesling Trocken Rheinhessen Westhofener 2019

94 | \$36 | Germany

The Wittmanns have been at the vanguard of organic and biodynamic practices in Germany’s Rheinhessen region since the 1990s. Tracing its winemaking history to the 17th century, the family harvests from 62 acres of sloping, limestone-rich vineyards. Winemaker Philipp Wittmann focuses on balance and the expression of each site in his dry Rieslings. This Riesling Westhofener delivers terrific quality for the price. It’s sourced from younger vines in the GG Morstein vineyard (10 to 20 years old) and the Erste Lage Westhofen sites nearby. It was fermented and aged for 10 months in large, old wooden casks. 1,250 cases made.

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## 26. SALCHETO

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Riserva 2016

94 | \$36 | Italy

Salcheto is named for a stream that originates near the town of Montepulciano and winds through the appellation. Founded in the 1980s, the winery cultivates 143 acres of vines organically and biodynamically and boasts a state-of-the-art facility that is a model of sustainability. With Michele Manelli overseeing operations since 1997, Salcheto has steadily improved. Its *riserva* bottling is made with Prugnolo Gentile (the local Sangiovese clone) and 5% Colorino from a 37-acre vineyard surrounding the winery known as Salcheto Estate. It ages for three years: two in a mix of 7,000-liter casks (70%) and *tonneaux* (30%) and one in bottle. 1,250 cases made, 400 cases imported.

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## 27. EVENING LAND

Chardonnay Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs 2018

93 | \$35 | Oregon

Originally planted in 1984, Seven Springs Vineyard is one of Willamette Valley's crown jewels. Wine entrepreneur Mark Tarlov, who died earlier this year, returned Seven Springs to its original configuration, buying it in 2007 and reuniting it with the adjacent Anden Vineyards, which had been split off in a divorce. Today, growers and winemakers Rajat Parr and Sashi Moorman farm the vineyard biodynamically; they harvested the 2018 from a newer section of vines in a rocky area mid-slope, about 700 feet in elevation. The juice fermented using indigenous yeast, in French oak, aging 11 months before spending an additional four months in stainless steel. 1,145 cases made.

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## 28. THREE STICKS

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Price Family Estates 2019

95 | \$65 | California

The 2019 vintage is one of the best in recent memory for California Pinot Noir. Fruit for this wine is sourced from five different Sonoma vineyards owned by Three Sticks proprietor Bill Price. Grapes from the Walala Vineyard, situated just 6 miles from the Pacific on the far northern Sonoma Coast, take the lead; winemaker Ryan Prichard adds fruit from Durell, One Sky, Gap's Crown and Alana vineyards to fill it out. The wine was aged in French oak barrels, 45% new. Pioneering Pinot Noir maker Bob Cabral helped oversee its crafting. 554 cases made.

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## 29. SPARKMAN

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Holler 2018

93 | \$32 | Washington

Chris Sparkman named Holler after Red Hollow, the place where his parents live in eastern Tennessee. After a roundabout path that included the Peace Corps, the Knoxville native turned to wine, first as a sommelier and now as vintner. Holler is a blend of barrels left over from Sparkman's higher-priced Cabernets such as Kingpin, and it perennially overdelivers for the price. Winemaker Linn



Scott harvested from a number of vineyards on Red Mountain, including Klipsun and Boushey, blended in a 15% mix of Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Merlot and aged it in French and American oak barrels, about half of which were new. 2,483 cases made.

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### **30. CANTINA DEL PINO**

Barbaresco 2016

94 | \$45 | Italy

Cantina del Pino was purchased in the 1920s by Giuseppe Vacca from the estate of Domizio Cavazza, who was instrumental in creating Barbaresco wine. It was a member of the co-op Produttori del Barbaresco until Vacca's great-grandson, Renato, convinced his father to bottle their wines in 1997. Sadly, Renato succumbed to cancer in 2020. His Barbarescos are understated and elegant when young, yet expressive, complex and structured to age—like this 2016, a blend of Nebbiolo from the Ovello, Gallina and Stardereri vineyards. It macerated with submerged cap for about a month before aging two years in 2,000-liter Slavonian oak casks. 1,050 cases made, 500 cases imported.

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### **31. FILIPA PATO**

Bairrada White Nossa Calcário 2019

93 | \$29 | Portugal

Filipa Pato focuses on traditional varieties from her native Bairrada region in Portugal. The daughter of Luis Pato, she gained experience in Bordeaux, Mendoza and Australia's Margaret River in addition to her father's cellar before starting her own label in 2001 with her husband, William Wouters. Thirty acres of vineyards are farmed biodynamically. As the name suggests, the Nossa Calcário is made from the Bical grape variety grown in limestone soils. After an eight-month sojourn in 500- and 600-liter barrels, it rests in bottle for a few months before release. 1,600 cases made.

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### **32. MASSICAN**

Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2020

93 | \$32 | California

Winemaker Dan Petroski is all-in on white wine. He recently left his day job making bold Napa Cabernets at Larkmead to focus entirely on Massican, his white wine-only project. The core of his label was founded on modern, Italy-inspired white blends, but this varietal bottling is Petroski's best interpretation of California Sauvignon Blanc to date. The majority of the grapes come from the Juliana Vineyard in Napa's Pope Valley, blending those older vines with younger, cool-climate Carneros grapes. The grapes are whole-cluster pressed, with 85% fermented in stainless-steel barrels and the balance in neutral French oak. 1,154 cases made.

### 33. ANT MOORE

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Estate Series 2020  
92 | \$17 | New Zealand



Ant Moore.

There's no shortage of terrific New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs to recommend from the warm, dry 2020 vintage. For this bottling, Anthony "Ant" Moore, a New Zealand winemaker for nearly 20 years, sourced grapes from 13 separate vineyards throughout Marlborough to get a blend that represents subregions such as Dillons Point, Waihopai Valley, Blind River, Kaituna, Fairhall and the Awatere Valley. Each was fermented separately in temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks, some of which were aged on the lees and stirred weekly for almost eight weeks to build texture and aromatics. 15,000 cases made, 12,000 cases imported.

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### 34. ZENA CROWN VINEYARD

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Slope 2017

95 | \$75 | Oregon

The reputation of Zena Crown Vineyard for producing intense and brooding Pinot Noirs is well-known among Oregon winemakers. When Jackson Family Wines bought the property in 2013, winemakers worried they would lose access to a favorite Eola-Amity Hills source, but Jackson Family did just the opposite, expanding access to wineries such as Beaux Frères, Hamilton Russell and Alexana. The company also launched its own Zena Crown Vineyard label. Winemaker Shane Moore crafted one of his most compelling wines yet with the Slope 2017, aging it nearly 18 months in French oak, about 64% new. 538 cases made.

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### 35. CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019

94 | \$49 | France

Château de Vaudieu is among the oldest estates in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, dating to the mid-18th century. It's now in the hands of the Bréchet family, who have managed the historic estate for three generations. The château sits in Châteauneuf-du-Pape's Vaudieu *lieu-dit* (a stone's throw from the iconic vineyards of Château Rayas), encompassing a complex range of soils and elevations. Owner Laurent Bréchet, *maître de chai* Christophe Schurdevin and consulting enologist Philippe Cambie capitalize on this diversity by vinifying and maturing wines from the varied terrains separately before composing the final bottling. 2,613 cases made, 500 cases imported.

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### 36. BODEGAS BERONIA

Rioja Gran Reserva 2012

92 | \$30 | Spain

The best of the traditional *gran reserve* wines from Rioja have a distinctive character that is unique among red wines and entrancing in its elegance and complexity. Long aging in oak and bottle shapes these reds and amplifies the notes of red fruit and dried herb that mark the *terroir*. Beronia was founded in

1973, part of a new wave in Rioja centered around innovations and outside investment; it was sold to Sherry producer González-Byass in 1982. Matias Calleja is winemaker. The company maintains a high level of consistency across a wide range of wines, both traditional and modern. 5,100 cases made, 2,500 cases imported.

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### 37. ROCHIOLI

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2019

94 | \$64 | California

Winemaker Tom Rochioli's family helped pioneer Pinot Noir in the Russian River Valley with their first plantings of the grape in 1968. This estate bottling is a blend from five Rochioli vineyards, representing a diverse range of soils and exposures and with vines ranging from 6 to 40 years old. The lightly pressed grapes fermented in small open-top containers before spending 15 months in 4-year-old French oak barrels. The result is a refined and intensely fruity expression of California Pinot Noir by one of the masters. 3,198 cases made.

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### 38. PIO CESARE

Barbera d'Alba 2019

92 | \$27 | Italy

Pio Cesare marked its 140th anniversary this year. The milestone was bittersweet; the venerable Piedmont winery lost its patriarch, Pio Boffa, to COVID-19 in April. The Barolos and Barbarescos receive most of the attention here, but there are two excellent Barberas. The classic Barbera comes from 10 different vineyards in the Barolo and Barbaresco appellations, including young vines from Mosconi since the 2017 harvest. It ages primarily in large Slavonian oak casks, with 10% to 15% in second-passage oak *barriques*. It's a great value, almost half the price of the single-vineyard Barbera d'Alba Fides Vigna Mosconi. 6,000 cases made, 3,204 cases imported.

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### 39. VERMILLION

Sierra Foothills-Sonoma County 2017

92 | \$35 | California

Star winemaker Helen Keplinger set out to produce a wine to enjoy for everyday drinking when she started this brand in 2013. The 2017 is a great success. Keplinger follows the same growing and winemaking protocols as for her namesake label. This red is harvested from 10 vineyards, most at high elevations of the Sierra Foothills where the soil is rocky, red and volcanic; the wine also includes some declassified Keplinger fruit. Grenache is the heart of the blend, with Mourvèdre, Syrah and some Cabernet Sauvignon in the mix. The wine was fermented with native yeast and aged in large, neutral Burgundy barrels. 2,300 cases made.

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#### **40. MAURO MOLINO**

Barolo 2016

92 | \$30 | Italy

This estate dates to 1953, when Giovanni Molino—grandfather of current proprietors Matteo and Martina Molino—purchased a parcel in the Conca vineyard in La Morra. However, it was Matteo and Martina’s father, Mauro, who began producing namesake wines in 1982. This Barolo 2016 is a blend of grapes from the Annunziata and Berri MGAs from La Morra and Perno from Monforte d’Alba. After a two-week maceration followed by malolactic conversion in stainless steel, the wine ages in large French oak casks for 18 months. It spends another 10 months in bottle before release. This is a winery to watch, offering excellent quality for the price. 3,500 cases made, 2,200 cases imported.

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#### **41. RAPAURA SPRINGS**

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Classic 2020

91 | \$13 | New Zealand

The Neylon family has a long history of farming in Marlborough, starting with farming and exporting green-lipped mussels. In 1985, they purchased prime land in the Rapaura and Dillons Point subregions with the Wiffin family as partners, becoming one of the largest family-run operations in the region. The former orchards were converted to vineyards, including a nursery, in 2005. From its first vintage, 2007, Rapaura Springs has created an impressive track record of wines, from both estate vineyards and purchased grapes. Consulting winemaker Matt Thomson presses and ferments the grapes at cool temperatures to capture freshness and aromatics. 158,000 cases made, 10,000 cases imported.

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#### **42. CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE-DR. LOOSEN**

Riesling Columbia Valley Eroica 2019

**91** | \$20 | Washington

A collaboration between Chateau Ste. Michelle and Mosel winemaker Ernst Loosen, Eroica shows Washington state's unheralded knack for Riesling. The winemaking team of Katie Nelson, David Rosenthal and Brian Mackey combines grapes from five Columbia Valley vineyards, with Evergreen Vineyard in the arid Ancient Lakes AVA as the backbone, yielding an impressive volume at a reasonable cost. They employ a cool, three-week fermentation, aiming for well-integrated fruit, sugar and acid. The 2019 vintage was ideal for Washington winemakers, with a mild summer and cool fall that aided in maintaining natural acidity and flavor development. 12,300 cases made.

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#### **43. CAROL SHELTON**

Zinfandel Mendocino County Wild Thing Old Vine 2018

**91** | \$19 | California

Carol Shelton's Wild Thing is a perennial Zinfandel value. Shelton is one of Zinfandel's modern-day pioneers. Wild Thing gets its name from the 60-year-old head-trained and organically farmed vines at Cox Vineyard in Mendocino County's benchlands and because Shelton uses wild yeast fermentation. She aerates several times during fermentation using a "rack and return" method, which aids in a healthy yeast population and helps form structure and mouthfeel. The Zinfandel ages 14 months in a mix of used American and French oak barrels, plus 20% new American oak, and is blended with Carignane and Petite Sirah. 9,085 cases made.

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#### **44. TENUTE SELLA & MOSCA**

Cannonau di Sardegna Riserva 2018

**90** | \$18 | Italy

Founded in 1899 and owned by Terra Moretti Vino since 2016, Sella & Mosca is a leading winery from the large Italian island of Sardinia. The estate encompasses more than 1,200 acres of vines, and this red, made from 100% Cannonau—the Sardinian moniker for Grenache—is one of the winery's flagships. Grapes are



sourced from vineyard sites in the Alghero area and fermented by winemaker Giovanni Pinna in stainless-steel tanks. The *riserva* aged for almost 18 months in large oak barrels, new but not toasted, with an additional six-plus months in cement tanks prior to bottling and release. 47,000 cases made, 16,000 cases imported.

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#### 45. QUINTA DO NOVAL

Vintage Port 2018

97 | \$100 | Portugal

Noval is the only historic Port shipper named after its estate, putting *terroir* front and center, and this 2018 Vintage Port shows how special that *terroir* is. Estate director Christian Seely arrived in 1993; since then, more than 70% of the vines have been replanted and the cellars have been modernized, emphasizing even more clearly the character of the rocky vineyards that rise steeply above the Douro. The 2018 vintage is the first for technical director Carlos Agrellos, who took over from his uncle António. A blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Cão, Sousão and Tinta Roriz, this should be one of the longer-lived wines of a promising vintage. 1,600 cases made, 490 cases imported.

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#### 46. ROCCA DI MONTEGROSSI

Chianti Classico San Marcellino Gran Selezione 2016

95 | \$75 | Italy

Marco Ricasoli-Firidolfi's 49 acres of vineyards lie in the Monti area of the Chianti Classico commune of Gaiole. San Marcellino, his top vineyard, comprises rocky soils—a mix of the friable schist called *galestro* and a form of limestone called *albarese*, plus clay. Sangiovese from this area possesses a strong backbone and mineral expression and is capable of long aging. That comes through in this muscular wine, full of blackberry, tar and iron flavors in a tightly wound structure. The blend, with a bit of Pugnello, is fermented in cement vats and aged in large, conical oak vats. 1,450 cases made, 500 cases imported.

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#### **47. MACDONALD**

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2018

98 | \$185 | California

Brothers Alex and Graeme MacDonald are the third generation to farm their family's vines in the heart of the To Kalon vineyard in Napa's Oakville AVA. The history includes a handshake deal with the late Robert Mondavi, who bought some of their grapes for his Reserve Cabernet bottling. The vineyards hold vines 25 years old (old by Napa standards) and other plantings that date to 1954 (among the oldest Cabernet vines in the valley), giving the MacDonalds the raw material to produce a top Napa red. Their latest release is our highest-rated Cabernet to date from Napa's epic 2018 vintage. 500 cases made.

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#### **48. DOMAINE DE VILLAINÉ**

Bouzeron 2018

92 | \$42 | France

When Burgundy started replanting vines after phylloxera in the late 19th century, Aligoté was relegated to lesser sites. But it's still respected in the village of Bouzeron in the Côte Chalonnaise—especially at this small winery, which produces outstanding examples. Domaine de la Romanée-Conti's Aubert de Villaine is co-owner; his nephew Pierre de Benoist is the estate director. De Benoist says the key is planting the vigorous variety in poor soils in high spots, reducing yields. He also credits the particular clone they have focused on: Aligoté Doré. The wines are fermented with native yeasts in large oak casks, where they then age for at least a year. 1,000 cases imported.

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#### **49. HICKINBOTHAM**

Shiraz McLaren Vale Brooks Road 2018

95 | \$75 | Australia

The first vines from this legendary vineyard were planted in 1971 by the Hickinbotham family; the grapes went into some of the most famed wines from Down Under, including Penfolds Grange. Jackson Family Wines purchased the property in 2012 and converted it to organic and biodynamic growing practices. The high-elevation hills and cooling breezes are what make this vineyard special, according to winemaker Chris Carpenter: "You don't get that overt ripeness; you get a much cooler expression of Shiraz." Carpenter works in tandem with

winemaker Peter Fraser on a lineup of Rhône and Bordeaux-style reds that just seems to get better every year. 1,900 cases made, 370 cases imported.

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#### **50. SCHLOSS GOBELSBURG**

Riesling Kamptal Schlosskellerei 2019

**91** | \$19 | Austria

Founded by an order of Cistercian monks, Schloss Gobelsburg celebrated its 850th anniversary in 2021. In 1996, Michael Moosbrugger and his partners leased the winery and have been producing outstanding Grüner Veltliner, Riesling and more thanks to expert knowledge of the multiple rocky soil types in their vineyards. Moosbrugger believes in a low-intervention approach in the cellars. The Schlosskellerei range offers an introduction to the Kamptal region. This Riesling is made from purchased grapes sourced from young vines, mostly in the Gaisberg and Heiligenstein vineyards. The wine is fermented and aged in stainless steel. 6,000 cases made, 600 cases imported.

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#### **51. ALOIS LAGEDER**

Pinot Grigio Vigneti delle Dolomiti Terra Alpina 2019

**90** | \$16 | Italy

For nearly 50 years, Alois Lageder has been pushing the envelope at his family winery in the foothills of the Alps in northern Italy. He and his son, Alois Clemens, produce dozens of wines, from both estate-grown and purchased fruit, most of it farmed biodynamically. The Terra Alpina line is about highlighting local growers, sourcing excellent grapes from high-altitude vineyards with a mix of limestone and volcanic soils. The grapes are fermented in stainless steel, then aged on the lees in the same tanks for up to four months before being bottled. 25,942 cases made, 19,000 cases imported.

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#### **52. SNOWDEN**

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Brothers Vineyard 2018

**95** | \$90 | California

The Snowden family is in its third generation here, with winemaker Diana Snowden Seysses splitting her winemaking time between Domaine Dujac in Burgundy and this Napa estate. Her father and uncle replanted the family estate in the eastern foothills of St. Helena, beginning with a plateau rich with volcanic rhyolite soils. For years, the Snowdens sold the grapes to Stag's Leap WineCellars, Silver Oak and others. Today that plot, the Brothers Vineyard, represents the best *terroir* amid the 23-acre estate. Snowden Seysses aims for a polished Cabernet that is ready to drink now but also capable of aging for 15 years. 673 cases made.

### 53. CLOS DE LOS SIETE

Uco Valley 2018

90 | \$20 | Argentina



Clos de Los Siete. (Gustavo Saber Mico)

When Bordeaux winemaker and consultant Michel Rolland visited Argentina for the first time, in 1988, he was inspired by Mendoza's winegrowing potential. Ten years later, he joined forces with seven families and started Clos de los Siete on 2,100 acres at the foot of the Andes. Today, four families contribute to the blend, including the owners of Château Léoville Poyferré in Bordeaux. Rolland describes 2018 as a "great vintage" leading to this dense, powerful wine with a black fruit profile. The blend comprises Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon,

Syrah, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, aged in French oak barrels for 11 months. 650,000 cases made, 22,400 cases imported.

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#### 54. SCHLOSS LIESER

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Juffer 2019

95 | \$31 | Germany

Thomas Haag and his wife, Ute, worked at Schloss Lieser for five years before buying the property in 1997. The Lieser Niederberg Helden vineyard was the original; the Brauneberger Juffer and Juffer Sonnenuhr sites were added in 2002. Currently, the estate consists of 62 acres in eight different *Grosse Lagen* (*grand cru*) vineyards. The Riesling juice ferments spontaneously with native yeasts in stainless steel, followed by long aging on the lees, up to 10 months for the dry GGs (*Grosses Gewächs*). The house style is pure, crystalline Rieslings of finesse and detail, perfectly expressed in this kabinett, which reflects the balance, complexity, intensity and depth of the 2019 vintage. 75 cases imported.

#### 55. PHILIPPE VIALLET

Vin de Savoie 2020

90 | \$14 | France

Savoie is a distinctive wine region in the French Alps, located at the intersection of France, Italy and Switzerland. Its limestone soils support a number of obscure white grape varieties that make crisp, mineral-inflected, well-priced wines. Vintner Philippe Viallet's parents have been making wine here since 1966; in 1985, he founded Maison Philippe Viallet in the town of Apremont. For this white, Viallet relies primarily on the local Jacquère grape, with Chasselas, Chardonnay and Altesse mixed in. He ferments the blend in stainless-steel tanks and ages it on its lees. 43,000 cases made, 7,000 cases imported.

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#### 56. TEDESCHI

Amarone della Valpolicella Marne 180 2017

93 | \$60 | Italy

This richly savory yet fruit-focused Amarone is the result of an in-depth study of vineyard subzones conducted nearly a decade ago by Tedeschi's second-generation owners: siblings Riccardo (winemaker), Antonietta and Sabrina Tedeschi. The study identified like parcels of soil spread throughout their 118

acres of vineyards located in northern Italy's Veneto region. The name Marne 180 nods to the pairing of fruit from parcels rich in the combination of clay and limestone known as marl in English, marne in Italian, with varying expositions that together cover a range of 180 degrees from southwest to southeast. 12,500 cases made, 600 cases imported.

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### **57. BODEGAS PAZO DE BARRANTES**

Albariño Rias Baixas 2019

**91** | \$21 | Spain

Vicente Dalmau Cebrián-Sagarriga produced Wine Spectator's 2020 Wine of the Year at his Bodegas Marqués de Murrieta in Rioja. He earns a spot on the 2021 list for an Albariño made from an estate in Galicia that the family owned long before purchasing Murrieta in 1983. Barrantes, in the Salnés Valley, the heart of Rías Baixas, began selling wine in 1991. This Albariño is made in stainless steel and briefly aged on its lees to preserve and amplify its energetic play of citrus, briny and floral notes. The bottling is textbook for the varietal and the region. 11,667 cases made, 1,620 cases imported.

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### **58. CHEHALEM**

Chardonnay Willamette Valley Inox Unoaked 2020

**91** | \$20 | Oregon

While Pinot Noir may remain Oregon's signature grape, Chardonnay has come into its own in recent years thanks to plantings of clones better suited for Willamette Valley's cool climate. Oregon winemakers often forgo opulent, buttery styles, and winemaker Katie Santora aims for a pure expression here. This 100% stainless steel fermented and aged (hence the name Inox, the French term for stainless steel) Chardonnay bursts with aromas of peach blossom and lemon zest. Owned by the Stoller Family, Chehalem can keep the cost down by using two-thirds estate-grown grapes from various appellations, including Chehalem Mountains and Dundee Hills. 5,900 cases made.

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### 59. MONTE DEL FRÀ

Custoza Superiore Cà del Magro 2019

90 | \$22 | Italy

The 20-acre Cà del Magro vineyard is essentially a grand cru site in northern Italy's small Custoza DOC. Much of the area's vines are planted at lower-lying elevations, rising up from the lake shore, but the southeast-facing Cà del Magro vineyard sits at almost 400 feet above sea level. It was originally planted more than 30 years ago with a mixture that includes the wine's blend of 40% Garganega, 30% Cortese, 20% Trebbiano Toscano and 10% Incrocio Manzoni grapes, each vinified separately in concrete tanks and left on the lees for 10 months before bottling. 7,000 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.

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### 60. FORCE MAJEURE

Syrah Red Mountain 2018

95 | \$85 | Washington

Muscle is the trademark of Washington's Red Mountain AVA, but winemaker Todd Alexander tempers its power and tannins in this 2018 Syrah. Red Mountain is one of the hottest growing regions in Columbia Valley during the day, but among the coolest at night. Force Majeure's estate vineyard ranges in elevation from 960 to 1,230 feet and faces west-southwest. Syrah is grown on the upper slope, where the soils are shallow and rocky. Alexander ferments the Syrah in concrete, using about 25% whole cluster, then ages it 18 months in large-format French oak, about 23% new. 500 cases made.

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### 61. BEN HAINES

Syrah Grampians 2020

94 | \$35 | Australia

The Grampians region's cool climate within the Yarra Valley in Australia aligns with the desire of winemaker Ben Haines (a small-batch Rhône-style specialist) to move toward bottling brighter wines. "That means less time on lees in barrel and slightly earlier release; probably a bit more of a focus on freshness and aromatics to really exploit that range of aromas that you get in cool-climate Syrah," explains Haines. The grapes are hand-harvested and fermented with indigenous yeast in two separate batches: one with 100% whole bunch, the

other whole berry to get a larger spectrum of flavors. 750 cases made, 150 cases imported.

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### **62. STÉPHANE OGIER**

Côtes du Rhône Le Temps Est Venu 2019

91 | \$23 | France

When Stéphane took over from his father, Michel, in 1997, he became the seventh generation Ogier to operate this family estate in Ampuis. Incorporating knowledge he gained from studying in Burgundy, Stéphane has simultaneously elevated the quality of the wines while also increasing production with the planting of more vineyards. By vinifying plots separately and adjusting blends based on vintage conditions, he strives to achieve the best results year after year. The 2019 blend comprises 60% Grenache, 35% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, all sourced from the clay-limestone vineyards of Plan de Dieu and Visan. 3,700 cases imported.

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### **63. G.B. BURLOTTO**

Barolo Monvigliero 2016

97 | \$100 | Italy

G.B. Burlotto began focusing on wine production at this Verduno estate in 1850; it's run today by his great-great grandson Fabio Alessandria. The tradition here was whole-cluster fermentation, now practiced only with grapes from Monvigliero, Verduno's most-celebrated cru. Its loose, sandy soils and proximity to the Tanaro River yields Barolos with delicate, refined tannins. Burlotto's version, made as a single-vineyard Barolo since the 1982 vintage, offers distinctive floral and spicy aromas. Combined with Alessandria's retention of stems, the grapes macerate for 60 days with a submerged cap before aging two to three years in large casks. 660 cases made.

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### **64. CONCHA Y TORO**

Syrah Buin Gravas del Maipo 2018

94 | \$70 | Chile

Chile is known for big reds based on Cabernet Sauvignon and Carménère, but winemaker Isabel Mitarakis shows that Syrah too can deliver the goods. The Quinta de Maipo vineyard is located in the heart of Chile's prime Maipo Valley district, south of the capital of Santiago, and Gravas takes its name from the gravel-base alluvial soils washed down from the Andes that tower nearby. The wine is fermented in tank and then aged 14 months in mostly used French oak barrels, all with an eye to accentuate the richness of its fruit flavors. 1,500 cases made, 250 cases imported.

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#### **65. BODEGAS ATECA**

Garnacha Calatayud Atteca Armas Old Vines 2017

**93** | \$45 | Spain

The Garnacha grape may have originated near Calatayud in northern Spain, where today it can reach a rich and distinctive style. Bodegas Ateca is part of Gil Family Estates, which has opened quality-oriented bodegas in major regions of Spain. Atteca Armas is produced from small parcels of old-vine Garnacha grown in slate soil on the hillsides of Ateca and surrounding villages. The wine is heady from its 16 degrees of alcohol and 18 months in French oak barriques, yet it remains elegant, even charming. 500 cases made, 250 cases imported.

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#### **66. DE MARTINO**

Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Legado Reserva 2019

**91** | \$20 | Chile

Chile has staked a competitive edge with organic and sustainable grapegrowing. One of the largest and most successful wineries pursuing this strategy is family-owned De Martino, founded in 1934. It is now completely carbon neutral as well. Winemaker Marcelo Retamal fermented this wine with native yeasts and then aged it for a year in 5,000-liter Austrian foudres up to 8 years old (the winery no longer buys new oak for sustainability reasons). It was bottled unfined and only lightly filtered. 5,500 cases made, 1,800 cases imported.

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## 67. BASTIANICH

Friulano Friuli Colli Orientali Vini Orsone 2018

90 | \$18 | Italy



Joe Bastianich and family. (Sara Peronio)

Bastianich winery was founded in 1997 by celebrity chef-restaurateurs Lidia Bastianich and her son, Joe Bastianich. The winery makes a range of reds and whites in northeastern Italy's Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, including this bottling of one of the area's signature grape varieties: Friulano. Named for the hill from which much of the fruit is sourced, the Friulano Vini Orsone is made from grapes hand-harvested in the hilly Premariacco, Prepotto and Cividale del Friuli areas. The wine was fermented in stainless steel tanks and then aged for several months on fine lees, enhancing its silky character. 2,800 cases made, 1,700 cases imported.

## 68. ETXANIZ TXAKOLINA

Getariako Txakolina Rosado Txomin Etxaniz 2020

90 | \$20 | Spain

Sparkling wines are having a moment in wine culture, and this fizzy white from Spain's Atlantic coast is drawing much-deserved attention. Txakolina is the wine; Getariako is its origin, the coastal hills surrounding the port of San Sebastián. Made principally from an obscure local grape called Hondarrabi Zuri, the wine shows a lean, crisp profile, with citrus and briny notes supported by a spritz that

can be called exhilarating. This family-owned bodega has deep roots, with records dating back to the 17th century. It is one of the few to make a rosado version of Txakolina and generally the very best at it. 3,000 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.

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#### **69. DOMAINE DU CLOS DU FIEF**

Juliéna Tradition 2018

**91** | \$25 | France

Michel Tête and his son, Sylvain, represent the third and fourth generations to run this family-owned estate in the Juliéna commune of Beaujolais. The Tradition label is an introduction to the wines of this cru. It's sourced from five different granite- and sand-based parcels of Gamay, from vines up to 60 years old. The grapes are harvested by hand, fermented using semi-carbonic maceration and aged in cement vats. The wine balances the frank fruit of Gamay with the power of Juliéna. 5,000 cases made, 1,500 cases imported.

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#### **70. DOMAINE CHANDON**

Brut Rosé California NV

**90** | \$19 | California

Here's a California bubbly that mixes a fresh expression with impressive volume and value. Founded in 1973 by Moët & Chandon's Robert-Jean de Vogüé and John Wright, Domaine Chandon was the first French-owned sparkling wine producer in Napa. Head winemaker Pauline Lhote grew up in Champagne and has fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a winemaker, rising from intern at Chandon in 2006 to director of winemaking in 2017. Lhote's creativity and willingness to step outside of tradition has spurred a rise in quality at Chandon as well as new product lines. 130,000 cases made.

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#### **71. FEUDO MONTONI**

Nero d'Avola Sicilia Lagnusa 2017

**90** | \$22 | Italy

This Renaissance-era estate in central Sicily is helmed today by third-generation owner-winemaker Fabio Sireci. The Lagnusa cru for this Nero d'Avola is notable for its high elevation—nearly 2,000 feet above sea level—as well as its low-yielding vines (lagnusa means “lazy” in the local dialect), resulting in a fresh, elegant red that pushes the stylistic range of the varietal. The wine was aged in concrete for 20 months, with additional aging for four months in barrel and four months in bottle prior to release. 10,000 cases made, 4,450 cases imported.

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## **72. RIVERS-MARIE**

Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Panek Vineyard 2018

**95** | \$110 | California

Winemaker Thomas Rivers Brown has crafted some of Napa Valley's top wines. Yet fewer people know Rivers-Marie, a brand he founded in 2002 with his wife, Genevieve Welsh, where he explores some of his favorite, and often lesser-known, vineyards. Located in northern St. Helena, Panek is a unique site with a more temperate microclimate than other parts of the area, allowing for slower ripening and development. That, along with the vineyard's topography of gravelly, loamy, undulating hills and the near-perfect conditions of the 2018 vintage, gave Brown the tools to best express Panek's vivid yet restrained profile. 550 cases made.

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## **73. 55 MALBEC**

Cabernet Sauvignon Paraje Altamira Zaha Toko Vineyard 2018

**91** | \$25 | Argentina

Following a 16-year career at Catena Zapata, Argentinian winemaker Alejandro “Colo” Sejanovich started his 55 Malbec wine brand in 2010, with former Catena co-worker and Nebraska native Jeff Mausbach. The company, which comprises Tinto Negro, Bodega Teho, Manos Negras, Estancia Uspallata and other labels from Mendoza and Salta, is a project that aims to reflect Argentina's diverse soils and highlight its more challenging regions. Zaha Toko, which means “heart” and “rock,” respectively, in the native Huarpe language, is sourced from the Paraje Altamira appellation at 4,000 feet. The 2018 Cabernet is complex, with juicy tannins and a fresh finish. 1,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.

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#### **74. THOMPSON ESTATE**

Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River Four Chambers 2019

91 | \$30 | Australia

The “four chambers” refer to the heart; founder Peter Thompson is a famed cardiologist. He and his wife, Jane, purchased their Wilyabrup estate vineyard in 1994, joining a number of doctors who invested in Margaret River as a place to grow distinctive Cabernet Sauvignon with an appealing savory thread. “I think there is a bit of a creative streak in doctors,” says Thompson. “I want to do something other than pure medicine, and you can’t get too creative with patients—they get a bit suspicious,” he jokes. Winemaker Paul Dixon prefers pump-overs three times a day during fermentation to maximize color extraction, while gently handling the grapes to retain freshness. 3,000 cases made, 1,100 cases imported.

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#### **75. SALVATORE MOLETTIERI**

Taurasi Vigna Cinque Querce 2013

94 | \$51 | Italy

Over the course of four decades, owner-winemaker Salvatore Molettieri has quietly joined the roster of top producers of the local Aglianico grape from southern Italy’s Campania region—specifically its prized Taurasi appellation. Today, Molettieri’s four sons have joined him at the winery, with the eldest, Giovanni, overseeing work in the vineyard and cellar alongside his father. The Molettieris produce three Aglianicos from the Cinque Querce vineyard, aging this introductory Taurasi (versus the riserva) for almost four years in a combination of large oak casks and French oak barriques. 1,000 cases made, 100 cases imported.

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#### **76. LOUIS ROEDERER**

Brut Champagne Collection 242 NV

92 | \$63 | France

Roederer’s Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon. (Lee Osborne)

Roederer's Collection 242 is the inaugural bottling that turns the concept of non-vintage Champagne inside out. Instead of blending the most recent harvest with selected reserve wines to create a consistent version each year, chef de cave Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon began with the older wines, via a perpetual reserve (equal parts 2012 through 2016 vintages), and blended in the new. The result each year will be a non-vintage bottling distinct from the previous iteration, labeled in succession: 242, 243, 244, etc. The 242 blends 34% perpetual reserve with 10% older reserve wines aged in large French oak foudres and 56% wines from 2017 that capture the character of the vintage. 19,537 cases imported.

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### **77. MARCASSIN**

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2014

**95** | \$150 | California

Marcassin is released seven years after the vintage, the point at which owners Helen Turley and John Wetlaufer consider the flavors to be fully integrated and the wine ready to drink. This wine features an almost umamilike richness reminiscent of aged Burgundy. It takes its name from the French word for wild boar, which are denizens of the rugged northern Sonoma Coast where the 20-acre Marcassin vineyard is located. Wetlaufer cultivates with meticulous attention to detail; influential winemaker Turley oversees the cellar. The wine is fermented using native yeasts in mostly new oak and is neither fined nor filtered before bottling. 1,200 cases made.

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### **78. BODEGA MATARROMERA**

Ribera del Duero Crianza 2018

**91** | \$35 | Spain

Carlos Moro has built an extensive group of wineries across Spain focusing on environmental sustainability, innovative products and attention to quality. He is making wines from Rueda, Rioja and Ribeiro. His base has been in his home region of Ribera del Duero at Bodega Matarromera, which he founded in 1988. It's located in Valbuena de Duero, the heart of the DO. The Crianza bottling is the core of the winery's ample production. In a very good to outstanding vintage, the bodega made a complex yet polished red that should age well for another decade. 50,000 cases made, 2,000 cases imported.

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**79. SAXON BROWN**

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Durell Vineyard 2017

**94** | \$60 | California

The famed Durell Vineyard lies just west of the town of Sonoma, where the cool, maritime-influenced climate intersects with the warmer temperatures of the interior valleys. Durell is filled with older vines planted in volcanic-based clays and gravels, delivering concentrated flavors. Saxon Brown owner and winemaker Jeff Gaffner cites the long, cold, over-the-winter fermentations in the cellars of Burgundy as inspiration for his own philosophy of making Chardonnay, which puts the emphasis on power and finesse. The wine was fermented in a mix of French oak barrels, half of which were new, and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. 179 cases made.

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**80. ALTA VISTA**

Atemporal Albaneve Vineyard Uco Valley 2018

**90** | \$22 | Argentina

Alta Vista was founded in 1997 by French vintner Patrick d'Aulan, with an emphasis on estate-grown grapes from Valle de Uco and Luján de Cuyo. Winemaker Didier Debono, who grew up in Cognac and worked for the d'Aulan family in Bordeaux, has been making the wines in Mendoza since 2002. Alta Vista's Atemporal ("timeless") bottling is a red blend of mostly Malbec complemented by Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, all harvested, fermented and aged separately for a year in French oak. Ideal growing conditions in 2018 make this a well-balanced wine that's a great value. 30,000 cases made.

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**81. BRANDLIN**

Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Veeder 2018

**93** | \$90 | California



Brandlin. (Marc Fiorito/Gamma Nine Photography)

Today's winemakers are thankful to pioneers such as the Brandlins for recognizing the potential of Mount Veeder. The Brandlin estate dates to 1926, but the brand has been owned by the Schmidheiny family, proprietors of Carneros' Cuvaison, since 1998. Most of the estate's 49 acres—30 of which are Cabernet Sauvignon—were planted within the past 20 years in the rugged terrain of decomposed granite soils at 900- to 1,250-foot elevations. Winemaker Steve Rogstad ferments each block separately, pulling together the blend with dashes of Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. He aged the wine in 50% new French oak for 22 months. 1,800 cases made.

## 82. MASOTTINA

Extra Dry Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore RDO Rive di Ogliono  
2019

90 | \$28 | Italy

The Dal Bianco family has been making wine in northeast Italy for 75 years and exploring everything the region has to offer. Adriano Dal Bianco and his brothers were among the first to cultivate vines in Ogliono. Nestled within the Conegliano Valdobbiadene hills, Ogliono is one of only 43 unique sub-zones to be granted the "Rive" designation, which signifies not only that the wine comes from the region's highest quality vineyards but also that the grapes were hand-picked from a single commune. The RDO is an example of the exploration of different terroirs for Prosecco. 9,800 cases made, 400 cases imported.

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### **83. GRAEME & JULIE BOTT**

St.-Joseph White 2019

**93** | \$65 | France

Julie Bott is a Northern Rhône native; her husband, Graeme, is from New Zealand. They met while working for prominent Côte-Rôtie vintner Stéphane Ogier. They started their own small domaine, planting vines in Condrieu, Côte-Rôtie, St.-Joseph and across the river in Seyssuel, and released their first vintage commercially in 2016. Their St.-Joseph white is a blend of primarily Roussanne, with 30% Marsanne, sourced from parcels on granite soils in Chavanay and St.-Pierre-de-Boeuf. The grapes are fermented in barrel and then aged nine months prior to bottling. The result is a very fresh and direct profile, with racy starfruit, white peach and yellow apple flavors laced with honeysuckle and chamomile notes. 333 cases made, 50 cases imported.

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### **84. CHALK HILL**

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast 2019

**91** | \$26 | California

Chalk Hill has specialized in making Chardonnay since its first releases in the early 1980s. The grapes for this regional blend hail from three Sonoma appellations and are mostly estate grown: 60% from Carneros, with the rest split between the Chalk Hill and Russian River Valley AVAs. "Carneros fruit tends to be bright and more acid driven, whereas Chalk Hill and Russian River have more weight and complexity," says senior winemaker Michael Beaulac. The wine underwent full malolactic fermentation to soften the natural acidity and was aged 11 months on the lees in a mix of French, American and Hungarian oak barrels for added richness. 28,500 cases made.

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### **85. LOUIS JADOT**

Beaune Clos des Ursules Domaine des Héritiers 2018

**93** | \$95 | France

American-owned Maison Louis Jadot, founded in 1859, is one of the largest wineries in Burgundy, operating as both a négociant and a grower. Clos des Ursules, a monopole within the 1er Cru Les Vignes Franches and the house's



flagship vineyard, was the first parcel ever acquired by Louis Denis Jadot, purchased in 1826 from the Ursuline nuns who had tended the vines there for centuries. The key in 2018 was finding the right balance between ripeness and acidity. Because it was picked earlier than the Côte de Nuits, the Côte de Beaune was particularly successful. 350 cases imported.

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### **86. BOUNDARY BREAKS**

Riesling Finger Lakes Dry No. 239 2019

90 | \$20 | New York

After a long career in publishing, Bruce Murray founded Boundary Breaks Winery in 2008 on New York's Seneca Lake. The winery grows several varieties, including Gewürztraminer and Cabernet Franc, and Murray expects to have about 45 acres planted by spring 2022. But Riesling has always been Boundary Breaks' premier grape. It thrives in the estate's silt-loam soils and the local climate moderated by the nearby lake, which makes for impressive wines such as the #239 Riesling. Named for the clone from which it's made, this dry white is fermented and aged in stainless steel. 2,500 cases made.

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### **87. CHÂTEAU PRADEAUX**

Côtes de Provence Rosé 2020

91 | \$24 | France

This estate has been in the Portalis family since 1752. Currently at the helm is Cyrille Portalis, the sole direct descendant of Suzanne Portalis and her daughter Arlette, his great-aunt, who restored the château in the aftermath of World War II. The organically farmed Mourvèdre, Cinsault and Grenache grapes used for this wine come from vineyards of limestone and clay soils just outside Bandol, an appellation known for its full-bodied, complex rosés. A product of hand-harvesting, two months on the lees and six months in concrete, this wine is a cut above many other Côtes de Provence labels. 960 cases imported.

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### **88. KINSMAN EADES**

Cabernet Sauvignon Calistoga La Voleuse du Chagrin 2018

96 | \$195 | California



Winemaker Nigel Kinsman and his wife, Shae, started their boutique label in the 2016 vintage with a modest 2 tons of fruit to work with. The project is still small, with just three single-vineyard bottlings totaling a few hundred cases, but it's one of the most exciting new projects in Napa Valley. La Voleuse du Chagrin ("the thief of my sorrow" in French) is a bottling sourced from the Geeslin Vineyard, which lies next door to the famed Eisele Vineyard in Calistoga, where Kinsman made the wines before moving on to Accendo (his main job) and his own project. 203 cases made.

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### **89. LUIS SEABRA**

Douro Xisto Ilimitado 2018

**91** | \$27 | Portugal

Luis Seabra is one of a new generation of Portuguese winemakers. After making the wines at Niepoort, Seabra started his own project in 2013. His philosophy is to make wines that reflect the distinctive soil types in the Douro Valley. This Xisto Ilimitado is a field blend of six traditional grape varieties from 35- to 60-year-old vines grown in the yellow schist soils in the area, which range from 1,200 to nearly 2,000 feet in elevation. Seabra uses whole clusters, 30% of which were foot-trodden in lagares, the remaining 70% fermented and macerated in stainless steel. The wine ages 14 months in neutral French oak. 750 cases made, 650 cases imported.

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### **90. GRACI**

Etna 2018

**91** | \$33 | Italy

Owner-winemaker Alberto Aiello Graci was an early arrival to the now-trendy Etna wine scene when he left a career in banking and returned to farm family vineyards on the northern side of Sicily's Mount Etna in 2004. Today, he's a poster child for the exciting region, producing a range of bottlings, including several single cru expressions. This Etna DOC is a great introduction to the area's wines, blending Nerello Mascalese from different sites ranging from 2,000 to 2,300 feet above sea level, with fermentation and 18 months of aging in a combination of concrete and large, vertical wooden tanks known as tini. 2,900 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.

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## 91. BODEGAS EMILIO MORO

Godello Bierzo El Zarzal 2018

92 | \$28 | Spain

Family-owned Emilio Moro winery is a longtime leader in Ribera del Duero, celebrated for its rich, expressive and estate-grown Tempranillo. They recently added a white wine to their portfolio, and it's off to a fast start, with three consecutive outstanding vintages. Bierzo has only lately come to international attention, and mostly for its Mencía-based reds. Godello here tends to show a richer character than its cousins from the more Atlantic-influenced climates of neighboring Galicia. El Zarzal is made in large oak foudres and aged on the lees for a round but fresh profile. 2,800 cases made, 225 cases imported.

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## 92. DE WETSHOF

Chardonnay Robertson Bon Vallon 2020

91 | \$24 | South Africa



Peter and Johann de Wet of De Wetshof. (Steven Esterhuizen)

De Wetshof is one of the few third-generation wine estates in South Africa, currently managed by Danie de Wet and his two sons: Johann and Peter. Although the family's winemaking heritage can be traced back to 1694, De Wetshof was founded in 1949 and is Robertson Valley's first registered wine

estate. The De Wets have been credited with introducing Chardonnay to South Africa beginning in the 1970s. This unoaked, Chablis-like Chardonnay comes from soils rich in limestone and eroded mountain rock, leading to fresh flavors of citrus, wild flowers and grilled nuts and a mouthwatering minerality. 6,500 cases made, 500 cases imported.

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### **93. GUIDO BERLUCCHI**

Brut Rosé Franciacorta '61 NV

**91** | \$36 | Italy

The Guido Berlucchi estate is credited with the creation of the Franciacorta category, first releasing a sparkling Pinot di Franciacorta in 1961 and helping to establish the DOC in 1967. The estate is managed today by Cristina, Paolo and winemaker Arturo Ziliani, children of the original winemaker, Franco Ziliani. The siblings blend 60% Pinot Noir with Chardonnay for this entry-level '61 rosé, whose name gives a nod to the winery's historic achievements. The wine was aged on the lees 24 months before disgorgement. 25,000 cases made, 1,300 cases imported.

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### **94. CHÂTEAU BERLIQUET**

St.-Emilion 2018

**92** | \$65 | France

Located on the western edge between St.-Emilion's famous limestone plateau and its clay slopes, Berliquet was purchased by fashion brand Chanel in 2017. Under the leadership of Nicolas Audebert, with the help of technical director Stéphane Bonnasse and consultant Thomas Duclos, a full pedological study of the estate's nearly 25 acres was initiated to best understand everything the unique terroir had to offer. This included reworking some of the plots and planting different species of auxiliary flora and fauna. The first vintage since Audebert took charge, this 2018 shows that his changes are paying off. 2,500 cases made.

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### 95. COLLI DI LAPIO

Fiano di Avellino 2019

91 | \$28 | Italy

Owner-winemaker Clelia Romano and her daughter, Carmela, produce this textbook example of one of the Campania region's signature grape varieties, Fiano, from calcareous clay-rich vineyards perched roughly 1,800 feet above sea level. Fermentation and short-term aging (about eight months) in stainless steel highlights the floral and fruit character of the Fiano grape while preserving the wine's underlying mineral essence. But the decision to age it on the lees for about half of the time takes this elegant white to the next level, enriching the flavor profile and adding textural complexity. 4,500 cases made, 800 cases imported.

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### 96. DETERT

Cabernet Franc Oakville 2018

92 | \$95 | California

Generational land is hard to come by in Napa Valley, as is amply illustrated by the history of the Detert estate. Part of the original famed To Kalon vineyard in Oakville, this property transferred ownership several times from its initial planting in 1870 until Hedwig Detert purchased it in 1954. Detert's east block was planted in 1979 using budwood from the vineyard's original 1949 Cabernet Franc planting, which is now known as the "Detert Clone." Winemaker Tom Garrett (great-grandson of Hedwig) blends the east block vines with the west block, which was replanted in 2010, for one of Napa's best expressions of Cabernet Franc. 250 cases made.

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### 97. DOMAINE GUIBERTEAU

Saumur White 2018

91 | \$27 | France

Third-generation family-owned Domaine Guiberteau was founded at the beginning of the 20th century by Clément Manguin. The estate's 30 acres of vineyards include 17 acres of vines in Brézé, which benefit from high elevation and tuffeau soils ideal for Chenin Blanc production. Romain Guiberteau has been in charge since 1996. Mentored by the late Nady Foucault of nearby Clos Rougeard, Guiberteau is crafting compelling wines in small quantities. This

Chenin Blanc is hand-harvested from certified organic vineyards, whole-cluster pressed, then fermented and aged on the fine lees in stainless steel tanks until bottling the following spring. 450 cases imported.

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#### **98. FAUST**

Cabernet Sauvignon Coombsville The Pact 2018

**93** | \$125 | California

The Huneeus family of Napa Valley's Quintessa purchased a 121-acre former dairy farm in Coombsville in 1998 and planted 112 acres of vines, making it one of the most significant vineyard developments in this emerging region. Overseen by estate director Jen Beloz and winemaker David Jelinek, Pact is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from blocks perched on benches with volcanic soils underneath. The nearby San Pablo Bay keeps the climate cool. This bottling offers a textbook example of Coombsville Cabernet, structured and energetic, with a well-defined mix of fruit and racy graphite, earth and tobacco notes. 2,200 cases made.

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#### **99. KRUG**

Brut Champagne 2008

**99** | \$309 | France

Champagne-lovers should jump to try this bottling from the region's best vintage of the past two decades and made by a master of the craft. 2008 is also the only vintage this century that followed the patterns more common to the great Champagne vintages of yesteryear: a cool, rainy growing season that preserved a tremendous backbone of acidity while allowing grapes to slowly reach maturity, creating a powerful frame for the rich and expressive Krug style. Cellar master Julie Cavil aged the 2008 on the lees until fall 2019 before disgorgement, and the wine received additional aging in bottle prior to its release this year. Cases made NA.

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#### **100. KAMEN**

Cabernet Sauvignon Moon Mountain District Lava Block 2018

**94** | \$155 | California

Sonoma's milder climate is often better suited to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir than to Cabernet, but Kamen estate benefits from straddling the Napa-Sonoma border on the west side of the Mayacamas mountain range. Screenwriter-turned-vintner Robert Mark Kamen happened upon this rugged 280-acre property in 1980, well before he was known for movies such as *The Karate Kid* and *The Fifth Element*. He found two suitable vineyard sites but left one vacant until 2008. That 14-acre plot is now the aptly named Lava Block, situated on a slope laden with large chunks of lava rock at elevations of 1,100 to 1,450 feet. Winemaker Mark Herold crafts a structured Sonoma-like style that's also brimming with ripe, Napa-like fruit. 425 cases made.

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